

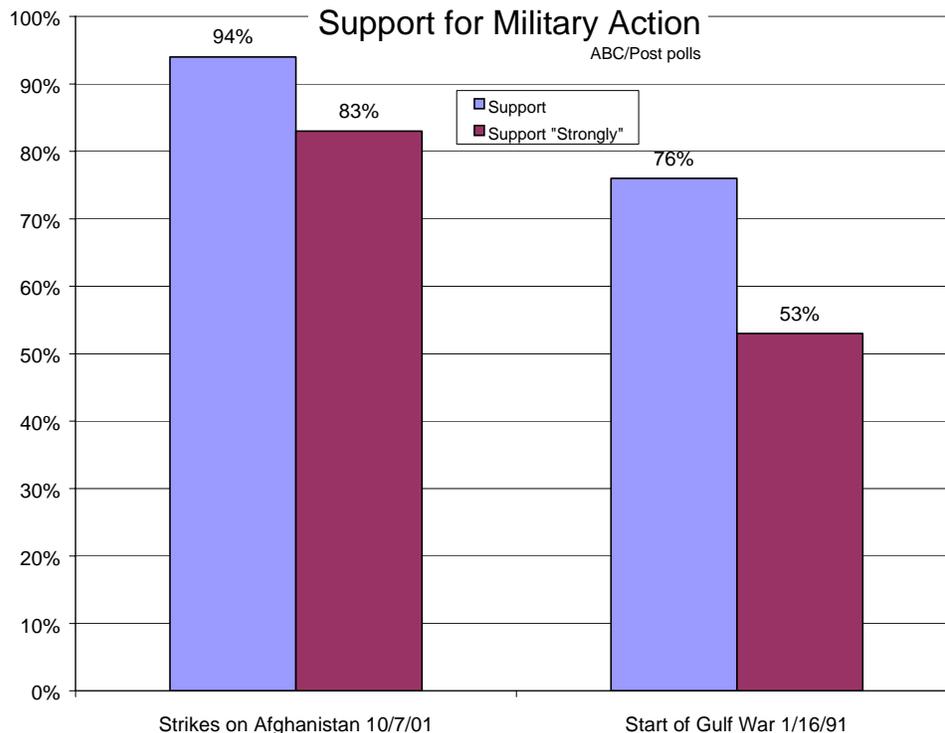
ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST POLL: THE AIR STRIKES
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Sunday, Oct. 7, 2001

Support for Air Strikes is Vast – Easily Eclipsing Gulf War Levels

Americans reacted with overwhelming support to Sunday’s air strikes against targets in Afghanistan, despite the majority’s belief that the action raises the likelihood of further terrorist attacks in the United States.

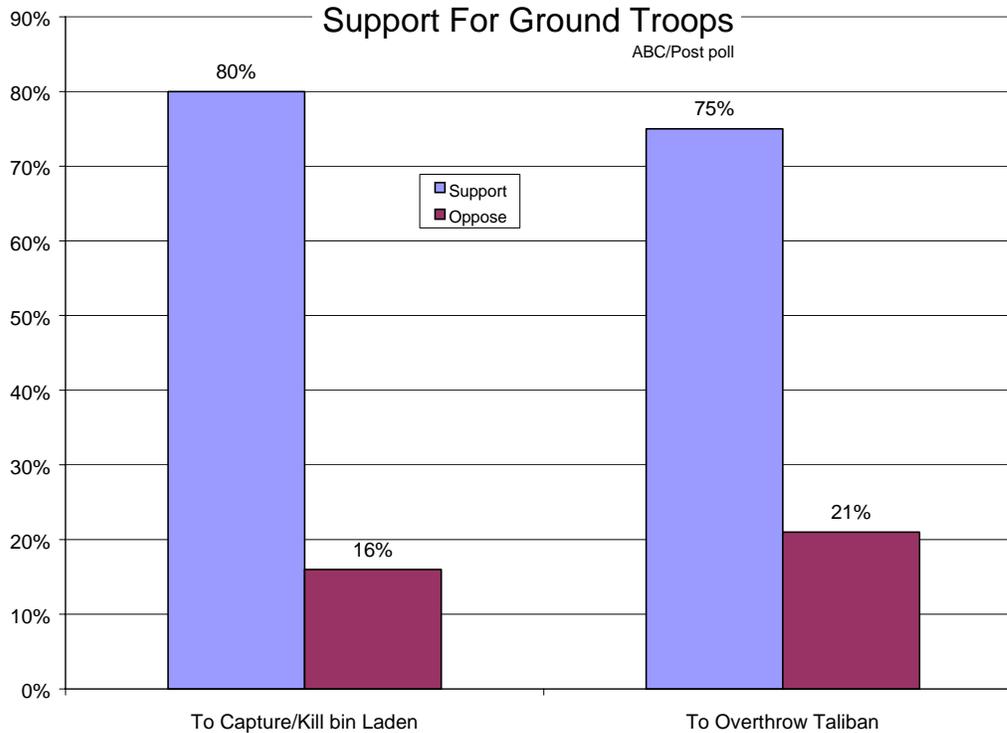
The public’s resolve is nearly as deep as it is broad. Not only do 94 percent support the air strikes, but a remarkable 83 percent support them “strongly” – 30 points more than the level of “strong” support for the Persian Gulf War when it began on Jan. 16, 1991.

