

THE WAR IN IRAQ
September 4 - 8, 2007

The reports on Iraq - from General David Petraeus, Ambassador Ryan Crocker and the Administration - will come amid somewhat improving public evaluations of the current situation in Iraq. But there remains continued pessimism about Iraq's long-term prospects and doubts there will be any changes in U.S. tactics. Most Americans still see things going badly and want troops out sooner rather than later.

But Americans are concerned about the impact of troop withdrawal on terrorism - and some would reverse their position on troop withdrawal if it meant Iraq would become a base for terrorists.

The war has long weighed on President George W. Bush's approval ratings, but the Democratic Party is affected by it, too: fewer now than last spring think the Democratic Party can handle war decisions better the Republican Party, and the ratings for Congress are the lowest since Democrats took control in January.

RATING THE SURGE

More of the public now believes the troop surge in Iraq is improving the situation in Iraq than before, although more than half still say things haven't changed or have even gotten worse.

35% say the surge has made things better, up from 29% last month and 19% in July. Only 12% say it has made things worse. But nearly half see no change in either direction.

IMPACT OF U.S. TROOP SURGE

	Now	8/07	7/07
Made things better	35%	29%	19%
Made things worse	12	15	20
No impact	45	46	53

Americans continue to say the war is going badly - about two-thirds do - but belief it is going well has risen slightly since last month, and substantially since earlier this summer.

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

	Now	8/2007	6/2007	1/2007
Well	33%	29%	22%	23%
Badly	64	67	77	75

Belief that the U.S. is winning the war in Iraq has grown a bit since January. Still, that perception is well below the levels of early 2006, and most Americans continue to see the war as a stalemate.

WHO IS WINNING IN IRAQ?

	Now	1/2007	1/2006
The U.S.	24%	17%	36%
The insurgents	12	16	9
Neither side	60	62	48

On the Iraqi political front, Americans don't see a lot of progress so far in setting up a stable government in Iraq. Few think there has been a lot.

HOW MUCH PROGRESS SETTING UP STABLE IRAQI GOVERNMENT?

A lot	5%
Some	37
Not much/none	41
Don't know	16

Americans overwhelmingly criticize the Iraqi government. 22% say the Iraqi government is meeting a relatively low bar -- doing all it can realistically be expected do to bring about stability in Iraq. 70% say it is not.

On the military front, Americans view the impact of the surge with partisan glasses. 56% of Republicans think the surge is making things better in Iraq, compared with only 19% of Democrats and 32% of Independents. But when it comes to evaluating the Iraqi government, there is no partisan divide. Less than one in four Republicans says the Iraqi government is doing what it can.

Looking long term, pessimism remains: a 53% majority thinks Iraq will never become a stable democracy. Almost no one thinks it will occur within a year or two. Americans were not optimistic last winter, either.

WILL IRAQ EVER BECOME A STABLE DEMOCRACY?

	Now	1/2007	12/2006	6/2006
Yes, in year or two	4%	3%	3%	4%
Yes, but will take longer	42	42	33	50
No, never	53	52	60	43

Americans have been paying attention to news of the war in the last few weeks: more than seven in ten say they have been paying at least some, including three in ten paying a lot. Those paying a lot of attention feel much the same way about how things are going, and the prospects for an Iraqi democracy, as Americans overall.

Americans don't expect General David Petraeus' assessment to have much impact on U.S. strategy: if his report recommends changes, Americans

do not expect them to be made. Instead, they expect U.S. strategy to continue as it has.

AFTER PETRAEUS REPORT, U.S.' IRAQ STRATEGY WILL...

Make recommended changes	22%
Continue as it has	71

But they do trust military commanders to steer the course of the war: perhaps unsurprisingly, most (68%) feel military commanders are most likely to make the right decisions about it. Congress (at 21%) outdistances the Bush Administration (at only 5%) for second on the list, however.

THE ROAD AHEAD: WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN TO U.S. TROOPS?

As has been the case for the past few months, two thirds of Americans want to see U.S. troops come home from Iraq. Just 11% think troop levels ought to be increased, and one in 5 wants to keep troop levels as they are now.

U.S. TROOP LEVELS IN IRAQ SHOULD BE...?

	Now	8/2007	7/2007	4/2007
Increased	11%	13%	12%	21%
Kept same	19	17	15	13
Reduced	35	31	30	27
Remove all troops	30	30	36	33

And about two thirds want the U.S. to set a timetable for troop withdrawal.

