

NEWSRelease

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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Overcovered: Protesters, Ex-Generals WAR COVERAGE PRAISED, BUT PUBLIC HUNGRY FOR OTHER NEWS

The public is paying close attention to the war and continues to give news organizations high marks for their coverage. But a sizable minority of Americans (39%) feel the news media is focusing too heavily on the war, and significant numbers believe the media is undercovering other major stories like the tax cut debate and the state of the U.S. economy.

When it comes to various aspects of the war, the public has clear ideas of what is being overcovered and undercovered. Four-in-ten

| War Coverage Obscures Other Stories | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| | % | % | Right amount | % | | | |
| War in Iraq | 39 | 4 | 55 | 2=100 | | | |
| Tax cut debate U.S. economy Budget deficit Dem. nomination "SARS" | 10 11 11 11 15 8 | 45 43 42 38 33 | 39 44 40 38 55 | 6=100 2=100 7=100 9=100 4=100 | | | |

Americans say the press is giving too much coverage to anti-war protesters, and almost as many (36%) feel the media has given too much attention to commentary by retired military officers. In contrast, three-in-ten say there has too little coverage of the cost of war (31%), the personal experiences of ordinary soldiers (30%) and civilian casualties in Iraq (28%).

The latest Pew Research Center war tracking survey of 912 Americans, conducted April 2-7, finds continuing strong support for military action in Iraq and a dramatic improvement in perceptions of how well the war is going. Over the past few days, seven-inten Americans say the U.S. made the right decision in going to war – a number that has remained steady since the war began. A 55% majority says the war is going very well, up from 39% at the end of March following first

| Coverage of the War | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------|------------|--|--|--|
| | Too | Too | Right | DK/ | | | |
| | much | <u>little</u> | amount | <u>Ref</u> | | | |
| | % | % | % | % | | | |
| Allied casualties | 15 | 20 | 63 | 2=100 | | | |
| Air war & bombings | 26 | 9 | 62 | 3=100 | | | |
| Military briefings | 21 | 12 | 62 | 5=100 | | | |
| Ground war | 24 | 16 | 58 | 2=100 | | | |
| Troops' experiences | 15 | 30 | 52 | 3=100 | | | |
| Iraqi civilian casualties | 17 | 28 | 51 | 4=100 | | | |
| Ex-military commentary | y 36 | 11 | 48 | 5=100 | | | |
| Cost of war | 25 | 31 | 41 | 3=100 | | | |
| Anti-war sentiment | 40 | 18 | 38 | 4=100 | | | |

reports of American casualties and other negative war news.

Most Americans (55%) feel the media has given the war the right amount of coverage, but those who say it has gotten too much coverage far outnumber the percentage who think the war has been undercovered (39%-4%). By contrast, significant numbers say there has been too little coverage of other significant issues facing the country, including debate about the president's proposed tax cuts (45% say there's too little coverage), the condition of the economy (43%), the federal budget deficit (42%), the race for the Democratic presidential nomination (38%), and the lung disease known as "SARS" (33%).

War Views Influence Feelings About Coverage

Views on what the press should be covering are strongly related to opinions about the war and to partisanship as well. Only one-third of war supporters say there is too much coverage of the conflict. But among those who think the U.S. made the wrong decision in going to war, 62% think the press is overdoing it. Many more opponents of the war than supporters say that all non-war subjects are getting too little attention. For example, two-thirds of opponents say there is too little coverage of the condition of the domestic economy, while just 35% of war supporters feel this way. Not surprisingly, a majority of Democrats (57%) say there has been too little coverage of the race for the Democratic presidential nomination. One-quarter of Republicans (26%) feel this way.

| War Opponents Want to Hear about Other Issues | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|--|--|--|
| (| _ | Wrong | | | |
| Too much coverage War in Iraq | % 33 | decision % 62 | | | |
| Too little coverage Tax cut plan | 40 | 64 | | | |
| U.S. economy Budget deficit Dem. nomination "SARS" | 35 35 32 31 | 67 68 59 38 | | | |

