



CBS NEWS POLL  
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**SEVEN YEARS LATER: AMERICA AND TERRORISM**  
**September 5-7, 2008**

As the nation marks the seventh anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks, only a third of Americans think another terror attack against the U.S. is likely in the coming months, and few think it very likely. But should there be another terrorist attack against the United States, most Americans believe the U.S. is adequately prepared to deal with it.

Many Americans believe the Bush Administration deserves at least some credit for making the country safer. Americans are not confident, however, that the U.S. will ever capture or kill Osama bin Laden: only a third think his capture is even somewhat likely.

Today just 36% of Americans think another terrorist attack is likely in the coming months, and just 7% think it very likely, the lowest number recorded since CBS News started asking this question after the September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 attacks. Six in ten Americans think it is not very likely there will be another terrorist attack.

**LIKELIHOOD OF TERROR ATTACK IN U.S. IN NEXT FEW MONTHS**

	Now	9/2007	8/2006	8/2005	9/2004	8/2003	9/2002
Very likely	7%	9%	16%	9%	18%	15%	23%
Somewhat	29	39	43	43	48	49	46
Not likely	60	48	39	42	31	33	28

And for the first time since March 2003 - right after the U.S. invasion of Iraq - a majority of Americans thinks the U.S. is adequately prepared to deal with another terrorist attack. As recently as last September, after the revelations of a failed terrorist plot in London that summer, most Americans said the U.S. was not adequately prepared.

**IS U.S. ADEQUATELY PREPARED TO DEAL WITH ANOTHER ATTACK?**

	Now	9/2007	8/2006	3/2003
Yes	52%	39%	49%	64%
No	39	56	44	29

A majority of men, Republicans and Independents, conservatives and moderates, and voters who support McCain for president all think the U.S. is prepared, while women, Democrats, liberals, and Obama supporters are divided.

Americans give some credit to the Administration. Half say the Bush Administration's policies have improved the country's safety, about the same rating as they have given it for the last two years.

**BUSH ADMINISTRATION POLICIES HAVE MADE U.S.:**

	Now	9/2007	8/2006	9/2003
Safer	50%	49%	48%	60%
Less safe	21	26	25	18
No effect	23	20	22	18

President Bush's approval rating is now at 29%, slightly above the low of 25% reached this past summer. His approval has not climbed above 30% in more than a year, since April 2007.

Americans do not have much confidence that the U.S. will capture or kill Osama Bin Laden. Only 36% think Osama's capture is even somewhat likely, and only 6% think it is very likely - the lowest numbers recorded so far. Confidence in Bin Laden's capture has declined dramatically over the seven years since the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks: in October 2001 70% thought it was at least somewhat likely that Bin Laden would be captured or killed.

**CONFIDENT GOVT. WILL CAPTURE BIN LADEN?**

	Now	9/2007	8/2006	9/2003	9/2002	10/2001
Very	6%	8%	14%	21%	17%	28%
Somewhat	30	31	34	31	37	42
Not too/at all	60	58	49	45	43	27

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 This poll was conducted by telephone September 5-7, 2008 among 738 respondents first interviewed by CBS News and the New York Times August 15-19, 2008. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire could be plus or minus four percentage points.

**CBS News Poll**  
**Seven Years Later: America and Terrorism**  
**September 5-7, 2008**

rq15 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

	**** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ****				Aug08a
	Total	**** Party ID ****			
	%	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %	%
Approve	29	57	3	30	28
Disapprove	64	36	96	59	65
DK/NA	7	7	1	11	7

rq54 How likely do you think it is that there will be another terrorist attack in the United States within the next few months - very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

					Dec07b
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Very likely	7	8	8	5	11
Somewhat likely	29	30	30	27	29
Not very likely	43	42	40	46	38
Not at all likely	17	16	16	17	17
DK/NA	4	4	6	5	5

rq55 In general, do you think the United States is adequately prepared to deal with another terrorist attack, or not?

					Sep07a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Prepared	52	61	42	54	39
Not	39	34	43	39	56
DK/NA	9	6	15	7	5

rq56 How much confidence do you have in the ability of the U.S. government to capture or kill Osama Bin Laden--would you say you're very confident he will be caught, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

					Sep07b
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Very confident	6	12	2	5	8
Somewhat confident	30	41	20	29	31
Not too confident	36	30	39	39	31
Not at all confident	24	16	34	22	27
Not alive (Vol.)	1	0	1	1	1
Don't know/No answer	3	1	4	4	2

rq57 Do you think the policies of the Bush Administration have made the United States safer from terrorism, less safe from terrorism, or have the policies of the Bush Administration not affected the U.S.' safety from terrorism?

					Sep07a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Safer	50	78	28	47	49
Less safe	21	4	30	27	26
No effect	23	15	38	16	20
DK/NA	6	3	4	10	5

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	738	
Republicans	236	216
Democrats	253	238
Independents	249	284

Margin of error for entire sample is 4pts.