If U.S. troops are withdrawn, many Americans expect increased violence and a greater al Qaeda presence in Iraq. 42% expect there will be more violence in Iraq if troops are withdrawn, and 82% think it likely that al Qaeda would establish terrorist bases in Iraq.

VIOLENCE IN IRAQ IF TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWN WOULD BE...?

More	42%
Less	10
Same	47

LIKELY AL QAEDA WOULD ESTABLISH BASES IN IRAQ IF TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWN

Very likely	43%
Somewhat likely	39
Not too/not at all likely	14

Some of those who favor troop removal might waver if those things came to pass. If removing troops meant that Iraq would become more of a base for terrorists, then just under half of those who would like to see troops come home would change their mind. Republicans are especially likely to change their minds about troop removal should this occur.

But an outcome of possible genocide in Iraq is less likely to affect those wanting a reduction in U.S. troops. Most of those who want to see troops removed from Iraq would still favor that even if it meant that there would be mass killings of one group of Iraqis by another.

WOULD STILL FAVOR TROOP REMOVAL IF...

(Among those who favor troop withdrawal)

	Yes	No
Iraq became base for terrorists	46%	46
Mass killings of Iraqis occurred	72%	22

Those who see the war in Iraq as part of the war on terrorism are especially likely to change their minds about troop withdrawal if it meant Iraq would become more of a base for terrorists. Under those circumstances, majorities of this group would not favor removal of U.S. troops. Those who don't associate the war with the war on terrorism are less likely to change their minds about troop withdrawal under these circumstances.

And this week's report to Congress could also have an impact on the sentiment for troop withdrawal. If the report is positive, and says the situation is improving now, most Americans would want to start bringing troops home.

However, if the report is negative, saying the situation is getting worse, support for either keeping levels the same or increasing them rises - perhaps as Americans look to turn around a tough situation.

U.S. TROOP LEVELS IN IRAQ SHOULD...?

	Total	Positive	Negative
Increase/keep same	30%	38%	43%
Decrease/remove all	65	56	47

48% of Americans think that troop withdrawal won't mean a U.S. loss in Iraq. 38% say it would mean the U.S. has lost the war. Democrats think that a troop withdrawal would not represent a loss for the U.S., while half of Republicans think it would.

Although President Bush talks about troops remaining in Iraq beyond his term in office, Americans are not committed to keeping troops there for a long period of time. Three quarters would be willing only for large numbers of U.S. troops to remain in Iraq for less than two years, including 54% who want them to be there for less than a year. Just 20% are willing for U.S. troops to remain there for two years or longer or for "as long as it takes."

WILLING FOR LARGE NUMBERS OF TROOPS TO REMAIN IN IRAQ FOR:

Less than a year	54%
One to two years	22
Two to five years	8
Longer than five years	7
As long as it takes (vol.)	5
Leave now (vol.)	1

But that sentiment might also depend on what U.S. troops are doing in Iraq. Most Americans, 56%, say they would leave some U.S. troops in Iraq for the specific purposes of training Iraqi forces, conducting raids against terrorists and protecting diplomats, while just 22% say they want all U.S. troops withdrawn no matter what happens there after they leave. Majorities of Americans of all political persuasions share this view.

PREFER FOR U.S. TROOPS

Withdraw all no matter what	22%
Withdraw some, keep some for Iraqi training etc.	56
Keep same number	20

Those who would like to see some troops stay in Iraq for these specific purposes (training, counter-terrorism, protection) are more likely to think a troop withdrawal will lead to an increase in violence and terrorism in Iraq if U.S. troops leave.

THE WAR'S IMPACT BACK HOME

The war in Iraq has had a broad impact on folks back home: fully 71% of Americans say that the war has had a major or minor impact on their communities, including 32% who say it has had a major impact.

IMPACT OF WAR ON OWN COMMUNITY

Major impact	32%
Minor impact	39
Not much/no impact	27

When asked to volunteer specifically what the impact has been, a third of those affected say they know someone who has been killed there. Nearly as many know someone who has served. 13% volunteer the financial impact on their community, and 8% mention feeling an emotional impact -- feeling sad or angry.

SPECIFIC IMPACT OF WAR ON OWN COMMUNITY

(Among those who say there has been an impact)

Know someone killed there	32%
Know someone served there	29
Financial impact	13
Emotional impact	8

23% of Americans say that they or someone in their immediate family now serves in the armed forces, and 21% say they or a family member has served or is serving in the current war in Iraq. Views among those with a family member who has served in Iraq are not much different than views of Americans overall, something that has been the case throughout the war.

