

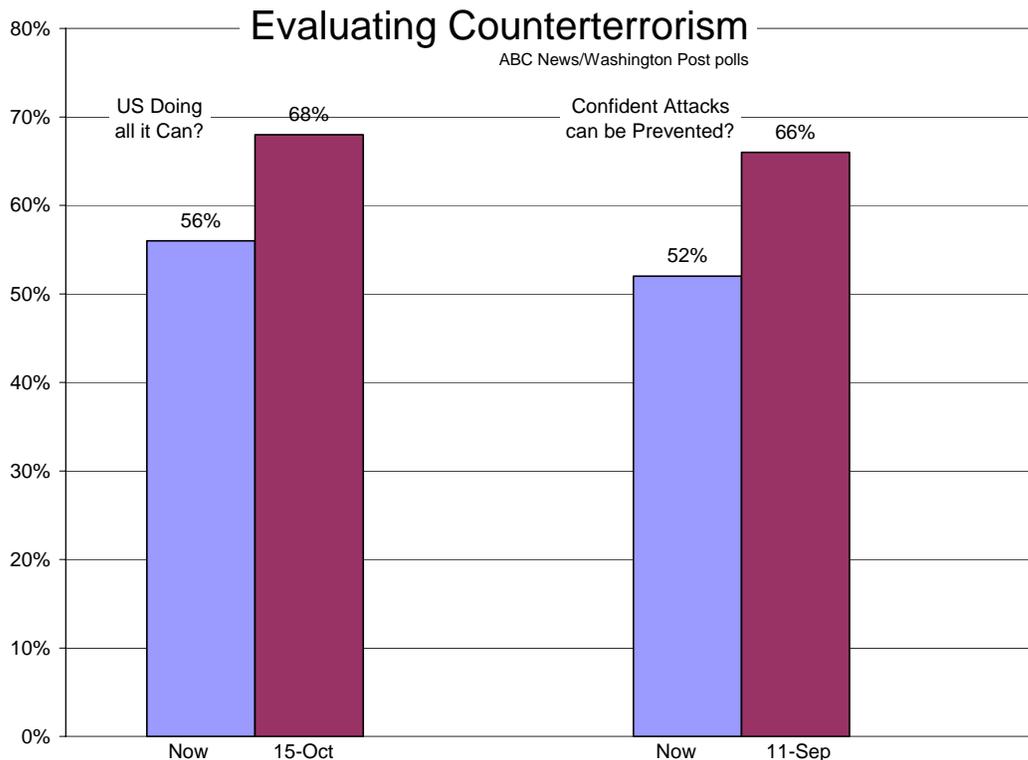
First Post-Attack Challenges for Bush in Public Opinion

George W. Bush is facing his first challenges in managing public expectations of the war on terrorism – at home, declining confidence in U.S. counterterrorism efforts; and on the war front, demand for Osama bin Laden’s head, combined with tepid support for a high-casualty ground war.

As Bush prepares to address the nation on homeland security tomorrow night, the number of Americans saying the U.S. is doing all it reasonably can to prevent terrorist attacks has declined by 12 points, to 56 percent, from 68 percent in mid-October.

Confidence that further terrorism indeed can be prevented also has declined, by 14 points, and now stands at a slim majority, 52 percent. Just 17 percent express a “great deal” of confidence the government can prevent more attacks, half its level the night of Sept. 11.

Two factors may be responsible: First, the fact that authorities have made no reported progress in identifying those responsible for the anthrax letters; and second, the recent government warnings of credible information that another attack may be imminent, without details as to where, when, how or by whom.



