



From: Jim Williams, Public Policy Polling®

To: Interested Parties

Subject: Americans Oppose Military Action Against North Korea, Strongly Support Diplomacy, Distrust Trump

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A new Public Policy Polling survey, commissioned by VoteVets, shows that the American public is paying close attention to the situation with North Korea, are fearful that we are on a path to war and disapprove of President Trump's handling of the situation. There is strong agreement across party lines that diplomacy, including direct talks with North Korea, should be tried before any military action is launched.

Key findings from the survey include:

- Americans are paying close attention to the news surrounding North Korea – 63% say they are paying “a lot of attention.” 79% think we’re either “very close” or “somewhat close” to going to war with North Korea. 82% are “very fearful” or “somewhat fearful” that if the US struck North Korea militarily, the North Koreans would respond by launching nuclear weapons at the US.
- A plurality of voters – 43% - say that they oppose the use of ground troops to destroy North Korea’s nuclear weapons program. Instead, fully 75% of voters (and 68% of Republicans) want to exhaust all diplomatic means to avoid a war, and 86% (80% of Republicans) say that direct talks with North Korea should be tried before taking any military action. A majority of 57% also say that the US should not engage in preemptive military action towards North Korea if South Korea opposes it.
- 53% of voters disapprove of President Trump’s job performance generally compared to just 40% who do approve. When it comes to North Korea, only 41% approve of Trump’s handling of the situation compared to 46% who disapprove.



- 53% of voters (including a plurality of 42 percent of Republicans) say we're more likely to go to war with Donald Trump as President compared to if Hillary Clinton was President, compared to just 24% who say we're less likely. And voters say they would not trust intelligence from the Trump Administration that would be used to make a case for military action – 41% of voters say they wouldn't believe the intelligence “at all” and only 21% say they'd believe it “a great amount.”
- On other big matters of the day, voters say that Congress would be right to consider impeachment if Trump fired investigator Robert Mueller and pardoned conspirators by a 56-34 margin, with even 27% of Republicans agreeing. Voters also oppose Trump's ban on transgender members of the military by a 69-22 margin, with a plurality of Republicans agreeing (48-39).

Overall the poll findings show that Trump is badly out of step with American voters when it comes to military matters, particularly with respect to North Korea. Voters don't want “fire and fury” – they want sensible diplomacy.

PPP surveyed 948 voters from August 9-10, 2017, on behalf of VoteVets. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.2% 80% of participants, selected through a list based sample, responded via the phone, while 20% of respondents who did not have landlines conducted the survey over the internet through an opt-in internet panel.