

Forum: GA1 – Disarmament and International Security (DISEC)

Issue: The question of preventing the creation and testing of nuclear weapons in North Korea

Main Chair: Lukas Benic

Deputy Chair: Beatrice Foti

1. Introduction

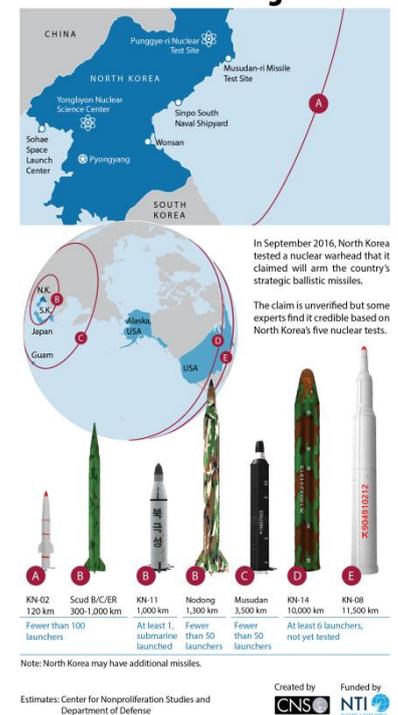
The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has an active nuclear weapon program and they have tested nuclear explosive devices in 2006, 2009, 2013, twice in 2016, and also in 2017. The DPRK deployed both short-and medium-range ballistic missiles and they successfully test-launched an intercontinental ballistic missile in 2017. The DPRK is also capable of enriching uranium and producing weapon-grade plutonium. They are also believed to possess biological and chemical programs. The DPRK unilaterally withdrew from The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in January 2003.

2. Definitions of Key Terms

Ballistic Missiles: A missile that follows a ballistic (free-fall) trajectory with the objective of delivering (one or more) warheads to a pre-determined target; ballistic missiles are mainly intended for use against ground targets.

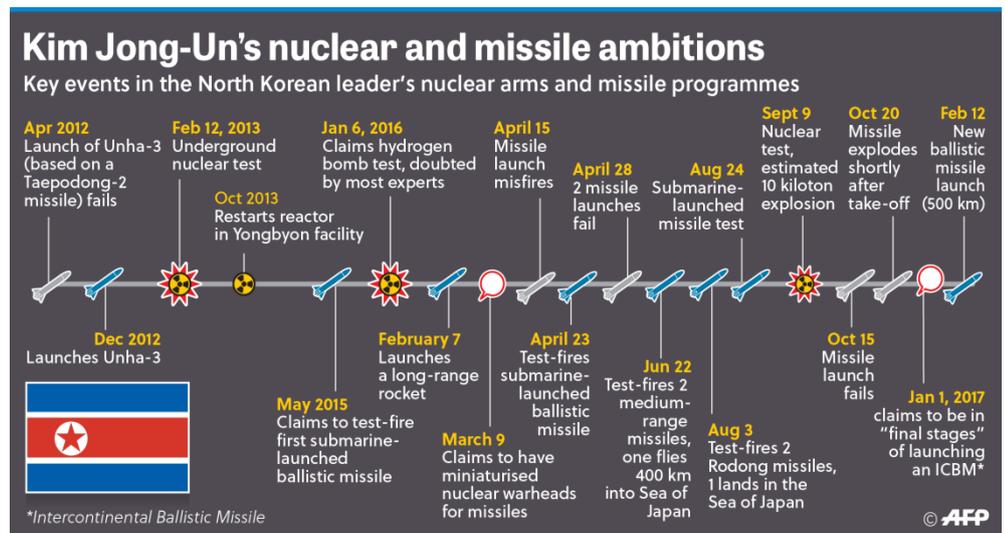
ICBM: Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles

North Korea's Strategic Threat



3. History, Timeline and Major Parties

North Korea's interest in a nuclear weapon program dates to the end of World War II. In that time, the DPRK has developed a nuclear fuel cycle capability and they now have both plutonium and enriched uranium programs capable of producing fissile material.



In November 2010, the DPRK unveiled a uranium enrichment program seemingly intended to produce low enriched uranium (LEU) for power reactors, though it is possible for the DPRK to produce highly enriched uranium (HEU) for weapon purposes.

