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Trump on North Korea: My Nuclear Button Is Bigger

Continuing the centerpiece of his foreign policy agenda, talking up a nuclear war with North Korea, President Trump today reacted to reports from North Korea's Kim Jong Un, who warned he has a nuclear button and would use it if threatened by the US.

Trump declared that his own nuclear button is "[a much bigger & more powerful one than his](#)," and adding that unlike Kim's, his button "works." This suggests the president believes the size of a nation's nuclear arsenal is necessarily proportionate to the size of their button.



Trump's suggestion that his button "works," is the latest in a series of comments from US officials doubting North Korea's nuclear capability. Defense Secretary James Mattis similarly insisted that North Korea's [arsenal was unproven](#).

These comments both suggest the US isn't taking North Korea's deterrent capabilities seriously, and that there is a serious risk that the Trump Administration will gamble on North Korea's ability to retaliate with nuclear strikes on American cities in starting a huge war.