



EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE:

Tuesday, July 20, 4:00 pm

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Andrew Kohut, Director

Carroll Doherty, Editor

9/11 COMMISSION HAS BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

The public broadly approves of the performance of the 9/11 commission in investigating the events that led to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. By more than two-to-one (61%- 24%), Americans approve of the job being done by the commission, which is expected to release its final report later this week. Significantly, there is no partisan divide in this view – as many Republicans (62%) as Democrats (61%) approve of the commission’s performance to date.

The partisan agreement over the commission’s investigation contrasts with the enduring political differences over the government’s efforts to reduce the terrorist threat. Seven-in-ten Americans (71%) say the government has done at least fairly well in reducing the terrorist threat, but just 18% believe it has done very well. These ratings have changed little over the past two years. Three times as many Republicans as Democrats and independents give the government top marks for reducing the threat of terrorism (35% very well vs. 12% and 11%, respectively).

Partisan Accord Over 9/11 Panel				
<i>9/11 commission’s</i>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
<i>job investigating</i>	%	%	%	%
Approve	61	62	61	60
Disapprove	24	24	24	26
Don’t know	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Government’s job</i>				
<i>reducing threat</i>				
Doing very well	18	35	12	11
Fairly well	53	54	53	53
Not too well	17	7	24	21
Not at all well	8	2	8	13
Don’t know	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, conducted July 8-18 among 2,009 adults, shows that in spite of government warnings of a possible terrorist strike to undermine the election, public concern over terrorism has not increased recently. In fact, the percentage saying they are very worried over a new attack on the U.S. fell to 17% from 25% in June, and is on par with the level of concern expressed in multiple surveys conducted over the past year.

However, most Americans continue to believe that the ability of terrorists to launch attacks against the U.S. remains at least as great as it was at the time of the Sept. 11 attacks. A majority of Americans say terrorists have the same (39%) or a greater (24%) ability to launch another major attack in the U.S. today than was the case on Sept. 11, 2001. About a third of Americans (34%) say it is more difficult for terrorists to successfully attack the U.S. now. Opinion on this issue has changed little since 2002, when 39% said the terrorists' capabilities were about the same as at the time of Sept. 11 and 22% said they were greater.

Partisanship also is linked to opinions of the terrorists' capabilities to strike. Nearly half of Republicans (48%) say terrorists have less ability to attack the U.S. now, while only 13% say more. Democrats are more divided on this question, with 31% saying terrorists have more ability to attack, 25% less. Independents are closer to Democrats than Republicans: 27% feel the ability of terrorists to launch attacks is greater, while 31% say it has been diminished.

Terrorism Attitudes Stable			
	Aug	Aug	July
<i>Ability of terrorists to attack the U.S.</i>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
	%	%	%
Greater than in 2001	22	--	24
Same as in 2001	39	--	39
Less than in 2001	34	--	34
Don't know	<u>5</u>	--	<u>3</u>
	100		100
<i>Government's job reducing threat*</i>			
Doing very well	16	19	18
Fairly well	60	56	53
Not too well	16	16	17
Not at all well	4	7	8
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100

* 2002 figures from June.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for the July 2004 Foreign Policy and Party Images survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a nationwide sample of 2,009 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period July 8-18, 2004. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 2.5 percentage points. For results based on either Form 1 (N=1003) or Form 2 (N=1006) general public, the sampling error is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JULY 2004 FOREIGN POLICY AND PARTY IMAGES SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
July 8 - 18, 2004
Total N=2009
Form 1=1003 Form 2=1006

Questions 1 through 27 held for future release

ASK FORM 1 ONLY:

Q.28F1 As you may know, a commission known as the 9-11 Commission has been investigating the events that led up to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job this commission has been doing?

61	Approve
24	Disapprove
<u>15</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Questions 29 through 70 held for future release

Thinking about the issue of terrorism for a moment...

ASK FORM 2 ONLY:

Q.70F2 In general, how well do you think the U.S. government is doing in reducing the threat of terrorism? **[READ]**

		<i>(RVs)</i>					
		Early		Early		Oct	Oct
		Aug	Nov	June	Nov	15-21	10-14
		<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>
18	Very well	19	15	16	35	38	48
53	Fairly well	56	54	60	46	46	40
17	Not too well, OR	16	19	16	9	9	6
8	Not at all well	7	8	4	5	4	2
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY:

Q.71F1 Overall, do you think the ability of terrorists to launch another major attack on the U.S. is greater, the same, or less than it was at the time of the September 11th terrorist attacks?

		Late Aug
		<u>2002</u>
24	Greater	22
39	The same	39
34	Less	34
<u>3</u>	Don't know/refused (VOL)	<u>5</u>
100		100

Questions 72 through 88 held for future release

ASK ALL:

Q.89 How worried are you that there will soon be another terrorist attack in the United States? **[READ]**

	Very <u>worried</u>	Somewhat <u>worried</u>	Not too <u>worried</u>	Not at all <u>worried</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
July, 2004	17	41	26	15	1=100
June, 2004	25	42	20	12	1=100
Mid-March, 2004	20	42	25	12	1=100
Early February, 2004	13	42	28	16	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	20	45	24	10	1=100
August, 2003	13	45	29	12	1=100
March, 2003	22	42	20	14	2=100
February, 2003	34	41	17	7	1=100
January, 2003	18	50	23	8	1=100
December, 2002	31	42	18	8	1=100
Early October, 2002	20	46	22	11	1=100
Late August, 2002	16	46	25	12	1=100
June, 2002	32	44	17	7	*=100
January, 2002	20	42	28	9	1=100
December, 2001	13	39	27	19	2=100
October 15-21, 2001	29	42	18	10	1=100
October 10-14, 2001	27	40	19	12	2=100
Early October, 2001	28	45	15	11	1=100