Pakistan

Country Profile

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N. KOREA
Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

HISTORY
After a long history of rule by the Yi dynasty, the territory of Korea was annexed by Japan in 1910. After the defeat of Japan at the end of World War II in 1945, Korea was divided. Soviet military had control over the north of Korea, and U.S. troops occupied the south. In 1948, separate governments were formed in the northern and southern territories of the peninsula. The governments both claimed the land, and relations became strained. In 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea. Chinese communists fought for North Korea, while the United Nations and United States aided the south. The Korean War ended in 1953, with an armistice, but a permanent peace treaty has never been signed.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)—North Korea—was formed in 1948. Following the Korean War, the government worked to modernize industry and the military. Although the Soviet Union and China aided DPRK development, the government was mainly concerned with a policy of self-reliance. The DPRK army is presently among the largest in the world, and there are worldwide concerns about the development of DPRK nuclear facilities.

LANDMINES/UXO OVERVIEW
DPRK produces at least two types of AP mines, but their production is not sophisticated. Korea is not known to export AP mines, and their mines have not been found in other countries. There are no reported landmine problems along the North Korean borders of China or Russia. It has been reported that mine fields are only present along the North-South Korea border. Landmines are used for defensive purposes along the northern sector of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating North and South Korea. The number of AP mines is estimated at 1.2 million, with about 1.12 million of these laying in the DMZ.

REALITY CHECK
The United Nations reported that two South Korean farmers were kidnapped by DPRK troops in the DMZ in October 2006. Twelve armed members of the Korean People's Army crossed the Military Demarcation Line and abducted the farmers from a rice field outside of the village of Daeungdong. The soldiers then moved north of the DMZ. Four days later, the government indicated to U.N. officials that they would return the two farmers to Pannmunjom, a truce village that lies inside the 2.5 mile buffer zone in the DMZ.

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PAKISTAN

HISTORY
Pakistan was officially declared an independent sovereign state on August 14, 1947, ceasing its union with India and establishing a homeland for Indian Muslims. Despite its recent liberation, the country has become embattled by conflicts with India, Kashmir, and Pakistan's Human Development and Survival (HDS) office has initiated a mine action program in the country's tribal areas. The program focuses on mine awareness and risk avoidance education.

REALITY CHECK
Recent events have only deteriorated Pakistan's situation. The assassinations of Iranian diplomats believed to support anti-Taliban insurgent forces have subsequently led to tension between Iran and Pakistan. This has caused Pakistan to deploy troops along its border with Afghanistan. In response, Iran has publicly threatened military intervention.

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