

## WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

# Americans Want Government to Provide More Information on Afghanistan

*Half of respondents support the military operation, while 43 per cent are opposed to it.*

[NEW YORK – Jun. 16, 2010] – Half of Americans continue to support the military effort in Afghanistan, while opposition to the conflict has grown slightly since May, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,004 American adults, 50 per cent of respondents (-1 since May) express support for the Afghan mission, whereas 43 per cent (+4) oppose it.

### The Mission

Opposition to the military operation in Afghanistan remains higher in the Midwest (51%), while respondents in the South (53%) and the West (51%) are more inclined to support it.

Two-in-five Americans (40%) think the government did the right thing in sending troops to Afghanistan in the first place, but almost a third (32%) disagree and say the deployment that it was a mistake.

Half of respondents (50%) acknowledge they do not have a clear idea of what the Afghan war is all about.

### KEY FINDINGS

- **Support for war is stable at 50%**
- **34% say the media has not devoted enough attention to the Afghan war**
- **52% say the government has not provided enough information about it**
- **60% have no confidence in Obama administration finishing the job in Afghanistan**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From June 8 to June 9, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,004 randomly selected American adults who are Springboard USA panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of the United States. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.*

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### **When the War is Over**

Since the beginning of this year, Americans have been skeptical about the outcome of the conflict in Afghanistan. About a fifth of respondents (22%) believe the end of the war will bring a clear victory by the United States and its allies; 25 per cent foresee a negotiated settlement with the Taliban resulting in their limited participation in the government; 10 per cent think it will look more like a negotiation resulting in the Taliban playing a major role in an eventual government; and six per cent think the U.S. and its allies will simply be defeated.

### **Obama's Plan**

People across the country also remain doubtful of the current government's ability to end the war successfully. Only three-in-ten Americans (30%) trust that U.S. President Barack Obama will "finish the job", whereas twice that number (60%) express little or no confidence in his administration on this particular issue.

### **The Media and the Government**

A third of Americans (34%) continue to think that the country's media has failed to provide enough information about the war in Afghanistan—37 per cent think it has devoted the right amount of coverage to it.

Meanwhile, a majority of respondents (52%) believe that the government has given too little information to the American people about this particular war. The proportion of Americans who agree with this notion has increased significantly since April, from 45 per cent to 52 per cent.

*For more polls on Afghanistan and many other topics, please visit our website.*

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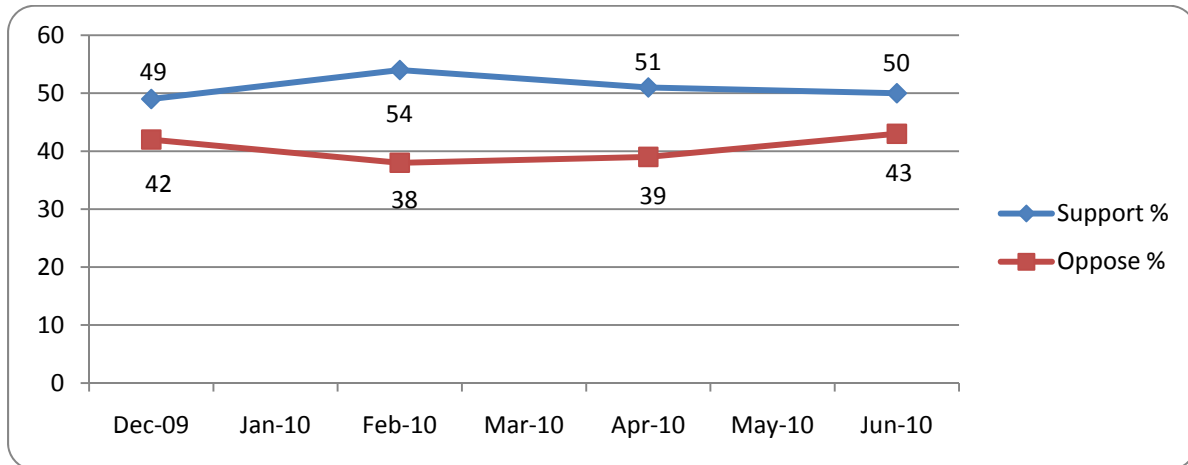
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**War in Afghanistan**

Overall, do you support or oppose the military operation involving American soldiers in Afghanistan? – Total U.S.



