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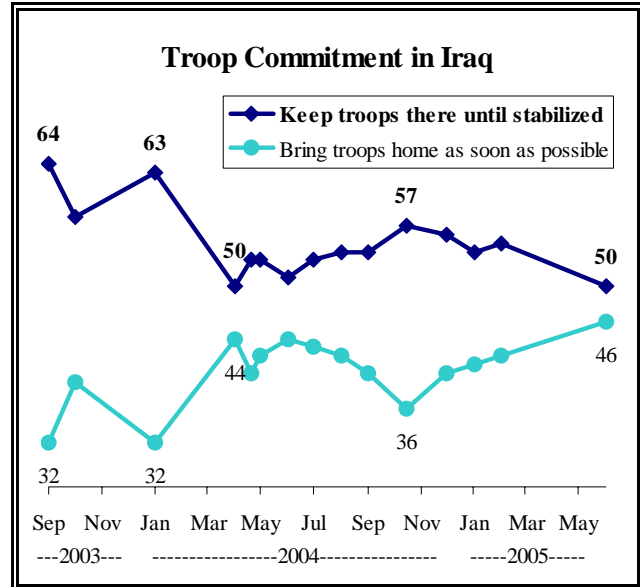
**Guantanamo Prisoner Mistreatment Seen as Isolated Incidents**  
**IRAQ NEWS INCREASES CALLS FOR TROOP WITHDRAWAL**

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**Guantanamo Prisoner Mistreatment Seen as Isolated Incidents**  
**IRAQ NEWS INCREASES CALLS FOR TROOP WITHDRAWAL**

The steady drip of negative news from Iraq is significantly undermining support for the U.S. military operation there. With the number of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq exceeding 1,700, there is widespread awareness of the rising American death toll. As a consequence, baseline public attitudes toward the war are gradually turning more negative. Support for an immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq continues to inch up – from 36% last October, to 42% in February, and 46% currently.



Calls for a troop withdrawal have been this high only during a brief period in the spring of 2004, following the intensification of the Iraqi insurgency and revelations of prisoner abuse by U.S. soldiers at Iraq’s Abu Ghraib prison. Moreover, the idea that the Iraq war could turn out to be another Vietnam, which the public decisively rejected last year, has developed increasing traction. About a third of Americans (35%) say Iraq will turn out to be another Vietnam, while 47% think the U.S. will accomplish its goals there.

In several surveys in 2004, Americans dismissed parallels between Iraq and Vietnam by about a two-to-one margin. Nearly all of the increase in the belief that the war in Iraq will turn out to be another Vietnam has come among those following news about Iraq very closely.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted June 8-12 among 1,464 Americans, finds the public highly attentive to news from Iraq and to the continuing reports of mistreatment of suspected terrorists at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. About half of Americans (49%) say they have heard a lot about such reports. By a fairly substantial margin (54%-34%), most believe the reports of prisoner mistreatment represent isolated instances of abuse rather than a wider pattern of prisoner mistreatment.

Public news interest in Iraq remained strong during a period in which coverage of the 30-year-old events of Watergate overshadowed reports on the war. The weekly Tyndall Report, which monitors the amount of TV news coverage devoted to specific stories, showed that during the week

of May 30 (prior to the survey field period), the three major broadcast networks devoted 50 minutes to the revelation that former FBI official Mark Felt was the Watergate source known as Deep Throat, and other related stories. By contrast, there was far less coverage of suicide bombings in Iraq (15 minutes) or military combat in the country (nine minutes).

Nonetheless, more than twice as many Americans say they followed events in Iraq very closely (41%) as tracked the Watergate stories very closely (16%). At the same time, however, there is some evidence that Americans are becoming less emotionally involved in the news from Iraq. More than four-in-ten (44%) say that people they know are becoming less involved emotionally with news of the conflict. That is the highest percentage expressing that view in the past year.

