

THE WAR IN IRAQ
January 1-3, 2007

Most Americans expect President George W. Bush to change U.S. strategy in the Iraq war - a war they continue to believe is going badly for the U.S. Two in three think that removing the now-executed dictator Saddam Hussein from power wasn't worth the costs.

What Americans want to see happen with the U.S.' Iraq strategy is not the same as what they expect the President will actually do. And the general idea of a short-term increase of troops in Baghdad (a plan that the President will reportedly announce soon) meets mixed reviews right now.

43% of Americans want the U.S. to keep fighting the war but make changes in overall strategy, and 55% think that is what President Bush will actually do. But most Americans - 52% - want the U.S. to start ending its involvement in Iraq, something only 6% expect will happen. While only 3% want the U.S. to keep fighting with the same strategies as now, 35% think the President will stay on that same course.

U.S. COURSE IN IRAQ NOW:

	Think U.S. <u>should...</u>	Think Bush <u>will...</u>
Keep fighting w/same strategy	3%	35%
Keep fighting w/CHANGED strategy	43	55
Start ending involvement	52	6

Americans split on what is currently expected to be the major announcement when the President addresses the nation about Iraq: a short-term increase in U.S. troop levels in Baghdad. 45% are in favor, 48% oppose. Most Republicans are in favor, most Democrats opposed, and Independents are slightly more opposed than in favor.

SHORT-TERM TROOP INCREASE TO STABILIZE BAGHDAD

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Favor	45%	64%	30%	45%
Oppose	48	29	62	49

But most Americans - 55% - don't think such a move would actually help stabilize the capital city, though. 35% think it would.

WOULD A TROOP INCREASE TO BAGHDAD HELP STABILITY?

Yes	35%
No	55

Views on the plan are tied to views on its effectiveness. Three-quarters of those who think such a so-called "surge" would be ineffective oppose the idea. 87% of those who think it would help favor such a plan.

Most Americans - 59% - would like troop levels in general either lowered (30%) or brought to zero with a full withdrawal (29%). These sentiments have hardly changed at all in recent months, nor are they much different today than they were nearly one and a half years ago in the summer of 2005.

U.S. TROOP LEVELS IN IRAQ SHOULD BE...				
	Now	12/2006	10/2006	8/2005
Increased	18%	18%	16%	14%
Kept same	17	18	27	25
Decreased	30	34	26	26
All removed	29	25	24	29

59% continue to say the U.S. should set a timetable for withdrawal. This opinion also has changed very little throughout 2006.

THE SITUATION IN IRAQ

Americans begin 2007 with continuing dim views of the situation for the U.S. in Iraq.

71% today say the war is going badly for the U.S., the same as in December. However, a majority of Republicans (54%) say the war is going well - up 8 points from last month. Democrats and Independents continue to see the war going badly. Americans' evaluations of the war today are even worse than they were one year ago: in January 2006, 54% said the war was going badly.

HOW IS THE WAR GOING?			
	Now	12/2006	1/2006
Well	28%	25%	45%
Badly	71	71	54

As for Iraq's prospects for stability, 52% still think Iraq will never become a stable democracy, but they are less pessimistic than they were a month ago. 45% of Americans believe Iraq will eventually have a stable democratic government - an increase of 9 points from last month, though very few think this will happen within the next two years.

WILL IRAQ BECOME A STABLE DEMOCRACY?			
	Now	12/2006	1/2006
Yes, in the next year or two	3%	3%	6%
Yes, but will take longer	42	33	52
No, never	52	60	39

Republicans and Democrats alike have become more optimistic - with a 12 point increase occurring among members of both parties - though it is only among Republicans that a majority think a stable democracy in Iraq is likely. The number of Independents who believe Iraq will someday become a stable democracy also increased slightly.

THINK IRAQ WILL BECOME A STABLE DEMOCRACY SOMEDAY

	Now	12/2006
Total	45%	36%
Republicans	62%	50%
Democrats	40%	28%
Independents	39%	35%

But with regard to the fighting in Iraq, Americans continue to see a stalemate - six in 10 believe neither the U.S. nor the insurgents are winning the conflict. One year ago, Americans were more than twice as likely to believe the U.S. held the advantage.

