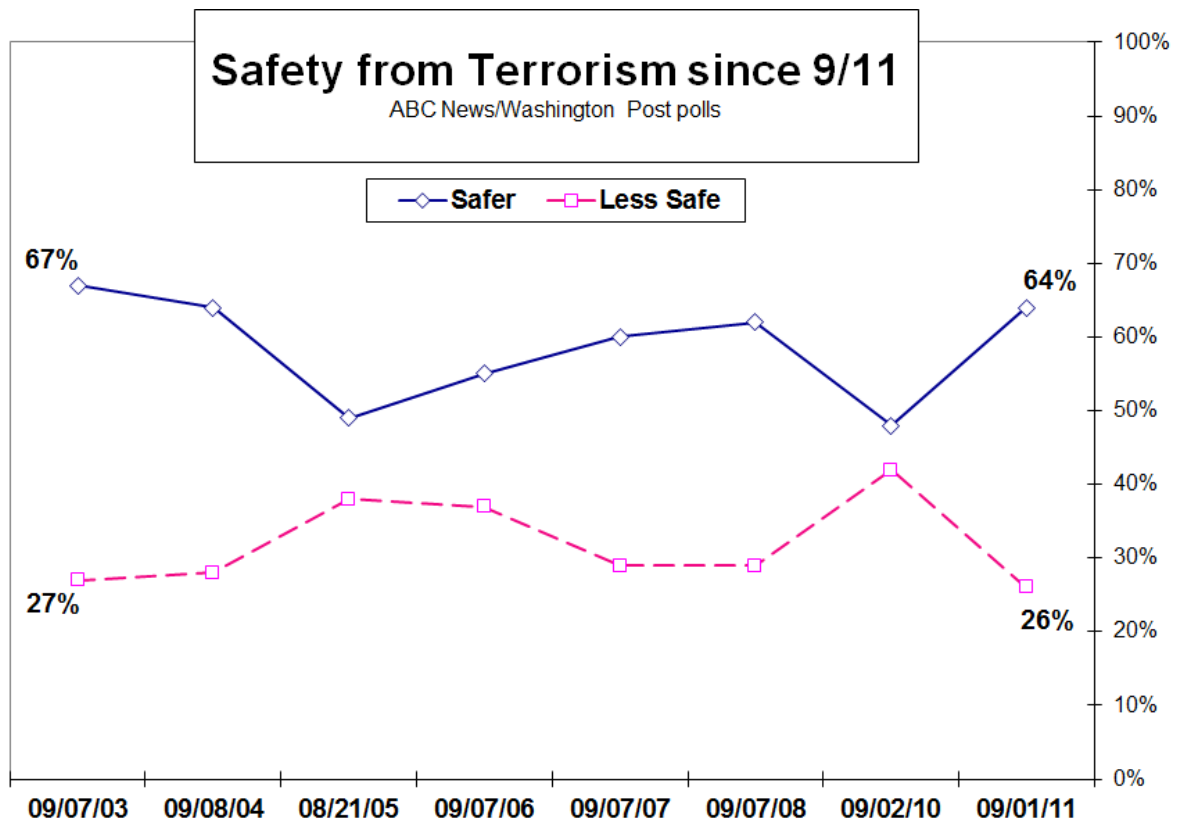


## **Sense of Security Rebounds At 9/11's Tenth Anniversary**

Confidence in the country's safety from terrorism has rebounded sharply in the past year to near its highs, with most Americans expressing satisfaction with the steps the country's taken in response to 9/11. But there are two major exceptions: The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Overall support for the country's response is broad, albeit not deep. Sixty-seven percent in this ABC News/Washington Post poll are satisfied with the way the United States has responded to the attacks, and 64 percent think the country is safer now than it was before 9/11, up sharply from its low, 48 percent, a year ago.



Still, likely reflecting the continued sense of risk, far fewer think the country is “much” safer – 26 percent – or are “very” satisfied with the U.S. response, 18 percent.

The two boldest and costliest actions taken by the United States, moreover, are controversial. This poll, produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#), finds that just 52 percent of