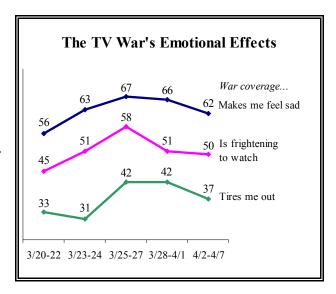
Similarly, war supporters and opponents differ on which aspects of the war itself have been overcovered and undercovered. Fully half (52%) of those who think the U.S. made the wrong decision in taking military action say there has been too little coverage of Iraqi civilian casualties, and 57% have heard too little about the cost of the war. Just 23% of war supporters want to hear more about the costs and only 22% want to hear more about Iraqi civilian casualties. Not surprisingly, war supporters have say the press is giving anti-war protests too much coverage, not too little, by a 48% to 11% margin, while those who think war was the wrong decision feel differently (42% say there has been too little coverage of anti-war sentiment, 17% too much).

While they disagree on most aspects of press coverage, war supporters and opponents have generally the same view of the level of commentary from retired military officers. By well over two-to-one, members of both groups say they have heard too much, not too little, from the "armchair generals."

The TV War

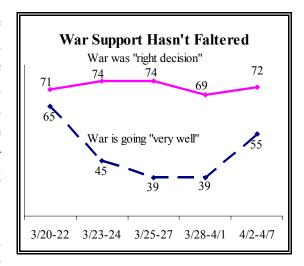
Public interest in the war in Iraq and attention to news coverage have been consistently high over the past two weeks. Over the weekend, 54% said they were following news about the war very closely, and another 34% were following fairly closely. As many as 39% go so far to say they feel as if they "can't stop watching news about the war."

The intense levels of information coming from Iraq have had immediate effects on the public's evaluation of the war's progress, as well as people's emotional states. The



percentage saying the military effort in Iraq was progressing "very well" dropped from 65% to 39% within the first week of the engagement, as news about Iraqi resistance to the ground war dominated the news, and has risen again to 55% in the last week as reports about the successful campaign against Bagdad became the central story.

Emotional reactions to the news have followed the same pattern in reverse. The proportion saying that watching TV coverage of the war made them feel sad or was frightening to watch peaked March 25-27 (at 67% and 58%, respectively) and has since fallen (to 62% and 50%, respectively) in the latest poll. Somewhat fewer (37%) say the war coverage tires them out than was the case last week (42%).



Despite the variable reactions to news coverage of the war, public support for the military

effort never faltered. Currently, 72% say military action in Iraq was the right decision, while 20% say it was the wrong decision. Support has not differed more than a few percentage points from this mark since the war began.

The president's job approval, both generally and specifically with respect to handling the war, has also remained steady in the face of changing news about how well the war effort is proceeding. Currently, 69% approve the Bush's job performance and 73% approve of his handling of the war.

Just under one-in-four (24%) say the U.S. and its allies have won the war in Iraq, while 74% say it is still too early to tell. But this should not be taken to mean that the American public is pessimistic about the war's outcome or progress. Currently, 55% say things are going very well in Iraq, while just 5% say things are not going well.

Neutral Coverage Preferred

The public strongly prefers neutral coverage of the war to coverage that takes an explicitly pro-American point of view. Nearly seven-in-ten (69%) say neutral coverage is better, while only about a quarter (23%) want coverage to be pro-American.

Somewhat more Americans say they prefer pro-American coverage now than did so before the war began (23% now, 16% in February). Opinion on this issue now is nearly the same as it was

during the first Persian Gulf War, when 71% favored neutral coverage, and 22% preferred a pro-American tilt. There was a greater desire for pro-American coverage during the war in Afghanistan, when three-in-ten said coverage should be pro-American.