WHO IS WINNING THE WAR IN IRAQ?

	Now	12/2006	7/2006	1/2006
The U.S.	17%	15%	27%	36%
Iraqi resistance	16	18	13	9
Neither side	62	63	58	48

Republicans are more likely than Democrats and Independents to give the edge to the U.S., but more than half of Republicans still believes that neither side is winning.

Only 23% approve of George W. Bush's handling of Iraq; 72% disapprove.

Looking ahead, Americans continue to divide on whether the U.S. will accomplish its goals. 47% think U.S. success in Iraq is likely, including 10% who think it very likely. 49% think success for the U.S. is not very or not at all likely. Last month 53% called success unlikely.

WILL THE U.S. SUCCEED IN IRAQ?

	Now	12/2006	10/2006
Very likely	10%	9%	10%
Somewhat likely	37	34	42
Not very/not at all likely	49	53	45

Those who think the U.S. can still succeed in the war favor a troop surge into Baghdad; those who think the U.S. cannot succeed oppose it.

SADDAM HUSSEIN

Saddam Hussein has now been executed by the current Iraqi government. Nearly two in three Americans - 64% - do not believe removing the former Iraqi dictator from power was worth the loss of American life and the other costs of attacking Iraq. That is the largest number ever to say it was not worth it. Back in May 2003, shortly after U.S.

troops ousted Saddam's regime, two thirds said it had been worth doing so.

WAS REMOVING SADDAM WORTH IT?				
	Now	3/2006	12/2003	5/2003
Yes	30%	40%	54%	65%
No	64	51	37	28

Similarly, nearly 6 in 10 Americans believe that the United States should not have gone to war with Iraq in the first place.

This poll was conducted after the execution of Saddam Hussein and during the controversy over the execution. Americans don't expect the execution to improve the situation in Iraq. In fact, 40% believe the execution will result in MORE attacks on U.S. troops, while half think the level of attacks will stay the same. Just 5% say Saddam's execution will lead to fewer attacks against U.S. troops.

IRAQ AND THE HOME FRONT

Many Americans notice the impact the war in Iraq is having on their community, although only 22% would describe the impact as major. 41% of Americans describe the impact as minor, and 35% say it has had not much or no impact at all.

THE WAR'S IMPACT ON YOUR OWN COMMUNITY

	Now	9/2005
Major impact	22%	27%
Minor impact	41	37
Not much/no impact	35	34

Regionally, Americans living in the South are the most likely to say they feel a major impact of the war back home - 30% of Americans from the South say the war in Iraq has had a major impact on their communities. 22% of people from the Midwest, and only 17% of people in the Northeast or West notice a major impact.

For Americans who feel an impact in their community, that impact has been primarily a negative one. 60% of those who feel an impact (in either a major or minor way) say it is mostly negative; 23% say it is positive. In 2005, Americans feeling an impact expressed similar views.

WAS THE IMPACT OF WAR MOSTLY...?

(Among those whose feeling an impact)

	Now	9/2005
Negative	60%	62%
Positive	23	29

Not surprisingly, Americans who have close friends or relatives currently serving in Iraq are likely to feel an impact: 71% of them do, including 27% who feel a major impact. Fewer - 18% - of Americans

who are not close to anyone who has served in Iraq feel a major impact in their communities.

Today, half of Americans say they know a friend or relative who has served in Iraq. Younger Americans are more likely to know someone, especially those under age 30. African Americans, people in the Midwest and West, and rural areas are slightly more likely to know someone.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS SERVED IN IRAQ?

