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For The People & The Press

NEWS Release
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FOR RELEASE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2004, 4:00 P.M.

Familiar Divides, Post-Election Disengagement
PUBLIC OPINION LITTLE CHANGED BY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

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Familiar Divides, Post-Election Disengagement
PUBLIC OPINION LITTLE CHANGED BY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

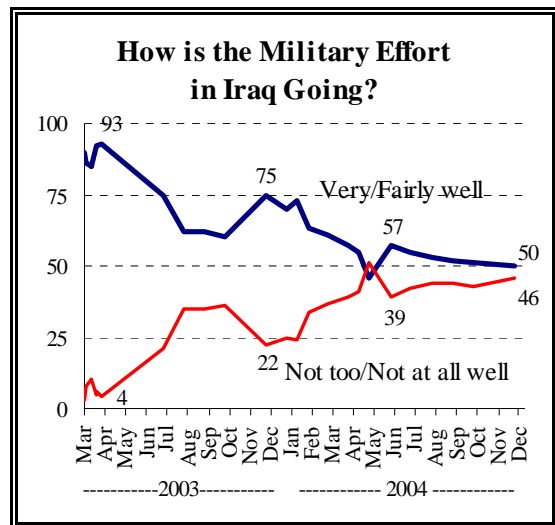
Six weeks after President Bush’s victory, the divisions that were so apparent in the election show no signs of narrowing. The public remains split over the president’s job performance, the situation in Iraq, and the state of the national economy. But Bush voters are upbeat on all three questions – 92% approve of the president’s job performance; 79% say the war effort is going well; and 58% give thumbs up on the economy. Those who voted for John Kerry are dramatically more negative, while those who did not vote fall between the two extremes.

While partisans continue to see the world through different lenses, the public appears less engaged with national and international news than it did prior to the election. In particular, the percentage following news about Iraq very closely has fallen to 34%, well below levels of engagement recorded over the last 12 months. Further, just 16% reported paying very close attention to the debate over revamping the nation’s intelligence system, while 10% focused closely on the contested election in Ukraine.

Recent stories about sports – revelations of steroid use in major league baseball and a brawl between NBA players and fans – as well as Scott Peterson’s murder conviction all drew more interest than reports on intelligence reform or the Ukraine crisis. Interest in the sports scandals and the Peterson case was on par with similar stories in the past.

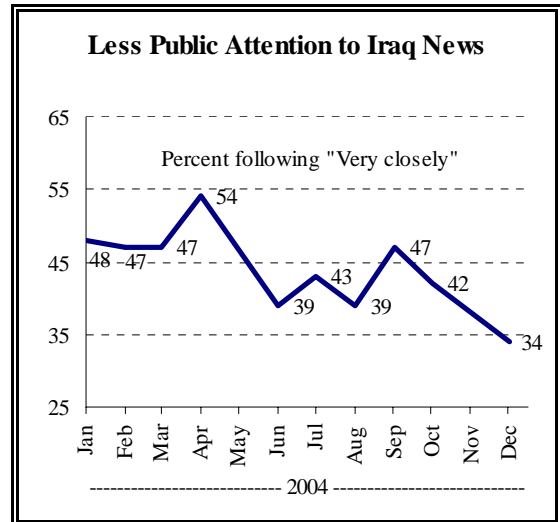
The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Dec. 1-16 among 2,000 Americans, finds a continuing decline in public perceptions of the situation in Iraq. Just half see the military effort in

		----- Voted -----		
<i>Bush handling his job:</i>	Total	Bush	Kerry	Didn't
	%	%	%	%
Approve	48	92	7	47
Disapprove	44	4	87	39
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>How well is military efforts in Iraq going...</i>				
Very/fairly	50	79	22	46
Not too/Not at all	46	18	75	45
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>National economy is:</i>				
Excellent/good	36	58	19	32
Only fair/poor	63	42	81	67
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100



Iraq going very or fairly well, while nearly as many (46%) say things are not going well. A year ago, following the capture of Saddam Hussein, 75% said things were going well in Iraq, while just 22% saw the situation in negative terms. Public perceptions of the situation in Iraq were this low only for a short period following the Abu Ghraib prison scandal and the highly publicized murders of U.S. civilian contractors in Fallujah last April.

