



NORTH KOREA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: March 08, 2026 - March 15, 2026

This report was produced using automated 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.

Executive Summary

During the period of March 08 to March 15, 2026, North Korea significantly escalated its military posturing and rhetoric, primarily in response to ongoing U.S.-South Korean military exercises. Pyongyang conducted multiple ballistic missile launches and a live-fire test of advanced multiple rocket launch systems, explicitly threatening adversaries with tactical nuclear capabilities. Concurrently, North Korea solidified its "two hostile states" policy towards South Korea, formally abandoning reunification goals. Diplomatic engagement saw a cautious re-establishment of ties with China, marked by the resumption of cross-border train services, while Pyongyang continued to deepen its strategic alignment with Russia. Cybersecurity threats remained a critical concern, with U.S. sanctions targeting North Korean IT worker schemes funding WMD programs, and reports highlighting the sophisticated use of AI in cyberattacks.

Key Security Developments

- Ballistic Missile Launches Amidst Allied Drills

On March 14, 2026, North Korea launched approximately 10 ballistic missiles from the Sunan area, near Pyongyang, into the East Sea (Sea of Japan). These missiles flew about 340-350 kilometers and reached an altitude of 80 kilometers. This action was a direct and forceful response to the ongoing U.S.-South Korean "Freedom Shield" military exercises, which commenced on March 9 and are scheduled to run until March 19, involving thousands of troops. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff condemned the launches as a provocation and a violation of UN Security Council resolutions.

- Live-Fire Test of Nuclear-Capable Multiple Rocket Launchers

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, accompanied by his daughter, oversaw a live-fire test of multiple rocket launch systems (MRLS) off North Korea's east coast on March 14, 2026, as reported by state media on March 15. The drill involved twelve 600mm-calibre, ultra-precision rocket launchers and two artillery companies. Kim explicitly stated that the drill would expose enemies within a 420-kilometer (260-mile) striking range to "uneasiness" and provide them with "a deep understanding of the destructive power of tactical nuclear weapon," warning that military infrastructure within range "can never survive" if these weapons are used.

- Formalization of "Two Hostile States" Policy Towards South Korea

During the 9th Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) Congress (February 19-25, 2026), North Korea formally enshrined the "two hostile states" framework in the WPK charter. This

move institutionalizes a fundamental break from over 70 years of inter-Korean policy, removing references to "peaceful reunification of the fatherland," "grand national unity," and "common prosperity of the nation." Kim Jong Un declared that North Korea "has absolutely nothing to discuss with South Korea, the most hostile entity," and would "permanently exclude South Korea from the category of compatriots."

- Resumption of North Korea-China Train Services

On March 14, 2026, the first train from North Korea arrived in Beijing in nearly six years, signaling the resumption of cross-border train journeys that were halted in 2020 due to strict pandemic border closures. This event follows a period of renewed engagement, including a high-profile visit by Kim Jong Un to Beijing in September 2025 and a reciprocal visit by Chinese Premier Li Qiang to Pyongyang, indicating a cautious rebuilding of economic and political ties.

- U.S. Sanctions on North Korean IT Worker Schemes

On March 12, 2026, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned six individuals and two entities for their involvement in North Korean government-orchestrated IT worker schemes. These schemes systematically defraud U.S. businesses and generated nearly \$800 million in 2024, which is used to fund North Korea's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programs.

- North Korea's Condemnation of Japan's Missile Buildup

On March 13, 2026, North Korea accused Japan of escalating regional security risks by accelerating the deployment and development of long-range missiles. State media KCNA stated that Japan's military buildup amounted to "war preparations for re-invasion," specifically mentioning the deployment of an upgraded version of its Type 12 surface-to-ship missile in Kumamoto and plans to position other long-range systems across multiple prefectures.

- Deepening Alignment with Russia

North Korea continued to deepen its cooperation with Russia, a trend that has been ongoing since 2023. Pyongyang has reportedly supplied weapons and troops to Moscow in exchange for fuel, food, and other resources, strengthening its heavily sanctioned economy. This collaboration is seen as a significant factor in North Korea's increased confidence and reduced incentive for dialogue with the U.S. and South Korea.

