North Korea

Country Profile
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The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has 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 2000. 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 Daesongdong. 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 Parnmurjom, 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 over ownership of Kashmir. Frequent fighting over the past decades with anti-Taliban forces, Iran and others has resulted in a landscape littered with explosives. Often ruled under martial law, the country has experienced much turmoil and strife and has created tension between its neighbors and potential supporters.

LANDMINES/UXO OVERVIEW

Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF) is Pakistan's primary generator of landmines. A government-imposed moratorium on landmine production during negotiation to affirm Amended Protocol II has since limited the volume of landmines produced to comply with the protocol's provisions. Though Pakistan supports the eventual termination of landmine use, it asserts that security concerns are paramount due to potential conflict with India and the situations in Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan's tribal belt is mine-affected, though no assessment has been made to determine the extent of the problem. The Pakistan Campaign to Ban Landmines (PCBL) reports that landmines are often found in agricultural lands, roads, near schools and in other public areas. The current estimate of Pakistan's landmine stockpile is at least 6 million AP mines.

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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