



VANGUARD

PROVIDING INFORMATION ON NATIONAL SECURITY FOR STATE & LOCAL POLICYMAKERS

27 May 2009

Volume 2 · Issue 24

Connecting the dots on North Korea

By Mead Treadwell and Jeremy Thompson, editors

North Korea carried out an underground nuclear test, with a blast, according to Russian officials interviewed by the Associated Press, estimated to be 10-20 kilotons, comparable to the bomb that leveled Hiroshima and Nagasaki in World War II. After a unanimous rebuke from the United Nations Security Council, the regime responded by firing two short-range missiles.

The last nuclear weapon test North Korea conducted was in 2006. Since then it has defied the world by testing long range missiles it claims are for putting satellites in space. Each launch has drawn intense criticism, threats of more sanctions, and strongly worded resolutions from a range of international and regional players.

Even if one assumes that North Korea will probably never launch an attack either against its regional neighbors or against nations globally, the proliferation is difficult to ignore. According to the 2009 report from the Independent Working Group on Missile Defense, the Space Relationship and the Twenty-first Century, scud missiles and missile related parts constitute one of North Korea's largest sources of revenue.

“Beyond its nuclear proliferation efforts, the Kim Jong-Il regime has become a principal supplier of ballistic missile components and associated technologies to the Middle East. The Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) estimates that North Korea has exported more than 1,000 Scud missiles along with missile-related parts to the Middle East region. Missile exports, which net North Korea around \$1.5 billion a year, constitute one of its largest sources of revenue. North Korea has since expanded this trade, and is now believed to be offering technologies associated with its advanced Taepo Dong 2 ICBM to a number of regional client states, including Syria and Iran. Moreover, North Korea has sold missiles to Pakistan in exchange for nuclear technologies,” according to the IWG report. Douglas H. Paal, of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace is skeptical that North Korea is capable of proliferation. In an interview with RIA Novosti, he says he thinks the threat is “very small.”

“North Korea lacks the industrial capacity to build large numbers of long-ranged missiles,” according to Paal. “They will not be able to build so many weapons as to become a strategic factor in the region.”

But Paal appears to assume that the kind of proliferation we should be concerned about requires mass production, and that because there is an absence of mass production capabilities, there is no threat. This is simply not true. The most dangerous kind of proliferation is the transfer of the knowledge required to build a weapon, not necessarily the weapon itself.

On her Twitter blog, the Governor Palin of Alaska perceptively related the nuclear test in North Korea to missile defense. "More North Korea nuclear tests: Why consider U.S. missile program cuts now?" Palin writes. "Now is NOT time to cut our defense."

Are the actions of North Korea a threat? If not directly a threat, North Korea is at least proliferating all of the elements necessary to those who would have the resources to build these weapons. North Korea is supplying the dots, and there is no shortage of people who are willing to connect them.

[Defying world powers, North Korea conducts nuclear test](#)

[North Korea 'will pay' over tests](#)

[North Korea poses no real threat to the world](#)

[In extreme situation, North Korea could sell its nuclear capability to Al-Qaeda](#)

[Governor Palin Twitter Page](#)

[Russia fears Korea conflict could go nuclear](#)

[North Korea threatens military response if inspections of ships are attempted](#)

[North Korea reacts angrily to South Korea joining the Proliferation Security Initiative](#)

News Highlights

Japan urged to get tough on missile threat (Australian Broadcasting Network, 05/27/09)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/27/2581645.htm>

Calls are growing in Japan for a radical change in approach to North Korea, including an active missile defense system which can directly attack the state's launching sites. In a unanimous vote, Japan's Lower House of Parliament has passed a resolution condemning the communist regime in Pyongyang, and calling for tougher sanctions against North Korea. But MP Gen. Nakatani, a former defense minister and the head of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's security committee, says Japan needs to go further.

