

NORTH KOREA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: October 25, 2026 - November 01, 2026

This report was produced using open-source intelligence analysis. The assessment is grounded in publicly available reporting and should be cross-referenced with primary sources. RSS feed articles are listed in the annex for reference.

North Korea Security Analysis Report: October 25 - November 01, 2026

Executive Summary

During the period of October 25 to November 01, 2026, North Korea demonstrated a dual-track approach, simultaneously engaging in high-level diplomatic outreach while significantly advancing its military capabilities and escalating inter-Korean tensions. A key development was Kim Jong Un's visit to China, signaling strengthened "blood ties" and potential strategic coordination ahead of possible US-North Korea dialogue. Concurrently, Pyongyang conducted a major test of a new cluster-bomb warhead for tactical ballistic missiles and showcased an expanded drone arsenal, underscoring its commitment to military modernization. Cybersecurity threats also intensified, with North Korean actors blamed for a record-breaking cryptocurrency heist. These actions collectively indicate a fortified security posture, aimed at enhancing deterrence, generating illicit revenue, and leveraging diplomatic ties amidst persistent regional instability.

Key Security Developments

- Diplomatic Re-engagement with China and Bridge Opening

On October 24, 2026, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un made his first visit to China in a year, inaugurating the newly opened New Yalu River Bridge connecting the two countries in Dandong. During his visit, Kim reaffirmed a resolve to develop bilateral cooperation and toured a car factory, which experts suggest indicates an interest in expanding transportation infrastructure and economic cooperation. This trip, timed ahead of the 76th anniversary of China's entry into the Korean War, emphasized the "blood ties" between the nations and is seen as a move to align Pyongyang with Beijing and Moscow against the United States. South Korea's National Intelligence Service (NIS) analyzed that this visit likely had additional purposes beyond commemoration, potentially conveying North Korea's intentions regarding future US-North Korea relations ahead of the November APEC summit.

- Record-Breaking Cryptocurrency Heist by TraderTraitor Group

On or about October 29, 2026, North Korea's TraderTraitor hacking group, linked to the broader Lazarus Group, was blamed by US authorities, including the FBI, for stealing over $6 billion in virtual assets from cryptocurrency exchange Binance. This is believed to be the largest crypto heist in history, with the stolen funds reportedly converted primarily into Ethereum and intended to finance North Korea's weapons program. The attack reportedly involved a compromised laptop and malicious software designed to delete evidence.

- Ballistic Missile Launches

On October 29, 2026, North Korea test-fired approximately 10 ballistic missiles from its east coast towards the sea. These launches occurred on the same day German Chancellor Friedrich Merz visited South Korea for a summit, and were denounced by South Korean Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul at the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) as a threat to regional security.

- Development and Test of Cluster-Bomb Warhead

On October 31, 2026, North Korea's defense science research institutes conducted a test of a major weapon system, specifically a cluster-bomb warhead intended for tactical ballistic missiles. State media (KCNA) reported that the "Type 2 standard" cluster warhead can destroy a target area of 12 to 13 hectares (approximately 29 to 32 acres) at its highest density. Pyongyang plans to enable its military units to use all four categories of these cluster warheads by the end of 2026, depending on operational purposes. South Korea's military detected the launch from near Chongju in North Pyongan Province towards the West Sea but did not immediately announce it publicly.

- Drone Technology Exhibition and Live-Fire Demonstration

On October 29, 2026, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un attended the "Unmanned Aviation Technology Development–2026" exhibition, reportedly the first of its kind in the North. The exhibition showcased strategic and operational-tactical multipurpose unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), suicide attack drones, and included a live-fire demonstration involving the 600mm super-large multiple rocket launcher system, known as the "Sniper." Kim Jong Un called for rapidly expanding the country's drone technology, emphasizing the need for "absolute superiority" in this field.