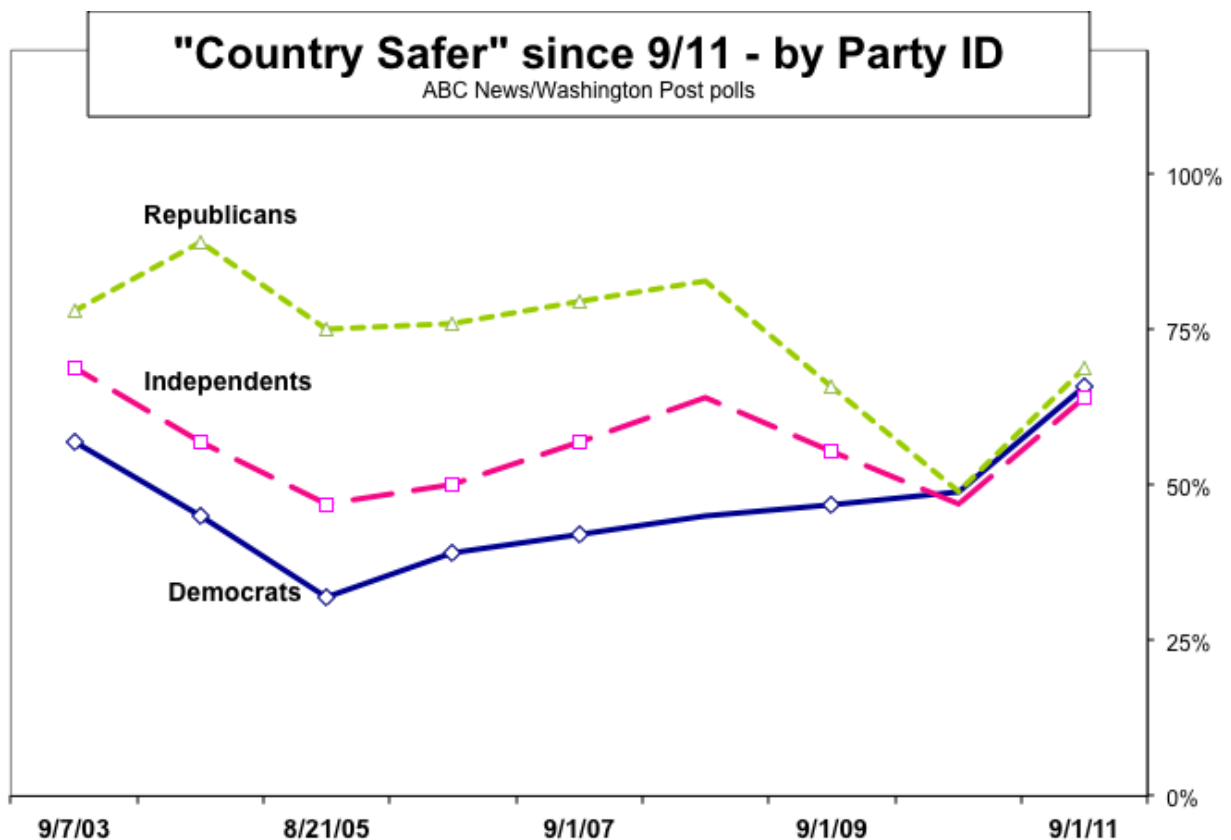
Americans say the war in Afghanistan has been effective at reducing the risk of terrorism, and fewer than half, 46 percent, say the war in Iraq made the United States safer from terrorist attack.

Larger majorities, however, say a variety of other actions – from enhanced airport security to increased wiretap and surveillance efforts to the killing of Osama bin Laden this spring – have been effective at reducing the threat of future terrorism.

PERSONAL – In personal responses to 9/11, the anger still burns. A decade later, 91 percent of Americans say they feel angry about it, with more than six in 10 “very” angry – a testament to the searing effect of the attacks on the public’s consciousness. Six in 10 still think about 9/11 on a regular basis.

Nearly half say they plan to do something specific to commemorate the attacks this weekend; items mentioned include saying a prayer, watching memorial events on television, attending religious services, observing a moment of silence, lighting a candle, displaying an American flag and gathering with family and friends.

