Abstract

Purpose: This article recognizes the dangers of North Korea's continued hostilities, including the sinking of the Cheonan, shelling of Yeonpyeong Island, and missile launches, and raises awareness in order for the forces threatening national security not to be established in our society. The goal is to have a firm military readiness so that we can fully respond to North Korea's provocations at any time and in any form.

Method: In order to analyze North Korea's intentions and threats of provocation toward South Korea, books, academic journals, and dissertations about the provocation toward South Korea were reviewed. Various daily newspapers, news, and government data were studied to recognize the importance of security and derive empirical data for establishing military readiness.

Results: North Korea has carried out military provocations against South Korea in various forms over the past 70 years despite our efforts to improve relations with the North. Until North Korea gives up its hostile policy toward South Korea and takes tangible military measures, it is the main enemy that threatens our security. We must make a clear distinction between the enemy and the ally. In addition, economic aid to North Korea should be continued while strengthening its nuclear deterrence and inducing change in the North. There should be no war, but it should be prepared to respond immediately if there is.

Conclusion: National security is directly related to the survival of the people and is not done by the order of someone. It is important to have the same idea about security, from the leaders of the country, including the president, to all the people. We should keep in mind that national development stems from the people's thorough sense of security and have a security perspective that we protect our country. We should realize the importance of national security and have a firm military preparedness.

Keywords: Security Awareness, National Security, North Korean Nuclear Threat, Provocation Toward South Korea, Military Readiness
launches, we are always on high alert. Historically, there have been constant trials of hegemonic competition between neighboring powers and we have been suffering from it, and tensions have risen due to the geographical conditions of the sea and the continent. We must therefore establish more solid and stronger national security.

National security is an abbreviation of the guarantee of a country's safety, which means a state of country without worry, concern, or uneasiness[2]. Although the factors of traditional military threats have declined since the end of the Cold War, security concepts have expanded to non-military sectors such as the economy, environment, disaster, and so on as international relations have become more complex and are with diversity of dangerous factors[3]. Terrorism, in particular, has become an important security risk factor for each country since the September 11th terrorist attacks. In a September 5 last year, Guinea, Africa, the biggest exporter of Bauxite, destabilized its political situation due to a coup and it made international aluminium prices rose to a decade's highest level[4]. This suggests expanding the security concept of economic threats that affect us as well.

Despite North Korea's continued hostilities, including the sinking of the Cheonan, shelling of Yeonpyeong Island, and missile launches, many parts of our society seem to be oblivious to the dangers of their actions[5]. In order to defend liberal democracy and set its identity right, thorough monitoring and vigilance must be taken to ensure that forces that threaten national security are not established anywhere in society. National security is the final goal that we must all work together to protect. This study analyzes North Korea's intention of provocation to threaten South Korea and suggests a firm military preparedness.

2. North Korea's Major Cases of Provocation toward South Korea and Intentions of Threat

2.1. Cases of provocations toward South Korea

Since the armistice agreement until now, there have been 420,000 violations of the armistice agreement by North Korea, and 3,100 cases of North Korea's invasions and provocations[6]. For the past 70 years, to maintain the system of autocratic governance, leaders have been deified and killing people and depress human rights through resident surveillance[7]. Since Kim Jong-un took over as North Korea's supreme ruler, the provocation toward South Korea has become increasingly visible. North Korea's Workers' Party of Korea protocol stipulates that "the final purpose is to think about the subject of Jooche of all society and to build a communist society." While North Korea maintains the invariance of its strategy to redden South Korea, it continues to provoke steadily even now, and the cases of major provocation to South Korea since the 2000s are shown below in <Table 1>[8].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Era</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Major contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2020s</td>
<td>Launch of new tactics and ballistic missiles, bombing of inter-Korean joint liaison offices, killing of west sea officials(2020), Launching cruise and ballistic missiles(2021), and launching various missiles(7 times, January 2022).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Kim Jong-un era has continued to provoke the third to sixth nuclear tests and various missile launches. The cases by type of North Korea’s provocation toward South Korea are shown below in Table 2.

