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For The People & The Press

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More Optimism about Afghanistan, But No Boost in Support for Troop Presence

A Survey Conducted in Partnership with The Washington Post

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andrew Kohut

President, Pew Research Center

Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock

Associate Directors

Scott Keeter

Director of Survey Research

1615 L St, N.W., Suite 700

Washington, D.C. 20036

Tel (202) 419-4350

Fax (202) 419-4399

www.people-press.org

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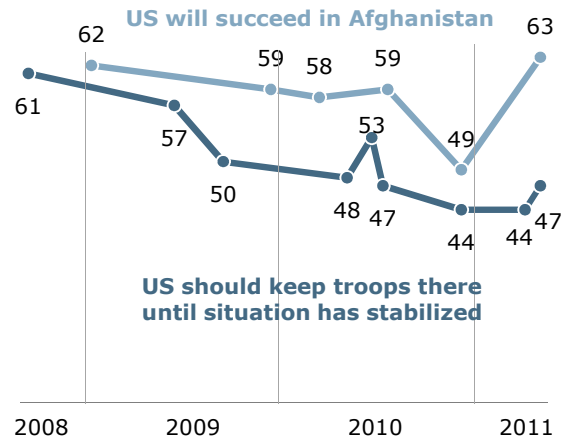
The killing of Osama bin Laden has bolstered the public's confidence on two fronts: that the government can prevent a possible terrorist attack, and that the U.S. will succeed in achieving its goals in Afghanistan.

However, the public's basic views about U.S. forces in Afghanistan and the threat of terrorism in the United States have not fundamentally changed. The public remains divided over whether the U.S. should keep troops in Afghanistan until the situation has stabilized or should remove the troops as soon as possible.

And just 5% of Americans believe that the death of Osama bin Laden means the terrorism threat is mostly over – 85% say the U.S. will need to take further military actions to reduce the threat of terrorism to the United States.

An overnight survey of 654 adults, conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and *The Washington Post* finds broad concern about the possibility that al Qaeda may attempt a major retaliatory attack against the U.S. Two-thirds say they are at least somewhat concerned

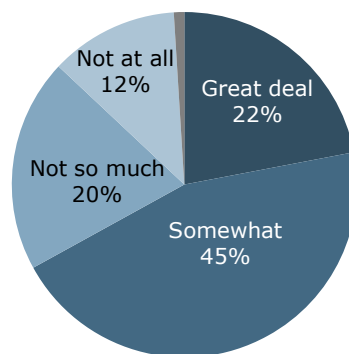
Afghanistan Optimism Rises, Support for Keeping Troops Stable



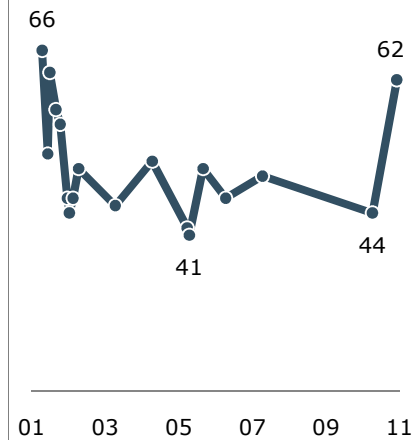
PEW RESEARCH CENTER/WASHINGTON POST May 2, 2011.

Concern about Retaliation, But Spike in Confidence in Government Anti-Terror Efforts

Worry al Qaeda will attempt a retaliatory attack on U.S.



Confident government can prevent attacks against the U.S.



PEW RESEARCH CENTER/WASHINGTON POST May 2, 2011.

al Qaeda will attempt a major attack against the United States as retaliation for bin Laden's death, though just 22% say they have a great deal of concern about this.

The public is expressing much more confidence in the government's ability to prevent further terrorist attacks in the U.S. Currently, 62% say they have a great deal (22%) or a good amount (40%) of confidence in the government's ability to prevent further attacks, up from 44% in a Washington Post/ABC News survey last September.

