Consent Form

You are about to participate in a training exercise that includes a battle simulation and physical fitness test. Embedded in the simulation is a research survey titled “Factors of Military Effectiveness” administered by two researchers affiliated with the Korean Army Academy at Yeongcheon, Joon Hyuk Chung and Hui Seong Park, and a researcher from UC San Diego in the United States, Michael Joseph. The research protocol is approved by the Chung Seong Dae Institute and the Institutional Review Board of UC San Diego.

There are no foreseeable risks from the research component introduced into the simulation. All answers are anonymous and we do not collect any identifying information. If you have questions about this project or if you have a research-related problem, you may contact the researcher, Joon Hyuk Chung via email (joon0221@kaay.ac.kr). If you have any questions concerning your rights as a research subject, you may contact the UC San Diego Office of IRB Administration at irb@ucsd.edu or (+1) 858-246-4777.

We cannot tell you every detail of this study ahead of time, but if you are willing to participate under these conditions, we will explain the procedure to you fully after your participation, and you will have the right to withdraw your consent at that time. If you withdraw your consent, your personal information will be deleted.

If you do not consent to participate in the research component of this exercise, please return your file to the administrator and he will give you a different battle simulation to complete. Whether you participate in the research component or not, the exercise will be almost identical and take the same amount of time. Choosing not to participate or withdrawing will result in no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are entitled. You are free to skip any question that you choose.

If you consent to participate in the research please continue with the file you were presented. Doing so will help us understand decision making in battle, which will enhance our capacity to fight effectively.

Instructions:

Soldiers are allowed some discretion over how they fight to manage the changing nature of war on the battlefield. We are interested in learning about how you exercise that discretion.

We will present you with a particular scenario where you are called to battle. We then present you with specific battlefield choices you could be asked to make as a Junior Officer. All the available choices are lawful. There are no right or wrong answers. However, the scenarios are designed to mimic tradeoffs you will face during battle and every choice has costs and benefits.

Your answers are anonymous. We record whether you return the survey or not. But we do not know who returned which survey.

Take this seriously. We will use the collection of answers as a whole to improve the effectiveness of the South Korean military.

[Treatment Group 1: Partisan Agreement x Aligned with Incumbent Party]

The Call to Battle

Imagine that it is 2030. Political, social and economic conditions in South Korea are roughly the same as they were in 2024. The two major political parties are still the Democratic Party of Korea and the People Power Party. At this time the party that you most commonly align with is in power.

You wake up to the news that the president has just declared war and you will be deployed. The context that led to this event is as follows.

Five days ago, Jong Un Kim, the Supreme Leader of North Korea, died of a heart attack. The North Korean regime collapsed. Different factions within the North Korean military started to mobilize. It is not clear who controls North Korea's nuclear facilities. Riots broke out across North Korea.

Three days ago, the People's Republic of China deployed a large conventional force to Pyongyang. It is not clear what China's intentions are. The Chinese President stated that he deployed forces to stabilize North Korea and manage their nuclear facilities. He argued that given the scope of the problem, China is uniquely capable of containing the situation. Some analysts believe this is likely China's intentions. But other analysts believe it is a pre-text. They argue China's actions are the first step to the permanent Chinese occupation of North Korea.

This morning, the South Korean president, who is affiliated with the party you most commonly align with, declared war against China. Addressing the military directly he stated, "This war is core to our national interest. If we do not resist China now, China will consolidate power, and we will never achieve our core national goal of Korean unification."

The opposition party offered the President their full support. In their own statement, the leader of the opposition asserted,

"We fully endorse the President's declaration of war because we agree that this war serves the South Korean national interest of unification. Above all else, South Korea's interest is best served by not letting China deploy its forces to the Korean Peninsula. We must deal with problems within our territory by ourselves."

To summarize:

- The president has ordered you to war against China in North Korea. You will deploy tomorrow.
- The president, who is a member of the party you typically support, has stated that the conflict serves the national interest.
- The opposition party agrees and supports your deployment.

[Treatment Group 2: Partisan Agreement x Aligned with Opposition Party]

The Call to Battle

Imagine that it is 2030. Political, social and economic conditions in South Korea are roughly the same as they were in 2024. The two major political parties are still the Democratic Party of Korea and the People Power Party. At this time the party that you most commonly align with is not in power.

You wake up to the news that the president has just declared war and you will be deployed. The context that led to this event is as follows.

Five days ago, Jong Un Kim, the Supreme Leader of North Korea, died of a heart attack. The North Korean regime collapsed. Different factions within the North Korean military started to mobilize. It is not clear who controls North Korea's nuclear facilities. Riots broke out across North Korea.

