



Center for Military Readiness



Promoting high standards and sound priorities for our military men and women.

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Military Voting "For Love of Country"

NatGEO-Aired Film on Bin Laden Raid Hits Ironic Note

The following comments may be attributed to **Elaine Donnelly**, President of the **Center for Military Readiness**, a 501(c)(3) non-partisan, public policy organization that specializes in military/social issues:

"On the day before America's national elections, retired and active-duty military are emerging as a group of voters having a unique perspective who are turning away from the current Commander - in-Chief, **President Barack Obama**. In an effort separate from the **Romney for President** campaign, 500 retired admirals and generals have endorsed and raised the money to pay for a full-page ad in today's *Washington Times*, headlined:

['We, the undersigned, proudly support Governor Mitt Romney as our nation's next President and Commander-in-Chief.'](#)

"In contrast, only five retired high-ranking officers have publicly endorsed President Obama, the most prominent being Army **Generals Colin Powell** and **Wesley Clark**. Retired **Adm. John B. Nathman** delivered a pro-Obama [speech](#) at the **Democratic National Convention** in Charlotte, NC. Military personnel on duty are barred from partisan political activities, but according to a recent survey by the *Military Times*, active-duty subscriber/respondents are likely to cast their votes for the Romney/Ryan ticket at a rate greater than two-to-one, **66% to 26%**.

"President Obama's supporters have tried hard to win support for him as Commander-in-Chief, the most recent Hollywood effort being a controversial film aired Sunday night (Nov. 4) on **National Geographic TV**, titled [SEAL Team Six: The Raid on Osama Bin Laden](#). Ironically, the film ended with a clip of President Obama's White House East Room speech to the nation on May 2, 2011, following confirmation of the death of Bin Laden. Said the president, '[A]s a country, we will never tolerate our security being threatened, nor stand idly by when our people have been killed.'

"That statement has rankled many military personnel, particularly former Navy SEALs who prepared an advertising message titled [Bump in the Road](#), when information was leaked about the

secret raid on the Bin Laden compound in Pakistan. Other independent organizations, including **Let Freedom Ring**, have aired '[Why Mr. President, Why?](#)' advertisements questioning the president's actions before, during and after the coordinated attack on the consulate in **Benghazi, Libya**, which left **Ambassador Christopher Stevens** and three more Americans dead.

"There appear to be many reasons why duty to obey the Commander-in-Chief is not translating into political support, with **48%** of Romney supporters and **41%** of Obama supporters indicating that the economy was their greatest motivator. **Sixty-two percent** of *Military Times* active-duty readers were critical of pending defense budget cuts. And contrary to numerous reports that all is going well with repeal of the 1993 law regarding gays in the military, usually mislabeled "**Don't Ask, Don't Tell**," the *Military Times* survey found that **53%** of active-duty respondents rated that action 'fair/poor,' compared to **34%** in favor.

"The *Military Times* poll did not measure the discomfort of military voters who remember when two army recruiters were gunned down by an Al Qaeda-trained Muslim in Little Rock, AR, in June 2009, but President Obama refused to call the attack terrorism. Many military families also remember that when Army **Major Nidal Hasan** murdered 14 people and wounded 29 at Fort Hood in November 2009, after shouting '*Allahu Akbar!*' the administration called it 'workplace violence.' *Military Times* did ask respondents, '*Which candidate do you believe has your best interests at heart?*' The margin was better than two-to-one, Romney **55%**, Obama **24%**.

"There are no procedures for active-duty people to express their opinions, but a recent [annual survey](#) taken by the **Center for Army Leadership** at Fort Leavenworth, KS, found that only **26%** of Army officers surveyed believed that the Army was headed in the right direction.

"In August the **Republican National Convention** in Tampa, FL, adopted a national platform including seven [solid planks on military/social issues](#). Republicans also took positions on national defense that were in strong contrast to [positions on national defense](#) that were adopted at the Democratic National Convention. With so many active-duty people voting via absentee ballot (**57%**, according to the *Military Times* survey), vigilance will be required to ensure that all votes are counted."

To schedule an interview with CMR President Elaine Donnelly, please call **734/464-9430**, or CMR Executive Director **Tommy Sears** at **202/347-5333**.

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