While Pakistan's role in the effort to find bin Laden has drawn criticism, a majority (54%) of Americans say they do not know enough to express an opinion about whether Pakistan helped or hurt in this effort. However, many more say Pakistan mostly hurt (34%) rather than mostly helped (8%) U.S. efforts to find bin Laden.

Implications for Afghanistan

There has been a rise in overall optimism about the war in Afghanistan – 63% now say the United States will definitely or probably succeed in achieving its goals, up from 49% last December. Just 26% say the Afghanistan effort will probably or definitely fail, down from 39%.

This rise in optimism crosses party lines: About two-thirds of Republicans (69%) and Democrats (67%) now say the U.S. will succeed in Afghanistan, both significantly higher than in December (54% and 49%, respectively). A majority of independents (58%) also say the country will succeed (up from 48%).

More See Success in Afghanistan

	June 2010	Dec 2010	May 2 2011
<i>Will U.S. achieve goals in Afghanistan?</i>	%	%	%
Definitely/probably succeed	59	49	63
Definitely/probably fail	33	39	26
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/WASHINGTON POST May 2, 2011.
Q2a. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

While the public is more optimistic about success, there is little change in opinion about maintaining U.S. troops in Afghanistan. The public remains divided over whether the U.S. should keep troops in Afghanistan until the situation has stabilized (47%) or remove troops as soon as possible (48%), virtually unchanged from a month ago (44% keep troops, 50% remove troops).

Partisan differences in views about Afghanistan continue; Republicans are about twice as likely to favor keeping troops in Afghanistan than removing them as soon as possible (65% vs. 32%). By contrast, both Democrats (45% keep troops, 50% remove troops) and independents (44% keep troops, 51% remove troops) are divided on this question.

Continuing Partisan Divide Over Keeping Troops in Afghanistan

<i>U.S. troops in Afghanistan...</i>	June 2010	Dec 2010	April 2011	May 2 2011
	%	%	%	%
Keep troops in until situation has stabilized	53	44	44	47
Remove troops as soon as possible	40	47	50	48
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>% keep troops...</i>				
Republican	65	59	55	65
Democrat	50	35	40	45
Independent	53	45	43	44

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/WASHINGTON POST May 2, 2011.
Q3. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Terrorism Concerns Persist

Two-thirds of Americans say they worry a great deal (22%) or a fair amount (45%) that al Qaeda will attempt a major terrorist attack against the United States as a retaliation for bin Laden's death. Most Republicans (71%), Democrats (68%) and independents (66%) say they are at least somewhat worried about a retaliatory attack.

The public's confidence in the government's ability to prevent a terrorist attack is at one of the highest points in the last decade – 62% say they have a great deal (22%) or a good amount (40%) of confidence that the government can prevent future attacks against Americans. This is up substantially from September 2010 when 44% were confident the government could prevent future terrorist attacks.

Confidence has increased across partisan lines. Currently, more than half of Democrats (68%), independents (65%) and Republicans (55%) express confidence in the government's ability to prevent future attacks.

Similarly, the public also is optimistic that bin Laden's death will contribute to the security of the United States. About two-thirds (68%) think that bin Laden's death will contribute a great deal (22%) or somewhat (46%) to the long-term security of the United States. Three quarters (75%) of Democrats say bin Laden's death will contribute at least somewhat to long-term U.S. security, as do majorities of independents (68%) and Republicans (59%).

Opinion is more divided about the effect of bin Laden's death on peace and stability in the Middle East – 51% say his death will help a great deal or somewhat while 45% say it will not help much at all. A majority of Democrats (61%) say bin Laden's death will

Fallout from Osama's Killing?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
<i>Concern about retaliation attack...</i>	%	%	%	%
Great deal/Somewhat	67	71	68	66
Not much/Not at all	32	29	31	34
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Confidence in US gov't to prevent future terror attacks...</i>				
Great deal/Good amount	62	55	68	65
Only fair amount/None	38	44	30	34
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Will bin Laden's death contribute to long-term security of the US?</i>				
Great deal/Somewhat	68	59	75	68
Not much/Hardly at all*	30	40	24	30
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Will bin Laden's death contribute to peace & stability in Mideast?</i>				
Great deal/Somewhat	51	44	61	48
Not much/Hardly at all*	45	54	37	46
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100
N	654	173	208	213

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/WASHINGTON POST May 2, 2011. Q9, Q10 & Q11a-b. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. *Includes those who volunteered that Osama's death will not help at all.

contribute at least somewhat to peace and stability in the Middle East while Republicans and independents express more mixed views.

