The Heritage Foundation

Poll: Nearly Seven in 10 Active Service Members Have Witnessed Politicization in U.S. Military
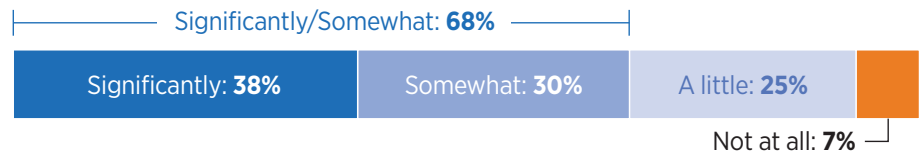
SUMMARY

A new survey of active U.S. military members reveals that 68 percent have witnessed some or a significant level of politicization in the military, and 65 percent of those polled say that it is a concern. Of all the issues polled, policies that allow unrestricted military service by transgender individuals were of greatest concern for active military members, with eight in 10 (80 percent) saying that it decreased their trust in the military somewhat or a great deal. The results could have implications for the future of the military. Seven in 10 active military members (68 percent) said that politicization would somewhat or significantly affect their decision to encourage their children to join the military.
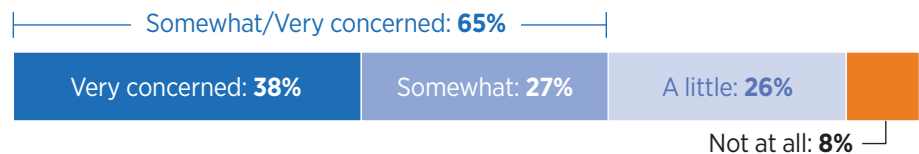
Q: To what degree do you trust the U.S. military?

Great deal/Good deal: **93%**

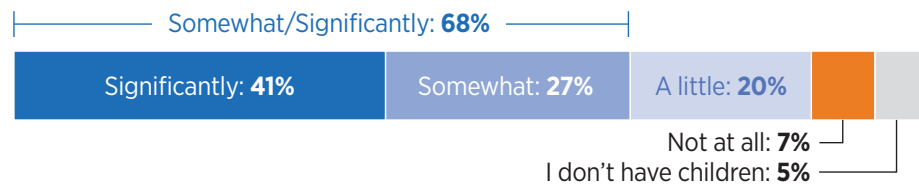| Great deal: **65%**	Good deal: **28%**

A little: **4%**
Not at all: **4%**

Q: To what degree have you witnessed a growing politicization (defined as becoming political in character as opposed to neutral) of the military?

Significantly/Somewhat: **68%**

Significantly: **38%**	Somewhat: **30%**	A little: **25%**

Not at all: **7%**

Q: To what degree are you concerned about growing politization of the military?

Somewhat/Very concerned: **65%**

Very concerned: **38%**	Somewhat: **27%**	A little: **26%**

Not at all: **8%**

Q: To what extent would politicization of the military impact your decision to encourage your children to join the military?

Somewhat/Significantly: **68%**

Significantly: **41%**	Somewhat: **27%**	A little: **20%**

Not at all: **7%**
I don't have children: **5%**

Q: To what degree have the following events or reports decreased your trust in the military?

	A great deal	Some	A little	Not at all	Not aware of this	Net: A great deal/ some
Changing of policy to allow unrestricted service by transgender individuals in the military	56%	24%	9%	8%	3%	80%
The withdrawal from Afghanistan	37%	34%	14%	12%	3%	71%
Reduction of physical fitness standards to "even the playing field"	44%	26%	16%	11%	3%	70%
Requirement for the military to pay for travel for abortions	42%	23%	16%	14%	5%	65%
Reports of sexual assault in the military	45%	23%	16%	12%	4%	68%
A worry that the military is dominated by males	40%	28%	15%	13%	4%	68%
Critical race theory books appearing on Chief of Naval Operations' reading list	39%	30%	14%	11%	5%	69%
Embracement of a goal to pursue all electric military vehicles	38%	26%	19%	13%	4%	64%
Focus on climate change as a top national security threat	45%	25%	15%	12%	4%	70%