War supporters are more likely to favor pro-American coverage than are war opponents, but the overwhelming majority in both groups want objective reporting. People who think the U.S. made the wrong

| No Propaganda, Please | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------|-----|--|--|--|
| | March | Nov | | | | |
| News coverage | <u> 1991</u> | 2001 | Now | | | |
| should be | % | % | % | | | |
| Pro-American | 22 | 30 | 23 | | | |
| Neutral | 71 | 64 | 69 | | | |
| Don't know | <u>7</u> | <u>6</u> | 8 | | | |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 | | | |

decision to take military action in Iraq overwhelmingly want news coverage to be neutral (82%), not pro-American (12%). Among those who think war was the right decision, 66% agree that the press should remain neutral. But war supporters are twice as likely as war opponents to say pro-American coverage is better (26%).

Favorable Reviews, But Some Say Media Is Too Critical

Since the war began, Americans have given news coverage a positive rating. In recent days (April 2-7), 74% of Americans say coverage is excellent (32%) or good (42%). Favorable ratings for news coverage were a bit higher in the first days of the war (80% positive March 20-22), but otherwise have remained in the low to mid-70% range.

Nearly a quarter of Americans (23%) feel war coverage has been too critical of the way the U.S. and its allies have been conducting the military campaign, more than twice as many who say the coverage has not been critical enough of the military (9%). Most people (62%) think news organizations have handled the coverage properly.

War supporters are generally satisfied with the coverage, but many more say it has been too

critical rather than not critical enough (26%-6%). War opponents are more divided, with slightly more saying the coverage is not critical enough rather than too critical (21%-20%). But majorities in both groups feel the tone of the coverage has been appropriate.

Embedded Journalists Seen As Fair

The public has had a favorable reaction to the practice of having reporters travel with U.S. troops in Iraq and file reports from the battlefield. Eight-in-ten think the reports from embedded journalists are fair and objective. The minority that disagrees is evenly divided between those who feel the embedded journalists are too critical of U.S. forces and those who think they take the side of the troops too much (7% each).

War opponents are the only group in which a significant minority raises objections to coverage from embedded journalists. Nearly one-one-in-five (18%) of those who think the U.S. made the wrong decision in attacking Iraq feel those journalists take the side U.S. troops too much. Seven-in-ten war opponents feel the reports are fair and objective, but that is significantly fewer than the number of war supporters who rate the coverage from embeddeds as fair and objective (85%).

In general, the public has a positive opinion of the practice of embedding reporters with military forces. Roughly six-in-ten (58%) believe embedded reporters are a good thing, while 34% have a negative view of the practice (See "TV Combat Fatigue on the Rise," March 28, 2003).

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for the *March-April War Tracking* survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 3,620 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period March 20-April 7, 2003. Results are reported separately for the periods of March 20-22 (N=903), March 23-24 (N=592), March 25-27 (N=539), March 28-April 1 (N=674), and April 2-7 (N=912). Most of this report is based on questions asked April 2-7.

For results based on March 20-22, March 28-April 1, and April 2-7, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 4 percentage points. For results based on March 23-24 and March 25-27, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 4.5 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.

The sample for this survey is a random digit sample of telephone numbers selected from telephone exchanges in the continental United States. The sample was released for interviewing in replicates, with fresh replicates introduced on each night of the tracking poll, and retired from the sample after five nights of interviewing. Non-response in telephone interview surveys produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population, and these subgroups are likely to vary also on questions of substantive interest. In order to compensate for these known biases and ensure that tracking trends are not unduly influenced by demographic variation across the field period, the sample data for each period of the tracking poll (March 20-22, 23-24, 25-27, March 28-April 1, and April 2-7) are weighted to approximate the demographic parameters derived from the most recently available Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (March 2002).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS MARCH-APRIL 2003 WAR TRACKING

FINAL TOPLINE
March 20-April 1, 2003
March 20-22, 2003 N=903
March 23-24, 2003 N=592
March 25-27, 2003 N=539
March 28-April 1, 2003 N=674
April 2-7, 2003 N=912