The public continues to demonstrate fairly broad awareness of the military death toll in Iraq; 54% answered correctly that there have been between 1,000 to 2,000 U.S. military casualties in Iraq. As is the case with news interest, there is a significant age difference in knowledge of the American death toll. Fewer than half of those ages 18-29 knew the range of U.S. casualties; majorities in other age groups knew the correct range.

	May 2004	Aug 2004	Jan 2005	June 2005
<i>People are becoming...</i>	%	%	%	%
Less emotionally involved	<b>26</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>44</b>
More emotionally involved	33	19	19	15
About the same	36	41	44	36
Mixed/Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>How many U.S. soldiers have been killed in Iraq?</i>	Apr 2004			June 2005
	%			%
Under 500	28			4
500 to 1,000	<b>55</b>			13
1,000 to 2,000	6			<b>54</b>
More than 2,000	4			24
Don't know	<u>7</u>			<u>5</u>
	100			100

<i>How many troops killed?</i>	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%
Under 1,000	25	19	12	7
<b>1,000-2,000</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>61</b>
Over 2,000	28	23	23	24
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100

***Prisoner Abuse Not Seen as Widespread***

In general, most Americans (54%) say the reports of prisoner mistreatment at Guantanamo do not represent a wider pattern of abuse. As expected, there is a large partisan gap in opinions on the issue, with more than three times as many Democrats as Republicans saying that the Guantanamo reports represent a wider pattern of prisoner mistreatment (45% vs. 14%).

However, there are substantial differences among Democrats over the extent of prisoner mistreatment. Conservative and moderate Democrats mostly view the reports of prisoner abuse as isolated cases; liberal Democrats, by about a two-to-one margin (65%-30%), believe they represent a broader pattern of mistreatment.

Age also is a factor in these attitudes. Young people are split over the extent of prisoner abuse, but people in other age groups, by fairly substantial margins, believe the reports of prisoner mistreatment at Guantanamo are isolated instances.

A plurality of Americans (39%) think the press is giving too much attention to reports of prisoner mistreatment at Guantanamo; 32% say the amount of press attention has been about right. Attitudes regarding the amount of news coverage of prisoner mistreatment are strongly associated with views of the issue.

***News Interest: Iraq, Social Security***

News about the current situation in Iraq is the top story over the past month in terms of public attentiveness (41% very closely). Nearly as many Americans (36%) say they followed reports on President Bush's Social Security proposal very closely; news interest in the president's plan has remained fairly stable since March.

	<u>Isolated incidents</u> %	<u>Wider pattern</u> %	<u>Neither/DK</u> %
Total	54	34	12=100
Men	56	34	10=100
Women	52	34	14=100
18-29	43	46	11=100
30-49	55	36	9=100
50-64	59	28	13=100
65+	56	25	19=100
White	57	31	12=100
Black	35	52	13=100
Hispanic	44	45	11=100
Republican	76	14	10=100
Democrat	43	45	12=100
Independent	45	44	11=100
Conserv Repub	77	12	11=100
Mod/Lib Repub	75	17	8=100
Cons/Mod Dem	52	35	13=100
Liberal Democrat	30	65	5=100

<i>Amount of coverage</i>	<u>Total</u> %	<i>Believe reports are...</i>	
		<u>Isolated incidents</u> %	<u>Wider pattern</u> %
Too much	39	<b>55</b>	16
Too little	24	10	<b>49</b>
Right amount	32	32	34
Don't know	5	3	1
	100	100	100

About one-in-five Americans (21%) paid very close attention to House passage of a bill allowing stem cell research; about the same number (20%) very closely followed reports of Newsweek's retraction of a story about U.S. soldiers flushing the Koran down a toilet as part of a prisoner interrogation.

The stories on the revealed identity of Deep Throat attracted very close interest from 16% of Americans. Attentiveness to this story was modest even among those old enough to have clear recollections of the Watergate scandal; only about a quarter of Americans ages 50 and older paid very close attention to the reports on Deep Throat.