Some highlights of views among those with a family member who has served or is serving in Iraq:

- 81% say the war has had an impact on their community, including 45% who say it has had a major one. They volunteer the person's service, or mention a death.
- They are slightly more likely than Americans as a whole to think removing Saddam Hussein has been worth the costs of the war (40%), but just as likely to think the war has been a mistake (61%).
- 34% say the war is going well, but most still think it is going badly.
- They are no more willing than the public overall to keep U.S. troops in Iraq. 57% would like to see U.S. troops come home within a year, and another 20% want troops to stay a year or two. 52% would like to keep some troops there to train Iraqi forces and fight terrorists. 69% would like the U.S. to set a timetable for bringing troops home.
- 56% think a U.S. troop withdrawal from Iraq is very likely to lead to a greater al Qaeda presence there, greater than the 43% of Americans overall who say the same.

WHAT ABOUT IRAN?

Two thirds of Americans think Iran is providing arms to the insurgents in Iraq (not much different than opinion in March). Only 10% think they aren't doing that. Nevertheless, while most Americans think Iran is a threat to the U.S., 59% see it as one that can be contained by diplomacy. Only 9% see that country as a threat requiring military action now. One in 4 thinks it is not a threat at all.

Few Americans are currently following news about recent talks between the U.S. and Iran - just 38% are following that very or somewhat closely. 62% are following it not too or not at all closely.

AMERICANS ASSESS THE IRAQ WAR

Looking back, Americans see the original decision to fight the war in Iraq as a mistake and as a situation the U.S. should have stayed out of.

A majority of Americans - 54% - think the U.S. should have stayed out of Iraq, while 41% say the U.S. was right to invade Iraq - numbers which have changed little over the past two years.

When asked if they would label U.S. involvement in Iraq a mistake, 62% say yes, up twelve percentage points from when the question was last asked in May 2004.

WAS U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN IRAQ A MISTAKE?				
	Now	5/2004	4/2003	
Yes	62%	50%	24%	
No	34	46	70	

The percentage that thinks U.S. involvement in Iraq was a mistake is far higher for this war than it ever was during the 1991 Gulf War. In February 1991, only 22% thought that war was a mistake. Instead, it matches the number who said the Vietnam War was a mistake in January 1973, when the Paris Peace Accords were signed, officially ending direct military involvement by the United States in the Vietnam War. The percentage of Americans who say the Iraq War was *not* a mistake is higher than it was for the Vietnam War back then.

VIETNAM ERA GALLUP POLLS:						
WAS SENDING TROOPS TO FIGHT IN VIETNAM A MISTAKE?						
	1/1973	5/1971	4/1968	4/1967	8/1965	
Yes	60%	61%	48%	37%	24%	
No	29	28	40	50	60	

59% of Americans do not think removing Saddam Hussein was worth the loss of American life and other costs of attacking Iraq, though this number is down from an all-time high in January after Hussein was executed by the Shiite-led Iraqi government. 35% now say removing Hussein was worth it. In December 2003, when Hussein was first captured, these opinions were reversed.

WAS REMOVING SADDAM WORTH IT?				
	Now	1/2007	3/2006	12/2003
Yes	35%	30%	40%	54%
No	59	64	51	37

Still, removing Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq is volunteered most often by Americans as the most important accomplishment of the Iraq war, far ahead of liberating the Iraqi people (8%) and helping to fight terrorism (7%). 16% of Americans think the Iraq War has accomplished nothing, while another 23% can't name an accomplishment.

**MOST IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENT
OF THE IRAQ WAR**

Removed Saddam Hussein	28%
Freed Iraqi people	8
Helped fight terrorism	7
Prevent terrorism in U.S.	6
Spread democracy	5
Accomplished nothing	16
Don't Know	23

33% of Americans think that Saddam Hussein was personally involved in the September 11th attacks on the United States, while 58% say he was not. These numbers haven't changed much over the last two years.

WAS SADDAM PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN 9/11?

	Now	9/2006	10/2005	4/2003
Yes	33%	31%	33%	53%
No	58	57	55	38

When asked what the U.S. is fighting for in Iraq, 30% of Americans volunteer creating a stable democracy in the country, while 18% say oil and 11% say defeating terrorism - though 23% say they don't know. Those who believe the U.S. should have stayed out of Iraq in the first place are more likely to say they don't know what the U.S. is fighting for, and the most often volunteered goal for those who can name a reason is oil. Americans who think the U.S. did the right thing getting involved in Iraq volunteer creating a stable democracy first, followed by defeating terrorism. Hardly anyone mentions weapons of mass destruction, the original justification for the war.

WHAT IS THE U.S. FIGHTING FOR IN IRAQ?