- Intensified Border Fortification and Inter-Korean Tensions

North Korea continued its efforts to build a permanent fortified border through the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), including constructing physical barriers, laying mines, and deploying tactical roads and anti-tank barriers. This ongoing work has led to heightened tensions, particularly after a September 21 landmine explosion injured three South Korean soldiers, which Seoul blamed on North Korea. On October 26, a North Korean 122mm self-propelled howitzer was spotted near the border in clear view from South Korea's Gimpo. North Korea denied responsibility for the mine

incident, sending a letter to the UN Security Council on October 25 accusing Seoul of fabrication and calling its border fortification a "legitimate and just exercise of its sovereignty." Kim Yo Jong, sister of Kim Jong Un, threatened on October 21 to resume anti-South Korean propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts along the entire border by the end of October. South Korea has proposed military talks to de-escalate tensions, but North Korea has not responded.

- US, South Korea, Japan Reaffirm Denuclearization Commitment

On October 31, 2026, the United States, South Korea, and Japan reaffirmed their commitment to the "complete denuclearization" of North Korea during talks on the sidelines of a G20 meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. This statement came amidst speculation of a potential meeting between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at the upcoming APEC summit in China, with Trump having made repeated overtures for nuclear talks.

- Switzerland Reopens Diplomatic Mission in Pyongyang

On October 29, 2026, Switzerland resumed operations at its diplomatic mission in Pyongyang, which had been closed since March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis announced the reopening, stating it is intended to facilitate direct dialogue with North Korean authorities and strengthen diplomatic ties.

- DDoS Cyberattack on North Korean Internet

Around October 23, 2026, North Korea's internet experienced intermittent outages to several state-managed websites, including those of the foreign ministry and state news agency KCNA, due to a suspected Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) cyberattack. Analysis by US network monitoring company Kentik indicated multiple waves of traffic from locations such as Vietnam and the Philippines.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

North Korea's activities during this period have significant geopolitical ramifications, primarily reinforcing its alignment with China and Russia while exacerbating tensions with South Korea and the United United States. Kim Jong Un's visit to China and the opening of the New Yalu River Bridge underscore a deepening strategic partnership, with both nations emphasizing their "blood ties" against the US. This move by Pyongyang to strengthen ties with Beijing, after years of prioritizing Russia, suggests a calculated effort to balance its powerful allies and secure economic lifelines amidst sanctions. The timing, ahead of a potential US-North Korea dialogue at the APEC summit, indicates a coordinated front to enhance North Korea's leverage in any future negotiations.

The continued military provocations, including ballistic missile launches and the development of cluster-bomb warheads, directly challenge regional stability and the denuclearization goals of the US, South Korea, and Japan. Pyongyang's explicit rejection of disarmament, despite international sanctions, and its legal enshrinement of nuclear-armed status, demonstrate a firm commitment to its weapons program. The intensified fortification of the DMZ and the threat to resume propaganda broadcasts further escalate inter-Korean tensions, creating a volatile environment where miscalculation could lead to direct confrontation.

The large-scale cyberattack on Binance, attributed to North Korea's TraderTraitor group, highlights the regime's reliance on illicit financial activities to circumvent sanctions and fund its weapons development. This poses a significant threat to global financial security and complicates international efforts to curb Pyongyang's proliferation activities. The US, South Korea, and Japan's reaffirmation of "complete denuclearization" and commitment to UN Security Council resolutions indicate a united front, but North Korea's actions suggest it remains undeterred, viewing its military advancements as essential for national security and bargaining power.

Military and Defense Analysis

North Korea's military and defense posture during this period reflects a clear focus on enhancing conventional and unconventional capabilities, particularly in missile technology, drone warfare, and border defense. The successful test of a cluster-bomb warhead for tactical ballistic missiles on October 31, with claims of devastating a 12-13 hectare area, signifies a significant upgrade in its conventional strike capabilities. The plan to deploy four types of these warheads by year-end indicates a rapid integration into its operational forces, posing an increased threat to South Korea's military assets and personnel.

The "Unmanned Aviation Technology Development–2026" exhibition, attended by Kim Jong Un, showcased a diverse and growing arsenal of strategic and operational-tactical UAVs, suicide attack drones, and a live-fire demonstration of the 600mm super-large multiple rocket launcher system. This emphasis on drone technology, potentially benefiting from expertise gained by North Korean troops supporting Russia in Ukraine, suggests a modernization program aimed at asymmetric warfare and neutralizing South Korean air defenses. The display of a manta ray-shaped stealth drone, resembling Russia's S-70, further points to potential technology transfers and a push for advanced reconnaissance and attack capabilities.