	Support	Support “strongly”
10/7/01: Air strikes on Afghanistan	94%	83%
1/16/91: Start of Gulf War	76	53



Public support is not limited to air strikes, moreover: Three-quarters or more support sending “a significant number” of U.S. ground troops into Afghanistan, both to capture or kill Osama bin Laden and his associates, and to overthrow the Taliban regime.

Use of U.S. ground troops:	Support	Oppose
To capture/kill bin Laden	80%	16
To overthrow Taliban	75	21



LONG – Few see this initial action as a quick fix: Eighty-two percent expect a long war. And 71 percent support George W. Bush’s call for a broad war on terrorism, rather than more limited military action against those responsible for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

REPRISAL – There is a fear of reprisals: Fifty-five percent of Americans think the air strikes make further terrorist attacks against the United States more likely. At the same time, though, the numbers of Americans worried about further terrorism held steady at eight in 10, including four in 10 “very” worried.

Probably most telling is this: In the long run, the public by nearly a 3-1 margin says the risk created by military action against terrorism is smaller than the risk that would be created by a lack of such action. It’s this perceived absence of alternatives that’s fueling much of the public’s support for war on terrorists and the nations that support them.

BUSH – Backing for the administration could hardly be higher. Bush wins a 93 percent approval rating for his handling of the situation. And only 14 percent think he should have done more to find a diplomatic solution before initiating military action.

U.S. should have tried more diplomacy	14%
U.S. did enough to find diplomatic solution	82

Nearly seven in 10 also say they feel the United States is doing enough to win the support of Muslims around the world.

AID – In another aspect of the U.S. efforts, 77 percent support the provision of \$320 million worth of U.S. humanitarian aid to the Afghan people; most support it even while the Taliban government remains in power.

GROUPS – While public support for the air strikes is nearly unanimous, there are some differences in its intensity. Men are 10 points more likely than women to strongly support the action, although it’s high in both groups – 88 percent among men, 78 percent among women. Similarly, 94 percent of Republicans support the air strikes strongly, compared to 75 percent of Democrats and 79 percent of independents.

Finally, women also are less apt than men, by an 18-point margin, to support a “broader war” against terrorism as opposed to strikes only against those responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks.

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Oct. 7, 2001, among a random national sample of 506 adults. The results have a 4.5-point error margin. Field work by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet at:
<http://abcnews.go.com/sections/politics/PollVault/PollVault.html>

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Here are the full results (*=less than 0.5 percent)

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the U.S. response to last month’s terrorist attacks in New York and Washington?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opin.
10/7/01	93	5	3
9/20/01**	91	5	4
9/13/01*	91	7	2
**9/20/01 “last week’s”			
*9/13/01 “this week’s”			

2. Today the United States led air strikes on targets in Afghanistan, including military sites of the Taliban government and training camps of the Al Qaeda terrorist group led by Osama bin Laden. Do you support or oppose these U.S.-led air strikes on Afghanistan?

-----Support-----	-----Oppose-----	No
NET Strongly Somewhat	NET Strongly Somewhat	opin.