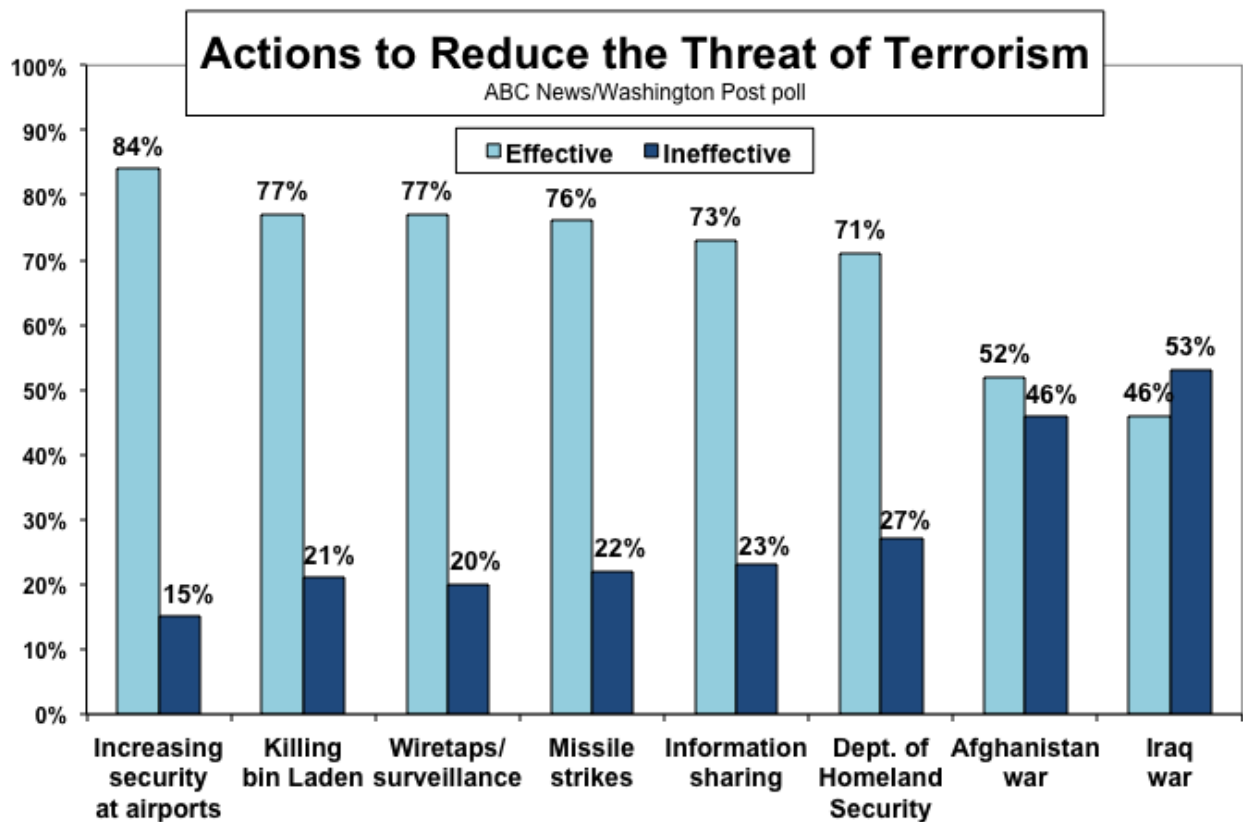
SAFER – Last year’s low in views of improved safety reflected a sharp drop among Republicans, apparently expressing disapproval of President Obama’s work on national security in the run-up to the 2010 midterm elections. Now – four months after U.S. Navy Seals killed bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan, on Obama’s orders – these views have rebounded among Republicans, hit a high among Democrats and approached their high among independents.



Indeed Obama, for his part, enjoys a 62 percent approval rating for handling the threat of terrorism, a sharp 19 points higher than his job approval rating overall. It's not just about bin Laden: Despite questions during the 2008 campaign about Obama's experience with national security, combatting terrorism consistently has been the best-rated aspect of his job performance.

Another result, though, reflects a darker public mood. While Americans very broadly agree that the events of 9/11 changed the country in a lasting way, they now divide about evenly, 39 to 42 percent, on whether they changed the country for the better, or for the worse. When last asked in September 2002, by contrast, 55 percent said it was a change for the better; earlier that year even more said so, 67 percent. These results, though, came while the war in Afghanistan was still broadly popular, and the invasion of Iraq had not yet occurred.

MEASURES – Eighty-four percent say increased security in airports and government buildings has been effective at preventing further attacks since 9/11, the highest-rated action taken. Seventy-seven percent say killing bin Laden was an effective measure. And these are rated as “very” effective by 40 and 46 percent, respectively.



More than seven in 10 rate other measures as effective: the increased use of wiretaps and other surveillance techniques (77 percent call this effective in combatting terrorism), the use of missile attacks on suspected terrorists in Pakistan and Yemen (76 percent), steps to improve information-

sharing among U.S. intelligence agencies (73 percent) and the creation of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (71 percent).

Still, for each of those, far fewer, 26 to 30 percent, say they've been "very" effective at reducing the risk of terrorism. And fewer still say the wars in Afghanistan or Iraq have been very effective at doing so – just 14 and 15 percent, respectively.

There are differences among groups, most notably political. Seventy-one percent of Republicans say the war in Iraq was effective at reducing the threat of terrorism, while just 43 percent of independents, and 32 percent of Democrats, agree. (There's no such gap on Afghanistan.) Republicans also are more attuned to the use of increased surveillance and missile strikes.

And despite their greater general resistance to larger government, 78 percent of Republicans see the creation of the Department of Homeland Security as effective against terrorism. That slips to two-thirds of Democrats and independents alike.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Aug. 29 to Sept. 1, 2011, among a random national sample of 1,001 adults, including landline and cell-phone-only respondents. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points for the full sample. The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt-SRBI of New York, N.Y.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollingunit>.