- Cybersecurity Threats Amplified by AI

North Korean state-sponsored cyber threat groups, such as the Lazarus Group and Kimsuky, continue to pose significant cybersecurity threats. These groups are actively exploiting spear phishing attacks, often leveraging malicious QR codes ("Quishing"), to steal funds from sectors including cryptocurrency, finance, IT, and defense. Analysts warn that North Korean threat actors are increasingly using generative AI to

scale their operations, refine malware obfuscation, bypass security safeguards, and automate the creation of synthetic personas, thereby lowering the barrier for large-scale deception.

- Nuclear Weapons as Ultimate Guarantee of Regime Survival

North Korea's leadership views its nuclear weapons program as the ultimate guarantee of regime survival. This conviction has been reinforced by recent geopolitical events, such as the U.S.-Israel attacks on Iran, which Pyongyang condemned as an "illegal act of aggression." Kim Jong Un has consistently stated that North Korea's status as a nuclear weapons state is "irreversible and permanent" and has outlined plans to expand both the number of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems.

- U.S.-North Korea Dialogue Prospects Remain Stalled

While South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok met with U.S. President Donald Trump on March 14, 2026, to discuss the possibility of resuming dialogue with North Korea, Pyongyang's stance remains firm. North Korea has repeatedly stated that it will only restart talks if the U.S. ends its "hostile" policies and accepts its nuclear status, a precondition Washington has not met.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

North Korea's actions during this period have significantly heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula and further complicated regional stability. The ballistic missile launches and MRLS tests, explicitly linked to tactical nuclear capabilities, directly challenge the U.S.-South Korea alliance and underscore Pyongyang's commitment to its nuclear program as a deterrent. This aggressive posturing, coupled with the formal abandonment of reunification with South Korea, signals a more confrontational and less flexible North Korean foreign policy, making de-escalation efforts increasingly difficult. The ongoing U.S.-South Korea "Freedom Shield" exercises, viewed by Pyongyang as an "invasion rehearsal," serve as a persistent flashpoint, perpetuating a cycle of military demonstrations and counter-demonstrations.

The deepening alignment between North Korea, China, and Russia is reshaping the broader strategic landscape in Northeast Asia. China's renewed efforts to reassert its traditional influence over Pyongyang, evidenced by high-level visits and the resumption of train services, suggest a strategic move by Beijing to prevent North Korea from drifting too far into Russia's orbit while maintaining leverage on the Korean Peninsula. For Russia, the enhanced military collaboration with North Korea, including reported arms-for-aid exchanges, strengthens its position in the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and contributes to a broader challenge against U.S. dominance in a multipolar world order. This trilateral cooperation effectively blunts international

sanctions pressure on North Korea, reducing Pyongyang's incentive for compromise with the U.S. and its allies.

Relations with major powers are characterized by a complex interplay of deterrence and limited diplomatic overtures. The U.S. and South Korea maintain a strong defense posture, conducting joint exercises and sharing intelligence with Japan. However, North Korea's insistence on the U.S. abandoning "hostile policies" and accepting its nuclear status as a precondition for dialogue creates a significant impasse. Japan's concerns over North Korea's missile development, coupled with Pyongyang's accusations of Japan's own military buildup, add another layer of regional mistrust and potential for escalation. The EU, while not directly mentioned in recent events, would likely align with U.S. and South Korean positions, condemning North Korean provocations and advocating for denuclearization.

Military and Defense Analysis

North Korea's military posture during this period reflects a clear and aggressive strategy of layered deterrence, combining nuclear forces with increasingly sophisticated conventional strike capabilities. The live-fire test of 600mm-calibre ultra-precision multiple rocket launchers demonstrates a focus on developing tactical nuclear weapon delivery systems capable of striking targets within South Korea. Kim Jong Un's explicit threats regarding the "destructive power of tactical nuclear weapon" underscore a shift towards integrating these capabilities into frontline military doctrine.