PRC1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? [IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]

| | <u>Approve</u> | Disapprove | Don't know |
|------------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------|
| April 2-7, 2003 | 69 | 25 | 6=100 |
| March 28-April 1, 2003 | 71 | 23 | 6=100 |
| March 25-27, 2003 | 70 | 24 | 6=100 |
| March 23-24, 2003 | 68 | 25 | 7=100 |
| March 20-22, 2003 | 67 | 26 | 7=100 |
| March 13-16, 2003 | 55 | 34 | 11=100 |
| February, 2003 | 54 | 36 | 10=100 |
| January, 2003 | 58 | 32 | 10=100 |
| December, 2002 | 61 | 28 | 11=100 |
| Early October, 2002 | 61 | 30 | 9=100 |
| Mid-September, 2002 | 67 | 22 | 11=100 |
| Early September, 2002 | 63 | 26 | 11=100 |
| Late August, 2002 | 60 | 27 | 13=100 |
| June, 2002 | 70 | 20 | 10=100 |
| April, 2002 | 69 | 18 | 13=100 |
| February, 2002 | 78 | 13 | 9=100 |
| January, 2002 | 80 | 11 | 9=100 |
| Mid-November, 2001 | 84 | 9 | 7=100 |
| Early October, 2001 | 84 | 8 | 8=100 |
| Late September, 2001 | 86 | 7 | 7=100 |
| Mid-September, 2001 | 80 | 9 | 11=100 |
| Early September, 2001 | 51 | 34 | 15=100 |
| August, 2001 | 50 | 32 | 18=100 |
| June, 2001 | 50 | 33 | 17=100 |
| April, 2001 | 56 | 27 | 17=100 |
| February, 2001 | 53 | 21 | 26=100 |

PRC2 How closely have you been following news about the war in Iraq – very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

| | Very | Fairly | Not too | Not at all | |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|------------|--------|
| | Closely | Closely | Closely | Closely | DK/Ref |
| April 2-7, 2003 | 54 | 34 | 9 | 2 | 1=100 |
| March 23-24, 2003 | 58 | 33 | 6 | 2 | 1=100 |
| March 20-22, 2003 | 58 | 33 | 7 | 1 | 1=100 |
| March, 2003 ¹ | 62 | 27 | 6 | 4 | 1=100 |

From October 2002 to March 2003, the story was listed as "Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will take military action in Iraq."

| PRC2 CONTINUED | Very Closely | Fairly <u>Closely</u> | Not too Closely | Not at all <u>Closely</u> | DK/Ref |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------|
| 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 ² | 48 | 29 | 15 | 6 | 2 = 100 |
| Early January, 1991 | 59 | 31 | 7 | 2 | 1=100 |

PRC3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is dealing with the war in Iraq?

| | <u>Approve</u> | Disapprove | DK/Ref. |
|---|----------------|------------|---------|
| April 2-7, 2003 | 73 | 21 | 6=100 |
| March 28-April 1, 2003 | 69 | 26 | 5=100 |
| March 25-27, 2003 | 73 | 23 | 4=100 |
| March 23-24, 2003 | 72 | 22 | 6=100 |
| March 20-22, 2003 | 70 | 23 | 7=100 |
| February, 2003 ³ | 56 | 37 | 7=100 |
| January, 2003 | 56 | 36 | 8=100 |
| Early October, 2002 | 56 | 34 | 10=100 |
| Mid-September, 2001 | 85 | 6 | 9=100 |
| Gallup: Late January, 1991 ⁴ | 84 | 11 | 5=100 |

PRC4 Do you think the U.S. made the right decision or the wrong decision in using military force against Iraq? **IF 1 'RIGHT DECISION' IN PRC4 ASK:**

PRC4a Which comes closer to your view **[ROTATE]:** You support going to war because you think it is the best thing for the U.S. to do; OR you are not sure if going to war is the best thing to do, but you support Bush's decision because he is president?

| | | -Marci | h 2003- | | | Late Jan |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---|-------------|
| <u>4/2-7</u> | <i>28-4/1</i> | <u>25-27</u> | <u>23-24</u> | <u> 20-22</u> | | <u>1991</u> |
| 72 | 69 | 74 | 74 | 71 | Right decision | 77 |
| 53 | 48 | 51 | 49 | 52 | Support because best thing for U.S. to do | |
| 16 | 18 | 20 | 22 | 15 | Support because Bush is president | |
| 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | Don't know/Refused | |
| 20 | 25 | 21 | 21 | 22 | Wrong decision | 15 |
| <u>8</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>7</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>8</u> |
| 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | | 100 |

In Early September 2002 the story was listed as "...U.S. will invade Iraq." In Early January 1991 the story was listed as "Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and the presence of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf."