**Table 2. Cases by type of North Korea’s provocation toward South Korea.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method of provocation</th>
<th>Target of provocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>&lt;Provocation of high strength&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1st and 2nd Yeonpyeong sea battle, Provocation with wooden warship mine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shelling of Cheonan battleship and Yeonpyeong Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A nuclear test, missile provocation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;Provocation of middle strength&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drone reconnaissance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The murder of a tourist at Geumgangsan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Killing of west sea civil servant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-military</td>
<td>&lt;Provocation of middle strength&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.7 DDoS and Nonghyup's computer network hacking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hacking of KHNP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;Provocation of Low Strength&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guardships / fishing vessels infringement of NLL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2.2. Intent of the provocation and threatening of North Korea

Threats are not caused by natural, technical, or engineering problems, but by political, military, social, and psychological problems[10]. Since the armistice, North Korea has attempted to assassinate the president, while carrying out various armed provocations against South Korea, including aircraft terrorism, infiltration of armed terrorism, and nuclear tests. The sinking of the Cheonan warship in 2010 was a military provocation with a crime against humanity against South Korea[11]. It is analyzed that, at the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Workers’ Party on October 10, 2020, North Korea held an unprecedented late-night military parade with the intention of overcoming the current economic and diplomatic difficulties through mobilization of new weapons and residents, and show off new weapons such as ICBMs, SLBMs, and six-launch rocket system against U.S. and South Korea. North Korea's nuclear weapons development, in particular, poses a serious challenge threatening security[12]. North Korea’s constant provocations are clear evidence that it has not given up its ambition to neutralize the South. The reasons why North Korea continues to provoke missile launches while criticizing the U.S. and South Korea are as follows. A new ICBM was unveiled at the parade[13].

#### 2.2.1. Strengthening the governance and leadership of the Kim, Jong-un regime and strengthening internal solidarity

He is threatening provocations to strengthen internal solidarity through hostile policies toward South Korea and strengthen the Kim Jong-un regime’s governance and leadership. In other words, it is a political tactic to promote system solidarity by emphasizing external threats. North Korea is suffering from chronic economic difficulties due to economic sanctions, natural disasters such as flood, typhoons, and border blockages caused by COVID-19. They use it to stabilize the system by instigating complaints from living difficulties and various control measures due to the sanctions policy on North Korea by South Korea and the U.S. It can be seen that North Korea tried to use it to strengthen the succession system while establishing the provocation of South Korea as a military achievement[14].

#### 2.2.2. Exercise of influence on the 2022 election of Republic of Korea

North Korea continues to act to influence elections by raising a sense of crisis in the South. In 2022, there are presidential elections in March and national simultaneous local elections in June. North Korea is trying to create an atmosphere in their favor by separating the people from the government by intensifying its criticism of the South Korean government. It also intends to shift the blame for the strained inter-Korean relations to the South Korean government and create
an atmosphere of instability to vote for those who sympathize with North Korea in the upcoming elections.

2.2.3. Armed demonstrations against the international community and the United States

North Korea’s continued missile provocations are a kind of show of force against the international community and the United States. Since the inauguration of the Biden administration, North Korea has been trying to lead dialogue by raising tensions on the Korean Peninsula and drawing attention from the international community. Kim Jong-un said at the 8th Workers’ Party Congress in January 2021, "The key to establishing a new U.S.-North Korea relationship is for the U.S. to withdraw its hostile policy." In other words, it is trying to gain an advantage in negotiations with the U.S. by increasing tension on the Korean Peninsula. It is believed that President Moon Jae In’s proposal for an end-of-war declaration at the UN General Assembly on September 21, 2021 induces the lifting of sanctions they want.

2.2.4. Inducting South Korea to actively change its policy toward North Korea

North Korea is encouraging the South Korean government to change its policy toward the North through threats of provocations. After President Moon’s proposal for an end-of-war declaration in a keynote speech at U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 22, Kim Yo-jong, vice president of central committee of the Workers’ Party of North Korea, said on Sept. 24, "If South Korea is not hostile, we are willing to maintain close communication between two Koreas and discuss constructive prospects about relationship recovery and development"[15]. She also said, "I think the end-of-war declaration is an interesting proposal and a good idea to physically end the long-lasting unstable power outage on the Korean Peninsula and withdraw hostility to the other side"[16]. This conveyed a message of an active change in North Korea policy toward the south.

3. Asymmetric Security Threats of North Korea

In the event of a war, North Korea’s initial attack will be difficult to sustain due to weakening military power due to economic difficulties and increasing firepower of our military. North Korea’s strategic goal against South Korea must be communism on the Korean Peninsula, but an all-out attack could lead to the collapse of the Kim Jong-un regime, so it would not want an all-out war[17]. Therefore, it is believed that a limited attack using asymmetric power will be carried out. Three options of attack strategy are expected to be devised.

First, conventional attacks. North Korea knows it has no chance of winning an all-out war against the powerful Korea-U.S. combined forces. The U.S.-South Korea joint operational plan so far, though least likely, is developing the operational plan for such a conventional North Korean attack.

