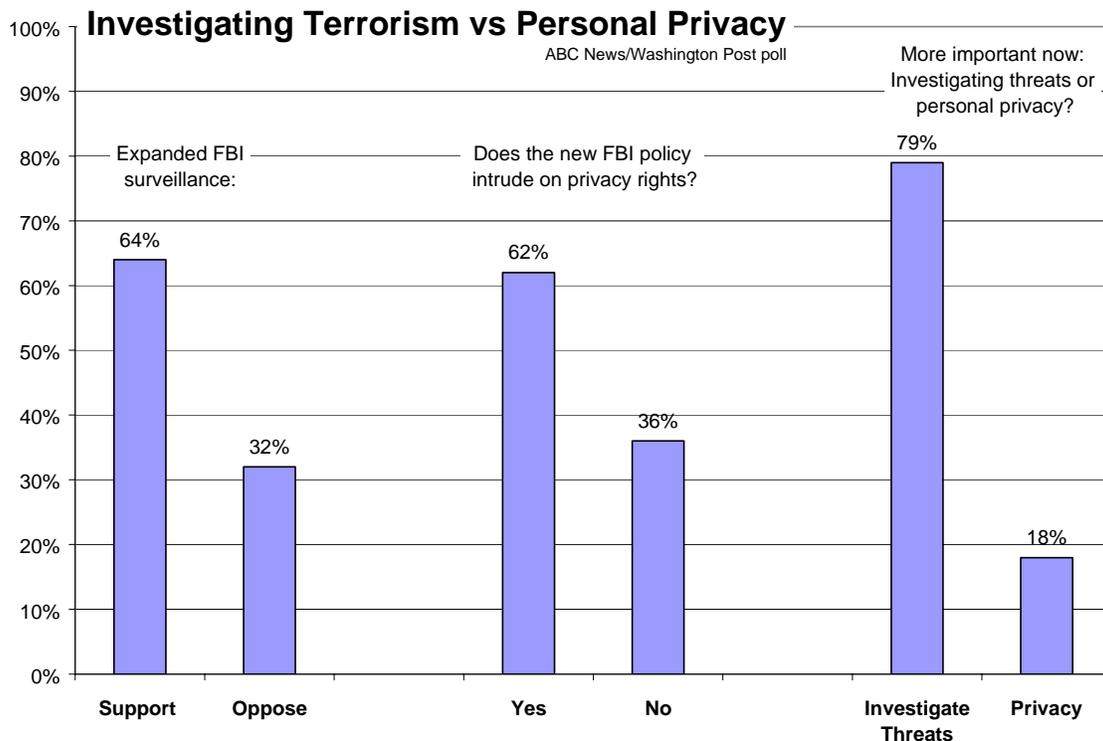


Bush Counter-terrorism Plans Win Broad Public Support

Focused more on future dangers than past failures, Americans broadly support the Bush administration's latest counter-terrorism initiatives, saying explicitly that personal privacy rights should take a back seat to the investigation of further terrorist threats.

More than two-thirds endorse George W. Bush's call for a homeland security department. Nearly as many, 64 percent, support broader FBI authority to monitor public places such as libraries, places of worship and Internet chat rooms – even though most see this as an intrusion on privacy rights.

The administration also wins support for its claim to have improved intelligence handling since Sept. 11. While seven in 10 say U.S. intelligence agencies mishandled pre-Sept. 11 intelligence, nearly as many, 67 percent, give positive grades to the way such information is being handled today. (Fifty-three percent also doubt the Sept. 11 attacks could have been prevented, given what was known.)