LDP Panel: Japan should have the ability to strike enemy bases in defense (Kyodo News, 05/25/09)

<http://www.japantoday.com/category/politics/view/japan-should-have-ability-to-strike-enemy-bases-in-defense-ldp-panel>

A subcommittee of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's defense panel plans to propose that Japan be allowed under a new basic defense program to have the ability to strike enemy bases within the scope of its defense-only policy, according to a draft proposal made available Sunday. It also says Japan should be allowed to develop an early warning satellite system to detect the launch of a missile or

other objects that may be aimed at the country. *Related article: [Ruling bloc lawmakers call for tough measures against North Korea](#).*

From the Wires this Week

Emergency Management/Homeland Security

Canada, U.S. fortify border (AFP, 05/27/09)

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iYpbGNxz9z5FwzKusDzhR5IEaOEw>

The United States and Canada agreed to fortify their shared border, once trumpeted as the longest un-militarized boundary in the world, and work to jointly counter threats, officials said. Canadian Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan and US Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano outlined new border security initiatives at a joint press conference, aimed at thwarting terrorism and organized crime.

Canada hopes a list of criminal organizations will make prosecution easier (CBC News, 05/27/09)

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2009/05/27/list-criminal-organizations027.html?ref=rss>

A list of groups designated as criminal organizations within Canada could help reduce the length, complexity and skyrocketing cost of some criminal trials, say police and prosecutors. The committee is studying whether the federal government should create a list of groups it considers criminal organizations, such as the Hells Angels motorcycle club. Prosecutors say it's frustrating to have to prove in each individual case that the suspect group meets the legal criteria of a "criminal organization" as required by Canada's organized crime legislation. According to the 2002 law, a criminal organization is defined as three or more people benefiting from serious offences. At least two Ontario judges have already ruled the Hells Angels is a criminal organization.

States can use portion of recovery funds for administrative costs, says OMB (Government Technology, 05/27/09)

http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/690980?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=link

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget released a memo recently that outlines how states can handle some of the administrative costs for ARRA funding. The memo says that state officials responsible for ARRA implementation have asked OMB to look at the administrative cost-recovery process for federal grants, and that the standard reimbursement-based system is such a barrier to building administrative systems to meet the oversight and reporting requirements. The memo "encourages states to utilize existing flexibilities to recover administrative costs," and details a number of OMB publications and references that outline how this can be done.

NSC absorbs HSC staff, Obama creates new office (Boston Globe, 05/27/09)

http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2009/05/27/national_homeland_security_to_merge/

President Obama announced yesterday that he is combining White House staffs dealing with international and homeland security, predicting the change will make Americans safer. Obama also is creating a new office intended to communicate more effectively with other countries about US

security policy. The Homeland Security Council, created after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, will be kept as a venue for discussing issues relating to domestic security, including terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, natural disasters, and pandemic influenza. Its staff will be integrated into the National Security Council. *Related article:* [White House merging national and homeland security](#).

New Arkansas law allows better local disaster coordination (Arkansas Democrat Gazette, 05/26/09)
<http://www.nwarktimes.com/adg/News/260520/>

Act 432 of 2009, sponsored by Edwards, sets up ways for health professionals - whether in or out of state - to ask to be placed on a registry of officially recognized volunteers during times of natural disaster in Arkansas. Edwards said the law will help the state better coordinate its relief efforts if a natural disaster occurs here. The state shouldn't assume that the Federal Emergency Management Agency will take care of organizing volunteers, he said. "It's just best to be planning on our own," Edwards said. The bill also gives incentives for doctors, nurses and veterinarians to add their names to the registry. It sets up a civil-liability exemption if the health volunteer receives no more than \$500 in compensation for services while volunteering during a declared emergency.

New York bomb plot suspects acted alone, police say (The New York Times, 05/21/09)
http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/22/nyregion/22terror.html?_r=1&hp

Four men were arrested in what the authorities said was a plot to bomb two synagogues in the Bronx and shoot down military planes at an Air National Guard base in Newburgh, N.Y. and appeared to be acting alone, not in concert with any terrorist organization, the New York City police commissioner said. The men were arrested in an elaborate sting operation after planting what they believed to be bombs in cars outside the Riverdale Temple, a Reform synagogue, and the nearby Riverdale Jewish Center, an Orthodox synagogue. Once the explosives were planted, the men planned to drive to the National Guard base to shoot down military aircraft with a Stinger surface-to-air missile while detonating the bombs with a remote device.