In February, 2003 and earlier the question was worded "...handling the situation with Iraq." In Mid-September, 2001 the question was worded "...dealing with the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington."

⁴ Gallup trend was worded "...George Bush is handling the situation in the Persian Gulf region."

ASK ALL: PRC5 How well is the U.S. military effort in Iraq going? [**READ**]

| March 2003 | | | | | | Early Nov | Oct 15-21 | Oct 10-14 |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| <u>4/2-7</u> | <u> 28-4/1</u> | <u>25-27</u> | <i>23-24</i> | <u> 20-22</u> | | 2001^{5} | <u>2001</u> | <u>2001</u> |
| 55 | 39 | 39 | 45 | 65 | Very well | 30 | 38 | 45 |
| 37 | 46 | 46 | 41 | 25 | Fairly well | 45 | 45 | 35 |
| 3 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 2 | Not too well | 12 | 9 | 6 |
| 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | Not at all well | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| <u>3</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> | Don't know/Refused | 9 | <u>6</u> | 10 |
| 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | | $1\overline{0}0$ | $1\overline{00}$ | 100 |

PRC6 In general, how would you rate the job the press has done in covering the war in Iraq...excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

| | | | Only | | Don't |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Excellent | Good | <u>Fair</u> | <u>Poor</u> | Know |
| April 2-7, 2003 | 32 | 42 | 15 | 9 | 2=100 |
| March 28-April 1, 2003 | 32 | 40 | 16 | 9 | 3=100 |
| March 25-27, 2003 | 34 | 41 | 16 | 7 | 2=100 |
| March 23-24, 2003 | 34 | 42 | 14 | 5 | 5=100 |
| March 20-22, 2003 | 42 | 38 | 11 | 4 | 5=100 |
| December, 2001 ⁶ | 32 | 45 | 15 | 5 | 3=100 |
| Mid-November, 2001 | 30 | 47 | 16 | 5 | 2 = 100 |
| Mid-October, 2001 | 32 | 42 | 17 | 6 | 3=100 |
| Early October, 2001 | 48 | 37 | 10 | 3 | 2 = 100 |
| Mid-September, 2001 | 56 | 33 | 6 | 3 | 2 = 100 |
| March, 1991 | 45 | 38 | 11 | 5 | 1=100 |
| Late January, 1991 | 36 | 42 | 15 | 5 | 2 = 100 |

WAR10 In your opinion, which is better... that news coverage of a war be pro-American or that news coverage of a war be neutral?

| | | | Feb | Mid-Nov | March |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| <u>4/2-7</u> | <i>3/28-4/1</i> | | <u>2003</u> | <u>2001</u> | <u> 1991</u> |
| 23 | 25 | Pro-American | 16 | 30 | 22 |
| 69 | 68 | Neutral | 78 | 64 | 71 |
| <u>8</u> | <u>_7</u> | No opinion/Don't know/Refused | <u>6</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> |
| 100 | 100 | | 100 | 100 | 100 |

⁵ In 2001 the question was worded "How well is the MILITARY effort to destroy the terrorist groups going?"

From Mid-October to December 2001, the question was worded "...covering the terrorist attacks and the war against terrorism." In Early October and Mid-September 2001 the question was worded "...covering the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon?" In March and Late January 1991 the question was worded "...covering the War in the Gulf."

