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GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

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SIX INSIGHTS ON THE WAR ON TERROR

- The threat terrorist organizations have been intimidated and badly damaged.
- The threat has morphed and remains a huge danger to the US and our allies.
- Global animosity toward US foreign policy and the Administration is universal, intense, and growing.
- Homeland security has improved immeasurably since 9/11 (not withstanding Katrina).
- Homeland security is grossly under-resourced, lacks congressional support, and remains incoherent.
- The proliferation of WMD nation states and technology remains the principal threat to the American people and our allies.

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ELEVEN OBSERVATIONS ON IRAQ

1st – The appointment of General Dave Petraeus as Joint Commander in Iraq and Ryan Crocker as Ambassador holds out promise of a change in strategy – to deal with the Iraq Civil War.

2nd – The morale, fighting effectiveness, and confidence of U.S. combat forces continue to be simply awe-inspiring. The "surge" in troops is a mistake. Our allies are leaving.

3rd - The Iraqi Army is real, growing, and much more willing to fight. However, they are very badly equipped. The Iraqi Police are a disaster.

4th – The Maliki Administration is dysfunctional. Governance is broken. The nation is gripped with fear and distrust.

5th – US Special Operations Forces have largely succeeded in neutralizing the foreign jihadist threat at a strategic and operational level.

6th - Inter-Agency Support for our U.S.- Iraq strategy is grossly inadequate. Only the Armed Forces and the CIA are at war.

7th – U.S. Detainee policy and conditions have improved dramatically. We may have over-corrected.

8th – U.S. combat forces need to reduce their footprint to get down to ten combat brigades by December 2007. We are going to break the US Army.

9th - Iraq cannot sustain economic recovery without enhanced, long-term U.S. budgetary support. Congressional support is lacking.

10th – Tough U.S. diplomatic rhetoric about confronting Iranian nuclear weapons with US military power is ill-advised.

11th – There is growing animosity by the US Armed Forces towards the Media.

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EIGHT OBSERVATIONS ON AFGHANISTAN

1st - Afghanistan has in five years moved from a situation of: mindless violence, cruelty, poverty, massive production of drugs, the absence of government, and isolation -- to a nation with a struggling democratic government; an exploding economy; a rapidly growing, disciplined Army; a vibrant free press, and active diplomatic and economic ties with its neighbors and the world.

2nd - There is little question that the level of fighting has intensified rapidly in the past year. Three years ago the Taliban operated in squad sized units. Last year they operated in company sized units (100+ men). This year the Taliban are operating in battalion sized units (400+ men). Fortunately – we have significantly increased US combat forces in Afghanistan. (Two infantry brigades). NATO now has lead for the entire effort. (37 nations and 36,000 troops – 15,000 US)

3rd - The early assumption by NATO of a lead role in supporting the Afghan government is a triumph. However, NATO is seriously under-resourced for the task at hand. The assumption of ISAF command by US General Dan McNeill will dramatically increase our command flexibility.

4th - Afghanistan is a Narco-state which produces more than 90% of the world's opium poppy (4,475 metric tons 2005) -- and is also the world's largest heroin producing and trafficking country. $3 Billion in criminal money. 900,000 drug users.

5th - The creation of 40,000 troops for ANA Forces in 48 months is an enormous success story. They are the most disciplined, and effective military force in Afghanistan's history. In general, these troops are very courageous, and aggressive in field operations. The Afghan Army is miserably under-resourced. Fortunately – new resources have been requested.

6th - The Afghan National Police are vital to establishing order in the urban and rural areas. (60,000 Afghan National Police ANP nominally exist). They are in a disastrous condition: badly equipped, corrupt, incompetent, poorly led and trained, and lacking adequate national police infrastructure. Fortunately – help is on the way in terms of US military (2500) and civilian mentors (1000), greatly increased equipment (12,000 vehicles), and huge new levels of funding. ($2 Billion)

7th - We must eradicate the opium crops each growing season -- and massively resource alternative economic development. Fortunately, the Administration has significantly increased their funding for this effort -- with State Dept. INL as the lead.

8th - We must re-think the relative importance we place on Afghanistan. This was the source country of international terrorism. If we fail and it slips back into anarchy -- it will again be a sanctuary for international terror.

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PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS FROM GUANTANAMO

1st – There is now zero physical or mental abuse of prisoners in this facility by either guard personnel or military intelligence interrogators.

2nd – Military interrogations are clearly in compliance with previously published U.S. military training standards.

3rd – Procedures to review the status of Detainees exist. 179 have been released. More than four hundred and fifty Detainees are now being held. At least one-third are extremely dangerous terrorists.

4th – Environmental conditions clearly exceed those provided to U.S. Military personnel on garrison active duty.

5th – Opportunity to worship is respected. There is uninterrupted prayer time.

6th – Medical care, dental care, mental health care, nutrition, and cultural sensitivity exceed the standards of U.S. first-line institutions.

7th – Detainees receive 4200 calories a day with 53 individually prepared special diet meals. Four different menus and three meals a day are offered. Halal and cultural dietary requirements are supported.

8th – All Detainees have significant opportunities for recreation (2-12 hours daily).