The ongoing fortification of the inter-Korean border, including the laying of an estimated 960,000 mines in the DMZ since 2024, construction of wire fencing, tactical roads, and anti-tank barriers, demonstrates a defensive and offensive hardening of its

southern frontier. The deployment of a 122mm self-propelled howitzer near the border on October 26, along with troops conducting drills, signals a readiness to enforce its border policy through force and deter any perceived incursions. These developments collectively indicate a robust and accelerating military modernization program, designed to strengthen deterrence, enhance strike capabilities, and solidify its position as a nuclear-armed state.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, North Korea is likely to continue its dual strategy of diplomatic engagement with its allies while maintaining a confrontational stance towards South Korea and the United States. The upcoming APEC summit in November could serve as a platform for indirect or direct diplomatic overtures, particularly with US President Trump expressing interest in talks. However, Pyongyang will likely use any such engagement to seek sanctions relief without compromising its nuclear status. Further military drills and weapons tests, especially involving the newly tested cluster-bomb warheads and advanced drones, are probable as North Korea aims to integrate these systems into its forces by year-end. Tensions along the DMZ are expected to remain high, with the threat of resuming loudspeaker broadcasts and continued border fortification.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) remains a critical flashpoint, particularly around the areas of ongoing fortification and where North Korean military assets, like the 122mm howitzer, have been deployed. Any perceived violation of the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) by either side, or the actual resumption of propaganda broadcasts, could quickly escalate into localized clashes. The West Sea (Yellow Sea), where the cluster-bomb warhead test occurred, is another potential risk area for further missile launches. Furthermore, continued cyberattacks targeting global financial institutions, particularly cryptocurrency exchanges, pose a significant risk to international financial stability and could trigger retaliatory measures.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include any official responses from North Korea to South Korea's proposals for military talks, as well as the actual resumption of loudspeaker broadcasts along the border. The nature and frequency of North Korean military exercises, particularly those involving new weapon systems like cluster munitions and drones, will provide insight into their operational readiness. Diplomatic signals from the upcoming APEC summit, especially regarding potential US-North Korea dialogue, will be crucial. Monitoring the activity of North Korean cyber groups and international efforts to track and recover stolen cryptocurrency will also be important.

Strategic recommendations: International actors should maintain a unified stance on denuclearization while exploring avenues for de-escalation along the inter-Korean border. Enhanced cybersecurity cooperation and intelligence sharing are critical to counter North Korea's illicit financing activities. Diplomatic efforts should focus on creating conditions for meaningful dialogue that addresses both denuclearization and security assurances, potentially leveraging China's renewed diplomatic engagement. Regional allies should continue to strengthen their joint defense capabilities and readiness to deter further provocations.

Structured Assessment

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ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: NK News

• North Korea tests cluster warhead, plans military use by end of 2026 (2026-11-01 01:18)

This is a developing story. Please check back for updates. (Last updated Nov. 1, 2026 at 10:56 a.m. KST with a comment from South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff) North Korea tested a cluster warhead intended for tactical ballistic missiles on Saturday, state media reported, outlining plans to enable military units to use four categories […]

• All the world’s a stage: Why North Korea put artillery on display at the border (2026-10-30 08:52)

Earlier this week, a small park on the inter-Korean border, about an hour’s drive from Seoul, became the center of media attention. The reason was that North Korean artillery had appeared across the river from the Aegibong observatory, with its barrels pointed toward South Korea. The sight of artillery guns positioned within view of a […]

• US curbed intel sharing over Seoul’s disclosure of North Korean nuke site: NIS (2026-10-30 07:51)

The public disclosure of information about a suspected North Korean nuclear facility by Seoul’s unification minister triggered the U.S. to start restricting intelligence sharing earlier this year, South Korea’s intelligence agency has confirmed. National Intelligence Service (NIS) Director Lee Jong-seok delivered the agency’s assessment during a briefing for the National Assembly’s Intelligence Committee on Thursday, […]

• North Korea says it launched barrage of 600mm ‘Sniper’ rockets at live-fire demo (2026-10-30 06:08)