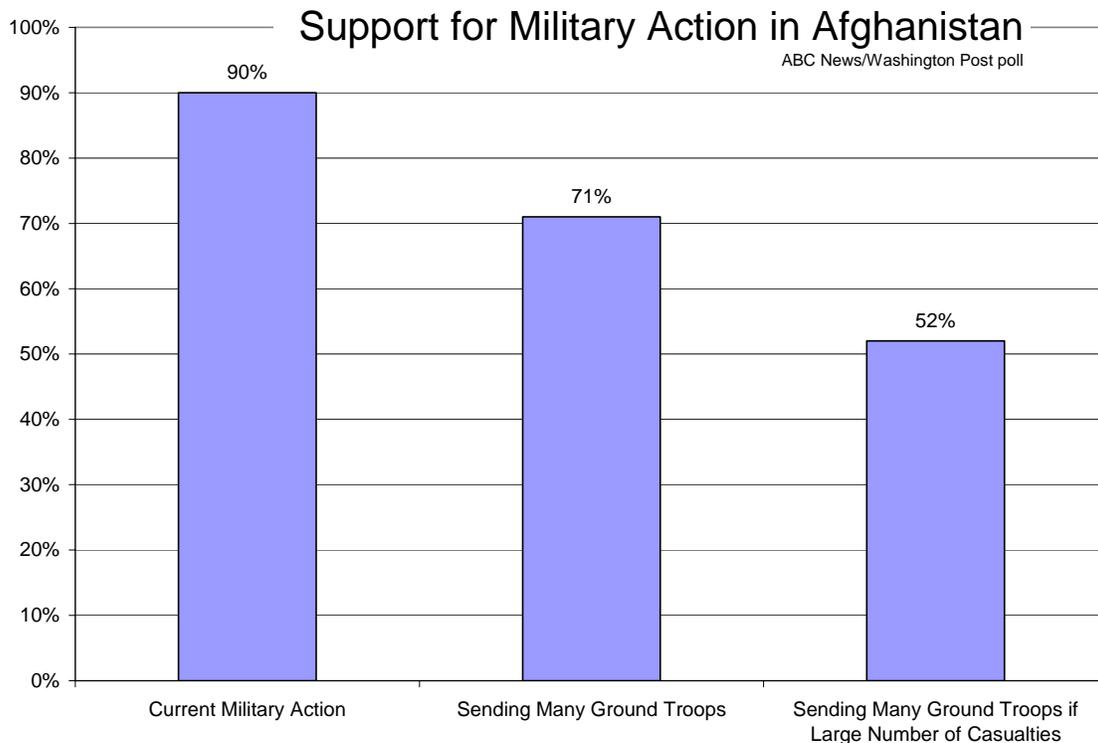
	Now	Then
U.S. doing all it can to deter terrorism	56%	68 (Oct. 15)
Confident that terrorism can be prevented	52	66 (Sept. 11)

WAR – On the war front, the public sets a high standard for performance, saying by 2-1 that the campaign in Afghanistan will not be a success unless the United States captures or kills Osama bin Laden. And while 71 percent say they’d support using “a significant number” of ground troops in Afghanistan, that declines to 52 percent “if it meant getting into a long war with large numbers of U.S. troops killed or injured.”

Polling isn’t predictive, however; people evaluate and respond to actual events. Tepid support for a ground war with many U.S. casualties could stem, for instance, simply from a view that a high level of casualties should be avoidable.

APPROVALS – Whatever the challenges, Americans remain almost uniformly united behind Bush and the U.S.-led military action in Afghanistan.

Bush's job approval rating stands at 89 percent, near the record 92 percent he set in an ABC News poll on Oct. 9. (That was the highest for any president in ABC News polls, or Gallup polls before them, dating to 1938.) The number supporting Bush “strongly” has declined by 11 points, though it’s still a sizable majority, 65 percent. The decline in strong support has occurred mainly among Democrats.



Support for the U.S. military action in Afghanistan also remains broad and deep: Ninety percent support the military action, 75 percent “strongly.” Eighty-five percent also say it's going well, although this view isn't nearly as firm – only 23 percent say it's going “very well,” 62 percent “fairly well.”

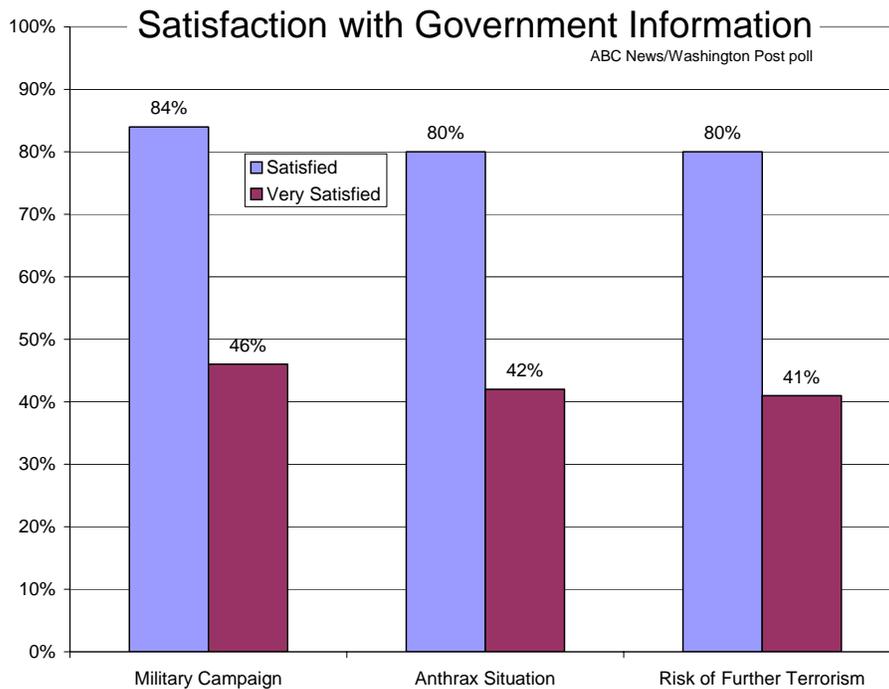
BIN LADEN – These views could worsen if bin Laden continues to prove elusive. Sixty-four percent say he must be killed or captured for the war on terrorism to be a success; only 30 percent think it can be a success otherwise.

