



**Americans on Defense Spending and the War on Terrorism**  
A PIPA/Knowledge Networks Poll

August 2, 2002

PIPA-Knowledge Networks Poll  
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Questionnaire

Dates of Survey: July 19-30, 2002  
Sample Size: 1352 Respondents

Margin of Error: Full Sample +/-2.7%  
Half Sample +/-3.8%

[Half sample A]

Q1. Here is a proposal that Congress is considering. Please select whether you favor or oppose it - increasing defense spending.

Favor	66%
Oppose	33
(No answer)	1

[Half sample B]

Q2. There is much discussion as to the amount of money the government in Washington should spend for national defense and military purposes. How do you feel about this? Do you think we are spending...

Too much	24%
About the right amount	52
Too little	24
(No answer)	1

Q3. How much of the defense budget do you think goes toward things that are necessary for fighting terrorism?

A little	19%
Some	54
A lot	26
All	1
(No answer)	-

Q4. Let's suppose the defense budget is increased. Because there is no longer any budget surplus, the money must come from some other source. Would you prefer to see the government pay for this by:  
[order randomized]

Running a deficit	21%
Borrowing from the Social Security Trust Fund	2
Delaying those tax cuts that have not yet gone into effect	69

Cutting spending on domestic programs like education	8
Other (volunteered)	1
(No answer)	1

[Half sample A]

Q5. For the year 2002, the United States is spending about 331 billion dollars on defense. How much would you like to see the US spend on defense in 2003?

Mean	300 billion
Median	331 billion
Spend more	40%
Spend same	15
Spend less	38
(No answer)	9

[Half sample B]

Q6. For the year 2002, the United States is spending about 331 billion dollars on defense, while the countries of the European Union combined are spending about 125 billion dollars on defense.

[Note: respondents were able to click on a box revealing a list of EU member countries.]

a. How much would you like to see the United States spend on defense in 2003?

Mean	267 billion
Median	300 billion
Spend more	29%
Spend same	10
Spend less	55
(No answer)	6

b. How much would you like to see the countries of the European Union spend on defense in 2003?

Mean	209 billion
Median	200 billion
Spend more	66%
Spend same	10
Spend less	18
(No answer)	7

Q7. The following questions will ask about different parts of the defense budget. The first area is spending on military personnel for salaries, housing and other benefits. Would you like to see this part of the defense budget...

Increased	44%
Decreased	7
Kept about the same	49
(No answer)	1

Q8. What about areas of the defense budget that support the military's ability to fight terrorism, such as intelligence or Special Forces? Would you like to see this part of the defense budget...

Increased	61%
Decreased	6
Kept about the same	33
(No answer)	-

Q9. What about the rest of the defense budget that is NOT for military personnel or necessary for fighting terrorism, such as for submarines or nuclear weapons? Would you like to see this part of the defense budget...

Increased	18%
Decreased	31
Kept about the same	51
(No answer)	1

Q10. If the government decides to increase spending in the coming year on the military's ability to fight terrorism, do you think that to do this...[choices rotated]

The government can safely shift funds from other areas of the defense budget	62%
It is necessary for the government to increase defense spending overall	37
(No answer)	1

Q11. Since September 11, some people have called for increasing defense spending to improve America's ability to defend against terrorist attacks and to strike terrorist targets. Other people have called for increasing foreign aid to build goodwill toward the US and to reduce the poverty that can breed terrorists.

Imagine that \$100 of your tax money has been reassigned to increase spending on addressing the problem of terrorism, but you can say how much of this increase goes to defense spending and how much of it goes to foreign aid. How much of the \$100 would you assign to defense spending and how much to foreign aid? Please enter in numbers that total to \$100.

	Mean*	Median	No Answer
Amount for Defense Spending	\$72	\$75	1%
Amount for Foreign Aid	\$29	\$25	7%

\*Does not equal \$100 due to rounding

Q12. Please think about how much the US should spend on defense as compared to countries that are its potential enemies. For discussion's sake, let's include as potential enemies Russia, China, North Korea, Iraq, Iran, and Libya. Here are some possible levels that have been suggested. Please select the one that makes the most sense to you.

The US should spend a bit more than its most powerful potential enemy	45%
The US should spend about as much as all of its potential enemies combined	36

The US should spend about twice as much as its potential enemies combined	18
(No answer)	2

Q13. Right now, the size of US defense budget is based on the need for the US to have the capability to fulfill commitments it has made to protect a number of other countries if they are attacked. Here are three positions people have taken on US defense spending. Please select which one you agree with most.

The US should only spend enough to protect itself, but not to protect other countries	10%
The US should spend enough so that it can protect itself and other countries all on its own	11
The US should only spend enough to protect itself and to join in efforts to protect countries together with allies or through the UN	77
(No answer)	2

Q14. In politics today do you think of yourself as...[list alternately reverse ordered]

Republican	22%
Leaning towards Republican	10
Independent	25
Leaning towards Democrat	10
Democrat	28
Other	5

Q15. Education

Less than high school	16%
High school graduate	32
Some college	28
College graduate	24

Q16. Age

18-29	22%
30-44	31
45-59	26
60+	22

Q17. Region

Northeast	19%
Midwest	23
South	36
West	23

Q18. Gender

Male	48%
Female	52