	All Americans	Iraq War was right	Iraq War was wrong
Stable democracy	30%	45%	17%
Oil	18	8	27
Defeat terrorism	11	21	5
Finish 1 st Gulf War	5	1	8
Help Iraqi people	4	4	4
Don't Know	23	12	30

51% of Americans think the Iraq war is part of the war on terror, while 47% think it is not. Just 23% say the Iraq War is helping to eliminate terrorists who are planning to attack the U.S. Four in ten say it is instead creating more terrorists. However, that number is at an all-time low and down six points from last month. A year ago, a majority of Americans felt the war was creating more terrorists.

IS THE IRAQ WAR...

	Now	8/2007	6/2006
Creating terrorists	40%	46%	51%
Eliminating terrorists	23	18	17
No difference	27	27	24

THE POLITICS OF IRAQ

As Americans evaluate Iraq for themselves, many think the descriptions of the situation they get from the President, the Democrats in Congress and the media are not always in sync. Americans overwhelmingly think George W. Bush makes things sound better in Iraq than they really are; many think Congress and the media make things sound worse than they are. Americans are most likely to think they are getting an accurate account from the media (though just 37% say that).

DESCRIPTIONS VS. REALITY: WHEN THEY TALK ABOUT IRAQ...

	Make things sound...		Are
	Better	Worse	accurate
Bush	67%	6	23
Dems in Congress	18%	44	27
Media	19%	36	37

As they did in 2005, looking back most Americans think the Bush Administration intentionally misled the country as it made its case for war in Iraq.

PRESIDENT BUSH

President Bush's overall job approval rating is now at 30%, just about where it was last month. It reached an all-time low of 27% in July, but it has mostly hovered around 30% since the end of 2006.

PRESIDENT BUSH JOB APPROVAL RATING

	Now	8/2007	6/2007	3/2007	12/2006
Approve	30%	29%	27%	34%	31%
Disapprove	64	65	65	58	63

Fewer Americans - 26% - approve of his handling of the war in Iraq. A majority of Republicans (52%) approve of his handling of the war, but few Independents (23%) and almost no Democrats (4%) agree.

APPROVE OF PRESIDENT BUSH'S JOB HANDLING IRAQ

	Approve	Disapprove
	All Americans	26%
Republicans	52%	44
Democrats	4%	96
Independents	23%	72

The President's approval ratings on specific issues are also low, and have changed little over the past two months. Terrorism remains the President's strongest issue - with 40% of Americans approving of the job he is doing, though a slight majority - 52% - disapprove.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S JOB APPROVALS

	Now	8/2006	7/2006
Overall	30%	29%	29%
Terrorism	40%	44%	39%
The economy	32%	34%	37%
Foreign policy	26%	--	27%
War in Iraq	26%	26%	25%

As low as the President's ratings are, Congress' are even lower, and the Democratic Party is losing ground in its perceived ability to handle the war.

Only about one in four Americans approves of the job Congress is doing generally - marking the legislature's lowest rating since the Democrats took control in January. Both Republicans and Democrats disapprove. Americans typically rate Congress poorly; its ratings rarely rise over 50%.

CONGRESS JOB APPROVAL

	Now	8/2007	5/2007	1/2007
Approve	23%	25%	36%	33%
Disapprove	66	63	52	49

The Democratic Party is still seen as the party better able to make the right decisions on Iraq. 42% say it is, compared with 32% for the Republican Party. However, the Democrats' edge has shrunk from what it had built up in May. The number who say neither can do it right has grown.

PARTY BEST ABLE TO HANDLE IRAQ?

	Now	5/2007	3/2006	7/2004
Democratic	42%	51%	41%	45%
Republican	32	33	35	41
Neither	9	4	8	4

ECONOMIC CONCERNS

Americans are expressing somewhat more concern about the state of the economy now than they have been in recent months. Although Iraq remains the country's most important problem, volunteered by 24% in this poll, 13% cite the economy and jobs, the first time that has been named by more than 10% of Americans in nearly a year. Immigration is third, at 9%.

And while a majority still says the U.S. economy is in good condition, there are increased concerns about its future. 49% say the economy is getting worse - the highest number since October 2005.

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1035 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone September 4-8, 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. An oversample of those with family members who are now serving in the U.S. armed forces or the U.S. reserves was also conducted for this poll, for a total of 308 interviews among this group. The results were then weighted in proportion to the composition of the adult population in the U.S. Census. The margin of error for military families is plus or minus 6 percentage points.

CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
The War in Iraq
September 4-8, 2007

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

	*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***				
	**** Party ID ****				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Aug07a
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	30	58	7	26	29
Disapprove	64	33	88	70	65
DK/NA	6	9	5	4	6

q2 Do you feel things in this country are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

					Jul07a
Right direction	24	47	11	18	22
Wrong track	71	47	88	78	72
DK/NA	5	6	1	4	6

q3 What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?

					Aug07a
War in Iraq	24	17	34	20	34
Economy & Jobs	13	9	11	6	8
Immigration	9	19	3	5	7
Health Care	7	3	8	8	8
Education	4	4	2	5	1
Miscellaneous Social Issues	4	4	2	4	1
Terrorism (general)	4	5	4	2	5
The President/G.W. Bush	3	3	5	2	4
Budget Deficit /National Debt	3	4	1	2	2
Poverty / Homelessness	2	1	2	2	3
Environment	2	1	3	1	2
Foreign Policy	2	1	3	2	1
Defense / Military	2	3	2	0	1
Crime	2	2	0	3	1
Gas/Heating Oil Crisis	2	4	3	1	3
Other	12	16	12	31	14
DK/NA	5	4	5	6	5

q4 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling foreign policy?

					Jul07a
Approve	26	53	5	22	27
Disapprove	67	38	90	71	63
DK/NA	7	9	5	7	10

q5 How about the economy? Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy?

					Aug07a
Approve	32	60	12	26	34
Disapprove	60	32	80	68	55
DK/NA	8	8	8	6	11

q6 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?

*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***

**** Party ID ****

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Aug07a
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	26	52	4	23	26
Disapprove	71	44	96	72	69
DK/NA	3	4	0	5	5

q7 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the campaign against terrorism?

Approve	40	73	16	33	44
Disapprove	52	21	75	59	48
DK/NA	8	6	9	8	8

q8 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

Approve	23	22	23	23	25
Disapprove	66	70	58	70	63
DK/NA	11	8	19	7	12

q9 How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

Very good	4	9	1	3	7
Fairly good	51	68	39	48	45
Fairly bad	30	19	37	32	32
Very bad	15	5	22	16	14
DK/NA	0	0	1	1	2

q10 Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

					Jul07a
Better	8	17	1	6	12
Worse	49	33	67	47	41
Same	43	50	32	46	45
DK/NA	0	0	0	1	2

q11 Do you think removing Saddam Hussein from power was worth the loss of American life and other costs of attacking Iraq, or not?

					Jan07a
Worth it	35	67	13	28	30
Not worth it	59	27	82	66	64
DK/NA	6	6	5	6	6

q12-q19 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q20 Do you think the United States made a mistake getting involved in the current war with Iraq, or not?

					May04b
Made a mistake	62	31	86	68	50
Did not make a mistake	34	64	13	28	46
DK/NA	4	5	1	4	4

q21-q46 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q47-q49 BLANK

q50 Thinking about the last few weeks, how much attention have you been able to pay to news about the war in Iraq - a lot, some, not much, or no attention so far?

	*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***				
	**** Party ID ****				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul07c
	%	%	%	%	%
A lot	32	29	35	31	28
Some	41	43	38	42	39
Not much	22	22	22	22	22
None at all	6	7	5	5	9
DK/NA	0	0	0	0	2

q51 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?

					Aug07a
Right thing	41	73	17	36	43
Stayed out	54	20	78	61	51
Don't know/No answer	5	7	5	3	6

q52 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	4	7	1	6	3
Somewhat well	29	53	11	25	26
Somewhat badly	32	27	36	32	29
Very badly	32	11	50	35	38
Don't know/No answer	3	2	2	2	4

q53 From what you know about the U.S. involvement in Iraq, how much longer would you be willing to have large numbers of U.S. troops remain in Iraq -- less than a year, one to two years, two to five years or longer than five years?

Less than a year	54	33	70	57
One to two years	22	28	19	20
Two to five years	8	13	4	7
Longer than five years	7	13	2	6
As long as it takes (vol.)	5	9	1	6
Should leave now (vol.)	1	0	2	1
DK/NA	3	4	2	3

q54 What do you think the U.S. is fighting for in Iraq?

*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***

**** Party ID ****

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Create a stable democracy	30	41	24	25
Oil	18	8	23	23
Terrorism	11	23	4	8
Finish first Gulf War	5	3	7	6
Help Iraqi people	4	5	3	4
Nothing	2	1	2	0
Other	7	8	6	9
DK/NA	23	11	31	25

q55 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to make the right decisions about the war in Iraq?