Just 13% paid very close attention to the Michael Jackson trial as it moved into its final stages. And even fewer (10%) tracked news of the rejection by French and Dutch voters of the European Union Constitution.

<b>Iraq Still Tops Public Interest</b>	
<i>News about...</i>	<i>Following very closely</i>
	<i>%</i>
Situation in Iraq	41
Bush Social Security plan	36
Stem cell research legislation	21
Newsweek Koran story retraction	20
Medical marijuana decision	19
'Deep Throat' revelation	16
Michael Jackson trial	13
EU Constitution rejection	10

### **ABOUT THE SURVEY**

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a nationwide sample of 1,464 adults, 18 years of age or older, from June 8-12, 2005. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on Form 1 (N=726) or Form 2 (N=738) only, the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**JUNE 2005 NEWS INTEREST INDEX / MEDIA UPDATE**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**JUNE 8-12, 2005**  
**N=1,464**

**QUESTION 1 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

Q.2 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE. OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]

	Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/Ref
a. News about the current situation in Iraq	41	39	12	7	1=100
Mid-May, 2005	42	42	11	5	*=100
Mid-March, 2005	40	39	14	5	2=100
February, 2005	38	45	13	4	*=100
January, 2005	48	37	11	4	*=100
December, 2004	34	44	15	6	1=100
Mid-October, 2004	42	38	11	8	1=100
Early September, 2004	47	37	9	6	1=100
August, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
July, 2004	43	40	11	6	*=100
June, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
April, 2004	54	33	8	5	*=100
Mid-March, 2004	47	36	12	4	1=100
Early February, 2004	47	38	10	4	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	48	39	9	4	*=100
December, 2003	44	38	11	6	1=100
November, 2003	52	33	9	5	1=100
October, 2003	38	40	14	7	1=100
September, 2003	50	33	10	6	1=100
Mid-August, 2003	45	39	10	5	1=100
Early July, 2003	37	41	13	8	1=100
June, 2003	46	35	13	6	*=100
May, 2003	63	29	6	2	*=100
April 11-16, 2003 <sup>1</sup>	47	40	10	2	1=100
April 2-7, 2003	54	34	9	2	1=100
March 20-24, 2003	57	33	7	2	1=100
March 13-16, 2003 <sup>2</sup>	62	27	6	4	1=100
February, 2003	62	25	8	4	1=100
January, 2003	55	29	10	4	2=100
December, 2002	51	32	10	6	1=100
Late October, 2002	53	33	8	5	1=100
Early October, 2002	60	28	6	5	1=100
Early September, 2002	48	29	15	6	2=100

<sup>1</sup> From March 20 to April 16, 2003 the story was listed as "News about the war in Iraq."

<sup>2</sup> From October 2002 to March 13-16, 2003 the story was listed as "Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will take military action in Iraq." In Early September 2002 the story was listed as "Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will invade Iraq."

**Q.2 CONTINUED...**

		Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
b.	The revelation of the identity of the press informant know as Deep Throat from the Watergate scandal June, 1997 <sup>3</sup>	16 7	28 16	25 29	30 47	1=100 1=100
c.	Newsweek's retraction of a story about U.S. soldiers flushing the Koran down a toilet as part of prisoner interrogation	20	29	21	29	1=100
d.	The rejection by French and Dutch voters of the European Union Constitution	10	16	21	52	1=100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=726]:**

e.F1	George W. Bush's proposal to deal with the Social Security system	36	36	15	12	1=100
	Mid-May, 2005	36	36	17	10	1=100
	Mid-March, 2005	38	34	16	11	1=100
	February, 2005	31	36	20	13	*=100
	<b>Clinton:</b> February, 1998 <sup>4</sup>	24	38	26	12	*=100
	January, 1997	29	35	22	13	1=100
f.F1	The Michael Jackson trial	13	31	29	26	1=100
	Mid-March, 2005	12	23	32	32	1=100
	February, 2005	8	17	30	44	1=100
	November, 2003 <sup>5</sup>	29	27	22	20	2=100
	January, 1994	19	30	30	20	1=100
	December, 1993	15	25	27	32	1=100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=738]:**

g.F2	The passage of a bill in Congress allowing stem cell research <sup>6</sup>	21	35	21	22	1=100
	Early September, 2001	31	34	18	15	2=100
h.F2	The Supreme Court decision upholding the federal government's ban on the use of medical marijuana	19	34	21	25	1=100

