



Contact: Thom Riehle  
 Tel: (202) 463-7300  
 email: thomas.riehle@ipsos-reid.com

For Immediate Release  
 September 12, 2001

## U.S. IPSOS-REID POLL

### Reaction to Terrorism Attacks:

**Confidence Shaken In Airport Security, American Landmarks And Tourist Attractions, And U.S. Anti-Terrorism Efforts;**

**Confidence Remains Strong In Military Defense, Emergency Response Plans, Law Enforcement And President Bush;**

**The Mixed Emotions Of Men And Women, And Their Differing Confidence That Perpetrators Will Be Caught;**

#### **An Act Of War. This Changes Everything**

*On the night after the terrorism attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center, September 11, 2001, Ipsos-Reid conducted a survey with a representative sample of 500 adults nationwide, by telephone beginning at 7:30 p.m. Eastern Time. The margin of error is 4.4%.*

(WASHINGTON, D.C.—September 12, 2001) The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon outside Washington, D.C. left Americans shaken in their confidence in three areas in particular. More than two-in-three Americans (68%) say their confidence in airport security has gone down as a result of yesterday’s events, and half (50%) are less confident about the safety of U.S. landmarks and tourist attractions, and almost half (47%) are less confident about U.S. anti-terrorism efforts, according to an Ipsos-Reid poll of Americans nationwide.

#### CONFIDENCE SHAKEN

How has your confidence in each of the following changed today—gone up, gone down, or not changed one way or the other? (Percentage who say their confidence in each has gone down.)

	All	Men	Women
Airport security	68%	65%	72%
The safety of U.S. landmarks and tourist attractions	50	47	53
U.S. anti-terrorism efforts	47	48	47





“Americans remain confident in their military defense, emergency response plans, personal safety from terrorist attack, law enforcement, and President Bush’s leadership,” reports Thomas Riehle, President, U.S. Public Affairs at Ipsos-Reid, the independent international polling firm. “Fewer than half remain confident in U.S. diplomatic relations and the support the U.S. gets from other countries around the world, however.”

CONFIDENCE IN LEADERSHIP AND INSTITUTIONS

How much confidence do you have in each of the following—a great deal, quite a bit, only some, very little, or none at all. (Percentage with a great deal or quite a bit of confidence in each)

	All	Men	Women
U.S. military defense	88%	89%	88%
Emergency response plans	81	80	82
Your own personal safety from terrorist attack	68	78	58
President Bush’s ability to handle a crisis such as this	64	69	59
Law enforcement agencies such as the FBI	62	62	62
President Bush’s handling of the job of President	60	65	55
U.S. diplomatic relations with the world	48	51	45
The support the U.S. gets from other countries around the world	45	43	47
U.S. anti-terrorism efforts	39	39	38
The safety of U.S. landmarks and tourist attractions	38	45	31
Airport security	19	20	18

Americans almost universally find themselves burdened by sorrow for the victims and their families—that is the dominant emotion of the day, according to the Ipsos-Reid poll. Men also feel anger and a desire for retribution. Women are more likely to express fear that there are more attacks to come, the poll reports. Men believe the perpetrators will be caught and brought to justice, but women have doubts.

EMOTIONS OF THE DAY

As you assess your feelings right now about what has happened, which one or two emotions do you feel most strongly at this moment? Which do you feel most strongly about? Which do you feel second most strongly? (TOTALS—results add to more than 100% due to multiple responses)

	All	Men	Women
Sorrow for the victims and their families	82%	75%	90%
Anger that someone did this to the U.S.	42	49	35
Wanting retribution against those who did this	34	46	22
Fear that there are more attacks to come	31	19	43
Concern about your own personal safety	6	7	6
Don’t know	1	1	1

SOME CONFIDENCE THAT PERPETRATORS WILL BE CAPTURED

How confident are you that the persons responsible for today’s terrorist attacks will be identified, captured, and brought to justice?

	All	Men	Women
Great deal of confidence	31%	40%	23%
Quite a bit of confidence	23	21	25
Only some	27	23	31
Very little	14	13	14
No confidence at all	4	2	6





Confident (Great deal/quite a bit)	55%	61%	48%
Not So Confident (Only some/little/none)	44	37	51

What happens next? Most Americans believe things will never just “return to normal”—rather, most Americans feel things have been fundamentally changed forever by yesterday’s events.

AN ACT OF WAR. THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING.

Of course it is impossible to know tonight what the long-term effects of today’s events will be. But looking ahead, do you tend to think:

The events are a turning point that will fundamentally change things forever . . . .	74%
Once these events pass, things will return to normal . . . . .	21
Both/Neither/Not sure. . . . .	5

Do you think this was an isolated terrorist incident, or an act of war against the U.S.?

An act of war against the U.S. . . . .	69%
Isolated terrorist incidence . . . . .	21
Both/Not sure. . . . .	11