					May07a
					%
Republican	32	72	5	21	33
Democratic	42	12	72	43	51
Both (vol.)	1	1	0	1	2
Neither (vol.)	9	4	8	13	4
DK/NA	16	11	15	22	10

q56 Do you think of the war with Iraq as part of the war on terrorism, or do you think of it as separate from the war on terrorism? IF YES, ASK: Is it a major part of the war on terrorism, or a minor part of the war on terrorism?

					Jul07b
Major part	38	61	22	32	32
Minor part	13	17	10	11	14
Not part	47	21	64	54	46
DK/NA	2	1	4	3	8

q57 From what you have seen or heard about the situation in Iraq, what should the United States do now - should the US increase the number of US troops in Iraq, keep the same number of US troops in Iraq as there are now, decrease the number of troops in Iraq, or remove all its troops from Iraq?

					Aug07a
Increase	11	21	4	9	13
Keep the same	19	32	10	15	17
Decrease	35	27	39	38	31
Remove all troops	30	14	42	32	30
Don't know/No answer	5	6	5	6	9

q58 How long would you consider to be an acceptable length of time to get all American troops out of Iraq - would you consider weeks, months, or years to be acceptable?

THOSE WHO WANT TO DECREASE OR REMOVE TROOPS

Weeks	15	13	19	13
Months	55	51	56	55
Years	27	30	22	30
DK/NA	3	6	3	2

q59 What if removing troops meant there would be more mass killings of one ethnic group of Iraqis by another, then would you still favor removing U.S. troops from Iraq, or not?

* THOSE WHO WANT TO DECREASE
OR REMOVE ALL TROOPS *
**** Party ID ****

	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Favor removal	72	61	78	71
Not favor removal	22	36	14	23
DK/NA	6	3	8	6

q60 What if removing troops meant Iraq would become more of a base of operations for terrorists, then would you still favor removing U.S. troops from Iraq, or not?

Favor removal	46	26	57	46
Not favor removal	46	72	38	41
DK/NA	7	2	5	13

q61 Which of these comes closest to your MAIN REASON for wanting the United States to remain in Iraq: 1. to avoid a U.S. defeat OR 2. to build a stable democracy in Iraq OR 3. to prevent terrorists from establishing a base of operations in Iraq?

*THOSE WHO WANT TO INCREASE OR
KEEP THE SAME NUMBER OF TROOPS*

Avoid US defeat	5	3	2	11
Build stable democracy	35	32	39	37
Prevent terrorist bases	45	46	54	40
None (vol.)	0	0	0	0
All (vol.)	6	9	3	4
Combination (Vol.)	9	10	2	8

q62 If the U.S. withdrew its troops from Iraq now, then do you think the U.S. will have lost the war in Iraq, or not?

	*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***				Oct06d %
Yes, will have lost	38	50	29	35	51
No, will not have lost	48	42	58	45	41
Already happened (vol.)	6	3	6	9	NA
Depends (vol.)	2	2	1	2	NA
DK/NA	6	3	6	9	8

q63 If the U.S. withdrew its troops from Iraq now, do you think there would be more violence in Iraq than there is now, would there be less violence than there is now, or about the same amount of violence as there is now?

					Mar06a
More	42	62	28	36	44
Less	10	6	13	9	11
About the same amount	47	31	55	52	42
DK/NA	1	1	4	3	3

q64 If the U.S. withdrew its troops from Iraq now, how likely do you think it is that al Qaeda would establish terrorist bases in Iraq - very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?

*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***

**** Party ID ****

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Very likely	43	66	30	36
Somewhat likely	39	28	48	41
Not too likely	12	3	16	15
Not at all likely	2	0	2	3
Already happened (Vol.)	2	1	2	2
DK/NA	2	2	2	3

q65 As you may know, the U.S. has sent more than 20,000 additional troops to Iraq. From what you have heard or read, would you say this troop increase is making the situation in Iraq better, making it worse, or is it having no impact on the situation in Iraq so far?

					Aug07a
					%
Making it better	35	56	19	32	29
Making worse	12	5	23	10	15
No impact	45	31	51	52	46
DK/NA	8	8	7	6	10

q66 If you had to choose, who do you think is most likely to make the right decisions about the war in Iraq - the Bush Administration, Congress, or U.S. military commanders in Iraq?

Bush Administration	5	7	3	6
Congress	21	10	32	20
U.S. military commanders	68	82	59	64
None (vol.)	3	1	5	4
Other	0	0	0	1
DK/NA	3	0	1	5

q67 What would you say is the most important accomplishment of the Iraq war?