**War in Afghanistan**

Overall, do you support or oppose the military operation involving American soldiers in Afghanistan?

	Region				
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
<b>Strongly support</b>	21%	18%	17%	22%	25%
<b>Moderately support</b>	29%	29%	28%	31%	26%
<b>Moderately oppose</b>	22%	27%	22%	21%	19%
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	21%	17%	29%	16%	23%
<b>Not sure</b>	8%	9%	4%	10%	7%

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**War in Afghanistan**

Do you think the United States made a mistake or did the right thing in sending military forces to Afghanistan?

Region					
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Made a mistake	32%	31%	34%	29%	37%
Did the right thing	40%	44%	37%	39%	40%
Not sure	28%	25%	29%	32%	23%

**War in Afghanistan - TREND**

Do you think the United States made a mistake or did the right thing in sending military forces to Afghanistan?

	Jun. 2010	Apr. 2010	Feb. 2010	Dec. 2009
Made a mistake	32%	32%	31%	34%
Did the right thing	40%	40%	44%	37%
Not sure	28%	28%	25%	29%

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**War in Afghanistan**

Do you feel that you have a clear idea of what the war in Afghanistan is all about?

Region					
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Yes, I do	49%	53%	44%	49%	51%
No, I do not	51%	47%	56%	51%	49%

**War in Afghanistan - TREND**

Do you feel that you have a clear idea of what the war in Afghanistan is all about?

	Jun. 2010	Apr. 2010	Feb. 2010	Dec. 2009
Yes, I do	49%	52%	57%	52%
No, I do not	51%	48%	43%	48%

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**War in Afghanistan**

Now, thinking about the war in Afghanistan, what do you think is the most likely outcome?

	Region				
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
<b>Clear military victory by U.S. and allied forces over the Taliban</b>	22%	25%	19%	24%	18%
<b>A negotiated settlement from a position of U.S. and allied strength that gives the Taliban a small role in the Afghan government</b>	25%	25%	24%	23%	30%
<b>A negotiated settlement from a position of U.S. and allied weakness that gives the Taliban a significant role in the Afghan government</b>	10%	6%	11%	10%	14%
<b>Military defeat of U.S. and allied forces by the Taliban</b>	6%	7%	6%	5%	9%
<b>Not sure</b>	36%	37%	41%	38%	29%

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**War in Afghanistan**

How confident are you that the Obama Administration will be able “finish the job” in Afghanistan?

	Region				
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Very confident	8%	10%	4%	10%	7%
Moderately confident	22%	22%	17%	23%	26%
Not too confident	33%	30%	40%	30%	34%
Not confident at all	27%	27%	31%	26%	25%
Not sure	10%	11%	8%	11%	8%

**War in Afghanistan - TREND**

How confident are you that the Obama Administration will be able “finish the job” in Afghanistan?

	Jun. 2010	Apr. 2010	Feb. 2010
Very confident	8%	8%	8%
Moderately confident	22%	25%	27%
Not too confident	33%	27%	28%
Not confident at all	27%	26%	24%
Not sure	10%	13%	12%

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**War in Afghanistan**

Thinking about the media in the United States, do you think it has provided too much attention, too little attention, or the right amount of attention to Afghanistan?

Region					
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Too much	13%	14%	12%	13%	14%
The right amount	37%	42%	36%	40%	30%
Too little	34%	29%	40%	28%	41%
Not sure	16%	15%	13%	19%	16%

**War in Afghanistan**

Thinking about the federal government, do you think it has provided too much information, too little information, or the right amount of information about the war in Afghanistan?

Region					
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Too much	8%	8%	8%	9%	9%
The right amount	23%	27%	17%	27%	19%
Too little	52%	46%	58%	48%	58%
Not sure	17%	19%	17%	17%	14%

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*Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Public Opinion team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995*

*Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.*

*Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum ([www.angusreidforum.com](http://www.angusreidforum.com)), Springboard America ([www.springboardamerica.com](http://www.springboardamerica.com)) and Springboard UK ([www.springboarduk.com](http://www.springboarduk.com)) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.*

*Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.*

*Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election. More information on our electoral record can be found at:*  
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*More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at*  
<http://www.visioncritical.com/what-we-do/practices/angus-reid-public-opinion/>

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**For more information, please contact  
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:**  
<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>

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