Nearly three-quarters are confident this goal will be met, down slightly since Sept 27. Again, though, just 28 percent are “very confident” bin Laden will be killed or captured; 45 percent are “somewhat” confident.

TERRORISM – Though confidence in the government’s ability to prevent terrorism has decreased, the Bush administration gets good marks for the information it’s providing, even if there’s room for improvement.

About eight in 10 are satisfied with the job the administration is doing providing reliable information on the risk of further terrorism in the United States, the anthrax situation and the military campaign in Afghanistan. But it could be better – on all of these, fewer than half say they’re “very” satisfied.

Eight in 10 are also satisfied with how the federal government has been handling the anthrax situation, including 35 percent who are “very” satisfied. This is unchanged in the last two weeks. (No new Anthrax cases have been identified in recent days.)



Reliable information on...	"Satisfied"	"Very Satisfied"
Military campaign in Afghanistan	84	46
The anthrax situation	80	42
Risk of further terrorism	80	41

Personal concern about terrorism also remains in check. Only 10 percent are worried a “great deal” that they personally will be a victim of an attack; another quarter are worried “somewhat.”

ECONOMY – The public's closing of the ranks around the president reaches even to his work on the troubled economy: Seventy-two percent now approve of how he's handling the economy, up 24 points since Sept. 9.

Bush's standing on this issue relative to the Democrats in Congress also has improved. Fifty-one percent say they trust Bush to do a better job handling the economy; 36 percent pick the Democrats, a 15-point Bush advantage. Before the attacks, the Democrats had a six-point edge.

SECURITY – At the same time, most Americans oppose Bush's preference on airport security, saying by 55 to 36 percent that airport security screeners should be federal employees, rather than employees of private companies under government oversight.

Finally, on another security matter, two-thirds say they'd support a law requiring all adults to carry a national identification card with information such as a photograph and Social Security Number. Four in 10 say this wouldn't infringe on their privacy at all; another quarter say it would infringe on their privacy – but it's worth it.

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Nov. 5-6, 2001, among a random national sample of 756 adults. The results have a 3.5-point error margin. Field work by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Daniel Merkle.

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 his job as president? Do you approve/disapprove STRONGLY or SOMEWHAT?

	-----Approve-----			-----Disapprove-----			No opin.
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	
11/6/01	89	65	24	9	4	5	2
10/9/01	92	76	16	6	3	3	1
9/27/01	90	70	20	6	3	3	4
9/13/01	86	63	23	12	6	5	2
9/9/01	55	26	29	41	22	20	3
8/12/01	61	28	33	31	17	14	8
7/30/01	59	28	30	38	22	17	3
6/3/01	55	27	28	40	22	18	6
4/22/01	63	33	30	32	16	16	5
3/25/01	58	NA	NA	33	NA	NA	8
2/25/01	55	NA	NA	23	NA	NA	22

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bush is handling the nation's economy?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
11/6/01	72	23	5

9/9/01	48	48	4
7/30/01	52	45	3
6/3/01	53	41	6
4/22/01	55	38	7
3/25/01	50	42	8

3. Do you support or oppose the U.S. military action in Afghanistan? Do you support/oppose this STRONGLY or SOMEWHAT?

	-----Support-----			-----Oppose-----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	opin.
11/6/01	90	75	15	9	3	6	1
10/9/01*	92	76	16	6	4	2	1
10/7/01	94	83	11	4	2	2	2

*10/9/01 and previous: "...the U.S.-led air strikes on Afghanistan that began this week?"

4. Do you think the U.S. military action in Afghanistan is going very well, fairly well, not too well or not well at all?

	-----Well-----			-----Not well-----			No
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	At all	opin.
11/6/01	85	23	62	12	8	4	3

5. Would you support or oppose sending a significant number of U.S. ground troops into Afghanistan?

	Support	Oppose	No opin.
11/6/01	71	26	3
10/9/01*	76	21	4
10/7/01	75	21	4

*10/9/01 and previous: "...to overthrow the Taliban government?"