Removed Saddam	28	35	27	23
Liberated Iraqi people	8	13	4	6
Fight terrorism/al Qaeda	7	12	4	5
Kept fighting out of U.S.	6	4	7	7
Spread democracy	5	9	4	4
Other	7	5	5	12
Didn't accomplish anything	16	2	24	20
DK/NA	23	20	25	23

q68 From what you have heard or read, how much progress has there been in setting up a stable democratic government in Iraq - a lot, some, not much, none at all, or don't you know enough about it yet to say?

*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***

**** Party ID ****

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar06b
	%	%	%	%	%
A lot	5	9	3	4	7
Some	37	55	24	33	41
Not much	30	19	35	34	25
None at all	11	5	12	15	5
Don't know enough	16	12	26	14	22
DK/NA	1	0	0	0	0

q69 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.

					Jan07a
					%
Next year or two	4	3	3	5	3
Will take longer	42	59	30	40	42
Never become a democracy	53	37	66	54	52
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	3

q70 Do you think the Iraqi government is or is not doing all they can realistically be expected to do in order to bring about stability in Iraq?

					Oct06d
Is	22	24	20	21	26
Is not	70	72	66	72	64
DK/NA	8	4	14	7	10

q71 Who do you think is currently winning the war in Iraq - the United States, or the Iraqi resistance and insurgents, or neither side?

					Jan07a
The U.S.	24	44	10	19	17
Iraq resistance	12	5	19	13	16
Neither side	60	47	66	67	62
DK/NA	4	4	5	1	5

q72 Do you think the United States should or should not set a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq sometime in 2008?

					Jun07c
Should	64	41	84	66	63
Should not	32	56	12	29	34
DK/NA	4	3	4	5	3

q73 When George W. Bush 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 ***

	**** Party ID ****				Jan07c
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Sound better	67	45	80	75	64
Sound worse	6	1	10	7	6
Accurately	23	50	8	13	26
DK/NA	4	4	2	5	4

q74 When Democrats in Congress talk about how things are going for the United States in Iraq today, do you think they are making things in Iraq sound better than they really are, making things sound worse than they really are, or are they describing the situation in Iraq accurately?

Sound better	18	11	21	21
Sound worse	44	73	20	40
Describing accurately	27	11	48	24
DK/NA	11	5	11	15

q75 When most people in the news media talk about how things are going for the United States in Iraq today, do you think they are making things in Iraq sound better than they really are, making things sound worse than they really are, or are they describing the situation in Iraq accurately?

Sound better	19	11	23	23
Sound worse	36	66	14	30
Describing accurately	37	18	54	37
DK/NA	8	5	9	10

q76 In making its case for the war with Iraq, do you think members of the Bush Administration intentionally misled the public or not?

					Dec05a
Intentionally misled	60	25	85	66	52
Did not	36	70	10	30	44
DK/NA	4	5	5	4	4

q77 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?

					Jan07a
Major impact	32	29	35	32	22
Minor impact	39	40	36	40	41
Not much impact	19	22	20	16	25
No impact	8	7	6	9	10
Don't know/No Answer	2	2	3	3	2

q78 How has the war in Iraq impacted your community?

*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***

**** Party ID ****

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
know someone killed in Iraq	32	34	26	34
Know someone served/serving	29	35	34	20
Financial impact on community	13	8	14	16
Emotional impact/sad/angry	8	4	9	12
Patriotism/American Flags	2	3	1	1
Nothing	1	1	0	1
Other	8	7	5	10
Don't Know/No Answer	7	8	11	6

q79 As far as you know, about how many U.S. military personnel have been killed in Iraq since the war began?

3,000 to 3,999	35	35	35	35
2,000 to 2,999	9	15	8	6
5,000 to 10,000	6	6	7	6
4,000 to 4,999	5	3	5	7
More than 10,000	5	3	5	6
1,000 to 1,999	4	6	3	4
Less than 1,000	1	0	2	2
Too many (vol.)	6	1	11	5
Other	2	0	2	3
Don't Know/No Answer	27	31	22	26

q80 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q81 Looking ahead in Iraq, if you had to choose, which of these comes closest to your position: 1. The United States should withdraw all of its troops within the next year regardless of what happens in Iraq after the troops leave. OR 2. The United States should withdraw some troops but leave some troops to train Iraqi forces, conduct raids against terrorist groups and protect American diplomats. OR 3. The United States should keep the same number of troops in Iraq as are there now and continue to fight until there is a stable democracy in Iraq?

