

▶ Chapter 6

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## Military Risks Continue to Grow

### ——The Increasing Threat from North Korea's Nuclear, Missile , and Cyber Capabilities

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[Key Points]

- North Korea currently has enough weapons-grade plutonium to manufacture 10 nuclear weapons and is in the process of developing nuclear weapons that use highly enriched uranium (HEU). The likelihood of North Korea's abandoning and disposing of its nuclear weapons is not great, unless some particular motivation to do so emerges.
- North Korea's current status of short range surface-to-surface missiles(SSM) capability is enough to directly threaten the South Korea and Japan. In addition, North Korea's long range SSM, including the KN-08, is currently under development to intimidate the U.S. It is expected that North Korea will sustain extending the SSM range and develop the new short range SSM.
- It is anticipated that North Korea will further escalate its cyber attacks against South Korea, which has built an open internet environment, as well as against Japan and the USA. North Korea could intensively pursue a strategy that combines online and offline attacks.



Key Data

### Tremors Resulting from North Korean Nuclear Tests and the Estimated Explosive Yield of Each

Category	Date	Estimated Explosive Yield (kilotons)			
		Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources	CTBTO	Murphy	Ringdal
1st time	Oct 9, 2006	0.4	0.8	0.9	0.2
2nd time	May 25, 2009	1.8	3.2	5.2	1.2
3rd time	Feb 12, 2013	5.5	7.9	16.2	4.0

Source: From Korea Institute for Defense Analyses, *Analysis of the Security Situation in Northeast Asia*