Modernization programs are evidently progressing, with a continued emphasis on expanding the country's nuclear arsenal and diversifying delivery platforms. This includes ongoing investment in ground- and submarine-based systems, as well as the development of integrated nuclear command systems. Reports also suggest North Korea is pursuing advanced weapons systems such as intercontinental ballistic missile complexes, AI-enabled uncrewed attack systems, electronic warfare capabilities, and anti-satellite weapons. The suspected expansion of nuclear enrichment facilities at Yongbyon further indicates a commitment to increasing nuclear material production to support these ambitions.

Defense spending trends, while not explicitly detailed in the news, are implicitly high given the continuous development and testing of advanced weaponry. The revenue generated from illicit activities, such as the sanctioned IT worker schemes, directly funds these WMD and ballistic missile programs, highlighting a self-sustaining, albeit illegal, financial model for defense acquisitions. The reported similarities between North Korea's Choe Hyon-class guided missile destroyers and existing Russian technology suggest potential Russian aid in defense industry developments, which

could accelerate North Korea's naval modernization and its goal of "arming the Navy with nuclear weapons."

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, North Korea is highly likely to continue its pattern of military provocations in response to ongoing U.S.-South Korea joint exercises, particularly the "Freedom Shield" drills which run until March 19. Further missile launches or artillery drills are probable, accompanied by strong rhetoric condemning allied military activities. The formalization of the "two hostile states" policy suggests a continued rejection of inter-Korean dialogue and an intensified focus on military deterrence against South Korea. Diplomatic engagement with the U.S. will remain stalled unless there is a significant shift in Washington's policy regarding North Korea's nuclear status, which is unlikely in the short term. However, the cautious re-engagement with China, marked by the resumption of train services, may lead to further economic and political exchanges between Pyongyang and Beijing.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The primary flashpoint remains the Korean Peninsula border region and the waters off its coasts, where North Korean military activities directly confront U.S.-South Korean exercises. Any miscalculation or accidental escalation during these drills could lead to a broader security incident. North Korea's explicit threats of using tactical nuclear weapons against military infrastructure within South Korea's range represent a significant escalation of risk. The ongoing development and deployment of advanced missile systems, including those capable of reaching the U.S. mainland, also pose a long-term strategic risk. Furthermore, North Korea's continued reliance on cybercrime to fund its WMD programs presents a persistent threat to global financial institutions and critical infrastructure, with the increasing use of AI potentially making these attacks more sophisticated and harder to detect.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and nature of North Korean missile tests and military exercises, particularly any demonstrations of new or enhanced capabilities. Statements from North Korean state media regarding its nuclear doctrine and intentions towards South Korea and the U.S. will provide insight into its strategic calculus. The extent of economic and political cooperation with China and Russia, including trade volumes and high-level visits, will indicate the strength of these alliances and their impact on sanctions evasion. Monitoring international efforts to counter North Korea's cyber activities and illicit financing will be crucial. Finally, any shifts in the U.S. or South Korean diplomatic approach, or any unexpected overtures from Pyongyang, would be significant.

Strategic recommendations: Given North Korea's hardened stance and advanced capabilities, a strategy of robust deterrence combined with pragmatic engagement is essential. This involves maintaining a strong U.S.-South Korea alliance, enhancing missile defense capabilities, and continuing trilateral security cooperation with Japan. Simultaneously, exploring avenues for stable coexistence that acknowledge North Korea's nuclear status, rather than solely focusing on denuclearization, might offer a more realistic path for dialogue. International efforts should intensify to disrupt North Korea's illicit financing networks, particularly its sophisticated cybercrime operations, to curb funding for its WMD programs. Engaging China in discussions about regional stability and its role in influencing North Korea remains critical, especially as Beijing seeks to reassert its influence. Finally, maintaining open channels of communication, even if informal, could help manage potential crises and prevent unintended escalation.

ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: NK News

- [DPRK says it fired 12 nuclear-capable rockets, figure at odds with ROK analysis](#) (2026-03-14 22:54)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his daughter oversaw a live-fire drill by a nuclear-capable 600mm multiple rocket launcher (MLRS) on Saturday, launching a salvo of 12 rockets and reaching 100% accuracy, according to state media. The DPRK party daily Rodong Sinmun reported the following day that 12 MLRS units forming two batteries struck [...]

