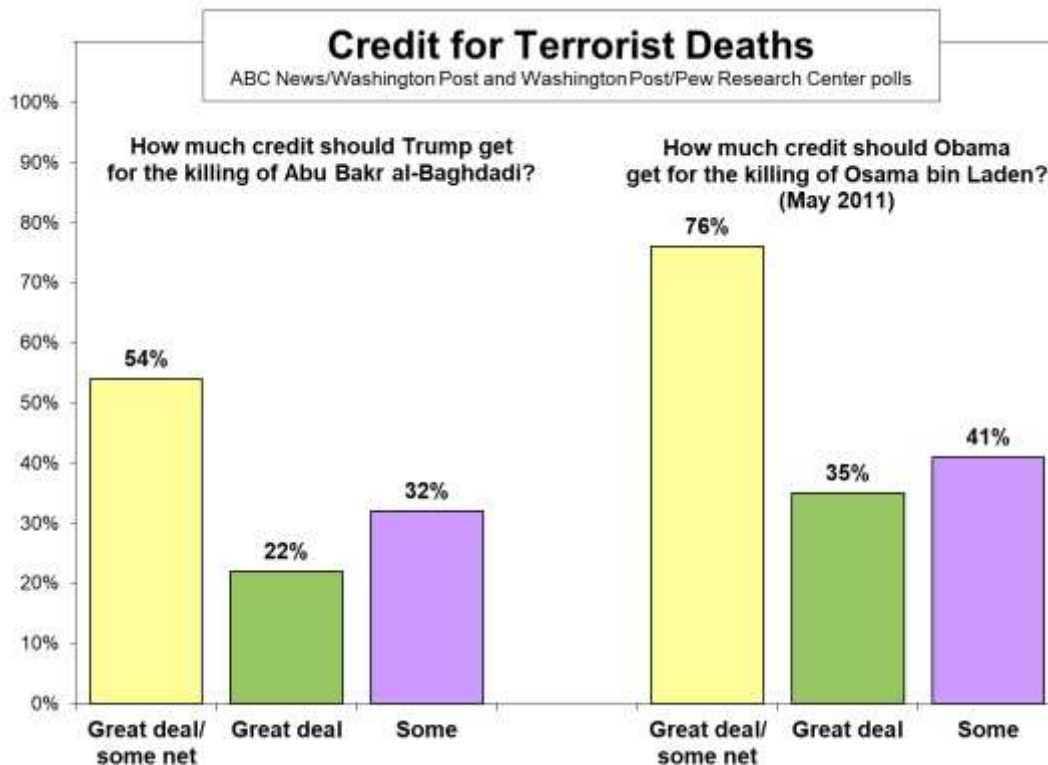


54% Credit Trump for ISIS Leader’s Death, But With Broader Doubts on Syria Policy

A majority of Americans in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll give Donald Trump credit for the death of ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, but at a level that far lags credit for Barack Obama after the killing of Osama Bin Laden in May 2011.

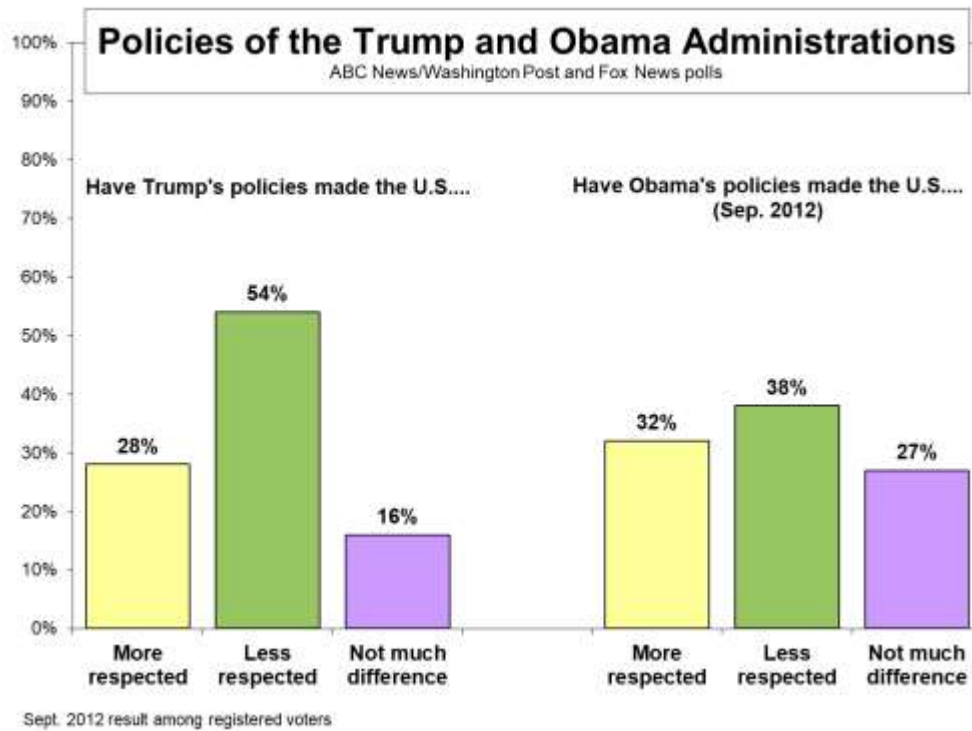
Fifty-four percent say Trump deserves at least some credit for al-Baghdadi’s death in a raid by U.S. special forces Saturday in Syria – a great deal of credit, 22 percent, and “some” credit, 32 percent. That compares with 76 percent who credited Obama for the raid that killed bin Laden.