**QUESTION 3 THROUGH 19 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

<sup>3</sup> In June 1997 the story was listed as "The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Watergate break-in."

<sup>4</sup> In February 1998, the story was listed as "Clinton's proposal to deal with the problem with Social Security." In January 1997 the story was listed as "Proposals to reform the Social Security System."

<sup>5</sup> In November 2003 the story was listed as "Recent charges of child molestation against Michael Jackson." In January 1994 and December 1993 the story was listed as "Michael Jackson's personal problems."

<sup>6</sup> In September 2001 the story was listed as "George W. Bush's decision on federal funding for stem-cell research."

Turning to the subject of Iraq ...

Q.20 Do you think the U.S. made the right decision or the wrong decision in using military force against Iraq?

	<u>Right decision</u>	<u>Wrong decision</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
June, 2005	47	45	8=100
February, 2005	47	47	6=100
January, 2005	51	44	5=100
December, 2004	49	44	7=100
November, 2004 (RVs)	48	41	11=100
Mid-October, 2004	46	42	12=100
Early October, 2004	50	39	11=100
Early September, 2004	53	39	8=100
August, 2004	53	41	6=100
July, 2004	52	43	5=100
June, 2004	55	38	7=100
May, 2004	51	42	7=100
Late April, 2004	54	37	9=100
Early April, 2004	57	35	8=100
Mid-March, 2004	55	39	6=100
Late February, 2004	60	32	8=100
Early February, 2004	56	39	5=100
Mid-January, 2004	65	30	5=100
Early January, 2004	62	28	10=100
December, 2003	67	26	7=100
October, 2003	60	33	7=100
September, 2003	63	31	6=100
August, 2003	63	30	7=100
Early July, 2003	67	24	9=100
May, 2003	74	20	6=100
<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>7=100</i>
<i>April 8-9, 2003</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>7=100</i>
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>8=100</i>
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>6=100</i>
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>5=100</i>
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>5=100</i>
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>7=100</i>
Late January, 1991	77	15	9=100

Q.21 How well is the U.S. military effort in Iraq going? **[READ IN ORDER]**

	<u>Very well</u>	<u>Fairly well</u>	<u>Not too well</u>	<u>Not at all well</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
June, 2005	9	41	27	19	4=100
February, 2005	14	40	25	17	4=100
January, 2005	9	39	29	20	3=100
December, 2004	10	40	28	18	4=100
Mid-October, 2004	13	38	26	17	6=100
Early September, 2004	12	40	26	18	4=100
August, 2004	12	41	28	16	3=100
July, 2004	13	42	26	16	3=100
June, 2004	16	41	25	14	4=100
May, 2004	10	36	32	19	3=100



Q.21 CONTINUED...	Very <u>well</u>	Fairly <u>well</u>	Not too <u>well</u>	Not at all <u>well</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
Late April, 2004	12	43	26	15	4=100
Early April, 2004	14	43	26	13	4=100
Mid-March, 2004	16	45	26	11	2=100
Early February, 2004	17	46	23	11	3=100
Mid-January, 2004	22	51	18	6	3=100
Early January, 2004	23	47	18	7	5=100
December, 2003	28	47	16	6	3=100
October, 2003	16	44	25	11	4=100
September, 2003	15	47	26	9	3=100
August, 2003	19	43	24	11	3=100
Early July, 2003	23	52	16	5	4=100
<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3=100</i>
<i>April 8-9, 2003</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2=100</i>
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3=100</i>
<i>March 25-April 1, 2003</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>5=100</i>
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6=100</i>
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7=100</i>

Q.22 Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until the situation has stabilized, or do you think the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible?