9th – Detainees are provided two full sets of clothing, have privacy in cell toilet facilities, and are permitted regular showers.

10th – Books and magazines are offered to all compliant Detainees. (All Detainees regardless of status have a Koran in their cell).

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WHAT IS IN OUR FUTURE?

1st – The US economy continues to dominate the global marketplace.

2nd – US – Japanese economic and political cooperation grows even more intense.

3rd – Saudi Arabia continues to modernize, maintains stability, dramatically improves capabilities of Armed Forces.

4th – Relations with Europe will dramatically improve with the next Administration.

5th – Relations with Russia, China, India, and Pakistan -- now immeasurably better than pre-9/11 -- will continue to strengthen.

6th – North Korea will come apart.

7th – Terrorists will strike at America.

8th – Crisis in Iraq -- uncertain outcome. (27,000 US killed and wounded -- $8 Billion per month).

9th – Showdown in Afghanistan – situation will improve this coming year with the massive new resources. ($10.6 Billion in economic and military aid).

10th – The death of Castro -- meltdown of repression – 500,000 refugees within 18 months.

11th – Confrontation with Chavez -- instability and oil.

12th – Iran goes nuclear – instability in the Persian Gulf.

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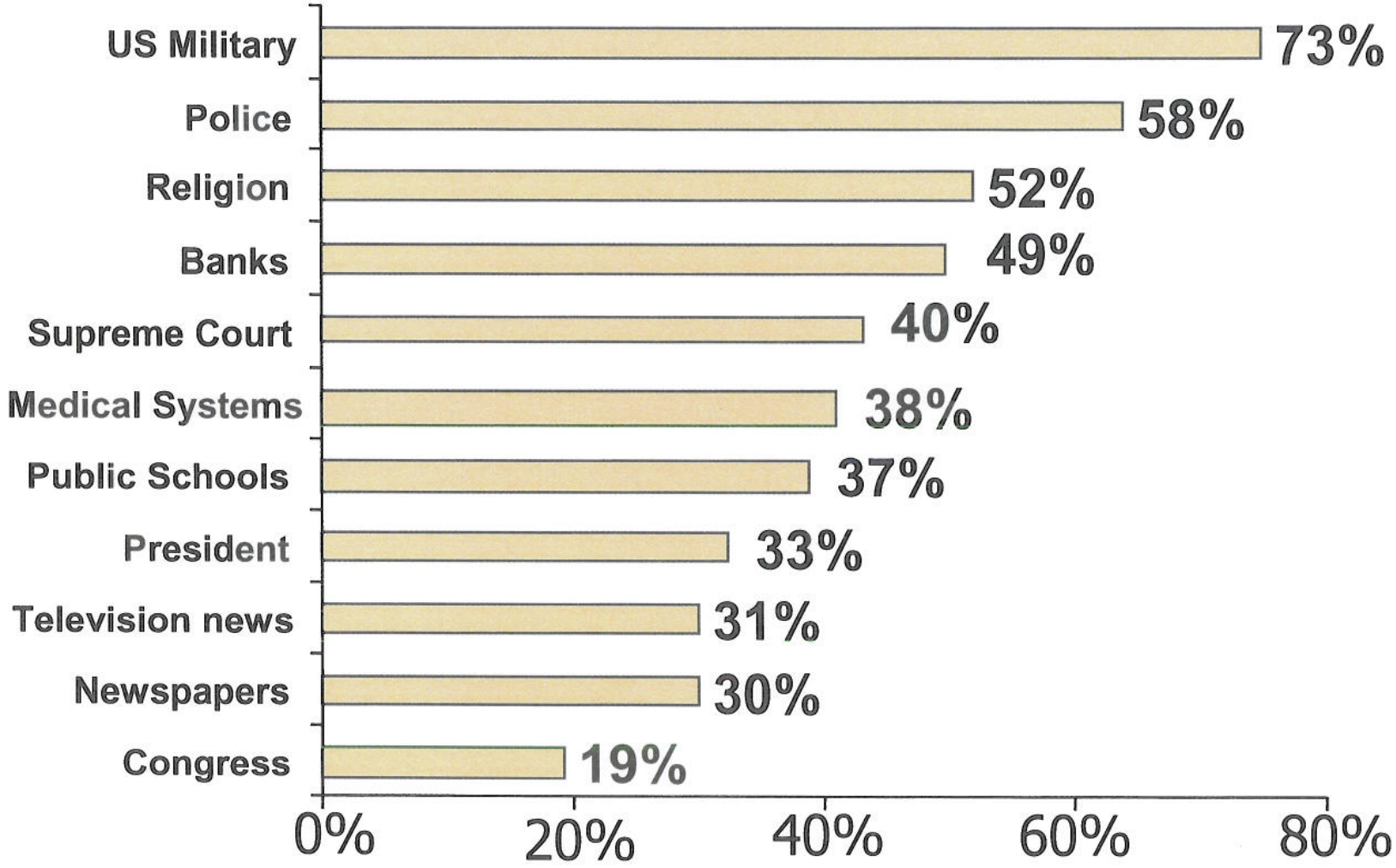
US MILITARY TOPS CONFIDENCE POLL



Source: The Gallup Organization, Poll dated June 4, 2006

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