Second, It is an attack using asymmetric power. Through continuous provocations such as the sixth nuclear test in 2017 and the seventh missile launch in January 2022, Kim Jong-un is maintaining his regime and keeping solidarity with dissatisfied forces. This is the most likely threat as a way to negotiate favorable negotiations with the United States. North Korea can carry out a limited attack on South Korea, not an all-out war. North Korea is poised to carry out regular surprise attacks by deploying about 70% of its ground forces in areas south of the Pyongyang-Wonsan Line. In addition, due to limited attacks on islands in the West Sea, Yeonpyeong Island was shelled in November 2010, but since it is adjacent to Hwanghae-do in North Korea, it is possible to target Yeonpyeong Island and Baengnyeong Island, which are highly exposed to attack[18]. North Korea can attack major military and strategic facilities and secure important areas on the landing coast by infiltrating 260 special warfare units, including air buoys and high-speed landboats, into the rear area. Finally, it is a nuclear and biochemical attack on important
facilities in the Seoul metropolitan area and the country using missiles. North Korea, which is afraid of all-out war, can be the most strategically successful strategy for South Korea and the United States.

Third, the integration of asymmetric attacks and conventional attacks. Attacks on rear areas using missiles will cause social confusion. After seeing our response, we can also engage in an all-out war using conventional power. However, it is unlikely to be realized because it is a dangerous measure that could lead to an all-out military conflict depending on the reaction of South Korea and the U.S., which could lead to the collapse of the North Korean regime. Therefore, it may be said that the most feasible solution is the most likely limited attack by asymmetric power.

4. Importance of Security and the State of Preparedness

The devastating damage that the people and the state were forced to do because the state was powerless speaks well of the importance of security. A historical example of the importance of national security is Israel. During World War II, Israel suffered an unprecedented tragedy in human history, in which more than 6 million people were slaughtered by the Nazis with poison gas. Also, our history of the colony of Japanese Imperialism era tells us how difficult life is for people who have lost their sovereignty. During the colonial period, some women between the ages of 15 and 20 were forced to Japanese Military Sexual Slavery by Japan. Many young people were forced to work for Japan. History shows that if security is not strong, the people cannot protect even the least human dignity[19].

If our security is destroyed by the threat of North Korea, we must live under a closed socialist system instead of liberal democracy, as evidenced by the history mentioned earlier. The lives of the people will also be miserable. Therefore, in order to fundamentally block North Korea’s threats and promote stability on the Korean Peninsula, we must be prepared as follows.

First, there is a clear distinction between enemies and allies. Lee, Myung Bak, the former president pursued a pro-U.S. policy and believed that South Korea should form a strong alliance with the United States[20]. Failure to distinguish between enemies and allies could put national security in great danger in case of emergency. South and North Korea are in a state of truce, but they are engaged in warring. The United States, along with us, is a military ally who is restraining North Korea’s provocations of war, and who will have to fight against North Korea with the combined forces of South Korea and the United States if the deterrence fails[21]. In the event of an emergency, we must unite with the United States to wage war, and some people who do not like the United States are calling for the withdrawal of U.S. troops. A sense of security that fails to distinguish the enemy from the ally would be a very dangerous situation for our security[22]. International cooperation should also be strengthened to induce dialogue and exchange and cooperation as a peace process[23].

Second, it is the exclusion of unfounded optimism related to the possibility of war and the will of young people to participate. In terms of war prevention, it is a very dangerous idea to vaguely think that North Korea will not be able to wage war because of the economic gap between the two Koreas. Looking at the Vietnam War, it can be seen that no matter how wide the gap in national power is, the war is planned and won to achieve political purposes. In addition, young people’s willingness to participate is related to voluntary patriotism. It can be seen that Chinese civil war and the victory of the Taliban in Afghanistan is not determined by the superiority or inferiority of tangible power and military power. We must realize that the difference in mental power, which is intangible power, is the winning or losing decision.

Third, strengthening nuclear deterrence. With inter-Korean relations frozen, preparations for the resumption of North Korea’s nuclear negotiations with the United States are uncertain[24].
It is important for us to have nuclear capabilities on our own and substantially contain North Korea's nuclear weapons. However, nuclear development has the advantage of having its own nuclear deterrence and expanding its international status and influence. However, the withdrawal from the NPT could lead to a decline in international credibility, economic disadvantages caused by international sanctions, and cracks in the Korea-U.S. alliance[25]. Therefore, as an alternative, it is necessary to relocate the U.S. tactical nuclear weapons to the Korean Peninsula and use them as a deterrent to North Korea's nuclear weapons. However, there is a problem that it violates the nuclear non-proliferation policy and lacks justification to urge North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons program and causes sensitive reactions from China. If the redeployment of tactical nuclear weapons is restricted, it can be said that it is a strategy to consider installing storage for tactical nuclear weapons or deploying tactical nuclear weapons at U.S. military bases in the Pacific region. What is curbing North Korea's nuclear threat in the current state is the U.S. large-scale nuclear capability and the commitment of the Nuclear Umbrella to use it for South Korea[26]. As long as the Korea-U.S. alliance is strong, North Korea can seek safety even if its nuclear weapons continue to increase[27]. The response to North Korea's nuclear weapons and missiles should be considered together through dialogue and negotiations and ways to secure independent nuclear deterrence[28].