Withdraw all troops	22	5	34	26
Withdraw some troops	56	56	56	55
Keep same number troops	20	37	8	15
Don't know/No Answer	2	2	2	4

q82 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q83 As you may know, a report about the situation in Iraq by General David Petraeus, the Commander of U.S. forces, and others is scheduled to be released next week. If the report says that the situation in Iraq is IMPROVING, what should the U.S. do next: 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 troops in Iraq, or remove all its troops from Iraq?

Increase	6	7	4	6
Keep the same	32	49	23	26
Decrease	39	30	47	40
Remove all troops	17	6	23	20
Don't know/No answer	6	8	3	8

q84 If the report says that the situation in Iraq is GETTING WORSE, what should the U.S. do next: 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 troops in Iraq, or remove troops from Iraq?

*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***

**** Party ID ****

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Increase	16	24	11	14
Keep the same	27	38	18	27
Decrease	25	16	31	28
Remove all troops	22	9	35	21
Don't know/No answer	10	13	5	10

q85 After the report is presented, do you think the U.S. will make whatever changes to its Iraq strategy that the report recommends, or do you expect U.S. Iraq strategy to pretty much continue as it has?

Make changes	22	33	12	20
Continue strategy	71	60	79	72
Depends what it says (vol.)	2	2	2	2
Don't know/No Answer	5	5	7	6

q86 Over the last couple of years, do you think the Bush administration has focused too much on the war in Iraq and not enough on Afghanistan, or focused too much on Afghanistan and not enough on the war in Iraq, or has the balance been about right?

					Mar07a
					%
Too much on Iraq	51	37	62	54	44
Too much on Afghanistan	2	1	5	0	3
Balance about right	36	56	24	30	41
Don't know/No Answer	11	6	9	16	12

q87 Right now, is the U.S. involvement in Iraq creating more terrorists who are planning to attack the U.S., eliminating terrorists who are planning to attack the U.S., or is the U.S. involvement in Iraq not affecting the number of terrorists planning to attack the U.S.?

					Aug07a
Creating more terrorists	40	19	57	43	46
Eliminating terrorists	23	43	8	19	18
Not affecting the number	27	27	24	29	27
Don't Know/No Answer	10	11	11	9	9

q88 Do you think Saddam Hussein was personally involved in the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon?

					Sep06a
Yes	33	40	27	32	31
No	58	51	63	60	57
Don't Know/No Answer	9	9	10	8	12

q89 There are three major groups of people that live in Iraq -- the Sunni, the Shia, and the Kurds. As far as you know, which group has the largest population in Iraq - the Sunni, the Shia, or the Kurds?

*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***

**** Party ID ****

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
The Sunni	19	21	17	18
The Shia	34	29	33	39
The Kurds	7	10	8	5
Don't Know/No Answer	40	40	42	38

q90-q92 BLANK

q93 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q94 Where do you usually get most of your news about what's going on with the war in IRAQ - from the newspapers, or radio, or television, or the internet, or someplace else?

Newspapers	11	10	11	12
Radio	8	10	4	9
Television	66	61	74	63
Internet	11	11	9	12
Someplace else	3	6	0	2
Don't Know/No Answer	1	2	2	2

q95 Which television network do you watch the most for news?

ABC, CBS or NBC	56	52	55	59
FOX	14	27	4	15
CNN	20	13	31	14
MSNBC	3	2	5	3
Other	4	1	3	8
Don't Know/No Answer	3	5	2	1

q96-q99 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q100-q101 BLANK

q102 Thinking now about IRAN. How closely have you been following news about recent talks between Iran and the United States? Have you been following it very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not at all?

Very	8	7	8	9
Somewhat	30	29	34	27
Not too	39	38	39	41
Not at all	23	25	19	24
Don't Know/No Answer	0	1	0	0

q103 Which comes closer to your opinion? 1. Iran is a threat to the United States that requires military action now. 2. Iran is a threat that can be contained with diplomacy now. 3. Iran is not a threat to the United States at this time.

*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***

**** Party ID ****

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar07b
	%	%	%	%	%
Threat requiring action now	9	7	7	10	18
Threat that can be contained	59	66	58	54	54
Not a threat at this time	24	19	25	27	18
Don't Know/No Answer	8	8	10	9	10

q104 To the best of your knowledge, do you think Iran is currently providing weapons to insurgents in Iraq, or isn't Iran doing that?

					Mar07a
Yes, providing	67	73	66	64	65
No, not doing that	10	5	11	14	12
Don't Know/No Answer	23	22	23	22	23

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1035	
Republicans	309	319 (31%)
Democrats	338	330 (32%)
Independents	388	386 (37%)