- [North Korea conducts missile test, third in March](#) (2026-03-14 04:53)

This is a developing story. Please check back for updates North Korea has launched a suspected ballistic missile Saturday in its third test launch so far this month, according to the Japanese and South Korean militaries. The Japanese Defense Ministry announced the launch at 1:30 p.m. KST and said the missile appeared to have hit [...]

- [Air China set to revive Beijing-Pyongyang route for first time since 2020](#) (2026-03-14 02:42)

China's national carrier Air China is set to resume flights from Beijing to Pyongyang in March for the first time after a six-year hiatus following the resumption of a regular passenger rail service between the countries this week. Currently, Air China's website offers tickets to Pyongyang starting March 30, and on subsequent Mondays, with the [...]

- [Russia shares technical standards with North Korea, a boon for cooperation](#) (2026-03-13 08:55)

North Korea has acquired access to a Russian database of international technical standards that covers everything from programming languages, railway systems and cement to Vietnamese noodles, a potential boon for economic and military cooperation between the two sides. The development came after a technical delegation from the DPRK's Standardization Committee visited Russia in early February. [...]

- [How small changes in North Korea's upcoming election could signal bigger moves](#) (2026-03-13 07:27)

North Korea's constitution requires the country to hold a Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) election every five years, and the next one is just around the corner. The election scheduled for March 15 was initially expected to be held in 2024, five years after the 2019 election. But the ballot was pushed back to 2026, apparently [...]

- [US blacklists 2 companies, 6 individuals over North Korean IT worker schemes](#) (2026-03-13 06:07)

The U.S. has sanctioned a North Korean technology company, a Vietnam-based firm and six individuals over their roles in IT worker schemes to raise money for Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program. Thursday's action by the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) marks the latest step in its drive to disrupt networks that place North [...]

- [North Korean crops held strong through winter before lean period: report](#) (2026-03-12 07:52)

North Korea's winter crops have benefitted from favorable weather, a U.N. report found, leaving the country well positioned for the annual lean period amid persistent food insecurity concerns. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) concluded in a report published Tuesday that North Korea saw "generally favorable" weather conditions between October to February, which allowed [...]

- [Chinese passenger train crosses into North Korea for first time in 6 years](#) (2026-03-12 06:47)

A Chinese passenger train on Thursday traveled from China's Dandong into Sinuiju in North Korea for the first time in six years, videos circulating on Chinese social media show, marking the resumption of the service between the two countries since the strict border closures of the COVID-19 pandemic. The train's departure came a day after [...]

- [Kim Jong Un inspects new pistols in first post-congress weapons factory visit](#) (2026-03-11 23:06)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, accompanied by his young daughter, inspected new pistols and rifles on Wednesday, highlighting efforts to expand small arms production in his first visit to a weapons factory since the adoption of a new five-year military development plan at the recent Ninth Party Congress. Citing a defense ministry report, Kim [...]

- [North Korean firms set to offer wigs, sanctioned textiles to Russian market](#) (2026-03-11 08:12)

North Korean firms seeking to supply fake hair, medical devices, chemicals and sanctioned textiles to Russia have filed trademarks with Moscow in another sign of the allies' booming economic ties. Three North Korean firms — Chonwon, Mubyong and Kanghyong trading companies — filed trademarks with Russian intellectual property watchdog Rospatent since the start of the [...]

- [North Korea signals support for Iran's new leader, while slamming US and Israel](#) (2026-03-11 03:44)

North Korea has publicly acknowledged the election of Iran's new Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei for the first time, while maintaining its silence on his predecessor's death

during the wave of U.S. and Israeli attacks last week. The mention of the new leader — without naming him — came during a DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesperson’ s [...]

- [Ask a North Korean: What happens when you get injured and can’ t work?](#) (2026-03-11 03:40)

“Ask a North Korean” is an NK News series featuring interviews with and columns by North Korean defectors, most of whom left the DPRK within the last few years. Readers may submit their questions for defectors by emailing ask@nknews.org and including their first name and city of residence. Today’ s question is: What happens when you [...]

