

THE WAR ON TERROR: NEW CONCERNS
August 11-13, 2006

Last week's arrests in Britain of more than 20 individuals suspected of plotting to blow up planes traveling from London to the U.S. have had an impact on Americans' priorities. While the war in Iraq remains the most important issue facing the country, terrorism has risen to the number two spot, volunteered by 17% and up from just 7% last month.

MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM

	Now	7/2006
War in Iraq	28%	23%
Terrorism	17	7
Economy and Jobs	11	11
Price of gas	7	8
Immigration	4	4

Since July 2005, fewer than one in 10 Americans have mentioned terrorism when asked to name the country's most important problem, and the percentage naming it in any CBS News Poll has rarely approached the current level.

The thwarted plot has also increased Americans' expectations of an attack in the U.S. in the near future. 64% of Americans now think a terrorist attack on the U.S. is likely in the next few months. This is up 11 points from earlier this year. However, concern is still significantly lower than it was immediately after the attacks of 9/11. Then, 78% thought another terrorist attack against the U.S. was likely.

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

	Now	1/2006	9/2001
Very likely	17	10%	36%
Somewhat likely	47	43	42
Not likely	33	44	20

The threat of an attack - and the Administration's response to the threat - has not resulted in any improvement in assessments of President George W. Bush, either on the specific matter of terrorism, or on his overall job approval. His approval rating now stands at 36%, just where it was a month ago.

BUSH'S JOB APPROVAL

	Now	7/2006
Approve	36%	36%
Disapprove	57	55

Typically, a foreign threat - or a perceived threat - results in an improvement in presidential standing, as Americans rally around their leader.

Even the President's approval rating for handling terrorism (his strongest suit) remains at 51%, unchanged from his approval rating last month.

BUSH RATING ON TERRORISM

	Now	7/2006
Approve	51%	51%
Disapprove	43	42

Republicans still give the President positive marks. 73% approve of his job performance overall, and 82% approve of the way he is handling the campaign against terrorism.

AIR TRAVEL REGULATIONS

For most Americans, the new air travel regulations concerning carry-on luggage implemented beginning Thursday are necessary, at least for now. Three in four say barring U.S. air travelers from bringing liquids such as drinks and gels like toothpaste in their carry-on baggage is necessary. Nearly as many think the restrictions in England permitting passengers to carry on only their wallet, passport and prescription medicine are necessary.

ARE NEW AIR TRAVEL REGULATIONS NECESSARY?

	Yes, necessary	No, unnecessary
Prohibit U.S. passengers from bringing liquids aboard airplanes	75%	23
Limit the carry-on luggage of passengers in England	70%	27

This poll was conducted among a nationwide random sample of 974 adults, interviewed by telephone August 11-13, 2006. The error due to sampling could be plus or minus three percentage points for results based on the complete sample.

CBS NEWS POLL
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q1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Jul06a
	Total	*** Party ID ***			
	%	Rep	Dem	Ind	%
Approve	36	73	14	29	36
Disapprove	57	22	79	62	55
DK/NA	7	5	7	9	9

q5 What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul06a
War in Iraq	28	21	34	27	23
Terrorism (general)	17	28	9	16	7
Economy / Jobs	11	11	12	10	11
Gas/Heating Oil Crisis	7	6	8	7	8
Immigration	4	3	5	3	4
Foreign Policy	3	3	3	3	4
Defense / Military	3	4	2	2	3
The President/G.W. Bush	3	2	5	3	3
Poverty / Homelessness	2	2	1	2	2
Education	2	2	3	2	2
Health Care	2	2	1	2	3
Other	14	12	13	18	24
DK/NA	4	4	4	5	6

q9 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the campaign against terrorism?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul06a
Approve	51	82	26	50	51
Disapprove	43	15	66	43	42
DK/NA	6	3	8	7	7

q31 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, not at all likely?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jan06b
Very likely	17	12	17	20	10
Somewhat likely	47	48	47	46	43
Not very likely	27	33	27	24	33
Not at all likely	6	6	5	6	11
Already happened (Vol.)	0	0	0	1	X
DK/NA	3	1	4	3	3

q38 Airline passengers in the U.S. are currently not permitted to bring liquids such as drinks, toothpaste, or shampoo onto airplanes. Do you think these regulations are necessary, or unnecessary?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Necessary	75	84	72	71
Unnecessary	23	15	27	26
For some, not others (Vol.)	0	0	0	1
DK/NA	2	1	1	2

q39 Airline passengers in England are currently only permitted to carry on their wallet, passport, and prescription medication and nothing else. Do you think these regulations are necessary, or unnecessary?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Necessary	70	76	69	67
Unnecessary	27	23	28	30
For some, not others (Vol.)	1	0	2	0
DK/NA	2	1	1	3

	<u>UWNEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	974	
Total Republicans	274	273
Total Democrats	317	340
Total Independents	383	360