6. (If support, Q5) What if it meant getting into a long war with large numbers of U.S. troops killed or injured - in that case would you support or oppose sending a significant number of U.S. ground troops into Afghanistan?

5/6 NET TABLE - ALL RESPONDENTS

	Support	Oppose	No opin.
11/6/01	52	42	6

7. How confident are you that the United States will capture or kill Osama Bin Laden: are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident or not at all confident?

	-----Confident-----			-----Not confident-----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	At all	opin.
11/6/01	73	28	45	26	17	9	1
9/27/01	81	37	44	18	14	4	1

8. Do you think (the United States has to capture or kill Osama bin Laden for the war on terrorism to be a success), or do you think (the war on terrorism can be a success without Osama bin Laden being killed or captured)?

	US must capture/ kill bin Laden	War can succeed without bin Laden	No opin.
11/6/01	64	30	6

9. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the job Bush and his administration are doing in terms of giving the public reliable information on (READ ITEM). Would you say you are VERY satisfied or only SOMEWHAT?

Summary table:

11/6/01

	-----Satisfied-----			Dis-	No
	NET	Very	Smwt	satisfied	opin.
a. The military campaign in Afghanistan	84	46	39	14	1
b. The risk of further terrorism in the United States	80	41	39	18	2
c. The anthrax situation	80	42	38	19	1

10. How much confidence do you have in the ability of the U.S. government to prevent further terrorist attacks against Americans in this country: a great deal, a good amount, only a fair amount or none at all?

	-----Confident-----			-----Not confident----			No
	NET	Grt.deal	Good amt.	NET	Fair amt.	None	opin.
11/6/01	52	17	35	47	40	7	1
9/11/01	66	35	31	32	30	2	1
6/2/97	35	10	26	62	52	10	3
8/5/96	35	12	23	65	49	16	*
5/14/95	36	12	24	63	51	12	1
4/20/95	37	13	24	62	51	11	1
6/28/93	59	22	37	41	32	8	1
4/3/89	46	16	30	54	38	16	*

11. Do you think the United States is doing all it reasonably can do to try to prevent further terrorist attacks, or do you think it should do more?

	US doing all it can	US should do more	No opin.
11/6/01	56	43	2
10/15/01	68	29	3
10/9/01	71	27	2

12. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the federal government has been handling the anthrax situation? Would you say you are VERY satisfied/dissatisfied or only SOMEWHAT?

	-----Satisfied-----			-----Dissatisfied-----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	op.
11/6/01	80	35	44	19	13	6	1
10/24/01*	78	37	41	19	11	8	3
10/15/01	85	43	41	12	9	3	3

*10/24/01 and previous: "...the way government authorities have been handling..."

13. How concerned are you about the chance that you personally might be the victim of a terrorist attack - does that worry you a great deal, somewhat, not too much or not at all?

	-----Concerned-----			-----Not concerned----			No
	NET	Grt.deal	Good amt.	NET	Fair amt.	None	opin.
11/6/01	35	10	25	64	33	31	*

Compare to:

Apart from a friend or relative, what about the chance that you yourself might get anthrax - does that worry you a great deal, somewhat, not too much or not at all?

	-----Worried-----			-----Not worried-----			No
	NET	Grt.deal	Somewhat	NET	Not much	None	op.
10/24/01	33	12	21	66	33	33	1

14. On another subject, do you think the people who handle security screening at airports should be (federal government employees), or should they be (employees of private companies that are overseen by the federal government)?

	Federal government	Private companies	Neither (vol.)	No opin.
11/6/01	55	36	4	5

15. Who do you trust to do a better job handling the economy - (Bush) or (the Democrats in Congress)?

	Bush	Dems	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opin.
11/6/01	51	36	5	4	5
9/9/01	44	50	1	3	2
7/30/01	47	46	1	4	1
6/3/01	44	46	2	6	2

16. On another subject, would you support or oppose a law requiring all adults in this country to carry a national identification card that includes information such as their photograph and Social Security number?

	Support	Oppose	No opin.
11/6/01	66	32	2

17. (If support, Q16) Do you feel that this would infringe on your privacy but that it's worth the tradeoff; or that it would not infringe on your privacy?

16/17 NET TABLE - ALL RESPONDENTS

	NET	-----Support----- Would infringe	Would not infringe	Depends (VOL)	DK	Oppose	No op.
11/6/01	66	24	41	1	1	32	2

END