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Interviews: 821 adults
 Dates: September 15-16, 2001

FINAL

Study #6019
 NBC/WSJ Terrorism Survey
 September 15-16, 2001

48 Male
 52 Female

Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.

The margin of error for 821 interviews is +3.5%

Unless otherwise noted by a "+", all previous data shown reflects responses among all adults.

1. All in all, do you think that things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?

	<u>9/01</u>	<u>6/01</u>	<u>4/01</u>	<u>3/01</u>	<u>1/01</u>	<u>12/00</u>	<i>High</i> <u>2/91+</u>	<i>Low</i> <u>7/92+</u>
Right direction.....	72	43	47	52	45	39	65	14
Wrong track	11	39	39	32	36	43	22	71
Mixed (VOL).....	11	14	11	11	15	14	9	9
Not sure	6	4	3	5	4	4	4	6
		<u>10/00+</u>	<u>9/00+</u>	<u>7/00+</u>	<u>6/00+</u>	<u>4/00+</u>		
		48	51	48	44	44		
		32	29	32	38	34		
		18	16	17	15	19		
		2	4	3	3	3		

+ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

	<u>4/95</u>	<u>2/91</u>
Right direction.....	33	65
Wrong track	45	22
Mixed (VOL).....	15	9
Not sure.....	7	4

NOTE: 1995 data followed Oklahoma City bombing; 1991 data followed landing of ground troops in the Gulf War.

2. And when you think about the future of the country, would you say that you are mainly hopeful and optimistic or mainly worried and pessimistic?

	<u>9/01</u>	<u>11/98¹</u>
Mainly hopeful and optimistic	79	58
Mainly worried and pessimistic.....	18	39
Not sure.....	3	3

¹ Comparative data comes from a survey conducted on behalf of the Shell Corporation.

3. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job George W. Bush is doing as president?

	<u>9/01</u>	<u>6/01</u>	<u>4/01</u>	<u>3/01</u>
Approve	82	50	56	57
Disapprove	12	35	30	22
Not sure	6	15	14	21

	Bill Clinton	George Bush	John F. Kennedy
	<u>4/95</u>	<u>2/91</u>	<u>5/61¹</u>
Approve	50	85	77
Disapprove	39	11	8
Not sure	11	4	14

NOTE: 1995 data followed Oklahoma City bombing; 1991 data followed landing of ground troops in the Gulf War; 1961 data followed the Bay of Pigs invasion.
¹ Comparative data comes from a survey conducted by the Gallup Organization.

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the terrorist attacks against the United States in New York City and Washington, D.C.?

	<u>9/15-16/01</u>	<u>9/12/01</u>
Approve.....	87	80
Disapprove.....	6	8
Not sure	7	12

5. How much confidence would you say you have in George Bush's ability to respond to Tuesday's terrorist attacks and manage this crisis--a great deal of confidence, quite a bit, just some, or very little confidence?

A great deal of confidence	50
Quite a bit of confidence	28
Just some confidence	14
Very little confidence.....	6
Not sure	2

6. And what is the ONE thing you would like to tell the President of the United States about what America should be doing following Tuesday's terrorist attacks?*

Take your time, be patient, proceed with caution	11%
Keep up the good job, doing a great job	9
Make sure we have the people who are responsible, the right ones, the ones who did it	8
Go after terrorists and those who harbor them	8
Bomb them, kill them, retaliate, show no mercy	7
Don't know; no response	8%

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

7. Do you think that these terrorist attacks will have a major effect, a minor effect, or no real effect on whether the country experiences an economic recession?

	<u>9/15-16/01</u>	<u>9/12/01</u>
Major effect	48	47
Minor effect	35	32
No real effect.....	8	13
Not sure	9	8

8a. Now I'd like to read you a list of priorities. Please tell me which ONE you feel is the most important priority for the President and Congress to address this year.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Fighting terrorism.....	64
Strengthening the economy.....	20
Reforming the education system	7
Dealing with health care costs	6
Not sure	3

8b. President Bush has stated that fighting terrorism will now be the focus of his administration. Do you agree or disagree that it should be the focus of the Bush administration?

