Group Project 5: Cybersecurity Crisis Training - North Korean Cyber Attacks

**Purpose:** This debate style exercise aims to help students understand how to form a policy response to a technical threat or attack to their organization. Students will work in teams to present an argument outlining their stakes and debate positions, and backing those positions.

**Exercise Description:** Prepare a five minute statement as a group based on your assigned team role. Your statement (delivered by three members of your group) should describe the problem as well as your organization’s response and solutions to the problem (ex. potential policy changes as a result of an attack). Following your presentation, the opposition team will conduct a short cross-examination with a small set of questions. They will then present their 5-minute counter statements, after which your team will conduct the cross-examination. When both teams have been cross-examined, the first team will have 3 minutes for a rebuttal and audience questioning, directly followed by the second team’s 3 minute rebuttal and audience questioning. Please note that all group members will be expected to participate in presenting, whether during the 5-minute statement or Q&A session.

Team 1 Presentation (3 members) - **5 min.**  
Cross Examination - **2 min.**  
Team 2 Presentation (3 members) - **5 min.**  
Cross Examination - **2 min.**  
Team 1 Rebuttal (2 members) - **3 min.**  
Audience Questioning - **2 min.**  
Team 2 Rebuttal (2 members) - **3 min.**  
Audience Questioning - **2 min.**

Note: Page limits below are double-spaced, 1 inch margins, 12 point standard font.

**Deliverables:** In addition to your verbal presentation, you will prepare a debate packet to turn in to your instructor and TAs. The debate packet should include the following items:

- Debate Statement (2 pages)
- Short technical background sheet (2-4 pages)
  - This section should describe in more detail the technical issues of the problem at hand. It may also include pictures and diagrams, but these will not count towards the 2-4 page limit.
- Frequently Asked Questions (2 pages)
  - This section should anticipate questions the other debate team or audience members would ask in response to the problem and should provide your organization’s answers.
**Preparation:** Read the material found via the links below. Additional research on debate positions is strongly suggested as well. You may use any accredited resource you find to prepare your statement, press kit, and for Q&A.

When you present, or enter the debate chamber, enter in character. Be sure to identify yourself using your full name and spell your name if it is not spelled phonetically. Also mention your title and role in the organization (it is okay to be creative!).

**Extra Credit:**
Strong dedication to playing up and maintaining your team’s characters throughout the presentation can be rewarded with extra credit points.

**Potential roles:**
There are two important debate roles in this cybersecurity crisis situation. You will be assigned one of the two roles:
· The delegation of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to the United Nations
· Secret contacts within the United States Foreign Service

**Scenario:**
In late 2014, the unthinkable happened---Seth Rogen and James Franco (indirectly) caused the government of the United States to more directly consider their cybersecurity defenses. On November 24th, Sony Pictures employees attempting to log into their computers were greeted with a neon red skeleton and the words “#Hacked by #GOP” or the (ironically named) Guardians of Peace, who began to leak large amounts of the internal and personal data of Sony’s employees, and threatened to unleash attacks on movie theatres across the United States, telling the world to “Remember the 11th of September 2001.”

Their claimed motivation? Earlier in 2014, Hollywood’s favorite comedians decided to make an unusually realistic comedy that depicted two journalists murdering Kim Jong Un, on behalf of the CIA. The Guardians of Peace claimed that they were revealing information to stop Sony from showing what they called “the movie of terrorism,” or what Rogen and Franco entitled *The Interview*.

With this massive cybersecurity attack, the Obama Administration quickly rushed to find out who committed the cyberattacks. The Department of State, working with several other intelligence agencies, determined that hackers working for the North Korean government were behind the attack. When President Obama made the announcement of attribution, North Korea quickly denied the allegations, and even said that they would do everything in their power to find out who actually hacked Sony. While the US still maintains that the attacks were perpetrated by hackers for the North Korean government, many remain skeptical that the attacks actually came from North Korea, speculating that the attacks may have even come from some other third party.

**Assignment:**
The timing is December 25, 2014. Your assignment is to explore this incident further, using your research to present it from the perspective of your assigned debate position. Assume that you
always have the consent from your capital and that this is a genuinely Socratic debate in a private location. Your goal is to explain the controversy and your organization’s responses. You are encouraged to think creatively over possible options and incorporate relevant background knowledge.

Sources and Additional Reading (Be sure to do your own research and cite!):