Interest in the situation in Iraq also has declined. In October, before the election, 42% of Americans said they were tracking the situation in Iraq very closely; in the current survey, that number has dropped to 34%, with attention down among both Democrats and Republicans.



Americans continue to be divided over whether taking military action in Iraq was the right or wrong decision. Despite the more negative perceptions of progress in Iraq, however, a 56% majority continues to say that the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until the situation has stabilized. That number has stayed fairly steady all year.

The president's job approval rating has risen slightly since the election – currently 48% approve of his performance, up from 44% in mid-October. Overall presidential approval also has remained fairly stable over the past 10 months. But intensity of feelings about the president have increased slightly over the past year, mostly among those who disagree with him. The proportion who say they “very strongly” disapprove of the president’s job performance has risen from 30% to 35% from last November.

	Nov 2003	Dec 2004
<i>Bush's job performance</i>	%	%
Approve	50	48
Very strongly	34	34
Not strongly	16	14
Disapprove	40	44
Very strongly	30	35
Not strongly	10	9
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100
NET: Very strong	64	69

Only about four-in-ten Americans (39%) express satisfaction with national conditions, while 54% are dissatisfied. Satisfaction with the state of the nation has been below 40% since last January, hitting a low for the year at 33% in May. More than eight-in-ten Kerry voters (85%) say they are dissatisfied with the state of the nation, while just 10% are satisfied. Bush voters are overwhelmingly satisfied (71%), but a sizable minority (22%) have a negative view of national conditions. By 53%-40%, more non-voters say they are dissatisfied

with the state of the nation.

While public interest is dipping, most Americans show at least some basic knowledge of what is happening in Iraq. Asked whether Iraq is scheduled to hold its first elections this winter, sometime in the spring or later this summer, fully 57% answered correctly that the elections will take place in winter (late January). And 43% of Americans were able to name Condoleezza Rice as Bush's selection to replace Colin Powell as the next Secretary of State.

Public Knowledge of Current Events	
<i>When are Iraqi elections scheduled?</i>	%
Winter (correct)	57
Spring	10
Summer	5
Don't know	<u>28</u>
	100
<i>Bush's nominee to replace Powell?</i>	
Condi Rice (Vol.)	43
Other, incorrect	5
Don't know	<u>52</u>
	100
The question about Iraq was multiple-choice. The question about Rice was open-ended.	

News Interest Index

Though attention to news from Iraq has decreased substantially, it tops this month's list of major news items and, in a review of stories over the past year, Iraq news ranks second only to news about high gasoline prices in terms of the year's most closely followed stories.

Just under a quarter of Americans (24%) closely followed the fistfight between players and fans at an NBA game and about the same number (22%) tracked reports on steroid use by some major leaguers very closely. One-in-five (21%) say they very closely followed news about Scott Peterson's conviction for the murder of his wife Laci. Both sports stories were followed much more closely by men than by women, while women paid more attention to the outcome of the Peterson trial.

Two major foreign news stories – the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and controversy over the results of the recent election in Ukraine were followed very closely by just 18% and 10%, respectively. Education is a major factor in interest in foreign news – 29% of Americans who have some post-graduate education closely followed news about Arafat's death, almost twice the rate of those with no college education. Even so, just 19% of the post-graduate group followed the Ukraine election controversy very closely, though this again is roughly double the interest expressed by those with less education. By contrast, the Peterson verdict drew greater interest among those without a college education

	Recent News Stories		NET
	<i>Followed... Very closely</i>	<i>Fairly closely</i>	
	%	%	%
Current situation in Iraq	34	44	78
NBA players/fans fight	24	25	49
Steroid use in baseball	22	28	50
Scott Peterson conviction	21	27	48
Yasser Arafat's death	18	38	56
Intelligence reform legislation	16	31	47
Ukrainian election controversy	10	22	32

(25% very closely) than by those with post-graduate education (6%).

Gas Prices Top Story in '04

News reports on high gasoline prices typically draw broad public attention, and that proved the case again this year. In October, 64% of Americans followed reports on gas prices very closely, making it the year's top story in terms of public interest.

The situation in Iraq, which dominated the news last year, was the second-rated story in 2004 (54% very closely in May). But several specific developments in Iraq – including the failure to find weapons of mass destruction (37% very closely), and the prison abuse scandal (34% very closely) – also drew significant attention.