WAR11 Thinking about press coverage of the war thus far, do you think the press has been too critical of the way the allies are conducting the military campaign, not critical enough, or do you think that the press has handled this about right?

| <u>4/2-7</u> | <i>3/28-4/1</i> | |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 23 | 22 | Too critical |
| 9 | 8 | Not critical enough |
| 62 | 62 | About right |
| <u>6</u> | 8 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | 100 | |

PRC8 Have you yourself felt depressed by the war in Iraq?

| | | | | | | Early | Mid- | Early | Mid- | Late |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|------|----------|----------|------|
| | | -Marc | h 2003 | | | Nov | Oct | Oct | Sept | Jan |
| <u>4/2-7</u> | <i>28-4/1</i> | <i>25-27</i> | <i>23-24</i> | <i>20-22</i> | | 2001^{7} | 2001 | 2001 | 2001 | 1991 |
| 36 | 41 | 40 | 35 | 30 | Yes | 24 | 31 | 42 | 71 | 50 |
| 63 | 58 | 59 | 63 | 69 | No | 75 | 66 | 57 | 27 | 49 |
| <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>1</u> | Don't know/Ref. | <u>1</u> | 3 | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | 1 |
| 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

PRC11 I'd like to ask you a few questions about how you feel when you are watching coverage of the war on TV.8 For each statement that I read tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree.

[ROTATE. READ STATEMENT.]

| ĮΚ | OTATE, READ STATEMENT. | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|--------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|---------|
| • | • | Strongly | | | Strongly | |
| | | <u>Agree</u> | Agree A | <u>Disagree</u> | <u>Disagree</u> | DK/Ref |
| a. | I can't stop watching news | | | | | |
| | about the war | | | | | |
| | April 2-7, 2003 | 12 | 27 | 49 | 11 | 1 = 100 |
| | March 28-April 1, 2003 | 8 | 24 | 51 | 14 | 3=100 |
| | March 25-27, 2003 | 14 | 27 | 47 | 10 | 2=100 |
| | March 23-24, 2003 | 11 | 31 | 46 | 9 | 3=100 |
| | March 20-22, 2003 | 12 | 27 | 45 | 12 | 4=100 |
| | Mid-October, 2001 | 17 | 32 | 39 | 8 | 4=100 |
| | Mid-September, 2001 | 24 | 39 | 30 | 4 | 3=100 |
| | Late January, 1991 | 11 | 39 | 4 | 8 | 2=100 |
| b. | I feel sad when watching | | | | | |
| | April 2-7, 2003 | 18 | 44 | 29 | 6 | 3=100 |
| | March 28-April 1, 2003 | 21 | 45 | 26 | 6 | 2=100 |
| | March 25-27, 2003 | 23 | 44 | 24 | 7 | 2=100 |
| | March 23-24, 2003 | 20 | 43 | 28 | 6 | 3=100 |
| | March 20-22, 2003 | 15 | 41 | 30 | 11 | 3=100 |
| | Mid-September, 2001 | 47 | 45 | 5 | 1 | 2 = 100 |
| | Late January, 1991 | 22 | 52 | 2: | 5 | 1=100 |
| | | | | | | |

In Early November and Mid-October 2001 the question was worded "...concerns about terrorist attacks or the war against terrorism?" In Early October and Mid-September 2001, the question was worded "...the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon?"

⁸ In 2001 the question was worded "...coverage of terrorism on TV."