	Keep troops <u>in Iraq</u>	Bring troops <u>home</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
June, 2005	50	46	4=100
February, 2005	55	42	3=100
January, 2005	54	41	5=100
December, 2004	56	40	4=100
Mid-October, 2004	57	36	7=100
Early September, 2004	54	40	6=100
August, 2004	54	42	4=100
July, 2004	53	43	4=100
June, 2004 <sup>7</sup>	51	44	5=100
May, 2004	53	42	5=100
Late April, 2004	53	40	7=100
Early April, 2004	50	44	6=100
Early January, 2004	63	32	5=100
October, 2003	58	39	3=100
September, 2003	64	32	4=100

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<sup>7</sup> In June 2004 and earlier, the question was worded: "Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until a stable government is established there, or do you think the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible?"

Q.23 Thinking about the people you know, would you say they are becoming LESS emotionally involved in the news from Iraq than they were, MORE emotionally involved, or are the people you know about as involved as they had been?

		Jan <u>2005</u>	Aug <u>2004</u>	June <u>2004</u>	May <u>2004</u>
44	Less emotionally involved	35	36	35	26
15	More emotionally involved	19	19	23	33
36	About as involved as they have been	44	41	37	36
1	Mixed / Some more, some less (VOL.)	*	*	1	1
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100	100

Q.24 Some people are comparing Iraq to the war in Vietnam thirty years ago. Do you think Iraq will turn out to be another Vietnam, or do you think the U.S. will accomplish its goals in Iraq?

		Early Sept <u>2004</u>	June <u>2004</u>	Late April <u>2004</u>
35	Will be another Vietnam	29	29	25
47	U.S. will accomplish its goals	54	55	54
7	Too early to tell (VOL.)	4	4	6
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.25 Since the start of military action in Iraq, about how many U.S. soldiers have been killed? To the best of your knowledge, has it been under 500, 500 to 1000, 1000 to 2000, or more than 2000? **[INTERVIEWER: IF RESPONDENT GIVES A SPECIFIC NUMBER, ENTER IN THE APPROPRIATE RANGE WITHOUT PROMPTING. IF RESPONDENT SAYS "500", "1,000" OR "2,000", PROMPT "Would you say it is a little over or a little under \_\_\_\_?" "2,000", PROMPT "Would you say it is a little over or a little under \_\_\_\_?"]**

		April <u>2004</u> <sup>8</sup>
4	Under 500	28
13	500 to 1,000	55 (Correct)
54	1,000 to 2,000 (Correct)	6
24	More than 2,000	4
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>
100		100

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<sup>8</sup> In April 2004 the question included "Since the start of military action in Iraq, last March...."

**QUESTION 26 THROUGH 33 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

Thinking about the war on terrorism...

Q.34 How much, if anything, have you heard about reported mistreatment of prisoners held by the U.S. at Guantanamo Bay ... a lot, a little, or nothing at all?

		May <u>2004</u> <sup>9</sup>
49	A lot	58
40	A little	34
10	Nothing at all	7
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>
100		100

Q.35 Do you think these reports of prisoner mistreatment represent isolated incidents, or do you think they represent a wider pattern of prisoner mistreatment?

54	Isolated incidents
34	Wider pattern
1	Neither ( <b>VOL</b> )
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.36 Based on what you've seen or heard, do you think the press is giving too much, too little, or the right amount of attention to these reports?

		May <u>2004</u>
39	Too much	36
24	Too little	17
32	Right amount	39
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>
100		100

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<sup>9</sup>

In May 2004 question worded: "... reports of mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners by U.S. troops."