

WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

Americans Agree with Obama's Decision to Replace McChrystal

Almost three-in-five welcome the appointment of General Petraeus as Commander of U.S. Forces Afghanistan.

[NEW YORK – Jun. 28, 2010] – Many Americans believe U.S. President Barack Obama was right to both accept the resignation of General Stanley Allen McChrystal as Commander of U.S. Forces Afghanistan and nominate General David Petraeus as his replacement, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

McChrystal and his staff made some disparaging comments about several U.S. government officials—including Vice President Joe Biden, National Security Advisor James L. Jones, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Karl W. Eikenberry, and Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Holbrooke—in a profile that was published this month in *Rolling Stone* magazine.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,005 American adults, 53 per cent of respondents agree with the President's decision to accept General McChrystal's resignation, including 75 per cent of Democrats and 52 per cent of Independents.

President Obama's appointment of General Petraeus to replace McChrystal is supported by 57 per cent of respondents, while 14 per cent disagree with this decision. Democrats (67%),

KEY FINDINGS

- **53% agree with President Obama's decision to accept General McChrystal's resignation**
- **57% agree with the nomination of General Petraeus as Commander of U.S. Forces Afghanistan**
- **41% think McChrystal and his staff were wrong to speak their mind in Rolling Stone interview; 35% think they were right**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From June 25 to June 27 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,001 American adults who are Springboard America 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 a sample representative of the entire adult population of the United States.

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Republicans (56%) and Independents (57%) all endorse the nomination of Petraeus.

Three-in-ten Americans (31%) expect Petraeus to have a positive effect on the way things are going for the U.S. and its allies in Afghanistan, while 10 per cent foresee this having a negative effect. Democrats (40%) are slightly more likely than Republicans (31%) and Independents (28%) to predict a positive effect from this appointment.

Americans are divided on the way McChrystal and his staff acted. Two-in-five respondents (41%) think they were wrong to speak their mind and should have not aired their grievances in public, while just over one third (35%) believe they were right to speak their mind and criticize the way some politicians have performed.

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War in Afghanistan

As you may know, General Stanley Allen McChrystal and his staff made some disparaging comments about several U.S. government officials—including Vice President Joe Biden, National Security Advisor James L. Jones, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Karl W. Eikenberry, and Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Holbrooke—in a profile that was published this month in Rolling Stone magazine. McChrystal was at the time the Commander of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and Commander of U.S. Forces Afghanistan. From what you have seen, read or heard about this incident, which of these two statements comes closest to your own point of view?

	Party ID			
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
McChrystal and his staff were right to speak their mind and criticize the way some politicians have performed	35%	24%	47%	40%
McChrystal and his staff were wrong to speak their mind and should have not aired their grievances in public	41%	57%	31%	42%
Not sure	23%	19%	22%	18%

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U.S. President Barack Obama has accepted General McChrystal's resignation as Commander of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and Commander of U.S. Forces Afghanistan. Do you agree or disagree with this decision?

	Party ID			
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Agree	53%	75%	37%	52%
Disagree	28%	14%	45%	31%
Not sure	18%	11%	18%	18%

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President Obama has nominated General David Petraeus as McChrystal's replacement, pending confirmation from the U.S. Senate. Do you agree or disagree with this decision?

	Party ID			
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Agree	57%	67%	56%	57%
Disagree	14%	9%	15%	16%
Not sure	29%	24%	29%	27%

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Do you expect the appointment of General Petraeus to have a positive effect, a negative effect, or no effect at all on the way things are going for the U.S. and its allies in Afghanistan?

	Party ID			
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Positive effect	31%	40%	31%	28%
Negative effect	10%	7%	10%	13%
No effect at all	30%	23%	32%	34%
Not sure	30%	30%	27%	25%

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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), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (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:
<http://www.visioncritical.com/record-of-accuracy>

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/>

- 30 -

**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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