10/7/01 94 83 11 4 2 2 2

Compare to:

Do you support or oppose taking military action against the groups or nations responsible for the recent terrorist attacks?

	Support	Oppose	No opin.
9/27/01	90	7	4
9/20/01	90	6	4
9/13/01*	93	5	2
9/11/01	94	3	3

*9/13/01 and previous: "If the United States can identify the groups or nations responsible for the recent attacks, would you support or oppose taking military action against them?"

3. Do you think this will be a quick military action, or do you think it's the start of a long war?

	Quick action	Start of long war	No opin.
10/7/01	12	82	6

4. Do you think the United States should have done more to find a diplomatic solution before attacking Afghanistan, or did it do enough?

	Should have done more	Did enough	No opin.
10/7/01	14	82	5

5. What do you think should be the main goal of the United States in this military action - capturing or killing Osama bin Laden and his associates, overthrowing Afghanistan's Taliban government, or both equally?

	Capture/kill bin Laden	Overthrow Taliban	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol)	No opin.
10/7/01	19	6	71	2	2

6. Would you support or oppose sending a significant number of U.S. ground troops into Afghanistan to capture or kill Osama bin Laden and his associates?

	Support	Oppose	No opin.
10/7/01	80	16	4

7. Would you support or oppose sending a significant number of U.S. ground troops into Afghanistan to overthrow the Taliban government?

	Support	Oppose	No opin.
10/7/01	75	21	4

8. How concerned are you about the possibility there will be more major terrorist attacks in the United States - is that something that worries you a great deal, somewhat, not too much, or not at all?

	-----Concerned-----			-----Not concerned----			No op.
	NET	Grt.deal	Somewhat	NET	Not much	None	
10/7/01	81	41	40	18	13	4	1
9/27/01*	83	43	39	17	12	5	*
9/11/01	87	49	38	12	7	4	1
6/13/97	62	21	41	38	24	14	*
6/2/97	63	22	41	37	28	9	*

8/5/96	74	31	43	26	18	8	*
4/20/95	78	38	40	21	16	5	1

9/27/01 and previous: "How concerned are you about the possibility there will be more major terrorist attacks in this country..."

9. Do you think today's air strikes in Afghanistan make further terrorist attacks against the United States more likely, less likely, or won't they make much difference?

	More likely	Less likely	No diff.	No opin.
10/7/01	55	10	32	3

10. What do you think creates a greater risk of further terrorism in this country - the United States taking military action against terrorists, or the United States NOT taking military action?

	US taking action	US not taking action	No diff. (vol.)	No opin.
10/7/01	23	65	9	3

Compare to:

What do you think would create a greater risk of further terrorism in this country - if the United States DOES take military action against terrorists, or if the United States does NOT take military action?

	Does take action	Does not take action	No diff. (vol.)	No opin.
9/20/01	15	73	8	3

11. Do you think the United States should limit its military action only to those groups or nations responsible for last month's terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, or should the United States mount a broader war against terrorist groups and the nations that support them?

	Limit action	Broader war	No opin.
10/7/01	25	71	3

Compare to:

(If support military action) Do you think the United States should limit its military action only to those groups or nations responsible for last week's attacks, or should the United States mount a broader war against terrorist groups and the nations that support them? Do you feel that way strongly, or not so strongly?

	-----Limit Action-----			-----Broader War-----			Oppose	No
	NET	Strng	Not strng	NET	Strng	Not strng	action	opin.
9/27/01	33	28	5	54	49	5	7	7
9/20/01	24	NA	NA	63	NA	NA	6	7

12. In its anti-terrorism campaign, do you think the United States IS or IS NOT doing enough to win the support of Muslim people around the world?

	Yes	No	No opin.
10/7/01	69	18	13

13. Do you support or oppose the United States providing an aid package worth 320 million dollars to deliver food and medicine to the people of Afghanistan?

	Support	Oppose	No opin.
10/7/01	77	20	3

14. (IF SUPPORT AT Q12) Do you support the United States giving humanitarian aid to the Afghan people while the Taliban government is still in power, or would it be better to wait until the Taliban is no longer in control?

	Support	Oppose	No opin.
10/7/01	71	25	3

END