Missile Defense/Satellite Technology/EMP

Opinion: Japan needs to prepare for an EMP attack (The Japan Times, 05/26/09)
<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/fl20090526hn.html>

Maurice O'Brien urges Prime Minister Taro Aso to prepare Japan for an EMP attack by taking steps to harden the electrical grid, the piece of critical infrastructure that serves as the cornerstone to most other sectors of critical infrastructure.

Japan to relax arms export ban (AFP, 05/24/09)
<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jvzUCRkinlJ-wa16rQEVVLf4nOvg>

Japan has decided to relax its self-imposed ban on arms exports to allow more joint development and production of weapons with other nations, a report said. The new measure would "enable shipments to countries with which Japan co-develops arms," said the Nikkei newspaper without citing sources. By taking a more active role in US or European military development programs, Japan hopes to reduce the purchasing cost of major equipment such as jets, the Nikkei said. Japan currently bans almost all weapons exports, except for special cases such as those relating to the joint development of a missile defense system with the United States.

Gates: No decision yet on missile defense in Eastern Europe (Associated Press, 05/20/09)

<http://www.ktuu.com/global/story.asp?s=10396566>

Defense Secretary Robert Gates says the Obama administration is still deciding what to do about a planned missile defense system in Europe. The Bush administration plan was strongly opposed by Russia. Governments in Poland and the Czech Republic have agreed to house the missile site but are now waiting for word on whether the Obama administration wants to go ahead with it.

Communications and Information Security

Audit: TSA has weak IT security controls (Federal Computer Week, 05/26/09)

<http://fcw.com/Articles/2009/05/26/TSA-has-weak-IT-controls-audit-says.aspx>

The Transportation Security Administration had 15 information technology control deficiencies in fiscal 2008 that collectively represent a material weakness that could affect the integrity of the agency's financial data, according to a recent audit released by the Homeland Security Department's Office of Inspector General. Auditors from KPMG made 15 findings of deficiencies at TSA, including 13 repeat findings and two new findings. TSA officials took corrective action in fiscal 2008 by testing disaster recovery procedures and reviewing audit logs, but the agency still fell short on oversight of the termination of a software support contract, configuration management and tracking of scripts.

Long-awaited cybersecurity report to arrive May 29 (Federal Computer Week, 05/26/09)

<http://fcw.com/Articles/2009/05/26/cybersecurity-review-report-Gibbs.aspx>

The Obama administration will release its long-awaited report on its 60-day review of federal government's cybersecurity policy on May 29, according to White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs. The much-anticipated report is expected to include recommendations for a White House organizational structure to deal with cyber threats and an action plan to guide future efforts. In specific, the report is expected to put to answer the ongoing question of whether the White House will appoint a so-called cyber czar to coordinate efforts.

Colorado, Oklahoma join 16 other states in collecting DNA from accused (Government Technology, 05/26/09)

http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/690405?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=link

Gov. Bill Ritter last week signed a new DNA-collection bill into law, allowing police to take DNA samples from suspects arrested for felonies. All states allow collection of DNA from convicted felons, but 16 states now allow the forced collection of DNA from those accused of crimes. A defendant who is found innocent in Colorado or whose charges are dismissed may apply in writing to have the DNA sample destroyed.

National Guard

Chief of National Guard Bureau meets with FEMA head to discuss hurricane season (Federal Emergency Management Agency, 05/20/09)

<http://www.ngb.army.mil/news/archives/2009/05/052109-Hurricane.aspx?src=rss>

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator W. Craig Fugate met today with the Chief, National Guard Bureau, Gen. Craig R.