- [A canceled Pyongyang marathon, a renamed community and a harsh reality in China](#) (2026-03-11 01:41)

NK News Lead Correspondent Shreyas Reddy and Database Center for North Korean Human Rights (NKDB) Executive Director Hanna Song join this week’ s episode of the NK News Podcast. The news roundup begins with the sudden cancellation of the Pyongyang International Marathon, before turning to Seoul’ s move to adopt a new term for North Korean-born residents [...]

- [North Korea conducts second cruise missile test from new warship in last week](#) (2026-03-10 21:50)

This is a developing news story. Please check back for further updates. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversaw a cruise missile test from the country’ s newest destroyer on the west coast on Tuesday, according to state media, the second such test in the last week. The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Wednesday that [...]

- [How the world can get ahead of North Korean hackers’ crypto playbook](#) (2026-03-10 07:42)

International efforts to counter North Korean cryptocurrency theft are too reactive and must shift toward prevention to close off funding sources for the regime, according to a former U.S. sanctions official, stressing that the DPRK’ s ability to innovate continues to outpace authorities’ capacity to respond. In an interview with NK News, Dawson Law, a former [...]

- [Chinese video spotlights sanctioned goods inside North Korean factories](#) (2026-03-10 07:28)

Rare footage from inside North Korean factories recently surfaced on social media, showing workers assembling computers and televisions using American and Chinese components in an apparent violation of international sanctions. Videos shared by a Chinese blogger purportedly showed him visiting Pyongyang for a business trip between Feb. 21-28, where he toured several factories. Workers could [...]

- [South Korea prepared to deter North, even if US moves defense systems: Lee](#) (2026-03-10 04:57)

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung dismissed concerns that the reported relocation of some U.S. air defense assets from the country would undermine deterrence against North Korea, saying such a move would not seriously affect Seoul's security. "If asked whether that would seriously hinder our deterrence strategy against North Korea, I can say with certainty [...]"

- [China, North Korea appear to resume train service after six-year suspension](#) (2026-03-10 03:49)

China appears to have resumed passenger train services to North Korea after a six year suspension, according to photos of a railway notice and tickets circulating on Chinese social media, hinting at a possible loosening of border restrictions between the two countries. Photos of a memo attributed to the International Cooperation Department of China Railway [...]"

- [US-ROK drills pose 'terrible' risks, warrant preemptive action: Kim Yo Jong](#) (2026-03-10 01:39)

The North Korean leader's influential sister lambasted the U.S.-South Korea joint military exercises that kicked off this week, warning of the "most terrible" consequences and an overwhelming response from Pyongyang. The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) released a statement by Kim Yo Jong on Tuesday, marking her first public remarks in her new role as [...]"

- [China 'intercepted' helicopter tracking North Korean smuggling, Australia says](#) (2026-03-09 09:37)

A Chinese military helicopter performed an "unsafe and unprofessional" maneuver that forced an Australian naval aircraft to take evasive action during a North Korea sanctions monitoring mission in the Yellow Sea last week, according to Canberra's defense ministry. In a press release issued Friday, the Department of Defence said a People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy [...]"

- [North Korea abruptly cancels sold-out international marathon](#) (2026-03-09 07:41)

North Korea abruptly cancelled its premier international marathon with less than a month until the race, highlighting the country's apparent lack of readiness in welcoming back international visitors after several years of tourism stoppages. DPRK-focused travel agency Koryo Tours, the marathon's international partner, informed registered foreign participants via email on Monday that North Korean authorities [...]"

- [Kim Jong Un delivers his first speech commemorating International Women's Day](#) (2026-03-09 07:02)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Sunday celebrated International Women's Day with his family by attending a concert in Pyongyang, where he delivered a speech urging women to "fulfill the sacred mission and duty" of contributing to the country. Kim marked the holiday

with an unspecified “grand performance” at the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium with [...]

- [100,000 South Korean troops mobilized for yearlong Korean War remains excavation](#) (2026-03-09 05:43)

South Korea’s military began its annual campaign of searching for Korean War-era remains at frontline battlefields nationwide Monday, despite North Korea’s continued absence from the effort. Roughly 100,000 troops from 30 Army formations and the 1st Marine Division will be mobilized for the eight-month excavation effort this year, according to a Defense Ministry news release [...]