North Korea staged live-fire demonstrations of suicide drones, cruise missiles and large-caliber rockets for a drone exhibition attended by leader Kim Jong Un, according to state media on Friday, a day after the U.S., South Korea and Japan offered wildly different estimates of the number of projectiles involved. The demonstrations on Thursday featured various tactical […]

• Why a proposed US military unit to counter North Korea could put China on alert (2026-10-30 03:58)

A U.S. general’s pitch to bring an advanced military task force to Korea has highlighted Washington’s view of the peninsula as more than a standalone front against North Korea, while raising the specter of another standoff with China. During an event in Washington this month, U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) Commander Gen. Xavier Brunson said he […]

• Switzerland officially opens new diplomatic office in North Korea (2026-10-30 03:48)

Switzerland formally opened its first diplomatic office in North Korea on Thursday evening, with Bern's top diplomat in attendance. Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis and a DPRK diplomat cut a red ribbon at the office's opening ceremony in Pyongyang, according to photos and footage he shared on social media late Thursday. In the post, the minister [⋯]

• Kim Jong Un calls for 'absolute superiority' in drones at North Korean UAV expo (2026-10-29 23:12)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un attended an exhibition showcasing both new and old unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) on Thursday and called for "absolute superiority" in drone technology, describing it as an essential choice to meet the demands of modern warfare. The "Unmanned Aviation Technology Development-2026" exhibition displayed various strategic and tactical multipurpose UAVs, suicide [⋯]

• Chinese agency claims it's organizing youth tours to North Korea's Wonsan resort (2026-10-29 09:57)

A Chinese travel agency claims it has been invited to organize youth tours to North Korea's Wonsan Kalma beach resort from this week, though a tourism insider expressed skepticism that the trips will actually take place. In a post on social media earlier this month, the Chinese travel agency Offline said it had received an [⋯]

• Border city casts doubt on reports North Korea testing loudspeakers (2026-10-29 08:47)

A South Korean border city has cast doubt on reports that North Korea tested loudspeakers aimed at the South on Thursday morning, after local media cited residents who said they had heard the broadcasts. "We are unable to determine exactly what happened," an official from Paju City's security team told NK News, suggesting a resident [⋯]

• Overseas North Korean workers linked to Russia's military supply chain: Report (2026-10-29 07:56)

North Korean workers have been linked to two companies that support Russia's military-industrial complex, according to a new investigation, documenting a network of Russian firms and individuals that disguise employment as education to circumvent sanctions. In a report released Thursday, The Hague-based Global Rights Compliance (GRC) states that North Koreans have been found to work [⋯]

• US sanctions 10 North Korean and Russian nationals for role in IT worker fraud (2026-10-29 07:55)

The U.S. has announced new sanctions against 10 North Korean and Russian nationals for their role in IT worker schemes that "defraud American businesses" and generate revenue for Pyongyang's weapons programs. In a press release on Wednesday, the U.S. Department of the

Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated eight North Korean and two [⋯]

• North Korea fires salvo of around 10 ballistic missiles toward sea: Seoul (2026-10-29 03:51)

This is a developing story. Please check back for more details. (Last updated at 1:48 p.m. KST with more details from Seoul's JCS) North Korea launched a salvo of around 10 short-range ballistic missiles (SRBMs) toward the East Sea (Sea of Japan) on Thursday, South Korea's military announced. The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said [⋯]

• US, ROK defense chiefs agree to delay top-level military talks on OPCON transfer (2026-10-29 03:20)

The defense chiefs of the U.S. and South Korea agreed Wednesday to postpone annual top-level talks until early 2027, dealing a setback to Seoul's efforts to assume wartime operational control (OPCON) over U.S.-ROK forces in the event of a conflict with North Korea. South Korean Defense Minister Kang Shin-chul and U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, [⋯]

• Bonnie Jenkins on the future of North Korea diplomacy: North Korea Unpacked (2026-10-28 08:25)

Former U.S. Under Secretary of State Bonnie Jenkins joins North Korea Unpacked with Jacco Zwetsloot to discuss the growing gap between Washington's denuclearization goals and North Korea's expanding nuclear arsenal, the credibility of U.S. extended deterrence in South Korea and the prospects for renewed diplomacy between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un. Jenkins explains [⋯]