	Yes	No
All	50%	50%
Whites	48%	52%
Blacks	55%	45%
18-29	58%	42%
30-44	54%	46%
45-64	44%	56%
64+	42%	58%
Midwest	53%	47%
West	51%	49%
Northeast	48%	52%
South	47%	52%
Cities	46%	53%
Suburbs	48%	52%
Rural	57%	43%

Americans who have had friends or relatives in Iraq are more likely to perceive an impact of the war in their own community. Like Americans overall, they have a generally unfavorable view of the war, but they are more likely than Americans overall to have a positive assessment of how it is going. 34% of those who have had close friends or family members in Iraq say it is going at least somewhat well, compared with only 28% of those who do not.

HOW IS THE WAR GOING?

	All	Friend/relative in Iraq
Well	28%	34%
Badly	71	65

For 24% of Americans the war is even closer to home, as they have a family member who has served in Iraq, or they themselves have. These Americans are about the same in their assessment of how the war is going - 37% say it is going well - as those who know a friend or other relative.

Americans who know someone who has served in Iraq are also somewhat more optimistic about the prospects of a stable democracy emerging in that country. More than half of those who've had a friend or relative

in Iraq - 52% - think that Iraq will someday become a stable democracy, while only 45% of Americans overall agree. But fewer than 5% think it will happen within the next two years.

WILL IRAQ BECOME A STABLE DEMOCRACY SOMEDAY?		
	All	Friend/relative in Iraq
Yes	45%	52%
No	52	47

Those who have an immediate family member or have themselves served feel about the same as all of those who know someone; a slight majority of them thinks Iraq will someday be a stable democracy.

And when asked whether they favor a short-term increase in the number of troops in Iraq, those with friends and relatives who have served in Iraq are a bit more supportive of the idea than Americans overall, but there is division on this idea. 50% favor it, while 44% oppose.

FAVOR SHORT-TERM TROOP INCREASE TO STABILIZE BAGHDAD?		
	All	Friend/relative in Iraq
Favor	45%	50%
Oppose	48	44

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 993 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone January 1-3, 2007. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

CBS NEWS POLL
The War in Iraq
January 1-3, 2007

q10 Do you think removing Saddam Hussein from power was worth the loss of American life and other costs of attacking Iraq, or not?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar06a
	%	%	%	%	%
Worth it	30	60	12	25	40
Not worth it	64	34	83	67	51
Don't know/No answer	6	6	5	8	9

q11 -31 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

q32 Do you have confidence in George W. Bush's ability to make the right decisions about the war in Iraq or are you uneasy about his approach?

					Dec06a
Confident	26	63	7	19	28
Uneasy	72	37	92	79	70
DK/NA	2	0	2	2	2

q33-44 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

q45 Looking back, do you think the United States did the right thing in taking military action against Iraq, or should the US have stayed out?

Right thing	38	74	17	33	39
Stayed out	58	22	80	63	55
Don't know/No answer	4	4	3	4	6

q46 How would you say things are going for the U.S. in its efforts to bring stability and order to Iraq? Would you say things are going very well, somewhat well, somewhat badly, or very badly?

Very well	3	8	1	1	2
Somewhat well	25	46	12	23	23
Somewhat badly	33	32	34	31	32
Very badly	38	12	52	42	39
Don't know/No answer	1	2	1	3	4

q47 BLANK

q48 From what you have seen or heard about the situation in Iraq, what should the United States do now--should the U.S. increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq, keep the same number of U.S. troops in Iraq as there are now, decrease the number of U.S. troops in Iraq, or remove all its troops from Iraq?

Increase	18	33	8	16	18
Keep the same number	17	28	9	15	18
Decrease	30	18	36	32	34
Remove all troops	29	13	41	29	25
Don't know/No answer	6	8	6	8	5

q49 Regardless of whether you think taking military action in Iraq was the right thing to do -- would you say that the U.S. is very likely to succeed in Iraq, somewhat likely to succeed, not very likely to succeed, or not at all likely to succeed in Iraq?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Dec06a
	%	%	%	%	%
Very likely	10	20	5	8	9
Somewhat likely	37	53	30	32	34
Not very likely	27	17	31	30	31
Not at all likely	22	6	30	25	22
Don't know/No answer	4	4	4	5	4

q50 Which of these do you think is most likely? 1. Iraq will become a stable democracy in the next year or two, OR 2. Iraq will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two, OR 3. Iraq will probably never become a stable democracy.

