A SELECTIVE, ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON
THE NORTH KOREAN MILITARY

March 1986

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This bibliography, produced in monthly installments from an online database, provides selective annotations of serials and monographs on the army of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). Entries are arranged alphabetically by author in three sections: modernization of the North Korean army, strategies and tactics used by the North Korean army during the Korean War (1950-53), and strategies and tactics used by the North Korean army since the war.

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PREFACE

This bibliography provides selective annotations of open-source material and covers the following topics:

- modernization of the North Korean Army,
- North Korean Army strategy and tactics in the Korean War, and
- North Korean Army strategy and tactics since the Korean War.

The bibliography incorporates serials and monographs received in the previous month and is part of a continuing series on the above subjects.

Entries are arranged alphabetically by author or title. Library of Congress call numbers, where appropriate, are included to facilitate the recovery of works cited.
**GLOSSARY**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPLA</td>
<td>Chinese People's Liberation Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>CFC</td>
<td>Combined Forces Command (US and ROK)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPRK</td>
<td>Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)</td>
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<td>NKA</td>
<td>North Korean Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>NKAF</td>
<td>North Korean Air Force</td>
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<td>NKN</td>
<td>North Korean Navy</td>
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<tr>
<td>KPA</td>
<td>Korean People's Army (Comprises NKA, NKAF, and NKN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>KWP</td>
<td>Korean Workers' Party</td>
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<td>ROK</td>
<td>Republic of Korea (South Korea)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROKA</td>
<td>Republic of Korea Army</td>
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<td>ROKAF</td>
<td>Republic of Korea Air Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROKN</td>
<td>Republic of Korea Navy</td>
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1. MODERNIZATION OF THE NORTH KOREAN MILITARY
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"The Eastern Approaches." Defense and Foreign Affairs
(Washington D.C.), vol. xiii, no. 11, November 1985, pp. 9-11, 33. UA10.D428

This article examines the defense policies of China, Taiwan, Japan, and both North and South Korea. North Korea is assessed as having stronger ground and naval forces than the South, but South Korea is expected to narrow the gap by 1990. Because Pyongyang apparently is unable to develop an indigenous capability to design sophisticated weaponry, it is likely to remain dependent on the Soviet Union for new types of weapons in the foreseeable future. The current level of North Korea's defense spending is believed to be about 25 percent of its gross national product.


The author maintains that although the military balance on the Korean peninsula appears to be stable, NKA growth and improvement in the past year are causes for concern. Metzler cites the most recent figures published by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, which indicate that the North Koreans have augmented their armed forces by about 53,500 personnel in recent months. He believes that neither Moscow nor Beijing are presently inclined to encourage North Korean adventurism, but argues that North Korean President Kim Il-song remains committed to reunifying the two Koreas by force if he cannot achieve this goal any other way.

"North Korean War Preparedness Examined." Chungang Ilbo

The article examines the offensive capabilities of the KPA. Major areas of concern include an increase in joint service training between the NKA and NKF, the development of a North Korean version of the Soviet SCUD surface-to-surface missile system, and the perpetuation of
high levels of defense spending. North Korea is said to be testing an indigenous copy of SCUD that could reach targets anywhere in the South. Chungang Ilbo suggests that an all-out surprise attack on the South could neutralize as much as 20 percent of South Korea's military assets at the outset of a conflict.


Soviet interest in assisting the modernization of the KPA is assessed in this article. The North Koreans are expected to receive more MiG-23 fighter aircraft and other types of Soviet military equipment in the future. O'Ballance believes that the Soviet objective is to match improvements to US and South Korean forces and to ensure that the NKA does not become militarily inferior to the ROKA. The article provides data on the NKA and ROKA available in other open sources.


The section entitled "Power Game" states that North Korea's ongoing military reorganization seems to have the purpose of making better use of its armored, mechanized, and self-propelled artillery equipment. North Korea is also said to be shifting responsibilities from regular to reserve forces in its rear areas. Defense spending in 1983, the most recent year for which figures are provided, is believed to have been $1.9 billion, or about 9.6 percent of North Korea's gross national product in that year. The forces of the NKA and ROKA are estimated to be roughly equivalent and neither army is believed to have the capability to begin a major military offensive against the other without significant foreign assistance.

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2. NORTH KOREAN ARMY STRATEGY AND TACTICS IN THE KOREAN WAR
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Futrell believes that the failure of the North Koreans to develop a strong air force and adequate antiaircraft units in the NKA before invading South Korea in June 1950 enabled allied airpower to play an important role in preventing the Communists from winning a quick victory in the war. Chapters 1 to 7 discuss how allied airpower first slowed the advance of NKA units and then contributed to the almost total destruction of North Korea's capability to carry on the war. Chapter 9 describes the efforts of the Chinese to build up and train their air force in 1950 and 1951. Chinese military documents acquired during the war and interrogation of captured Chinese airmen are cited frequently by the author. These sources contribute valuable information about Chinese planning for the use of airpower and how this planning changed during the course of the war.


The tactics used by the NKA 4th and 6th Divisions in August 1950 are described in this book, which focuses on the combat operations of the US Marine Corps in August and September 1950. The NKA 4th Division effectively used Russian rivercrossing tactics to establish a bridgehead south of the Naktong River that, if left intact, would have threatened US and ROK positions near Yongsan, within the Pusan Perimeter. The NKA 6th Division, described as a well-disciplined unit with high morale, was able to advance as far south as Chinju. Much of the book discusses the defensive tactics used by US Marine Corps units to stop the forward progress of the North Koreans, and, subsequently, the offensive tactics used to force the NKA 4th and 6th Divisions to retreat.

Brief descriptions of several important works written in the last 35 years are provided in this article. The author groups the books according to their coverage of the following aspects of the war: the initial NKA invasion in June 1950; reasons for the US military response to the NKA invasion; Chinese motives for entering the war in October 1950; discussions of the Truman-MacArthur controversy; and finally, historical accounts of the peace negotiations and the signing of the armistice.
3. NORTH KOREAN ARMY STRATEGY AND TACTICS SINCE THE KOREAN WAR

The author presents a cogent analysis of the reasons for China's reactions to US involvement in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and then discusses Chinese policies concerning Vietnam and Korea today. Hinton believes that China's current approach to the Korean problem is strongly influenced by its desire to avoid involvement in another Korean War. He suggests that, behind the scenes, China and North Korea are not in agreement on issues relating to Korean reunification. Beijing, in his opinion, supports the status quo, whereas Pyongyang is unlikely to change its opposition to the division of the peninsula. Hinton maintains that North Korean leaders know what support could be expected from China, if any, in the event of another Korean conflict involving the United States.


This article examines the training, tactics and organization of NKA light infantry brigades and elite training regiments that form the backbone of North Korea's unconventional warfare forces. The article also discusses the roles assigned to the NKN and NKAF to support unconventional warfare operations during wartime.


The author argues that the Soviet Union's military buildup in Asia and the Pacific and its improved relations with North Korea portend increased instability on the Korean peninsula. Kim speculates that Moscow may be willing to encourage hostile North Korean actions toward South Korea in an effort to force Beijing out of its strategic
neutrality. As long as US forces remain in South Korea, however, he considers it unlikely that Pyongyang, acting independently of Moscow, would decide to attack the South. Kim is pessimistic about the chances for reduced military tensions on the Korean peninsula in the near future, and he calls on the United States to continue its commitment to the regional security of its allies in Northeast Asia.