

The Chart Page

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Military First in Public Confidence

The public has more confidence in the US military—by far—than in any other US organization or grouping, according to a recent Gallup survey. The poll surveyed attitudes toward 16 major fields in US society. Nearly seven in 10 Americans expressed strong confidence in the US armed forces, declaring they have either “a great deal” or “quite a lot” of confidence.

The military exceeded the next closest

category by 10 percentage points. In the hierarchy of trust, Americans ranked the church or organized religion second (58 percent), the police third (57 percent), and the computer industry fourth (50 percent). Held in lowest public esteem was the nation’s collection of health maintenance organizations (17 percent).

phone interviews with a random national sample of 1,016 adults age 18 or older in the latter part of 1999.

Gallup based its annual poll on tele-

Where Americans Place Their Trust

Poll Results, by Rank Order (Based on total percent)	A Great Deal	Quite a Lot	Total Percent
The military	34	34	68
The church or organized religion	32	26	58
The police	24	33	57
The computer industry	20	30	50
United States Supreme Court	20	29	49
The Presidency	23	26	49
Banks	16	27	43
The medical system	17	23	40
Public schools	14	22	36
Television news	14	20	34
Newspapers	12	21	33
Big business	11	19	30
Organized labor	13	15	28
Congress	9	17	26
The criminal justice system	8	15	23
News on the Internet	8	13	21
Health maintenance organizations	8	9	17

Source: The Gallup Organization