The series of hurricanes that struck the U.S. in late summer attracted strong interest from about half of Americans (52%). About the same number (48%) closely followed the massacre of scores of Russian schoolchildren by Chechen rebels, making it the top international story aside from the war in Iraq. The shortage of flu vaccines garnered very close attention from 44%, and four-in-ten followed reports about Ronald Reagan's death and memorial services very closely.

Top News Interest Stories of 2004	
<i>Story...</i>	Following Very Closely %
1. High gasoline prices* (<i>Oct</i>)	64
2. News about the situation in Iraq* (<i>May</i>)	54
3. Hurricanes Charley, Frances and Ivan (<i>Sept</i>)	52
4. Killing of Russian school kids in Chechnya (<i>Sept</i>)	48
5. News about Presidential candidates (<i>Oct</i>)	46
6. Flu vaccine shortage (<i>Oct</i>)	44
7. Ronald Reagan's death and memorial (<i>June</i>)	40
8. Condition of US economy* (<i>Sept</i>)	39
9. Reports that no WMD were found in Iraq (<i>Feb</i>)	37
10. Mel Gibson's film <i>Passion of the Christ</i> (<i>March</i>)	37
11. Code Orange alerts about terrorism (<i>Jan</i>)	35
12. Iraqi prison abuse scandal (<i>June</i>)	34
13. Terrorist bombings in Madrid, Spain (<i>March</i>)	34
14. Mad cow disease in Washington state (<i>Jan</i>)	29
15. Iraq transfer of power (<i>July</i>)	29
16. Race for Democratic Presidential nomination (<i>Feb</i>)	29
17. 9/11 Commission hearings (<i>April</i>)	29
18. Debate over gay marriage (<i>March</i>)	29
19. Richard Clarke criticism of Bush war on terror (<i>Apr</i>)	28
20. Saddam Hussein court appearance (<i>July</i>)	26

* Interest in these stories was tracked over many months - highest reported interest shown here.

Election News a Big Draw

Public interest in news about the 2004 election campaign was much higher than in 2000 or 1996. The percent following election news very closely rose from 14% in January to 46% in mid-October, two weeks before election day. When the analysis is limited to registered voters, fully 54% were following election news very closely by mid-October, up from 40% at a comparable point in the 2000 campaign, and just 34% in the days leading up to election day 1996. In recent years, only the 1992 election garnered as much public attention as the 2004 race.

	<u>Oct</u> <u>1988</u>	<u>Oct</u> <u>1992</u>	<u>Nov</u> <u>1996</u>	<u>Oct</u> <u>2000</u>	<u>Oct</u> <u>2004</u>
	%	%	%	%	%
Very closely	43	55	34	40	54
Fairly closely	44	36	45	37	29
Not too closely	11	7	15	15	11
Not at all closely	2	2	6	8	5
Don't know	*	0	*	*	1
	100	100	100	100	100

Based on registered voters.

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 2,000 adults, 18 years of age or older, from December 1-16, 2004. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 2.5 percentage points. For results based on Form 1 (N=993) or Form 2 (N=1007) only, the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. For results based on abbreviated field periods, with sample sizes ranging from 419 to 523, the margin of error is plus or minus 5.5 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.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
DECEMBER 2004 POLITICAL TYPOLOGY SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
December 1 - 16, 2004
N=2000**

