

I. Introduction

- A. We affirm, “**Resolved: On Balance, the current Authorization of Military Force gives too much power to the president.**”

II. Arguments

A. *Contention 1: Russian Roulette*

1. Historically, military interventions allowed by the Authorization of Military Force have backfired massively, and multiplied in both quantity and magnitude of devastation in the Middle East. [Leffler \(18\)](#) explains that the AUMF has expanded America’s military across the globe, and embroiled the US in more than a dozen conflicts in 12 different Middle Eastern countries, writing that the AUMF has become a “justification for forever war.” [Grant \(18\) of Lawfare](#) reports that Trump has scaled up the level of intervention in these conflict zones.
2. American interventions embroil other major players in conflict. Leffler explains that the latest AUMF-justified intervention in Syria has encouraged other geopolitical powers such as Russia to intervene in airstrikes as a competing power.
3. In fact, US interventions are encouraging Russian embroilment in three key ways:
 - a) **First, Russia is militarizing in the region.** ([Browne 2017](#)) Russian military assets are moving into Libya and Afghanistan, undermining American and NATO interests .
 - b) **Second, Russia is entrenching itself.** ([CNBC 2017](#)) Russia is deepening its ties with Saudi Arabia and cooperating on an oil production cutback .
 - c) **Third, the great powers are arming combatants to fight each other.** ([Newsweek 2017](#)) Major Middle Eastern power players like Turkey and Saudi Arabia with new S-400 missiles . [The Guardian \(2017\)](#) reports that in conjunction, Saudi Arabia has purchased a PATRIOT missile system from the United States.

IMPACTS:

The impact is global militarization. The war is already on the horizon; NATO is preparing for massive troop deployments to counter Russian aggression, with the

United States increasing its Middle Eastern military presence by 30% as of last year ([Global Research 2017](#)).

B. Contention 2: Secret Wars

1. The AUMF has increased American special operations substantially. [Ryan \(17\) of Defense Post](#) writes that AUMF has deployed 37.8 thousand special ops forces, conducting classified counterterrorism operations in more than 80 different countries, including surveillance and drone assassinations.
2. Special operations backfire in three ways, both at home and abroad.
 - a) **First, by pushing the bounds of domestic surveillance.** Nakashima (14) of the Washington Post that the AUMF was used to justify warrantless wiretapping of American citizens.
 - b) **Second, by murdering innocents.** Bashir (14) of Brown University finds that in 94% of all drone strikes, 15 civilians are killed for every 1 terrorist. [The UN \(2017\)](#) reports that in the first year of Trump's term, civilian casualties due to drones increased by 43%, and deaths increased by 63%.
 - c) **Third, by damaging international standing.** [The Guardian \(2013\)](#) reports that AUMF-allowed US drone strikes are violations of international law, and exceedingly unpopular among Middle Eastern nations. [Memcott \(2013\) of NPR](#) finds that drones harm US-Middle Eastern relations, going as far to hinder multilateral counterterrorism efforts. A joint study conducted by NYU and Stanford University in 2012 finds that 17 out of 20 countries strongly disapprove of US drone strikes and strains relationships with close western allies who are critical for counterterrorism efforts.

III. CLOSING STATEMENT

- A. Thus, I affirm/negate.