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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 and Soviet aid in the northern and southern parts of Korea 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.

Casualties
The DPRK government claims that there have been no civilian casualties along the DMZ. On Dec. 7, 1979, a U.S. military patrol crossed the DMZ and stepped on a landmine, causing one death and four injuries to soldiers.

Demining
North Korea is currently working in conjunction with South Korea to demine a path through the DMZ for railway and highway construction (see article on page 26). There was a DPRK representative at the Mine Ban Treaty Intersessional Standing Committee of Experts on Mine Clearing meeting in Geneva, March 27-29, 2000. China has volunteered to assist North Korea with demining, equipment, technology, and expertise.

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 Daesung-dong. 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 Panmunjom, 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 with conflicts over ownership of Kashmir. Frequent fighting over the past decades with anti-Taliban forces, India 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 negotiations 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.

Casualties
A PCBL survey in the Bajaur area reported 405 landmine victims. Most of these incidents occurred in remote areas, preventing medical treatment for the majority of the injured. A lack of psychological and social rehabilitation centers detours the victims' reintegration into their communities. Furthermore, many victims cannot afford prosthetics and other assistance.

Demining
Pakistan has contributed to U.N. mine clearance missions, though no official clearance operations have occurred in Pakistan. Soldiers have participated in U.N. demining operations in Cambodia, Kuwait, Angola, and Western Sahara. In response to the humanitarian crises inherent with mines, Pakistan's Human Rights and Development (HSD) 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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