Other results in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), point to limited if any positive impact for Trump. Forty-four percent see him as a strong leader, with no bump from its level in January (48 percent). Most, 54 percent, don’t see him that way.

Indeed, credit for Trump is countered by criticism on other, related fronts. The public by 44-12 percent thinks the withdrawal will weaken, not strengthen, U.S. efforts against ISIS. (The rest see no difference.)

More broadly, 54 percent think Trump’s policies have made the United States less respected around the world, more than said that about Obama, 38 percent, in a 2012 Fox News poll (conducted among registered voters).



Just a quarter (26 percent) think al-Baghdadi’s death will make the United States safer from terrorism, similar to views of security after bin Laden’s death. Fewer still, 16 percent, think it makes the country less safe, leaving a majority – 54 percent – who see no change. There was a higher sense of increased risk after bin Laden’s death; it subsided in a few months.

PARTISANS – Partisan patterns are markedly different than after the death of bin Laden. Then, in a Washington Post/Pew Research Center survey, majorities of Democrats, independents and Republicans alike said Obama deserved at least some credit – 86 percent of Democrats, 79 percent of independents and 61 percent of Republicans.

Trump, by contrast, gets credit from 76 percent of Republicans, dropping sharply to 53 percent among independents and 39 percent among Democrats.

	All	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Credit to...				
Trump for death of al-Baghdadi	54%	39%	53%	76%
Obama for death of bin Laden	76	86	79	61
Difference	-22 pts.	-47	-26	+15

Trump also underperforms in intensity of sentiment. In 2011, 52 percent of Democrats and 36 percent of independents gave Obama “a great deal” of credit for Bin Laden’s death. Today Trump gets a great deal of credit from 41 percent of Republicans and 18 percent of independents.

Following now-typical patterns in views of Trump, he also gets more credit from men than from women, 61 vs. 47 percent, in line with differences in partisan affiliation. (There’s an especially sharp 20-point gap between suburban men and women.) He gets credit from 59 percent of whites vs. 44 percent of people of other racial or ethnic backgrounds; and from 59 percent in the states he won in 2016, vs. 47 percent elsewhere.

Partisanship informs other views, as well. Forty-five percent of Republicans think al-Baghdadi’s death makes the United States safer from terrorism; half as many independents (22 percent) and a third as many Democrats (15 percent) agree.

But the sharpest division, unsurprisingly, involves Trump himself. Eighty-four percent of Republicans see him as a strong leader. Again that’s sliced in half among independents, to 43 percent, and falls to just 15 percent among Democrats.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Oct. 27-30, 2019, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,003 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.7 points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 29-23-38 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling and data collection by Abt Associates of Rockville, Md. See details on the survey’s methodology [here](#).

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollingunit>. Join our [mailing list](#) to get updates on all new poll releases.

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Full results follow.

1-4, 6b-24 held for release. *= less than 0.5 percent.

5. Do you think the policies of the Trump administration have made the United States more respected around the world today, less respected or have they not made much of a difference either way?

	More respected	Less respected	Not much difference	No opinion
10/30/19	28	54	16	2
1/24/19	25	51	21	3

Compare to:

Do you think the policies of the Obama administration have made the United States more respected around the world today, less respected or have they not made much of a difference either way?

More	Less	Not much	No
------	------	----------	----

	respected	respected	difference	opinion
9/26/12* RV	32	38	27	2

*Fox News

6. Do you think Trump [ITEM], or not?

10/30/19 - Summary Table

	Yes	No	No opinion
a. is a strong leader*	44	54	2

*Half sample

Trend:

a. is a strong leader

	Yes	No	No opinion
10/30/19	44	54	2
1/24/19	48	51	1
11/1/17	40	59	1
4/20/17	53	45	2

25. A raid by U.S. forces has killed the leader of the terrorist group known as the Islamic State or ISIS, a man named Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. How much credit, if any, do you think Trump should get for the killing of al-Baghdadi - a great deal of credit, some, not much or none at all?

	-- More credit ---			--- Less credit ---			
	Great	Some		Not	None	No	
	NET	deal		NET	much	at all	opinion
10/30/19	54	22	32	39	18	21	7

Compare to:

How much credit, if any, do you think Barack Obama should get for the killing of Osama bin Laden - a great deal of credit, some, not much or none at all?

	----- More credit -----			---- Less credit ----			No
	NET	Great deal	Some	NET	Not much	None	opinion
5/2/11*	76	35	41	21	13	8	2

*Washington Post/Pew Research Center

26. As a result of al-Baghdadi's death, do you think the United States is safer from terrorism, more at risk now, or has there not been much of a change?

	Safer	More at risk	Not much change	No opinion
10/30/19	26	16	54	4

Compare to:

As a result of Osama bin Laden's death, do you think the United States is safer from terrorism, more at risk now, or has there not been much of a change?

	Safer	More at risk	Not much change	No opinion
8/31/11* RV	21	19	58	2
5/17/11* RV	22	30	47	2

*Fox News

27. Before the death of al-Baghdadi, Trump ordered the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Syria-Turkey border. Do you think the withdrawal of U.S. forces will (strengthen)

or (weaken) U.S. efforts against the terrorist group known as the Islamic State or ISIS, or will it make no difference in this?

	Strengthen	Weaken	Make no difference	No opinion
10/30/19	12	44	37	8

28. In withdrawing U.S. forces from Syria, Trump ended a U.S. military alliance with the Syrian Kurds. Do you think this decision will (help) the United States' reputation as a trusted ally, (hurt) its reputation, or will it make no difference in this?

	Help	Hurt	Make no difference	No opinion
10/30/19	8	51	36	5

*** END ***