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## **MOST AMERICANS UNFAMILIAR WITH PETRAEUS, RICE REMAINS POPULAR**

Gen. David Petraeus has played a pivotal role in crafting the U.S. military strategy in Iraq, but he is an unfamiliar figure to most Americans. On the eve of Petraeus' congressional testimony on the situation in Iraq, a solid majority (55%) says they do not know enough about the top U.S. commander in Iraq to offer an opinion of him.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Favorable	27	45	19	25
Unfavorable	18	8	25	19
Dk/Can't Rate	<u>55</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>56</u>
	100	100	100	100

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted March 24-29 among 1,001 adults, finds that 27% view Petraeus favorably while 18% say they have an unfavorable view of him.

Views of Petraeus are divided along party lines, with more than twice as many Republicans as Democrats offering a positive rating of the general (45% vs. 19%). A quarter of independents rate Petraeus positively. However, large percentages in all partisan groups, including nearly half of Republicans (47%), are not familiar enough with Petraeus to offer their opinion of him.

### **Rice's Favorability Remains High**

Although the Bush administration gets low ratings for its handling of foreign policy, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice continues to be viewed positively by a majority of Americans (56%). The percentage saying they have a favorable opinion of Rice has remained largely unchanged since March 2005.

	<u>Favor- able</u>	<u>Unfav- orable</u>	<u>Can't rate/DK</u>
	%	%	%
March 2008	56	29	15=100
December 2006	57	30	13=100
April 2006	59	27	14=100
October 2005	60	25	15=100
March 2005	57	28	15=100

Rice is broadly popular among Republicans and also receives favorable ratings from a majority of independents. More than three-quarters of Republicans (77%) and 54% of independents have a positive opinion of her. Democrats offer mixed opinions about the Secretary of State – 43% express favorable views and 44% have an unfavorable opinion.

Despite her overwhelmingly favorable ratings among Republicans, Rice’s popularity with that group has declined somewhat in the past two years. In April 2006, fully 85% of Republicans offered a positive opinion of the Secretary of State, eight points higher than in the current poll.

	March <u>2005</u> %	Oct <u>2005</u> %	April <u>2006</u> %	Dec <u>2006</u> %	March <u>2008</u> %
Total	57	60	59	57	56
Republican	84	83	85	82	77
Democrat	38	49	47	41	43
Independent	57	55	50	59	54

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a nationwide sample of 1,001 adults, 18 years of age or older, from March 24-29, 2008. The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Plus or minus...</b>
Total sample	1,001	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.

## ABOUT THE CENTER

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of eight projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan “fact tank” that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center’s purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of the Center’s current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center’s research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

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