Concern about future threats is the backdrop for public sentiment on these issues. Today 55 percent of Americans, the most since Sept. 11, lack confidence in the government's

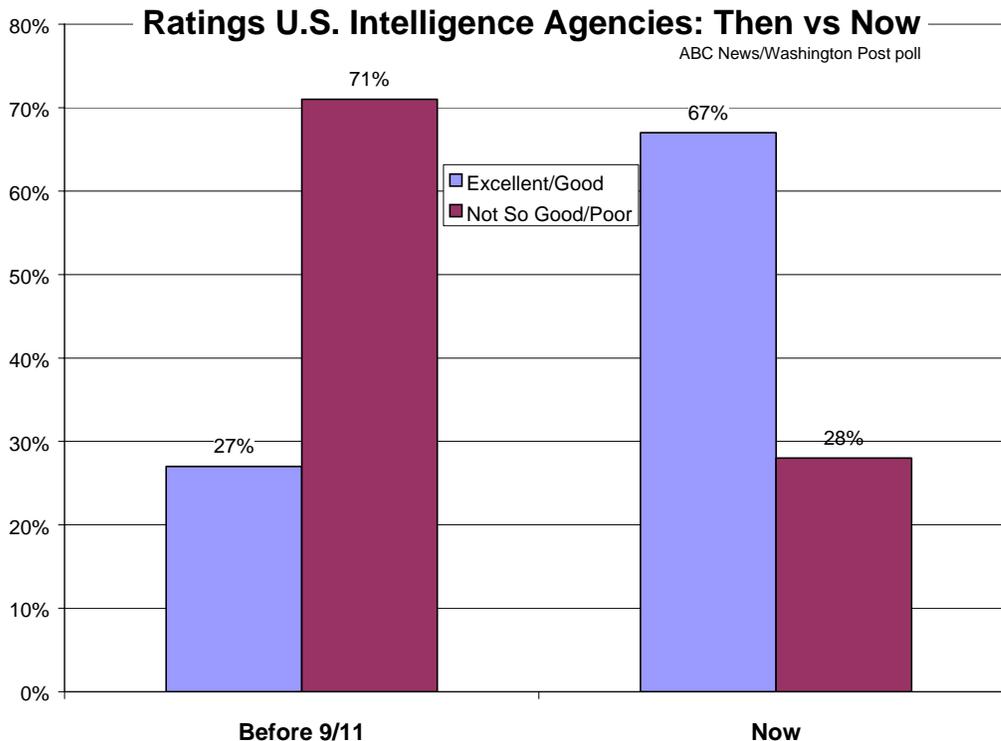
ability to prevent further attacks – up more than 20 points since the night of Sept. 11, as the nature and extent of the dangers have come more sharply into focus.

RIGHTS – At times of national crisis the public’s priority is the mitigation of threat. Seventy-nine percent say it’s more important right now to investigate terrorism, even if that means intruding on personal privacy. Just 18 percent say it’s more important not to intrude on privacy, even if that limits counter-terrorism efforts.

More specifically, most Americans support expanded FBI surveillance authority even though the majority, 62 percent, sees it as an encroachment on individual privacy rights. Even among those who see it as an intrusion, 52 percent support it anyway.

Still, as in the past, this poll underscores the public’s preference for such intrusions to be as targeted and limited as possible. Among those who think the new FBI authority does not intrude on personal privacy, 86 percent support it. Among those who think it intrudes “somewhat,” 61 percent support it. But among those who think it intrudes “a great deal,” support plummets to 30 percent.

Think broader FBI authority...	Support the policy
does not intrude on privacy (36%)	86%
intrudes on privacy somewhat (44%)	61
intrudes on privacy a great deal (18%)	30



INTELLIGENCE – As noted, 71 percent give a negative rating to the way intelligence agencies handled pre-Sept. 11 intelligence, while 67 percent rate the current handling of

such intelligence positively. Still, that positive rating is far from a perfect one: Fifty-six percent say the agencies are doing a “good” job analyzing and sharing intelligence, but just 11 percent say their performance is “excellent.”

BUSH – Bush, for his part, continues his extraordinary ride in public support, with an overall job approval rating of 77 percent. That’s held steady for about the last two months, after declining from a peak of 92 percent in October, a record in modern polls.

GROUPS – Bush’s approval rating ranges from near-unanimity among Republicans, 96 percent, to 63 percent among Democrats. Support for his proposed Department of Homeland Security, similarly, is broad among Democrats (64 percent) and vast among Republicans (88 percent). Even among conservative Republicans, traditionally skeptical of expanding government, 87 percent support the plan.