Skepticism about Pakistan's Role

President Obama noted cooperation with Pakistan as an important factor in finding Osama bin Laden, but some Americans take a skeptical view of Pakistan's role. Just 8% say the government of Pakistan mostly helped U.S. efforts to find bin Laden, while more (34%) say they mostly hurt efforts; 54% say they don't know enough to say.

Republicans and independents are more likely than Democrats to say Pakistan mostly hurt efforts to find bin Laden: 46% of Republicans and 41% of independents say this, compared with 26% of Democrats. Few among any partisan group say Pakistan mostly helped U.S. efforts.

Democrats Least Likely to Say Pakistan Hurt U.S. Effort

<i>In U.S. efforts to find bin Laden, Pakistan ...</i>	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Mostly helped	8	2	9	7
Mostly hurt	34	46	26	41
Don't know enough	54	48	62	51
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/WASHINGTON POST May 2, 2011.
Q13. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted May 2, 2011 among a national sample of 654 adults 18 years of age or older living in the United States (555 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 99 were interviewed on a cell phone and had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Abt/SRBI Inc. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older, and they did not have a landline telephone.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, and region to parameters from the 2009 American Community Survey. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on estimates for adults with telephones from the January-June 2010 National Health Interview Survey. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	654	4.5 percentage points
Republicans	173	9.0 percentage points
Democrats	208	8.0 percentage points
Independents	213	8.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

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. Surveys conducted in a single day are potentially subject to additional error, including the fact that people who are infrequently at home may have a smaller chance of being included in the poll than in surveys that span multiple days.

About the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

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 seven 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 our 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:

Andrew Kohut, Director
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors
Michael Remez, Senior Writer
Leah Christian and Jocelyn Kiley, Senior Researchers
Robert Suls, Shawn Neidorf, and Alec Tyson, Research Associates
Danielle Gewurz, Research Assistant

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS/WASHINGTON POST
MAY OSAMA BIN LADEN SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
May 2, 2011
N=654**

QUESTIONS 1-2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

Q.2a Regardless of what you think about the original decision to use military force in Afghanistan, do you now believe that the United States will definitely succeed, probably succeed, probably fail, or definitely fail in achieving its goals in Afghanistan?

May 2 <u>2011</u>		Dec 1-5 <u>2010</u>	Jun 16-20 <u>2010</u>	Mar 10-14 <u>2010</u>	Dec 9-13 <u>2009</u>	Jan 7-11 <u>2009</u>
19	Definitely succeed	9	14	12	11	13
44	Probably succeed	40	45	46	48	49
20	Probably fail	30	26	22	25	23
6	Definitely fail	9	7	7	7	6
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	11	8	12	10	9

ASK ALL:

Q.3 Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Afghanistan until the situation has stabilized, or do you think the U.S. should remove troops as soon as possible?

	Keep troops in Afghanistan	Remove troops	(VOL.) DK/Ref
May 2, 2011	47	48	4
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011 ¹	44	50	6
Dec 1-5, 2010	44	47	8
Jul 8-11, 2010	47	42	11
Jun 16-20, 2010	53	40	6
Apr 15-May 5, 2010 (GAP)	48	45	7
Sep 10-15, 2009 (GAP)	50	43	7
June, 2009 (GAP)	57	38	5
Mid-Sept, 2008	61	33	6
April, 2008 (GAP)	50	44	6
Late Feb, 2008	61	32	7
May, 2007 (GAP)	50	42	7

NO QUESTION 4

QUESTIONS 5-7 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

¹ In surveys conducted March 30-April 3, 2011 and before, the question was worded "Do you think the U.S. and NATO should keep military troops in Afghanistan until the situation has stabilized, or do you think the U.S. and NATO should remove their troops as soon as possible?"