ON FORM ONE Q.1/1a PRECEDES Q.2 --- ON FORM TWO, Q.2 PRECEDES Q.1/1a

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	Don't <u>know</u>		<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	Don't <u>know</u>
December, 2004	48	44	8=100	August, 2002	67	21	12=100
Mid-October, 2004	44	48	8=100	Late July, 2002	65	25	10=100
August, 2004	46	45	9=100	July, 2002	67	21	12=100
July, 2004	46	46	8=100	June, 2002	70	20	10=100
June, 2004	48	43	9=100	April, 2002	69	18	13=100
May, 2004	44	48	8=100	Early April, 2002	74	16	10=100
Late April, 2004	48	43	9=100	February, 2002	78	13	9=100
Early April, 2004	43	47	10=100	January, 2002	80	11	9=100
Late March, 2004	47	44	9=100	2001			
Mid-March, 2004	46	47	7=100	Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
February, 2004	48	44	8=100	Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
Mid-January, 2004	56	34	10=100	Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
Early January, 2004	58	35	7=100	Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
2003				Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
December, 2003	57	34	9=100	August, 2001	50	32	18=100
November, 2003	50	40	10=100	July, 2001	51	32	17=100
October, 2003	50	42	8=100	June, 2001	50	33	17=100
September, 2003	55	36	9=100	May, 2001	53	32	15=100
Mid-August, 2003	56	32	12=100	April, 2001	56	27	17=100
Early August, 2003	53	37	10=100	March, 2001	55	25	20=100
Mid-July, 2003	58	32	10=100	February, 2001	53	21	26=100
Early July, 2003	60	29	11=100				
June, 2003	62	27	11=100				
May, 2003	65	27	8=100				
April 10-16, 2003	72	22	6=100				
April 9, 2003	74	20	6=100				
April 2-7, 2003	69	25	6=100				
March 28-April 1, 2003	71	23	6=100				
March 25-27, 2003	70	24	6=100				
March 20-24, 2003	67	26	7=100				
March 13-16, 2003	55	34	11=100				
February, 2003	54	36	10=100				
January, 2003	58	32	10=100				
2002							
December, 2002	61	28	11=100				
Late October, 2002	59	29	12=100				
Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100				
Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100				
Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100				
Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100				

IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE (1,2 IN Q.1) ASK:

Q.1a Do you (approve/disapprove) very strongly, or not so strongly?

	<u>Nov 2003</u>	<u>Sept 2003</u>	<u>June 2002</u>	<u>April 2001</u>
48 Approve	50	55	70	56
34 Very strongly	34	35	46	34
12 Not so strongly	14	18	21	20
2 Don't know (VOL)	2	2	3	2
44 Disapprove	40	36	20	27
35 Very strongly	30	27	8	18
8 Not so strongly	9	9	12	9
1 Don't know (VOL)	1	*	0	*
<u>8</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>17</u>
100	100	100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.2 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Sat- isfied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>		<u>Sat- isfied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
December, 2004	39	54	7=100	January, 1999	53	41	6=100
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6=100	November, 1998	46	44	10=100
July, 2004	38	55	7=100	Early September, 1998	54	42	4=100
May, 2004	33	61	6=100	Late August, 1998	55	41	4=100
Late February, 2004	39	55	6=100	Early August, 1998	50	44	6=100
Early January, 2004	45	48	7=100	February, 1998	59	37	4=100
December, 2003	44	47	9=100	January, 1998	46	50	4=100
October, 2003	38	56	6=100	September, 1997	45	49	6=100
August, 2003	40	53	7=100	August, 1997	49	46	5=100
April, 2003 ¹	50	41	9=100	January, 1997	38	58	4=100
January, 2003	44	50	6=100	July, 1996	29	67	4=100
November, 2002	41	48	11=100	March, 1996	28	70	2=100
September, 2002 ²	41	55	4=100	October, 1995	23	73	4=100
Late August, 2002	47	44	9=100	June, 1995	25	73	2=100
May, 2002	44	44	12=100	April, 1995	23	74	3=100
March, 2002	50	40	10=100	July, 1994	24	73	3=100
Late September, 2001	57	34	9=100	March, 1994	24	71	5=100
Early September, 2001	41	53	6=100	October, 1993	22	73	5=100
June, 2001	43	52	5=100	September, 1993	20	75	4=100
March, 2001	47	45	8=100	May, 1993	22	71	7=100
February, 2001	46	43	11=100	January, 1993	39	50	11=100
January, 2001	55	41	4=100	January, 1992	28	68	4=100
October, 2000 (RV's)	54	39	7=100	November, 1991	34	61	5=100
September, 2000	51	41	8=100	Late Feb, 1991 (Gallup)	66	31	3=100
June, 2000	47	45	8=100	August, 1990	47	48	5=100
April, 2000	48	43	9=100	May, 1990	41	54	5=100
August, 1999	56	39	5=100	January, 1989	45	50	5=100
				September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5=100
				May, 1988	41	54	5=100
				January, 1988	39	55	6=100

¹ Asked April 8, 2003 only; N=395.

² The September 2002 trend is from a Pew Global Attitudes Project survey, fielded August 19 to September 8, 2002 and released December 4, 2002.