• The elephant's gambit: Why Seoul and Washington should ignore North Korea (2026-10-28 08:23)

Editor's note: The following article is an opinion piece by Rocco P. Santurri III, a national security professional based in Korea and U.S. Army reservist. Views expressed in opinion articles are exclusively the author's own and do not represent those of NK News or the U.S. government. For years, the Korean Peninsula has operated in [⋯]

• US-ROK command could be 'suboptimal' after OPCON transfer: Ex-USFK commander (2026-10-28 08:10)

The former commander of U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) said the combined command structure with South Korea could be "suboptimal" after the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON), while highlighting the need to address issues with the ROK military's culture before it can take more responsibility for defending against North Korea. Speaking at an online symposium [⋯]

• North Korean trade fair shows off foreign goods, but without foreign attendees (2026-10-28 06:48)

North Korea kicked off its autumn international trade fair this week with goods from across Asia but few if any foreign attendees, while also promoting a new foldable smartphone. The DPRK's External Economic Relations Minister Yun Jong Ho opened the 18th Pyongyang International Autumn Trade Fair on Monday, state media reported the following day. The [⋯]

• Photos capture North Korean artillery deployed on South Korea's doorstep (2026-10-27 09:58)

North Korea has deployed self-propelled artillery pieces along its western border with South Korea, NK News confirmed Tuesday, as troops continued work to fortify the frontier. Photos and videos captured by NK News at the Aegibong observatory in Gimpo showed at least three artillery pieces on the northern side of the Jogang River separating Aegibong [⋯]

• New 'Call of Duty' game imagines war with North Korea, through Koreans' eyes (2026-10-27 08:56)

The world's most popular first-person shooter series has turned its sights on the Korean Peninsula, and offered perhaps the most compelling depiction of North Korea in a video game to date. Released on Friday, "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 4" continues the franchise's unique approach to transforming complex international conflicts into blockbuster digital entertainment, centering [⋯]

• Deepfakes of North Korean forces massing on border go viral as tensions rise (2026-10-27 08:53)

Deepfake footage purporting to show North Korean forces massing across the border have gone viral this week, NK News analysis has found, presenting a misleading picture of the military situation amid rising tensions. The fakes identified by NK News appear to have been generated from real footage of 122mm self-propelled guns that the DPRK has [⋯]

• US lifts sanctions on Chinese animation studios linked to North Korean schemes (2026-10-27 08:12)

The U.S. Treasury Department has removed two Chinese animation businesses and a Chinese national from its North Korean sanctions list, without publicly explaining the decision. The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) deleted Moxing Cartoon, Shanghai Hongman Cartoon and Animation Design Studio, and Lu Hezheng from its Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons (SDN) List, [⋯]

• Dandong residents caught off guard by restrictions during Kim Jong Un's visit (2026-10-27 06:57)

Security measures due to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's unannounced visit to Dandong caught locals off guard over the weekend, according to social media posts seen by NK News, as authorities closed roads and in some cases locked down residential compounds. After Kim crossed the newly opened New Yalu River Bridge on Saturday, posts [⋯]

• Six North Koreans killed after train hits vehicle in Russian Far East (2026-10-27 05:15)

Six North Korean nationals were killed when a train hit their vehicle in the Russian Far East on Sunday, with local authorities launching a criminal probe into the accident. The collision took place in Russia's Jewish Autonomous Region, killing six of the seven North Korean passengers on board, the state-run RIA news agency reported, citing […]

• Swiss foreign minister to visit North Korea this week to open political office (2026-10-27 04:45)

Switzerland's foreign minister will travel to North Korea later this week to attend the official opening of the first dedicated Swiss political office in Pyongyang, marking the highest-level visit by a Western official in years. Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis will make a two-day visit from Thursday and meet with DPRK officials, according to a Swiss […]

• Kim Jong Un's surprise China visit and rising tensions at the DMZ (2026-10-27 01:48)

Korea Risk Group Executive Director Jeongmin Kim joins the NK News Podcast this week to discuss Kim Jong Un's surprise visit to China, the reopening of a long-delayed border bridge and escalating military tensions between North and South Korea. She explains why Kim's unconventional one-day trip to Dandong signals a pragmatic approach to diplomacy focused […]