ASK ALL:

Q.8 Now that Osama bin Laden has been killed, do you think the terrorism threat is mostly over or do you think we will have to take further military actions to reduce the threat of terrorism to the United States?

May 2 <u>2011</u>		Jan <u>2002²</u>
5	Mostly over	5
85	Have to take further military actions	92
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3

ASK ALL:

Q.9 Regardless of the long-term impact, how worried are you, if at all, that the terrorist group al Qaeda will attempt a major terrorist attack against the United States as retaliation for bin Laden's death is this something that worries you **[READ]**?

May 2 <u>2011</u>	
22	A great deal
45	Somewhat
20	Not so much [OR]
12	Not at all
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.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 **[READ]**?

	A great <u>deal</u>	A good <u>amount</u>	Only a fair <u>amount</u>	None <u>at all</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
May 2, 2011	22	40	31	7	1
ABC/Washington Post:					
September, 2010	12	32	45	11	*
September, 2007	15	34	40	10	1
September, 2006	15	31	43	10	1
January, 2006	19	31	39	11	*
September, 2005	14	27	41	18	*
August, 2005	14	28	43	15	*
September, 2004 (RVs)	16	35	39	8	1
September, 2003	14	31	48	7	1
September, 2002	12	38	43	6	*
July, 2002	13	33	45	9	*
June, 2002	14	30	44	11	*
May, 2002	17	29	42	10	2
March, 2002	18	38	39	5	*
January, 2002	18	40	37	6	1
Late November, 2001	24	39	32	5	1
Early November, 2001	17	35	40	7	1
September 11, 2001	35	31	30	2	1
June, 1997	10	26	52	10	3
August, 1996	12	23	49	16	*
May, 1995	12	24	51	12	1
April, 1995	13	24	51	11	1
June, 1993	22	37	32	8	1
April, 1989	16	30	38	16	*

² In January 2002, question was worded "If Osama bin Laden is captured or killed, do you think that the terrorism threat will be ...".

ASK ALL:

Q.11 How much do you think bin Laden's death will **[INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? Do you think it will help a great deal, somewhat, not much or hardly at all? How about **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Do you think it will help a great deal, somewhat, not much or hardly at all?]**

	A great <u>deal</u>	Some- <u>what</u>	Not <u>much</u>	Hardly <u>at all</u>	(VOL.) <u>Won't</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Contribute to long-term peace and stability in the Middle East May 2, 2011	12	39	20	22	3	4
b. Contribute to long-term security of the United States May 2, 2011	22	46	16	13	1	2

TREND FOR COMPARISON**ABC/WASHINGTON POST December 2003**

How much do you think Saddam's capture will do to **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? Do you think it will help a great deal, somewhat, not much or hardly at all?

	A great <u>deal</u>	Some- <u>what</u>	Not <u>much</u>	Hardly <u>at all</u>	(VOL.) <u>Won't</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Contribute to long-term peace and stability in the Middle East	24	26	14	13	2	2
b. Contribute to long-term security of the United States	23	42	16	15	2	2

ASK ALL:

Q.11x Does Osama bin Laden's death make you more confident or less confident that the U.S. can achieve its goals in the war in Afghanistan, or doesn't it affect your views either way?

May 2 <u>2011</u>	
46	More confident
5	Less confident
45	Doesn't affect views either way
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

QUESTION 12 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ASK ALL:**

Q.13 Is your impression that the government of Pakistan **[RANDOMIZE: mostly helped, OR mostly hurt]** U.S. efforts to find Osama bin Laden, or don't you know enough to say?

May 2 <u>2011</u>	
8	Mostly helped
34	Mostly hurt
54	Don't know enough to say
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

QUESTION 14 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

Q.901 Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as **[RANDOMIZE: a Republican, a Democrat]**, an independent, or what?

ASK IF INDEP/OTHER/DK/REF (Q.901=3,4,9):

Q.904 Do you lean more towards the **[RANDOMIZE IN SAME ORDER AS Q.901: Republican Party OR the Democratic Party]**?

	A	A	An		(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
May 2, 2011	22	35	32	6	5	9	18