McKinley, to discuss working together on issues of partnership and preparedness as the 2009 hurricane season approaches. The meeting was a helpful exchange of ideas, lessons learned and best practices as the two organizations work to synchronize efforts on behalf of the American public. McKinley said the National Guard's number one priority is the security and defense of our homeland, at home and abroad, so "it is a natural and essential relationship for the National Guard and FEMA to work hand-in-hand to help protect America," he said.

Infrastructure Security

Website to track regional power outages (Austin Business Journal, 05/19/09)

<http://www.bizjournals.com/austin/stories/2009/05/18/daily16.html>

A Texas utility has launched a new online tool that tracks power outages 24/7. The Austin Energy Storm Center website features a map of the utility's entire service area. Power outages are represented by symbols, color-coded to indicate the general size of the outage. Users can also zoom in on the map to see the general street boundary areas of each outage. The Storm Center is currently available by computer but plans are underway to make the site available through smartphones like Blackberrys and iPhones.

Proposed regulation amends emergency preparedness requirements for licensed nuclear facilities

(Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 05/18/09)

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2009/09-084.html>

Published in the Federal Register on May 18, the NRC is seeking comments on a proposed rule that would change emergency preparedness requirements for operating nuclear power plants, for those that might be licensed and built in the future, and for research and test reactors. The proposed rule would limit the duties of a plant's onsite emergency responders to ensure they are not overburdened during an emergency event, and require specific provisions to protect them and other plant personnel during a hostile action event. In addition, the proposed rule would require all nuclear power plants to incorporate hostile action scenarios in their drills and exercises, which currently primarily focus on nuclear-related scenarios. New requirements for back-up measures for alerting and notification systems are also included in the proposed rule.

Report: Better energy plan needed as a matter of national security (Reuters, 05/18/09)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/gwmCarbonEmissions/idUS365178242120090518>

Dependence on fossil fuels and the vulnerable energy grid threaten the country and its military, according to "Powering America's Defense: Energy and the Risks to National Security," from the Military Advisory Board of nonprofit research firm CNA. The report focuses on how current energy policies intersect with climate change and national security, and calls the country's present trajectory "perilous."

To receive an EMP briefing

The Institute of the North and the Claremont Institute in Claremont, California support state legislators and emergency management groups by providing briefings on electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack scenarios and preparedness. If you would like your committee or organization to receive one of these briefings, please contact [Jeremy Thompson](#) by email or call 907.771.2446.

To receive a copy of *Missile Defense and the Role of the States*

In February 2007, the Institute of the North and the Claremont Institute published a report on *Missile Defense and the Role of the States*, a survey of Adjutants General on questions regarding missile defense and electromagnetic pulse. To receive a hard copy of the report, please contact [Jeremy Thompson](#). You can also view the report online at: <http://www.institutenorth.org/servlet/download?id=304>.

To view the IWG report

The Institute of the North's Defense and Security program is a member of the Independent Working Group on Missile Defense, the Space Relationship, & the Twenty-First Century, a non-partisan group of defense experts who meet regularly to discuss issues and projects related to missile defense. To view the 2009 report online, please visit: <http://www.institutenorth.org/servlet/download?id=564>.

To submit material

We are always looking for well-written editorials on the impact of national security at the state and local level. If you would like to submit an editorial for publication in the Vanguard newsletter, please forward factual and relevant articles of 500-750 words in length to the [Institute](#).

The Vanguard online

To view past and current issues of the Vanguard newsletter online, please visit: http://www.institutenorth.org/servlet/content/security_and_defense_program.html.

Unsubscribe

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please email the [Institute](#) with the word "unsubscribe" in the message field.

About the program

The Security and Defense program at the Institute of the North conducts research and educates policymakers on strategic issues relating to the defense of the United States that particularly concern decision makers in Alaska and at the state and local level throughout the nation.

The Institute of the North, based in Anchorage, Alaska, is a non-profit educational and research organization founded in 1994 by former Secretary of the Interior and twice Governor of Alaska Walter J. Hickel, focusing on strategic and natural resource issues.
The Institute of the North · 509 West Third Avenue, Suite 107 · Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: 907.771.2446 · Fax: 907.771.2466

