A SELECTIVE, ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE NORTH KOREAN MILITARY

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# A Selective, Annotated Bibliography on the North Korean Military

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**Abstract:**

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.

**Subject Terms:**
- North Korea
- National security

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**Distribution Statement:** Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPLA</td>
<td>Chinese People's Liberation Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFC</td>
<td>Combined Forces Command (US and ROK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPRK</td>
<td>Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)</td>
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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<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
In the 1970s the Soviet Union provided North Korea with much of the technology that has enabled it to produce its own military equipment. North Korea can manufacture its own small arms, artillery, armored personnel carriers, and tanks. It is argued that North Korean leaders resent the fact that the Soviet Union has refused to provide them with advanced technologies. The T-72 tank is cited as one example, and this has been one of the principal causes for Pyongyang's tilt toward Beijing in recent years.

In the past 15 years North Korea has doubled the size of its army and modernized its military hardware. Mechanized divisions and commando units have been positioned 40 to 60 kilometers from the DMZ. Although North Korea hopes that an all out invasion of South Korea would defeat South Korean and US forces in a week, it has stockpiled enough fuel, munitions, and other supplies to sustain its forces for 3 months. According to US sources, the North Korean Army has 50+ infantry divisions (including 5 to 10 motorized divisions), 2 armored divisions, 6 armored brigades, and 25 to 30 commando and other special brigades.

The following types of weapons are listed as currently in use in the North Korean Army: 7.62-mm Type 68 and 7.65-mm Type 64 pistols; the 7.62-mm Type 49 submachinegun; 7.62-mm Type 58/63/67 rifles; 7.62-mm Type 64, 7.7-mm Type 99, and other unidentified types of machineguns; 82-mm M37M and 120-mm M43 mortars; 82-mm SPG-82, 75-mm RCL Type 52, and other unidentified types of anti-tank weapons; and 14.5-mm KPV and SA-7 SAM air defense weapons. Information is available on only a few of the weapons produced in North Korea. Specific data are provided for the 7.62-mm Type 68 and 6.65-mm Type 64 pistols, the 7.62-mm Type 49 submachinegun, the 7.62-mm Type 68 assault rifle, and ammunition for 7.62-mm, 12.7-mm and 14.5-mm weapons.
forces break through South Korean defenses. The North Korean soldier is described as well-trained and sufficiently motivated to carry out orders on the battlefield.

The North Korean Army is assessed as having the upper hand over the South Korean Army in manpower (1.3 times), mobility, and firepower. North Korea is continuing a modernization program that gives it a capability to sustain a war effort for "a considerable period of time" without foreign support. Recent developments are believed to include the enhancement of river-crossing capabilities. US forces in Korea are said to play a major role in maintaining the military balance on the peninsula.

This annual assessment of military forces around the world provides the following figures for North Korea's infantry and armored units: 2 armored divisions, 3 motorized infantry divisions, 34 infantry divisions, 5 independent tank brigades, 9 independent infantry brigades, and 2 independent tank regiments. Armored fighting vehicles include the following numbers and types of tanks and armored vehicles, respectively: 300 T-34, 2,200 T-54/-55/-62, 175 Type-59, 100 PT-76, and 50 Type-62 tanks; 140 BA-64 armored cars, 1,000 BTR-40/-50/-60/-152, Type-531 armored personnel carriers, and an unknown number of BMP-1 mechanized infantry combat vehicles.

Rear Admiral Charles F. Horne III, Chief of the US delegation to the Military Armistice Commission in Korea, says that North Korea is known to have constructed more than 100 underground staging areas close to the DMZ and to have stationed most of its first echelon of combat forces within 80 kilometers of the DMZ. Horne believes these moves have improved North Korea's capability to launch a surprise attack against the South. He made these comments during the 428th meeting of the Military Armistice Commission held at Panmunjom on 21 March.

General John A. Wickham, Chief of Staff of US Forces in Korea, says that the recent movement of North Korean Army units closer to the DMZ has increased the possibility of a North Korean invasion of South Korea. Wickham believes that North Korean forces would not attempt to take Seoul because of the extensive South Korean defensive fortifications in place around the capital city.
"Pyongyang Hard Up for FX Because of Drop in Arms Sales Abroad." Korea Herald (Seoul), 13 September 1984, p. 3.

Article cites Japanese sources reporting that Zimbabwe and Iran have stopped importing North Korean weapons because of their poor quality.


General William J. Livsey, Commander of US Forces in Korea, says that North Korea has deployed enough mechanized and motorized strike forces close to the DMZ to support an offensive strategy designed to attack South Korea and end a war quickly. Livsey suggests that North Korea's positioning of its army is like putting a runner in the starting blocks.


Table provides following estimates of annual increases in North Korea's defense spending for the years 1974-83: 1974-80, 9.9 percent; 1980-81, 9.4 percent; 1981-82, 7.7 percent; 1982-83, 11.1 percent.


The Subcommittee recommends that $230 million of foreign military sales credits and additional assistance to increase war reserve stockpiles in South Korea be approved for FY 1985 because of North Korea's military superiority. North Korea is reported to have a 2:1 advantage in artillery, a 3:1 advantage in tanks, and to have developed a "war-sustaining infrastructure consisting of fuel stocks, ammunition, spare parts, and so forth, which can support high-intensity combat operations for several weeks without aid." The Subcommittee also recommends that the United States encourage South Korea to increase its defense spending in order to achieve military balance on the Korean peninsula.