QUESTIONS 3 - 6 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

Q.7 Here are some stories covered by news organizations this past month. For each, please tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely.
[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE WITH ITEMS a FIRST, FOLLOWED BY RANDOMIZED ITEMS b THRU e; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS AND DATES]

	Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/Ref
a. News about the current situation in Iraq	34	44	15	6	1=100
Mid-October, 2004	42	38	11	8	1=100
Early September, 2004	47	37	9	6	1=100
August, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
July, 2004	43	40	11	6	*=100
June, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
April, 2004	54	33	8	5	*=100
Mid-March, 2004	47	36	12	4	1=100
Early February, 2004	47	38	10	4	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	48	39	9	4	*=100
December, 2003	44	38	11	6	1=100
November, 2003	52	33	9	5	1=100
October, 2003	38	40	14	7	1=100
September, 2003	50	33	10	6	1=100
Mid-August, 2003	45	39	10	5	1=100
Early July, 2003	37	41	13	8	1=100
June, 2003	46	35	13	6	*=100
May, 2003	63	29	6	2	*=100
April 11-16, 2003 ³	47	40	10	2	1=100
April 2-7, 2003	54	34	9	2	1=100
March 20-24, 2003	57	33	7	2	1=100
March 13-16, 2003 ⁴	62	27	6	4	1=100
February, 2003	62	25	8	4	1=100
January, 2003	55	29	10	4	2=100
December, 2002	51	32	10	6	1=100
Late October, 2002	53	33	8	5	1=100
Early October, 2002	60	28	6	5	1=100
Early September, 2002	48	29	15	6	2=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY, DECEMBER 1-7, 2004 ONLY [N=523]:

b1.F1 A fistfight between players and fans at an NBA game	24	25	25	26	*=100
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ASK FORM 1 ONLY, DECEMBER 8-15, 2004 ONLY [N=419]:

b2.F2 Recent reports of steroid use by some Major League Baseball players	22	28	23	27	0=100
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ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=993]:

c.F1 Controversy over the results of the recent election in Ukraine	10	22	29	38	1=100
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³ From March 20 to April 16, 2003 the story was listed as "News about the war in Iraq."

⁴ From October 2002 to March 13-16, 2003 the story was listed as "Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will take military action in Iraq." In Early September 2002 the story was listed as "Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will invade Iraq."

Q.7 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
ASK FORM 2 ONLY, DECEMBER 1-7, 2004 ONLY [N=523]:					
d1.F2 The conviction of Scott Peterson for the murder of his wife, Laci Peterson	21	27	27	24	1=100
April, 2004 ⁵	20	37	24	17	2=100
July, 2003	22	34	26	17	1=100
May, 2003	31	31	21	16	1=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY, DECEMBER 8-15, 2004 ONLY [N=436]:

d2.F2 The debate in Washington over reorganizing the nation's intelligence system	16	31	29	22	2=100
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ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1007]:

e.F2 The death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat	18	38	25	17	2=100
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NO QUESTION 8

ASK ALL:

Q.9 Can you tell me the name of the person George W. Bush has nominated to replace Colin Powell as Secretary of State?

43	Yes, Correct, Condoleezza Rice / Condi / Rice
5	Yes, Incorrect, any other person
<u>52</u>	No, Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.10 Do you happen to know when Iraq is scheduled to hold its first national elections? Will it be this winter, sometime in the spring, or later in the summer?

57	This winter
10	Sometime in the spring
5	Later in the summer
<u>28</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

QUESTIONS 11 - 14 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

Q.15 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
December, 2004	3	33	43	20	1=100
Early November, 2004 (RVs)	5	31	37	26	1=100
Mid-September, 2004	4	34	40	20	2=100
August, 2004	3	30	45	21	1=100
Late April, 2004	4	34	38	22	2=100
Late February, 2004	2	29	42	26	1=100
February 9-12, 2004 (Gallup)	2	31	46	21	0=100
January 12-15, 2004 (Gallup)	3	34	42	21	0=100

⁵ In April, 2004 the story was listed as "The murder of Laci Peterson." In 2003 the story was listed as "The murder of Laci Peterson, the pregnant California woman whose husband has been charged in her death."

