

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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COUNTRY Korea

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SUBJECT Military Information: Central Guards' Battalion

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PROBABLY FALSE	CANNOT BE JUDGED
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~~Comment.~~ The Central Guards' Battalion has been previously reported as an elite guard for the General Headquarters of the North Korean People's Army.)

1. The headquarters of the Central Guards' Battalion is in a former bus garage east of the Pyongyang Railroad Hotel.
2. The commanding officer is KANG Sang-ho (姜尚鶴), Lieutenant Colonel in the North Korean People's Army. KANG, who also holds the rank of Second Lieutenant in the Soviet Army, is known as KIM Il-song's "right-hand man." He was born in Hamgyong Pukto Province and is 33-35 years old.
3. The Central Guards' Battalion is at present conducting a program to recruit 10,000 new members.
4. The duties assigned the Central Guards' Battalion include the following:
 - a. Guarding the headquarters of the People's Committee
 - b. Guarding the headquarters of political parties
 - c. Guarding offices of labor press agencies
 - d. Guarding homes of cabinet ministers
 - e. Guarding railroad stations
 - f. Patrolling cities
5. Members of the Central Guards' Battalion are identified by plain red arm bands worn on the left arm.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1979 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

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