Three days ago, the People's Republic of China deployed a large conventional force to Pyongyang. It is not clear what China's intentions are. The Chinese President stated that he deployed forces to stabilize North Korea and manage their nuclear facilities. He argued that given the scope of the problem, China is uniquely capable of containing the situation. Some analysts believe this is likely China's intentions. But other analysts believe it is a pre-text. They argue China's actions are the first step to the permanent Chinese occupation of North Korea.

This morning, the South Korean president, who is not affiliated with the party you most commonly align with, declared war against China. Addressing the military directly he stated, "This war is core to our national interest. If we do not resist China now, China will consolidate power, and we will never achieve our core national goal of Korean unification."

The opposition party offered the President their full support. In their own statement, the leader of the opposition asserted,

"We fully endorse the President's declaration of war because we agree that this war serves the South Korean national interest of unification. Above all else, South Korea's interest is best served by not letting China deploy its forces to the Korean Peninsula. We must deal with problems within our territory by ourselves."

To summarize:

- The president has ordered you to war against China in North Korea. You will deploy tomorrow.
- The president, who is a member of the party you typically oppose, has stated that the conflict serves the national interest.
- The opposition party agrees and supports your deployment.

[Treatment Group 3: Partisan Disagreement x Aligned with Incumbent Party]

The Call to Battle

Imagine that it is 2030. Political, social and economic conditions in South Korea are roughly the same as they were in 2024. The two major political parties are still the Democratic Party of Korea and the People Power Party. At this time the party that you most commonly align with is in power.

You wake up to the news that the president has just declared war and you will be deployed. The context that led to this event is as follows.

Five days ago, Jong Un Kim, the Supreme Leader of North Korea, died of a heart attack. The North Korean regime collapsed. Different factions within the North Korean military started to mobilize. It is not clear who controls North Korea's nuclear facilities. Riots broke out across North Korea.

Three days ago, the People's Republic of China deployed a large conventional force to Pyongyang. It is not clear what China's intentions are. The Chinese President stated that he deployed forces to stabilize North Korea and manage their nuclear facilities. He argued that given the scope of the problem, China is uniquely capable of containing the situation. Some analysts believe this is likely China's intentions. But other analysts believe it is a pre-text. They argue China's actions are the first step to the permanent Chinese occupation of North Korea.

This morning, the South Korean president, who is affiliated with the party you most commonly align with, declared war against China. Addressing the military directly he stated, "This war is core to our national interest. If we do not resist China now, China will consolidate power, and we will never achieve our core national goal of Korean unification."

The opposition party opposed the President's decision to initiate war. In their own statement, the leader of the opposition asserted,

"We do not endorse the President's declaration of war because we think this war damages South Korea's national interest. Above all else, South Korea's interest is best served by securing North Korea's nuclear stockpile as rival North Korean factions vie for power. China is best equipped to do this."

To summarize:

- The president has ordered you to war against China in North Korea. You will deploy tomorrow.
- The president, who is a member of the party you typically support, has stated that the conflict serves the national interest.
- The opposition party disagrees and does not support your deployment.

[Treatment Group 4: Partisan Disagreement x Aligned with Opposition Party]

The Call to Battle

Imagine that it is 2030. Political, social and economic conditions in South Korea are roughly the same as they were in 2024. The two major political parties are still the Democratic Party of Korea and the People Power Party. At this time the party that you most commonly align with is not in power.

You wake up to the news that the president has just declared war and you will be deployed. The context that led to this event is as follows.

Five days ago, Jong Un Kim, the Supreme Leader of North Korea, died of a heart attack. The North Korean regime collapsed. Different factions within the North Korean military started to mobilize. It is not clear who controls North Korea's nuclear facilities. Riots broke out across North Korea.

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To summarize:

- The president has ordered you to war against China in North Korea. You will deploy tomorrow.
- The president, who is a member of the party you typically oppose, has stated that the conflict serves the national interest.
- The opposition party disagrees and does not support your deployment.

**** Please read and answer the following questions carefully.**

*** To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

[NIM-1; 1-7] 1. It serves South Korea's national interest to fight in this war.
(a) Strongly agree
(b) Agree
(c) Somewhat agree
(d) Neither agree nor disagree
(e) Somewhat disagree
(f) Disagree
(g) Strongly disagree

[TM-1; 1-7] 2. If this was the issue at stake, I trust that other soldiers across the Korean military will fight to their full potential.
(a) Strongly agree
(b) Agree
(c) Somewhat agree
(d) Neither agree nor disagree
(e) Somewhat disagree
(f) Disagree
(g) Strongly disagree

We now present you with battlefield decisions you could be asked to make during this war. Each scenario ends with questions about the choices you would make.

