



GUAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

Summary of Findings

2017 Tracking Poll: 82% Guam residents believe increased military presence will contribute to more jobs and greater tax revenue

HAGÁTÑA – The vast majority of Guam residents believe that increased military presence on the island will contribute to more jobs and greater tax revenue, according to a recent 2017 research survey commissioned by the Guam Chamber of Commerce to evaluate local perceptions toward the military buildup on Guam.

The Guam Chamber of Commerce commissioned Anthology Research to conduct a quantitative tracking study with Guam residents to determine the impact of military presence and effects of their presence on island. This is a tracking study from the initial benchmark analysis conducted in 2007. Telephone interviews were conducted from April 15- 26, 2017. Respondents were screened to ensure that they were at least 18 years of age, and are residents of Guam. 500 random phone surveys were completed and accounted for in this study. The sample was derived from Anthology's proprietary Random Digit Dialing software. The results were compiled using SPSS. The margin of error for a sample of this size is +/-4.4 percentage points with a 95% confidence level.

When results are tracked, we note very similar scores from the benchmark in 2007 and subsequent poll in 2009. At the outset of the study, respondents were asked if they generally supported or opposed the increase in the military presence on the island. A majority (69%) of Guam residents polled support an increased military presence on the Island (71% benchmark). Of the remainder, 15% oppose recent developments, while 9% are indifferent on this subject. 7% are unsure how they feel about this issue.

Next, each respondent was asked if they felt the increasing military presence would ultimately contribute to more jobs and local tax revenues. A majority (82%) of the residents polled feel the increasing military presence on Guam will result in additional jobs and an increase in tax revenues (79% benchmark). Of the remainder, just 10% believe the increased military on Guam will not result in more jobs and tax revenues (16% benchmark), while roughly 3% are indifferent on this subject. 5% are unsure.

Each respondent was asked if the addition of more Marines on Guam would either improve or worsen the quality of life here locally. 51% percent of the Guam residents polled feel the additional Marines on the island will have a positive effect and ultimately improve the quality of life here (60% benchmark). Of the remainder, 21% feel the opposite that it will have a detrimental effect in terms of living conditions, while 28% are still unsure what effect they will have.

It is interesting to note that those who agreed that the military buildup will positively impact the economy is highest among those over the age of 35. Young adults (less than 35 years of age) were the least likely to acknowledge any type of economic impact of the military buildup. Similarly, younger segments of the sample are more likely to believe that military presence will have a negative impact on the quality of life on Guam. Among those 18 – 24 years of age, 31% believe the Marines will worsen the living conditions on the island. By comparison, this number falls to 11% among adults over 65 years of age. Correspondingly, support for the military buildup is higher among older residents of Guam.

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