| PRC11 CONTINUED | Strongly Agree | Agree | <u>Disagree</u> | Strongly Disagree | DK/Ref |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-------|-----------------|----------------------|---------|
| c. It's frightening to watch | <u> </u> | | | | |
| April 2-7, 2003 | 14 | 36 | 38 | 10 | 2=100 |
| March 28-April 1, 2003 | 13 | 38 | 40 | 7 | 2=100 |
| March 25-27, 2003 | 17 | 41 | 32 | 8 | 2=100 |
| March 23-24, 2003 | 13 | 38 | 38 | 8 | 3=100 |
| March 20-22, 2003 | 12 | 33 | 38 | 13 | 4=100 |
| Mid-October, 2001 | 26 | 43 | 26 | 3 | 2=100 |
| Mid-September, 2001 | 33 | 44 | 19 | 2 | 2=100 |
| Late January, 1991 | 17 | 50 | 32 | 2 | 1=100 |
| d. It tires me out to watch | | | | | |
| April 2-7, 2003 | 11 | 26 | 50 | 12 | 1 = 100 |
| March 28-April 1, 2003 | 11 | 31 | 46 | 10 | 2=100 |
| March 25-27, 2003 | 10 | 32 | 43 | 13 | 2=100 |
| March 23-24, 2003 | 7 | 24 | 57 | 11 | 1=100 |
| March 20-22, 2003 | 7 | 26 | 50 | 14 | 3=100 |
| Mid-September, 2001 | 12 | 33 | 43 | 8 | 4=100 |
| Late January, 1991 | 6 | 28 | 64 | 1 | 2=100 |
| e. The war doesn't seem real | | | | | |
| April 2-7, 2003 | 8 | 19 | 50 | 22 | 1=100 |
| March 28-April 1, 2003 | 7 | 21 | 50 | 20 | 2=100 |
| March 25-27, 2003 | 9 | 22 | 46 | 21 | 2=100 |
| March 23-24, 2003 | 6 | 17 | 51 | 23 | 3=100 |
| March 20-22, 2003 | 8 | 21 | 45 | 23 | 3=100 |
| Late January, 1991 | 7 | 26 | 66 | 5 | 1=100 |

ASK APRIL 4-7, 2003 ONLY [N=595]: WAR14 Do you think the U.S. and its allies have won the war in Iraq, or is it too early to tell?

- 24
- 74
- Have won Too early to tell Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)** <u>2</u> 100

ASK NWS1-4 APRIL 2-7, 2003 ONLY [N=912]:

NWS1 As I read a short list of issues and topics, please tell me if you think the press is giving it too much coverage, too little coverage, or about the right amount of coverage. First, [ROTATE]. Is the press giving this too much, too little, or about the right amount of coverage?

| | | Too much | | About the | DV/D of |
|----|--|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| a. | News about the war in Iraq | coverage 39 | coverage 4 | right amount 55 | DK/Ref 2=100 |
| b. | The debate about the president's plan to cut taxes | 10 | 45 | 39 | 6=100 |
| c. | The condition of the U.S. economy | 11 | 43 | 44 | 2=100 |
| d. | The federal budget deficit | 11 | 42 | 40 | 7=100 |
| e. | The lung disease called "SARS" that has spread from Asia | 8 | 33 | 55 | 4=100 |
| f. | The race for the Democratic presidential nomination | 15 | 38 | 38 | 9=100 |

NWS2 Now thinking specifically about the war in Iraq, please tell me if you think the press is giving too much, too little, or about the right amount of coverage to... [ROTATE]?

| | | Too much | Too little | About the | |
|----|--|----------|------------|--------------|--------|
| | | coverage | coverage | right amount | DK/Ref |
| a. | Ground troops in action in Iraq | 24 | 16 | 58 | 2=100 |
| b. | Reports about the personal experiences of soldiers | 15 | 30 | 52 | 3=100 |
| c. | The air war and the bombardment of Baghdad | 26 | 9 | 62 | 3=100 |
| d. | Allied troop casualties | 15 | 20 | 63 | 2=100 |
| e. | Iraqi civilian casualties | 17 | 28 | 51 | 4=100 |
| f. | Briefings by Pentagon and military officials | 21 | 12 | 62 | 5=100 |
| g. | Commentary from former military officers | 36 | 11 | 48 | 5=100 |
| h. | Anti-war sentiment in the United States | 40 | 18 | 38 | 4=100 |
| i. | How much the war is going to cost | 25 | 31 | 41 | 3=100 |

NWS4 Do you think that reporters who are traveling with the troops in Iraq are taking the side of these troops too much, are being too critical of the troops they're traveling with, or are they being fair and objective in their reporting?

100

⁷ Taking the side of the troops too much

⁷ Too critical

⁸¹ Fair and objective

⁵ Don't know/Refused (VOL.)