Agree, should be the focus.....	79
Disagree, should not be the focus.....	17
Not sure.....	4

9a. In your view, should the United States become more active in world affairs, less active in world affairs, or continue its current level of activity in world affairs?

	<u>9/01**</u>	<u>5/97¹</u>	<u>3/95¹</u>
More active	37	17	17
Less active.....	14	32	34
Current level	44	46	47
Not sure	5	5	2

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

¹ Comparative data comes from surveys conducted on behalf of *The Wall Street Journal* and Nikkei.

9b. Have Tuesday's events made you think that the United States' relations toward Israel should be closer, more distant, or stay the same?

Closer.....	33
More distant	16
Stay the same	42
Not sure	9

10. Do you believe that the United States is or is not at war with terrorists?

United States is at war	84
United States is not at war	13
Not sure	3

11. People across the country have been affected by Tuesday's attacks in many different ways. Which of the following statements comes closest to describing how you personally were affected by the attacks?

Statement A: You were directly affected by the attacks, meaning that you were worried that a family member or a friend of yours might have been a victim, and may have been killed, injured, or missing.

Statement B: You were indirectly affected by the attacks, meaning that an acquaintance was directly affected by the attacks.

Statement C: You do not know anyone who was affected, but you were deeply touched as an American and concerned about all the victims.

Statement A /directly affected	16
Statement B /indirectly affected	17
Statement C /touched as an American.....	67
None of the above (VOL)	-
Not sure.....	-

12a. Are you worried that you or a member of your immediate family might become the victim of a terrorist attack?

Yes, worried	45
No, not worried.....	54
Not sure	1

12b. And how concerned are you that terrorists will commit acts of violence near where you live or work--are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not concerned?

	<u>9/01</u>	<u>4/95</u>
Very concerned	27	31
Somewhat concerned	44	35
Not concerned.....	28	34
Not sure.....	1	-

13. How worried are you that, if the United States launched a military strike against terrorist targets, terrorists would respond by striking again in America--very worried, fairly worried, only somewhat worried, or not very worried? *

Very worried	43
Fairly worried.....	22
Only somewhat worried.....	22
Not very worried	13
Not sure	-

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

14a. Would you prefer that the United States retaliate for these attacks immediately, even if we are not completely sure who is specifically responsible, or do you think that the United States should not retaliate until we are completely sure who is specifically responsible even if that means we have to wait?

Retaliate immediately.....	15
Wait to be sure.....	81
Not sure	4

14b. Do you think that the United States should or should not take military action against a nation that knowingly allowed the terrorists who are responsible for these attacks to live in their country, even if the country played no role in the attack?

Should take military action	75
Should not take military action	15
Not sure	10

15a. Do you believe that these attacks represent a failure of the American intelligence and security systems, or do you believe that these attacks were beyond what is reasonable to expect the American intelligence and security systems to uncover?

	<u>9/15-16/01</u>	<u>9/12/01</u>
Failure of intelligence system.....	47	41
Beyond what is reasonable to expect.....	45	49
Not sure.....	8	10

15b. Based on what you know, do you think that these attacks were committed by a band of independent terrorists, or do you think a national government is also involved?

Independent terrorists	36
National government also involved	51
Not sure.....	13

16. Do you think that the United States will ever capture or kill international terrorist Osama Bin Laden, or not?

Yes, will capture or kill.....	73
No, will never capture or kill	15
Not sure	12

17. Do you think that these terrorist attacks--**A**) should mainly be dealt with as a crime, to be handled by the FBI and the courts, or **B**) should mainly be dealt with as acts of war, to be handled by the CIA and the U.S. military?