Fourth, it is to build self-defense preemptive strike capabilities. It is necessary to neutralize support facilities for North Korea's nuclear weapons and secure capabilities to deter nuclear threats in case of emergency by securing preemptive strike measures against North Korea's nuclear threats. In addition, it is necessary to secure monitoring and firing means for the North Korean region, and strengthen hitting assets to hit support facilities. The joint surveillance and target attack radar system, which is a surveillance asset, should also be turned into an early power.

Fifth, it is inducing change in North Korea. Both of strong and soft measurements should be taken properly to change the perception of Kim Jong-un and the leading group, not just the change of the North Korean regime or system. All available measures should be taken to induce change, such as instilling fear that the system could collapse even with nuclear weapons. The UNSC's sanctions on North Korea should make them feel more painful than the past 'March of Difficulties'. It should also improve inter-Korean relations so that North Koreans can experience a liberal democratic system so that they can come out of the international community themselves[29].

Finally, economic aid to North Korea should continue. We should use our superior economic power to induce change in North Korea while supporting what North Korea needs the most. Economic support for North Korea should be properly implemented by judging the degree of implementation of the agreement, such as denuclearization and trust-building measures. It is necessary to clearly set the direction to link the issue of economic support and exchange and cooperation with the nuclear issue. We must face the current situation where we face the threat of North Korea more than any other country[30]. For the peace and unification of the entire Korean Peninsula, it is most important to maintain a strong security posture[31]. In future relations with North Korea, the government should implement its North Korea policy with the possibility that the situation on the Korean Peninsula could return to a crisis situation again, and prepare for military and security readiness[32].

5. Conclusion

North Korea has carried out military provocations against South Korea in various forms over the past 70 years despite our efforts to improve relations with the North. North Korea is a major threat to South Korea's security until it renounces its hostile policy toward the South and takes
tangible military action. We need to know that North Korea is a 'direct and serious threat'. National security is bound to be more important in our reality, which is in a state of truce, not the end of the war. Just looking at the sinking of the South Korean warship Cheonan, shelling of Yeonpyeong Island, and the North's continued nuclear threats and missile provocations, we are always in a state of concern and anxiety.

The Roman master 'Vegetius' said, "If you want peace, prepare for war." Dasan Jeong Yak-yong said, "The military must be prepared for a single day even if it is not used once for a hundred years." The military should be prepared for peacetime and no war should occur, but it should be prepared to respond immediately even if a war occurs. Only when there is a country can there be people, happy families, and live with their dreams to their hearts’ content. We need to know how we should live in order to promote patriotism for our country from an early age, strengthen our national defense, and protect our country. North Korea cannot dare to overcome us only when it is a healthy and wealthy country.

It should be remembered that national development stems from the people's thorough sense of security. We must have a strong mentality that I protect my country. National security is not done by anyone, but it starts with a voluntary heart that loves the country and understanding the reality of our divided country. The key to preparing for war is to share the same view on security, from the leaders of the nation, including the president, to all citizens. National security is directly linked to the survival of the people. Until complete peace is established on the Korean Peninsula, we must be firmly prepared to fully respond to North Korea's provocations at any time and in any form.

In the future, follow-up studies should be conducted so that practical proposals for military readiness posture can be made through in-depth research on threats such as nuclear tests and missile launches.

6. References

6.1. Journal articles


### 6.2. Thesis degree


### 6.3. Books


### 6.4. Additional references

7. Appendix

7.1. Author’s contribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial name</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YC</td>
<td>- Set of concepts ✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Design ✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Getting results ✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Analysis ✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Make a significant contribution to collection ✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Final approval of the paper ✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Corresponding ✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Play a decisive role in modification ✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Significant contributions to concepts, designs, practices, analysis and interpretation of data ✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Participants in Drafting and Revising Papers ✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Someone who can explain all aspects of the paper ✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Copyright: ©2022 by the authors. Licensee J-INSTITUTE, ROK. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).