Soldiers, Pollsters, and International Crises

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Replication Instructions

All analysis presented in the article and manuscript was conducted using R (version 4.0.2) on the Mac Mojave Operating System (10.14.6).

R code for analysis/replication is saved as "Military and Public Opinion_Replication.R" and data are saved as "DataOfficers_Replication.csv." A codebook that describes variable names and coding is included in Appendix B.

Variable Creation

Lines 45 through 66 of the replication code include code for the creation of "rank" and "Air Force" variables. These variables are used in subsequent analysis.

Main Findings

Lines 74-79. Code used to calculate the main findings of the paper (i.e., the percentage of respondents supporting or opposing launching the military operation within each group). Also includes code for a chi-squared test.

Lines 86-91. Code used for the ordinary least squares models presented in Table 1 of the appendix.

Lines 94-99. Code used to conduct chi-square test between Air Force and non-Air Force respondents.

Analysis of Justifications

Lines 104-109. Code used to build table "JustificationID" coding by treatment condition. NB: Coding guide with instructions research assistants used to code the free response justifications into Justification ID codes is presented in Appendix B.

Lines 111-112. Intercoder reliability check used to check correlation between justification coding by two researchers.

Analysis of data on "How much do military officers consider public opinion?"

Lines 120-121. Code used to calculate percentage of respondents who selected each option (Five point Likert scale from "Not at all (1)" to "Very large extent (5)".)

NB: These results are presented in the text of the main article.

Lines 123-128. Comparison of mean levels of consideration across the experimental conditions.

Analysis of "Reasons for considering public opinion"

Lines 131-192 include code that analyzes "How important are each of the following reasons for considering public opinion?" The reasons are: "public support is needed to carry out successful military operations; taking actions that run counter to public opinion jeopardizes the military's reputation; the military carries out the policies of elected leaders who are responsive to public opinion; and, the military should carry out the will of the public."

The code produces both percentages and means (across the full sample and by treatment group to ensure there are no systematic differences between respondents in each of the experimental conditions).

The percentages are used to construct Table 2 (main text) and the table in Appendix 2.3. The means are used to construct Table 6 (appendix). NB. In table 2, I collapse "not at all important" and "slightly important" into one column by adding the percentages of respondents in each category. I collapse "very important" and "extremely important" into another. Table 6 in the appendix does not collapse these categories.

Balance and Randomization Checks

Lines 198-230. Code for randomization and balance checks. Used to construct Tables 3 and 4 in Appendix A (notes in code identify which code is used to produce each table).

Manipulation Check

Lines 235-236. Code for manipulation check. Used to construct Table 5 in Appendix A.