Dealt with as a crime.....	9
Dealt with as acts of war	79
Both (VOL)	8
Not sure	4

18. Currently, there is an executive order that prohibits United States military and intelligence agencies from conducting assassinations of enemies abroad. Do you think that the United States military and intelligence agencies should or should not be allowed to conduct assassinations of enemies abroad?

Should be allowed.....	70
Should not be allowed.....	20
Not sure	10

19a. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has criticized some government leaders for revealing classified information about the attacks and military plans to the public. Do you believe that the American public has a right to know all the information about the attacks and military plans, even if it might mean compromising investigations, or do you believe that government leaders should keep information confidential, even if it might mean that the public does not know important facts about the attacks and military plans? **

Public has a right to know	16
Government leaders should keep information confidential	80
Not sure.....	4

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

19b. Do you believe that there should be increased penalties for government officials who reveal confidential information, or not? **

Yes, should be increased penalties.....	72
No, should not be increased penalties	19
Not sure.....	9

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

20. Are you personally worried about traveling by commercial airplane because of the risk of terrorism, or do you think that the risk is not that great? **(IF "YES, WORRIED," ASK:)** Would you say that you are very worried or just somewhat worried?

Very worried	34
Somewhat worried	31
Risk is not that great	33
Not sure	2

21. Would you support new laws to strengthen security measures against terrorism, even if that meant reducing privacy protections such as limits on government searches and wiretapping?

	<u>9/01*</u>	<u>8/96+</u>
Yes, would support new security laws.....	78	69
No, would not support new security laws	14	23
Not sure.....	8	8

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

+ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

22. I'm going to read you a list of actions that the United States might take to increase security. For each one, please tell me whether this is an action that you would be willing to accept or not willing to accept? **

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY WILLING TO ACCEPT

	<u>Willing To Accept</u>	<u>Not Willing To Accept</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
Placing armed sky marshalls on all commercial airlines.....	92	6	2
Eliminating curbside check-in at airports.....	83	15	2
Increasing the price of airplane tickets to pay for new security measures	79	19	2
Surveillance of Internet communications.....	78	17	5
Eliminating carry-on luggage on flights	67	30	3
Wiretapping of phone calls without obtaining a court order	43	49	8

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

23a. Do you think that the United States should spend more money on a missile defense shield, more money on a military response to terrorism, or should it spend on both?

More on missile defense shield.....	3
More on military response to terrorism	25
Spent it on both	66
Not sure.....	6

23b. Do you favor or oppose the United States' spending money on a military response to terrorism even if it means spending funds from the Social Security surplus? *

Favor.....	55
Oppose	36
Not sure	9

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

23c. Do you favor or oppose the United States' spending money on a military response to terrorism even if it means rolling back some of the tax cuts that Congress passed this year? **

Favor.....	85
Oppose	10
Not sure	5

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

24. Do you favor or oppose using federal funds to assist U.S. commercial airlines because of the economic problems they are experiencing due to the current shutdown of the air travel system? **

Favor.....	67
Oppose	23
Not sure	10

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

25. I'm going to read you a list of potential threats that the United States might face in the next ten years. For each one, please tell me how likely a threat you think it is--very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely to occur in the next ten years.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY LIKELY

	<u>Very Likely</u>	<u>Somewhat Likely</u>	<u>Somewhat Unlikely</u>	<u>Very Unlikely</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
The U.S. will need to mobilize a large attack on a country far away around the world.....	50	34	6	6	4
The U.S. will be attacked by terrorists in a similar way that it was attacked this week.....	41	34	12	11	2
The U.S. will face two major enemies at the same time the way it did during World War Two.....	29	32	17	17	5
The U.S. will be attacked within its borders by terrorists possessing nuclear or biological weapons	24	44	14	14	4
The U.S. will face an attack by a single nuclear missile from a terrorist or nation	16	41	21	19	3
The U.S. will face a full-scale attack by a large number of nuclear missiles from another major country.....	8	24	23	40	5