Scenario 1:

The initial assault into North Korea must go well for ROK to prevail. This mission is risky. Command predicts 25% casualty rate. If we fail, it is unlikely that we will win the war. Command is asking for soldiers, including you, to volunteer for this historic mission noting that the chance of victory is much higher if soldiers volunteer and give it their all. But they are soliciting volunteers because they acknowledge the mission is especially risky.

[SLE-1-risklife; 1-7] 3. To what extent are you willing or reluctant to volunteer to serve in this mission?
(a) Strongly willing to
(b) Willing to
(c) Somewhat willing to
(d) Neither willing nor reluctant to
(e) Somewhat reluctant to
(f) Reluctant to
(g) Strongly reluctant to

Command is also asking you to send troops under your command.

[SLE-2-risksubordinates; 1-7] 4. To what extent are you willing or reluctant to order at your discretion troops in your command to join this mission?
(a) Strongly willing to
(b) Willing to
(c) Somewhat willing to
(d) Neither willing nor reluctant to
(e) Somewhat reluctant to
(f) Reluctant to
(g) Strongly reluctant to

Scenario 2:

Command has asked you to defend your position, believing that the enemy will attack there. In the midst of battle, you realize that the enemy forces will very likely attack a neighboring position. You have the option to move to support that neighboring position. But will need to justify to command after the fact that facts on the ground suggested that this is where the battle will likely take place. If you are wrong, it will appear as if you have deserted.

[SLE-3-discretion; 1-7] 5. To what extent are you willing or reluctant to order at your discretion to move your troop to the neighboring position?
(a) Strongly willing to
(b) Willing to
(c) Somewhat willing to
(d) Neither willing nor reluctant to
(e) Somewhat reluctant to
(f) Reluctant to
(g) Strongly reluctant to

Scenario 3:

Your platoon will advance on a Chinese position as part of clandestine operation. The mission calls on 6 platoons to storm the Chinese position simultaneously from different directions. To ensure surprise, units must maintain radio silence. Instead, you have orders to attack at exactly 11 pm unless there is an operational imperative that prevents you.

If the plan works perfectly, you will all attack at the same time. But if several platoons do not launch when others do the risk of death is significantly larger for those who advance.

It is possible other platoons won't attack on time because they fail to reach their starting point, or because they wait and see what others are doing.

[SLE-4-interuni coordination; 1-6] 6. It is 11pm. Should you send out a lookout to make sure other platoons are advancing, which will delay you by three minutes, or should you advance at 11pm?

(a) I would almost definitely advance at 11pm.
(b) I would probably advance at 11pm.
(c) I would more likely than not advance at 11pm.
(d) I cannot decide.
(e) I would more likely than not send a lookout and advance if others are.
(f) I would probably send a lookout and advance if others are.
(g) I would almost definitely send a lookout and advance if others are.

Scenario 4:

[SLE-5-unitcohesion; 1-7] 7. Five members of your Cadet training class reach out to tell you that they have volunteered for a high risk mission. They are asking you to fight alongside them. How likely or unlikely are you to volunteer?

(a) Very likely
(b) Likely
(c) Somewhat likely
(d) Neither likely nor unlikely
(e) Somewhat unlikely
(f) Unlikely
(g) Very unlikely

Scenario 5:

Over the last four weeks, your platoon has been sent out on 5 high risk missions. You and your men are exhausted. Your commander, who is known to hold strong political opinions that are different to yours, has just ordered you to execute another high risk mission even though there is a well rested platoon.

[SLE-6-obeyorder; 1-7] 8. To what extent do you think it is appropriate or inappropriate to suggest to your commander that your platoon be given a chance to rest and that the other platoon should be sent?
(a) Highly appropriate
(b) Appropriate
(c) Somewhat appropriate
(d) Neither appropriate nor inappropriate
(e) Somewhat inappropriate
(f) Inappropriate
(g) Highly inappropriate

[PART-1; 1-7] 9.In a conflict like this, I would like to fight alongside soldiers that share my political beliefs.
(a) Strongly agree
(b) Agree
(c) Somewhat agree
(d) Neither agree nor disagree
(e) Somewhat disagree
(f) Disagree
(g) Strongly disagree

[PART-2; 1-7] 10.In a conflict like this, I would like to avoid fighting alongside soldiers with the opposite political beliefs.
(a) Strongly agree
(b) Agree
(c) Somewhat agree
(d) Neither agree nor disagree
(e) Somewhat disagree
(f) Disagree
(g) Strongly disagree

[PART-3; 1-7] 11.In a conflict like this, I would like to fight alongside soldiers that come from the region I come from.
(a) Strongly agree
(b) Agree
(c) Somewhat agree
(d) Neither agree nor disagree
(e) Somewhat disagree
(f) Disagree
(g) Strongly disagree

Opposition parties sometimes support a leader's decision to declare war and other times do not. It is possible that their position reflects their genuine belief about whether war is the best policy for the nation. It is also possible that their position reflects partisan incentives. For example, they may be thinking about the implications for the next election.

