



CBS NEWS POLL
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SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN AND HIS ASSESSMENT OF IRAQ
 April 9-10, 2007

Senator John McCain has been a strong supporter of the Iraq War and the recent "surge" of U.S. troops there - and in his speech today at Virginia Military Institute he is expected to continue that support. But a sizeable number of Americans believe Senator John McCain has been painting too rosy a picture of the situation in Iraq, and more than half aren't optimistic about the future.

39% say McCain's descriptions of U.S. progress in Iraq make things sound like they're going better than they actually are. Fewer - 29% - believe McCain, who recently returned from a trip to the war-torn country, is describing the situation there accurately.

WHEN MCCAIN TALKS ABOUT IRAQ, HE MAKES THINGS SOUND...

Better than they really are	39%
Worse than they really are	9
Describing things accurately	29
Don't know/No answer	23

Interviewing for this poll question was conducted prior to McCain's speech today. Over the last few years, Americans have often voiced similar doubts about President George W. Bush's assessment of U.S. progress in Iraq.

Americans themselves continue to believe things are going badly in Iraq; two-thirds think so. These feelings are not much changed from last month and remain more negative than one year ago.

HOW ARE THINGS GOING FOR U.S. IN IRAQ?

	Now	3/2007	12/2006	4/2006
Well	33%	29%	25%	41%
Badly	65	69	71	55

A majority is not optimistic that the U.S. can succeed in Iraq. Today's sentiments are more pessimistic than optimistic, unchanged from one month ago and more pessimistic than in 2006.

WILL U.S. SUCCEED IN IRAQ?

	Now	3/2007	4/2006
Likely	44%	45%	58%
Not likely	54	53	40

McCain's strong support for the war could have political consequences for him: registered voters' views of Senator McCain have grown more negative this year. Today more voters view the Senator and Republican Presidential candidate unfavorably than favorably. Despite his Presidential campaign, however, McCain remains unknown to, or elicits no opinion from, four in ten voters.

OPINION OF JOHN MCCAIN

(Registered voters)

	Now	3/2007	2/2007	7/2006
Favorable	26%	25%	31%	30%
Unfavorable	31	22	20	15
Undecided/ Haven't heard	42	52	49	54

Yet Republicans - whose Presidential nomination McCain is seeking - do agree with him on the war: six in ten Republicans say the war is going at least somewhat well and seven in ten say the U.S. is likely to succeed in Iraq.

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 480 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone April 9-10, 2007. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus five percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

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q25 Is your opinion of John McCain favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about John McCain yet to have an opinion?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **	Mar07a
	%	%
Favorable	26	25
Not favorable	31	22
Undecided	26	27
Haven't heard enough	16	25
Refused	1	1

q43 When John McCain talks about how things are going for the United States in Iraq today, do you think he is making things in Iraq sound better than they really are, making things sound worse than they really are, or is he describing the situation in Iraq accurately?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **
Sound better	39
Sound worse	9
Describing accurately	29
Don't know/No answer	23

q54 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	1	4
Somewhat well	32	25
Somewhat badly	31	30
Very badly	34	39
Don't know/No answer	2	2

q55 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?

Very likely	11	11
Somewhat likely	33	34
Not very likely	31	34
Not at all likely	23	19
DK/NA	2	2

Total Respondents: 480
Total Registered Voters: 427