Will in the next year or two	3	6	2	2	3
Will, but will take longer	42	56	38	37	33
Never become a democracy	52	36	58	59	60
Don't know/No answer	3	2	2	2	4

q51 BLANK

q52 Who do you think is currently winning the war in Iraq -- the United States, or the Iraqi resistance and insurgents, or neither side?

The U.S.	17	36	7	13	15
Iraq resistance	16	9	22	16	18
Neither side	62	51	67	66	63
Don't know/No answer	5	4	4	5	4

q53 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

q54 Do you think the United States should or should not set a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq?

Should	59	43	79	52	57
Should not	38	56	19	44	40
DK/NA	3	1	2	4	3

q55 Which comes closest to your view - 1. The U.S. should continue fighting the war in Iraq using the same military strategy and tactics it is using now; OR 2. The U.S. should continue fighting the war in Iraq, but needs to change its strategy and tactics; OR 3. The U.S. should take steps to end its involvement in Iraq.

Continue w/same strategy	3	6	1	2	4
Continue w/changed strategy	43	64	28	40	43
End involvement in Iraq	52	28	69	53	50
DK/NA	2	2	2	5	3

q56 What do you think George W. Bush will do -- 1. Continue fighting the war in Iraq using the same military strategy and tactics as now; OR 2. Continue fighting the war in Iraq, but change strategy and tactics; OR 3. Take steps to end U.S. involvement in Iraq?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Continue w/same strategy	35	19	43	38
Continue w/changed strategy	55	73	47	51
End involvement in Iraq	6	6	6	8
DK/NA	4	2	4	3

q57-58 BLANK

q59 Do you think the current Iraqi government is or is not capable of bringing a peaceful end to the fighting among Iraqis?

Yes	19	27	19	13
No	74	68	74	79
DK/NA	7	5	7	8

q60 Would you favor or oppose a short-term increase in the number of US troops in the Iraqi capital city of Baghdad, to try to gain control of the city?

Favor	45	64	30	45
Oppose	48	29	62	49
Don't know/No answer	7	7	8	6

q61 Do you think sending more US troops to Baghdad WILL help the US to gain control of that city, or won't it make any difference?

Will	35	56	21	34
Won't make difference	55	35	69	56
Make things worse (Vol.)	5	2	6	6
DK/NA	5	7	4	4

q62 As you may know, Saddam Hussein has been executed by Iraqi authorities. Now that he has been executed, do you think attacks against U.S. troops in Iraq will increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Increase	40	30	46	42
Decrease	5	8	2	5
Stay same	50	58	47	49
Don't know/No answer	5	4	5	4

q64-67 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q68 How much impact has the war in Iraq had on the community where you live--has it had a major impact, a minor impact, not much impact, or no impact?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep05b
	%	%	%	%	%
Major impact	22	22	22	22	27
Minor impact	41	43	41	39	37
Not much impact	25	25	24	25	24
No impact	10	9	11	11	10
Don't know/No answer	2	1	2	3	2

q69 Has the war had a positive impact or a negative impact (on the community where you live)?

THOSE WHO SAID THE WAR HAD A MAJOR/MINOR IMPACT IN Q68

Positive	23	41	10	21	29
Negative	60	37	76	62	62
Both equal (Vol.)	7	9	6	6	5
Don't know/No answer	10	13	8	11	4

q70 Have you or has any member of your immediate family served in the armed forces in Iraq?

Yes, self	3	3	3	2
Yes, other	21	25	21	19
No	76	72	75	79
Don't know/NA	0	0	1	0

q71 Do you personally have a close friend or relative who has served or is currently serving in the armed forces in Iraq?

Yes	50	54	50	46
No	50	46	50	54
DK/NA	0	0	0	0

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	993	
Total Republicans	287	266
Total Democrats	335	344
Total Independents	371	383