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Nonproliferation Center

The Weapons Proliferation Threat

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Annex A

Country Profiles

North Korea

North Korea has invested heavily in its military and, in large measure, depends on arms sales for much of its hard currency earnings. Its copies of Soviet-designed Scud missiles are present throughout the Middle East, including Iran and Syria.

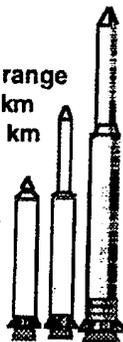
Ballistic Missiles: During the 1980s, North Korea reverse-engineered the 300-km-range Scud B missile and developed the 500-km-range Scud C missile. In addition, a 1,000-km-range missile, the No Dong-1, which was flight-tested in 1993, is in development. From Libya, this missile could reach Athens and Rome. Two new missiles, the Taepo Dong-1 and Taepo Dong-2, with ranges of several thousand kilometers, are also under development.

North Korea continues to pursue an aggressive ballistic missile development program. Past success in generating hard currency from missile sales also will motivate North Korea to continue to explore markets for its Scuds. However, P'yongyang's current ballistic missile systems are relatively inaccurate from a military effectiveness perspective. Development of more sophisticated guidance and control technology will be critical, especially if North Korea plans to deliver payloads other than weapons of mass destruction to longer ranges.

Ballistic Missile Proliferation: North Korea

- Developing new missiles:

No Dong = 1,000 km range
Taepo Dong I \geq 3,000 km
Taepo Dong II \geq 3,000 km



- Can carry chemical, biological, and nuclear warheads

- Potential sales to Iran, Libya and other Middle East states

Nuclear Weapons Program: Under the terms of the 21 October 1994 Framework Agreement with the United States, North Korea agreed to freeze its plutonium

production capability. Currently, P'yongyang has halted operation of the 5 MW(e) reactor, ceased construction on two larger reactors, frozen activity at the plutonium recovery plant, and agreed to eventually dismantle these facilities.

Chemical Weapons Program: North Korea has an active chemical warfare program and produces a number of agents, including mustard and blister agents. P'yongyang has produced weapons carrying chemical agents.

Biological Weapons Program: Although it is a signatory to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, North Korea has an active BW program in the early research and development stage.