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Full results follow.

\*= less than 0.5 percent

1-10, 19-29 previously released.

11. Changing topics, how often do you think about what happened on September 11, 2001 – the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington – do you think about it a lot, or not all that much? (IF A LOT) Do you think about it pretty much every day, or less often than that?

	----- Think about it -----			Don't think	No
	NET	Every day	Less often	about it	opinion
9/1/11	61	16	45	39	1
9/2/10	64	14	50	36	*
9/7/06	71	23	48	29	*
9/7/03	77	34	42	23	*
9/8/02	75	40	35	25	*

12. Do you think the events of September 11th have changed this country in a lasting way, or not? (IF YES) Is it a change for the better or a change for the worse?

	----- Yes, changed -----				No	
	NET	Better	Worse	DK/REF	No	opinion
9/1/11	87	39	42	6	13	*
9/6/02*	83	55	27	NA	13	5
3/10/02	86	67	15	3	13	1
12/19/01	91	63	25	4	8	1

\*Washington Post: "terrorist attacks of last September 11<sup>th</sup>"

13. Compared to before September 11, 2001, do you think the country today is safer from terrorism or less safe from terrorism? (IF SAFER) Would you say the country is much safer or somewhat safer? (IF LESS SAFE) Would you say the country is much less safe or somewhat less safe?

	----- Safer -----			---- Less safe ---			No difference	No
	NET	Much	Smwht	NET	Smwht	Much	(vol.)	opinion
9/1/11	64	26	38	26	13	12	8	2
9/2/10	48	15	33	42	24	18	8	2
9/7/08	62	25	37	29	19	10	7	2
9/7/07	60	24	36	29	17	11	11	1
10/8/06	50	20	30	42	NA	NA	7	1
9/7/06	55	19	36	37			6	2
6/25/06	59	24	35	33			7	1
3/5/06	56	22	33	35			8	1
1/26/06	64	24	41	30			6	*
8/21/05	49	14	35	38			11	2
10/3/04 LV	62	29	33	29			7	2
9/26/04 RV	59	24	35	34			5	2
9/8/04 RV	64	26	38	28			5	3
8/29/04 RV	60	24	36	31			7	2
1/18/04	67	28	39	24			8	1
9/7/03	67	24	42	27			4	2

14. Thinking about the way the United States has responded to the terrorist attacks of 9/11, overall would you say you're very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied?

	----- Satisfied -----			--- Dissatisfied ---			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	opinion
9/1/11	67	18	50	32	18	13	1

15. I'm going to name some specific actions taken by the United States after the terrorist attacks of 9/11. For each please tell me if you think it was very effective, somewhat effective, somewhat ineffective or very ineffective at reducing the threat of terrorism against the United States. First is [ITEM]. Would you say that was very effective, somewhat effective, somewhat ineffective or very ineffective at reducing the threat of terrorism against the United States? How about [NEXT ITEM]?

9/1/11 - Summary Table\*

	---- Effective ----			--- Ineffective ---			No
	NET	Very	Smwhat	NET	Smwhat	Very	op.
a. Creating the U.S. Department of Homeland Security	71	26	44	27	14	13	2
b. Taking steps to improve information-sharing among U.S. intelligence agencies	73	26	47	23	13	10	4
c. Increasing security measures in airports and government buildings	84	40	44	15	9	6	1
d. The war in Afghanistan	52	14	37	46	21	25	3
e. The war in Iraq	46	15	31	53	23	31	1

f. Killing Osama bin Laden	77	46	30	21	11	10	2
g. Using missile strikes against suspected terrorists in Pakistan and Yemen	76	30	45	22	14	8	2
h. Increasing use of wiretaps and other surveillance techniques	77	30	47	20	10	10	3

\*Half sample asked items a-d; other half sample asked items e-h.

16. When you think about the September 11th terrorist attacks would you say you feel very angry about it, somewhat angry, not so angry or not angry at all?

	----- Angry -----			----- Not angry -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	opinion
9/1/11	91	63	27	9	3	6	1

17. Do you personally plan to do anything specific to commemorate the anniversary of 9/11 next week? (IF YES) What is it you plan to do?

	9/1/11
Yes NET	45
Say a prayer	10
Watch TV coverage	5
Observe a moment of silence	4
Go to church	4
Gather with family and friends	3
Display an American flag	3
Light a candle	2
Call/speak with family/friends	1
Wear red, white and blue	*
Hug someone	*
Other	13
No, nothing specific	50
No opinion	5

18. Would you say national politics has become more partisan since the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, less partisan, or is it about the same?

	More partisan	Less partisan	About the same	No opinion
9/1/11	42	8	47	3
6/25/06	39	8	50	3

\*\*\*END\*\*\*