Q.15 CONTINUED...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
January 2-5, 2004 (<i>Gallup</i>)	3	40	41	16	*=100
December 11-14, 2003 (<i>Gallup</i>)	3	34	44	19	*=100
November 3-5, 2003 (<i>Gallup</i>)	2	28	49	21	*=100
October 24-26, 2003 (<i>Gallup</i>)	2	24	44	30	*=100
October 6-8, 2003 (<i>Gallup</i>)	2	20	50	27	1=100
September 8-10, 2003 (<i>Gallup</i>)	1	20	49	30	*=100
August 4-6, 2003 (<i>Gallup</i>)	1	24	52	23	*=100
August 5-8, 2002 (<i>Gallup</i>)	1	27	52	19	1=100
August 16-19, 2001 (<i>Gallup</i>)	2	34	49	14	1=100
August 18-19, 2000 (<i>Gallup</i>)	25	49	21	4	1=100
August 24-26, 1999 (<i>Gallup</i>)	14	50	28	7	1=100
September 1, 1998 (<i>Gallup</i>)	11	54	25	9	1=100
August 22-25, 1997 (<i>Gallup</i>)	8	41	38	13	*=100
October 26-29, 1996 (<i>Gallup</i>)	5	42	39	13	1=100
November 6-8, 1995 (<i>Gallup</i>)	2	28	47	22	1=100
July 15-17, 1994 (<i>Gallup</i>)	1	26	52	21	*=100
June 29-30, 1993 (<i>Gallup</i>)	1	14	52	32	1=100
Aug. 31-Sept., 1992 (<i>Gallup</i>) (RVs)	1	9	37	53	*=100

QUESTION 16 - 44 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

Q.45 Do you think the U.S. made the right decision or the wrong decision in using military force against Iraq?

	<u>Right decision</u>	<u>Wrong decision</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
December, 2004	49	44	7=100
November, 2004 (RVs)	48	41	11=100
Mid-October, 2004	46	42	12=100
Early October, 2004	50	39	11=100
Early September, 2004	53	39	8=100
August, 2004	53	41	6=100
July, 2004	52	43	5=100
June, 2004	55	38	7=100
May, 2004	51	42	7=100
Early April, 2004	57	35	8=100
Mid-March, 2004	55	39	6=100
Late February, 2004	60	32	8=100
Early February, 2004	56	39	5=100
Mid-January, 2004	65	30	5=100
Early January, 2004	62	28	10=100
December, 2003	67	26	7=100
October, 2003	60	33	7=100
September, 2003	63	31	6=100
August, 2003	63	30	7=100
Early July, 2003	67	30	7=100
May, 2003	74	20	6=100

Q.46 How well is the U.S. military effort in Iraq going? **[READ IN ORDER]**

	Very <u>well</u>	Fairly <u>well</u>	Not too <u>well</u>	Not at all <u>well</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
December, 2004	10	40	28	18	4=100
Mid-October, 2004	13	38	26	17	6=100
Early September, 2004	12	40	26	18	4=100
August, 2004	12	41	28	16	3=100
July, 2004	13	42	26	16	3=100
June, 2004	16	41	25	14	4=100
May, 2004	10	36	32	19	3=100
Late April, 2004	12	43	26	15	4=100
Early April, 2004	14	43	26	13	4=100
Mid-March, 2004	16	45	26	11	2=100
Early February, 2004	17	46	23	11	3=100
Mid-January, 2004	22	51	18	6	3=100
Early January, 2004	23	47	18	7	5=100
December, 2003	28	47	16	6	3=100
October, 2003	16	44	25	11	4=100
September, 2003	15	47	26	9	3=100
August, 2003	19	43	24	11	3=100
Early July, 2003	23	52	16	5	4=100
<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3=100</i>
<i>April 8-9, 2003</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2=100</i>
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3=100</i>
<i>March 25-April 1, 2003</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>5=100</i>
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6=100</i>
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7=100</i>

Q.47 Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until the situation has stabilized, or do you think the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible?

	Mid- Oct <u>2004</u>	Early Sept <u>2004</u>	Aug <u>2004</u>	July <u>2004</u>	June ⁶ <u>2004</u>	May <u>2004</u>	Late April <u>2004</u>	Early April <u>2004</u>	Early Jan <u>2004</u>	Oct <u>2003</u>	Sept <u>2003</u>
56 Keep troops in Iraq	57	54	54	53	51	53	53	50	63	58	64
40 Bring troops home	36	40	42	43	44	42	40	44	32	39	32
<u>4</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

QUESTIONS 48-49 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

⁶ In June 2004 and earlier, the question was worded: "Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until a stable government is established there, or do you think the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible?"