We affirm the resolution: Deployment of anti-missile systems is in South Korea’s best interest.

**Contention 1 is Creating a Shield**

North Korea poses a threat to South Korea for two reasons

**First, Accidents**

New York Times writes in 2017 that

By nature, North Korean missiles teeter on the brink of failure, and new designs are often accident prone. Things can easily go wrong, and frequently do.

**Second, a Lack of Communication**

Beauchamp of Vox in 2017 explains that

North Korea doesn’t have a line of communication, a tool that de-escalated historical tensions like in the Cold War

**Bandix of the Atlantic reports in 2017** that even South Korea President Moon warns that there is a high possibility of conflict with North Korea and that because of it, expanding South Korea’s defense program is a priority.

Missile Defense is key to defending South Korea in two ways

1. Boosting South Korea Defenses

**Sauter of the National Interest** explains THAAD’s unique capability adds an essential layer of defense against current and emerging missile threats [and] [closes] the battlespace gap between PAC-3 and Aegis BMD’s. THAAD ensures sustained protection against new threats [as] THAAD has a 100 percent success rate in the last thirteen tests, including eleven for eleven successful intercepts.

1. Deterrence

**Peter Huessy** furthers that deploying better and greater numbers of missile defense systems poses no offensive threat, but would enable the U.S. to exercise restraint in a crisis, and would enable the U.S. to de-escalate a possible conflict by blunting offensive attacks.

This is critical since the risk and magnitude of retaliation means North Korea cannot risk a failed strike. **Bennett 2012** clarifies that North Korea has to respect the potential of missile defense systems thus deterring the North’s aggression.

The impact is saving lives

**Beauchamp 2017** clarifies that there could be up to 2 million casualties in the first 24 hours of a conflict, and as bad as things are with North Korea right now, the situation will only get worse over time. The bottom line is that the North Korean situation holds the greatest risk of a nuclear war.

**Contention 2: Nuclear Proliferation**

The Diplomat 2016 explains that the current political environment in South Korea combined with Trump’s rhetoric about the U.S. ROK alliance, means that decades-old nonproliferation policies could shift radically overnight.

South Korean military officials confirmed in 2013 said they would only need six months to build a nuclear weapon.

However, the deployment of anti-missile systems disincentivizes South Korea from pursuing nuclear weapons by providing a protective reassurance.

Klingner 2011 from the Heritage Foundation explains that Missile defense is key for international nonproliferation as it reduces nations’ perceived need to acquire nuclear weapons.

Daniel Pinkston 2016 contextualizes that the deployment of THAAD, plays a key role in continuing to reassure Seoul that it does not need a nuclear weapon to defend itself against Pyongyang.

Moreover, **Einhorn 2016** explains that South Korean politicians with little to offer in terms of practical proposals for overcoming the threat from Pyongyang, end up supporting the nuclear option to score political points

The impact is of nuclearization is two-fold

**First is preventing an arms race**

Kang 2016 warns that If the South acquired nuclear weapons, it would provoke a nuclear arms race among China, Japan, and the two Koreas that would be impossible to reverse, increasing the probability of nuclear war.

Thus Gibler from the University of Alabama 2005 quantifies, that when tensions are accompanied by an arm race, the chances of war increases fivefold.

**Second is preventing a North Korean first Strike**

Hayes 2014 from the Nautilus Institute

the nuclear weapons option, is not desirable for South Korea, for it creates two small states armed with nuclear weapons in an unstable “mutual probable destruction” relationship. Each would have incentive to use first their nuclear weapons rather than lose them.

[Taylor 2017](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/07/31/why-doesnt-south-korea-have-nuclear-weapons-for-a-time-it-pursued-them/?utm_term=.1441bcc99f70) finds that faced with the threat of South Korea developing nuclear weapons, the North may be incentivized to launch a preemptive strike.