Conservative Republicans are most apt to support expanding FBI surveillance powers (75 percent do so), and least apt to think this intrudes on privacy rights (49 percent). Among their political opposites, liberal Democrats, far more – 74 percent – see this as intrusive. But a majority, 56 percent, still supports it.

	Support expanding FBI powers	Think it intrudes on privacy
All	64%	62
Conservative Reps.	75	49
Liberal Dems.	56	74

More broadly, 81 percent of conservative Republicans say it’s more important right now to investigate terrorism than to steer clear of intrusions on personal privacy. And on this, 80 percent of liberal Democrats agree.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone June 7-9, 2002, among a random national sample of 1,004 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Fieldwork 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/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

Media contact: Todd Polkes, (212) 456-4586

Full results follow. * = 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
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	opin.
6/9/02	77	41	36	20	11	9	3
5/19/02	76	48	28	22	13	8	3
4/21/02	78	47	31	20	10	9	2
3/28/02	79	49	30	18	10	8	3
3/10/02	82	52	30	16	7	9	2

1/27/02	83	56	27	14	7	7	3
12/19/01	86	64	22	12	6	6	2
11/27/01	89	69	21	9	5	4	1
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 Bush's proposal to create a new federal agency called the Department of Homeland Security? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	-----Approve-----			-----Disapprove-----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	opin.
6/9/02	69	44	25	19	10	9	12

3. 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.
6/9/02	44	14	30	55	44	11	*
5/19/02	46	17	29	52	42	10	2
3/10/02	55	18	38	44	39	5	*
1/27/02	57	18	40	42	37	6	1
11/27/01	63	24	39	36	32	5	1
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	*

4. Do you think a new Department of Homeland Security would or would not improve the government's ability to prevent further terrorist attacks? (IF WOULD IMPROVE) Do you think it would help a great deal, or somewhat?

	-----Improve-----			Would not	No
	NET	Great deal	Somewhat	improve	opin.
6/9/02	74	29	45	21	5

5. How would you rate the job done by the FBI, CIA and other U.S. intelligence agencies in analyzing and sharing information about possible terrorist attacks before last September 11? Would you say they did an excellent job, a good job, a not-so-good job, or a poor job analyzing and sharing intelligence information?

	---Excellent/Good---			---Not-so-good/Poor---			No
	NET	Excel.	Good	NET	Not good	Poor	opin.
6/9/02	27	2	25	71	34	38	2

6. How about now? In analyzing and sharing information about possible future terrorist attacks, would you say the FBI, CIA and other U.S. intelligence agencies are now doing an excellent job, a good job, a not-so-good job, or a poor job?

	---Excellent/Good---			---Not-so-good/Poor---			No
	NET	Excel.	Good	NET	Not good	Poor	opin.
6/9/02	67	11	56	28	20	8	5

7. Given what you've heard about the information U.S. intelligence agencies had before the September 11th attacks, do you think U.S. intelligence agencies had enough information to prevent the attacks, if they'd been able to pull it together; or do you think the information was too vague and incomplete for the September 11th attacks to have been prevented?

	Had enough information	Information too vague	No opin.
6/9/02	42	53	5

8. In the past, FBI agents have been allowed to monitor public places like libraries, places of worship and Internet chat rooms only as part of the investigation of a specific crime. Would you support or oppose giving FBI agents broader authority to monitor public places as part of a general investigation of terrorism, even if it's not related to a specific crime?

	Support	Oppose	No opin.
6/9/02	64	32	3

9. Whether you support it or not, do you think this change in FBI policy intrudes on the privacy rights of individuals, or not? (IF YES) Do you think this intrudes on privacy a great deal or somewhat?

	-----Intrudes-----			Does not	No
	NET	Great deal	Somewhat	intrude	opin.
6/9/02	62	18	44	36	3

10. What do you think is more important right now - for the FBI to investigate possible terrorist threats, even if that intrudes on personal privacy; or for the FBI not to intrude on personal privacy, even if that limits its ability to investigate possible terrorist threats?

	Investigate threats	Respect privacy	No opin.
6/9/02	79	18	3

END