[OPPOSITION-1-genuine; 1-7] In the scenario we described, to what extent do you think the opposition party's position reflects their genuine beliefs about whether conflict serves the national interest.

(a) A great deal
(b) A lot
(c) A moderate amount
(d) A little
(e) None at all.

[OPPOSITION-2-partisan; 1-7] In the scenario we described, to what extent do you think the opposition party's position reflects their concerns over partisan politics?

(a) A great deal
(b) A lot
(c) A moderate amount
(d) A little
(e) None at all.

*** To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

[AM-1-threat; 1-7] 12. China poses serious security threats to South Korea in this scenario.
(a) Strongly agree
(b) Agree
(c) Somewhat agree
(d) Neither agree nor disagree
(e) Somewhat disagree
(f) Disagree
(g) Strongly disagree

[AM-2-partytype; 1-7] 13. In this scenario, it is plausible that your preferred party could hold this position.
(a) Strongly agree
(b) Agree
(c) Somewhat agree
(d) Neither agree nor disagree
(e) Somewhat disagree
(f) Disagree
(g) Strongly disagree

[AM-3-plausibility; 1-7] 14. The scenario presented here was plausible.
(a) Strongly agree
(b) Agree
(c) Somewhat agree
(d) Neither agree nor disagree
(e) Somewhat disagree
(f) Disagree
(g) Strongly disagree

Finally, we'd like to ask you questions about yourself.

[DEM-1-age; 1-99] 15. What is your age in years?
Your answer: ( )

[DEM-2-gender; 1-3] 16. What is your sex given by birth?
(a) Male
(b) Female
(c) Prefer not to disclose

[DEM-3-rank; 1-4] 17. What is your current rank?
(a) Junior cadet
(b) Senior cadet
(c) Conscripted rank-and-file soldier
(d) Active duty military officer

[DEM-4-volunteer; 1-2] 18. Did you volunteer to serve in the military?
(a) Yes
(b) No

[DEM-4-edu; 1-3] 19. What is your final level of education at the moment?
(a) Graduated high school
(b) Associate degree
(c) Bachelor's degree
(d) Advanced degree

[DEM-5-hometown; text] 20. In what province is your hometown located? If you were born in a foreign country, please provide the name of the country you were born in.
Your answer: ( )

[DEM-6-sibling; 1-4] 21. How many siblings do you have?
(a) Zero / None
(b) One
(c) Two
(d) Three or More

[DEM-7-partyIDstrength; 1-5] 22. To what extent do you identify with the political party whose views align the most with yours?
(a) Very strongly identify with the party
(b) Strongly identify with the party
(c) Identify with the party
(d) Weakly identify with the party
(e) Very weakly identify with the party; I would rather identify myself as an independent

[DEM-8-priorexp; 1-2] 23. Were you enlisted in the military prior to joining the academy?
(a) Yes
(b) No

[DEM-9-cat; 1-2] 24. Growing up, did you have a cat as a pet?
(a) Yes
(b) No

[PSY-1-anger; 1-7] 25. How often do you get angry at people and situations?
(a) Never
(b) Rarely
(c) Occasionally
(d) Sometimes
(e) Frequently
(f) Usually
(g) Every time

[PSY-2-riskpropensity; 1-7] 26. In general, how easy or difficult is it for you to accept taking risks?
(a) Very easy
(b) Easy
(c) Somewhat easy
(d) Neither easy nor difficult
(e) Somewhat difficult
(f) Difficult
(g) Very difficult

[PSY-3-moral; 1-7] 27. How often do you make choices that are against your personal interests when you think it is the right thing to do?
(a) Never
(b) Rarely
(c) Occasionally
(d) Sometimes
(e) Frequently
(f) Usually
(g) Every time

[PSY-4-dove; 1-7] 28. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the use of force only makes problems worse?
(a) Strongly agree
(b) Agree
(c) Somewhat agree
(d) Neither agree nor disagree
(e) Somewhat disagree
(f) Disagree
(g) Strongly disagree