• Chinese bus factory that Kim Jong Un visited has strong ties with North Korea (2026-10-26 10:44)

The Chinese automobile factory that Kim Jong Un visited over the weekend had historical and economic ties with North Korea, NK News has found, including producing vehicles that were previously rebranded for the DPRK market. Huanghai Automobile in the Chinese border city of Dandong has also clearly signaled its interest in bolstering business with North […]

• North Korea accuses South of fabricating DMZ land mine blast in letter to UN (2026-10-26 10:07)

North Korea has sent a letter to the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) president accusing Seoul of staging a recent land mine blast that injured ROK troops in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), after South Korea sent its own letter blaming Pyongyang for the explosion and heightened border tensions. In a statement released Monday, the state-run Korean […]

• North Korean foreign minister totes $3.5K luxury handbag during China trip (2026-10-26 08:58)

North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui appeared toting a handbag worth over $3,500 during a trip to China on Saturday, despite sanctions prohibiting the export of luxury goods to the regime and state media warnings against capitalist consumption. Choe carried a black bag resembling a Yves Saint Laurent's (YSL) Sac de Jour while accompanying […]

• Woman entered restricted area near North Korea border, damaged fencing: Seoul (2026-10-26 08:41)

A woman entered restricted South Korean territory near the North Korean border over the weekend and damaged fences along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), Seoul officials said Monday, amid rising border tensions. “Our military on Sunday, Oct. 25, secured an unidentified person who approached military guard facilities without authorization in an area north of the Civilian [⋯]

• US court orders North Korea to pay $400M over 1968 seizure of USS Pueblo (2026-10-26 08:34)

A U.S. court has ordered North Korea to pay $400 million to compensate the crew of the USS Pueblo, a warship Pyongyang seized in 1968, bringing the total amount of damages related to the incident to nearly $3 billion. The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ordered the payment to several crew members [⋯]

• Kim Jong Un says North Korea ‘inspired’ by China’s success in border city visit (2026-10-25 00:27)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his country is “inspired” by China’s success during a visit to the Chinese border city of Dandong on Saturday marking the 76th anniversary of China entering the Korean War, according to DPRK state media. The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Sunday on Kim’s visit to the “Memorial [⋯]

Source: NK Pro

• North Korean actors steal $6.36B from Binance in largest crypto theft in history (2026-10-30 07:58)

North Korean cybercriminals stole $6.36 billion in cryptocurrency from the Binance exchange on Thursday, recording by far the biggest virtual theft in history, according to a U.S. blockchain analytics firm. In a blog post, TRM Labs said an attacker drained funds from Binance, the world’s largest cryptocurrency exchange by trading volume, to wallets across 10 [⋯] The post North Korean actors steal $6.36B from Binance in largest crypto theft in history appeared first on NK PRO.

• Kim Jong Un keeps up busy schedule amid growing inter-Korean border tensions (2026-10-30 05:23)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un kept a busy public schedule this week amid rising inter-Korean tensions, traveling to China, posing for photos with military commanders and attending a drone exhibition. But domestic-facing outlets made no mention of the growing standoff with the South, even as the DPRK military deployed artillery to prominent border locations. [⋯] The post Kim Jong Un keeps up busy schedule amid growing inter-Korean border

tensions appeared first on NK PRO.

• Why a spate of public disputes is déjà vu for the US-ROK alliance (2026-10-28 08:17)

Disputes between the U.S. and South Korea over everything from sharing intel on North Korean threats to management of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) have increasingly spilled out into public view, in what looks like a revival of past alliance tensions. When Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Elbridge Colby visited Seoul in January, he described the […] The post Why a spate of public disputes is déjà vu for the US-ROK alliance appeared first on NK PRO.

• No summit, new bridge: What to make of Kim Jong Un’s unusual visit to Dandong (2026-10-26 11:18)

Kim Jong Un’s one-day trip to the Chinese border city of Dandong over the weekend was a departure from his tried-and-tested approach to diplomacy, marking the first time the North Korean leader has visited a foreign country without holding a summit with his counterpart. For Kim, trips outside the DPRK offer the chance to stand […] The post No summit, new bridge: What to make of Kim Jong Un’s unusual visit to Dandong appeared first on NK PRO.