The Six-Party Talks between North Korea, South Korea, Japan, China, Russia, and the United States began in 2003 with the goal of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. However, these talks have been suspended since April 2009. Initial uncertainties about the DPRK's nuclear program, after the death of Kim Jong Il, were tempered when they agreed to suspend nuclear tests, uranium enrichment, and long-range missile tests in exchange for food aid from the U.S. on February 29th, 2012. However, after a dispute with the United States over the launch of a rocket in April 2012, the DPRK declared the agreement annulled, and conducted a nuclear test in February 2013. In April 2013, North Korean state media announced that they would restart all nuclear facilities in Yongbyon. In September 2015, the North Korean state media announced that all nuclear facilities were back to normal operation with ongoing missions to improve the "quality and quantity" of the DPRK's nuclear stockpile. On January 6th, 2016 the DPRK conducted a fourth nuclear test, which allegedly was a hydrogen bomb. The test prompted a widespread international condemnation. Even China, a traditional ally of the regime, endorsed a UN resolution to apply further sanctions against the DPRK. On September 9th, 2016, the anniversary of the founding of the DPRK, the U.S. Geological Survey detected a 5.3 magnitude earthquake at the DPRK's nuclear testing site. The DPRK claimed they had successfully built a warhead small enough to fit onto the end of a missile and warned their enemies that is had the ability to counter any attacks. At noon (local time) on September 3rd, 2017, North Korea conducted its sixth nuclear test. According to a U.S. intelligence assessment, the test released

140 kilotons of TNT equivalent, making it larger in explosive yield than all of the the DPRK's previous tests combined. U.S. intelligence officials classified the test as an "advanced nuclear device," however, confirmation of whether it was a two-stage thermonuclear bomb or a boosted fission device was not possible without radionuclide emission data. Prior to the test, North Korean state media released imagery of what they claimed was a thermonuclear bomb that could be mated to an ICBM.

4. Key Issues

Division of Korea: When Japan surrendered to the allies at the close of World War II, it brought along several other related incidences; one which was not related, was the division of Korea into North Korea (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) and South Korea (the Republic of Korea). This would leave the USSR occupying Korea north of the 38th parallel line, and the United States would occupy the country south of the 38th parallel line. This was the agreement made, and it was to remain in effect until the country could come to terms and agree upon some kind of unified form of government, to occupy the entire country. These were the agreements made by the United States and Soviet Union. However, in 1947, the Cold War that had emerged between the U.S. and the Soviet, as well as the political differences by both the North and South Korean citizens, in addition to other issues and occupation forces, all led to the breakdown in communications and agreements which had taken place prior. In August 1948, a pro U.S. government was laid out in Seoul, and a pro Soviet Union government was established in Pyongyang.

Korean point of view: The North Korean regime believes and is aware that the United States could try to engineer an assassination of the Korean leader Kim Jong. This is not in the realm of fantasy, as the CIA has carried out many assassinations of political leaders in the last six decades. It's plain and simple that North Korea feels that if it has a nuclear deterrent the Americans will not attack them. This is the harsh truth facing American policy.

5. Evaluation of Previous Attempts

Over the past 63 years, since the armistice, or cease-fire agreement, was signed, numerous international efforts have been attempted to bring peace and to re-unite the Korean peninsula. Among these have been several committees of the United Nations, and the Six-Party Talks (the six parties being both North and South Korea, alongside Japan, Russia, China, and the U.S.). None of these efforts have been successful. This is primarily because none of the countries involved in the effort have been sincerely striving for a reunification agreement of the Korean

peninsula. China wants a friendly North Korea dependent on its favor, and one that's acting as a buffer state between China and allied countries of the U.S. The U.S. wants a friendly South Korea dependent on it, which will provide a force to counter China. Japan would rather have a divided Korea which will never become strong enough to be a threat to them.

It is necessary to involve the main international powers, in order to guarantee a peaceful development abstaining from provocative proclamations and actions, such as military activities or offensive speeches.

The two Korean governments must use all effort to resume the dialogue and develop new projects for a shared future.

In 2004 the first attempt of cooperation was made. The Kaesong Industrial Complex (KIC) is located inside North Korea just across the demilitarized zone from South Korea, largely financed by the South to increase cooperation. It is one of the last remaining points of peaceful engagement between North and South Korea, and it is often seen as an indicator of a relation between them.

6. Possible Solutions

It is necessary to involve the international superpowers such as but not limited to U.S, China and so on, in order to guarantee a peaceful development abstaining from provocative proclamations and actions, such as military activities or offensive speeches.

The two Korean governments must accomplish all efforts to resume the dialogue and develop new projects for a shared future by: cooperating in the field of sports, culture, arts, student exchanges, common news agencies and economic projects.

<http://totallyhistory.com/division-of-korea/>

<http://onecoreanetwork.blogspot.it/>

<http://korea-dpr.com/index.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/18/south-north-korea-unification-seoul>

<http://www.mofa.go.kr/main/index.jsp>