Source: NK Pro

- [What the Iran war reveals about the dangers facing Kim Jong Un](#) (2026-03-13 07:23)

U.S. and Israeli forces’ decimation of Iran’s senior military command, most notably by killing Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, has shown that surgically eliminating a state’s leadership in the early hours of a conflict is no longer a theoretical capability. This is the most uncomfortable lesson from the Iran war for North Korean military planners, who [...] The post [What the Iran war reveals about the dangers facing Kim Jong Un](#) appeared first on NK PRO.

- [North Korea hypes upcoming election as the ‘most democratic’ in the world](#) (2026-03-13 04:20)

State media hyped North Korea’s upcoming parliamentary elections as a demonstration of “the most popular and democratic electoral system” in the world, even as it sought to reframe the lack of actual competition as a virtue rather than a flaw. Coverage of the Supreme People’s Assembly (SPA) elections set for Sunday urged citizens to vote [...] The post [North Korea hypes upcoming election as the ‘most democratic’ in the world](#) appeared first on NK PRO.

- [Iran oil shock threatens North Korea from its fuel pumps to black markets](#) (2026-03-12 09:46)

Global oil prices surged sharply last week following the U.S. and Israeli military strikes against Iran, briefly pushing Brent crude to almost \$120 per barrel after Iran’s Revolutionary Guards moved to close the Strait of Hormuz — a chokepoint through which more than 20% of the world’s daily supply of oil passes. For most countries, [...] The post [Iran oil shock threatens North Korea from its fuel pumps to black markets](#) appeared first on NK PRO.

- [Why a North Korean nuclear warship could become a liability for the regime](#) (2026-03-12 02:03)

North Korea, which has long portrayed its nuclear capabilities as an indefensible feature of its military, recently touted a nuclear-capable warship that has warranted both skepticism and

alarm. Roughly a week after concluding the Ninth Party Congress, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspected the Choe Hyon, a Korean People's Navy destroyer, and observed cruise [...] The post Why a North Korean nuclear warship could become a liability for the regime appeared first on NK PRO.

- [How a USFK asset move to the Middle East could impact North Korea deterrence](#) (2026-03-11 09:37)

The escalating conflict in the Middle East has fueled fears in Seoul that the United States may shift military assets from the Korean Peninsula, opening up potential gaps in allies' deterrence measures against North Korea. Amid mounting speculation, South Korean President Lee Jae Myung expressed Seoul's "opposition" to a potential relocation of U.S. Forces Korea [...] The post How a USFK asset move to the Middle East could impact North Korea deterrence appeared first on NK PRO.

- [North Korea continues prison expansion as satellite imagery reveals 3 more sites](#) (2026-03-11 07:27)

NK Pro has identified three additional prisons in North Korea where major demolition and reconstruction work has taken place in the last year, part of apparent efforts to expand the state's incarceration capacity and management. The latest construction brings the total to 13 prisons undergoing significant remodeling work since 2023, according to NK Pro analysis. [...] The post North Korea continues prison expansion as satellite imagery reveals 3 more sites appeared first on NK PRO.

- [What to know about the North Korean towns chosen for 2026 rural development plan](#) (2026-03-09 07:20)

North Korea has announced the 21 counties selected for construction of new light industry factories, hospitals and "leisure complexes" under the third year of leader Kim Jong Un's "20x10" rural development project. NK Pro analysis has found that over half of the counties host important military and weapon production bases, while only two appear to [...] The post What to know about the North Korean towns chosen for 2026 rural development plan appeared first on NK PRO.

- [Breaking down the debate over military exercises on the Korean Peninsula](#) (2026-03-09 03:23)

U.S.-South Korea combined exercises are kicking off this week after some deliberation on the scale of the training by Seoul, based on the impact on potential inter-Korean engagement. While the allies eventually approved of most of the planned exercises, the debate will continue to play out in Seoul, as the South Korean government pushes for [...] The post Breaking down the debate over military exercises on the Korean Peninsula appeared first on NK PRO.

Source: The Diplomat NK

- [Inside North Korea's 9th Party Congress](#) (2026-03-09 19:59)

What happened at the latest congress of the Workers' Party of Korea and why does it matter?