

Bio Terror Bible

EXPOSING THE COMING BIO-TERROR PANDEMIC

BIOTERRORBIBLE.COM: Despite the fact that the United States and its European Union allies have been researching, planning and drilling for a major bio-terror attack and the subsequent pandemic, the nations of [Egypt](#), [Iran](#), [Iraq](#), [Libya](#), [North Korea](#) and [Syria](#) have been quietly set up over the last decade as potential bio-terror scapegoats. Based on the evidence available, it appears that the U.S., [Israel](#) and [South Korea](#) may be the future victims of major false-flag bio-terror attacks.

While the world is distracted by the Arab Spring in Egypt, the country has been quietly set up as a bio-terror state that will likely be scapegoated in the upcoming war of bio-terror and its subsequent worldwide pandemic. Based on recent news and events, Egypt will likely be scapegoated in a future false-flag bio-terror attack on the state of Israel.

Title: Official: U.S. Has Bioterrorism Holes

Date: January 8, 2003

Source: [UCLA](#)

Abstract: The United States has some serious holes in its defenses against the kind of biological weapons the military assumes Iraq has, the Army's top biological defense expert said Wednesday.

The Pentagon has few or no vaccines or treatments for several biological weapons Iraq has acknowledged producing, such as botulinum toxin, said Col. Erik Henchal, head of the Army's biological defense laboratory. Other holes in the military's biological defenses include the lack of good vaccines or treatments for plague, various viruses which cause the brain inflammation called encephalitis and bacterial poisons called staphylococcal enterotoxins, Henchal said.

"We're trying to fill those holes as best we can," said Henchal, who directs the Army's Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, or USAMRIID.

For example, the Army lab has developed vaccine-like preventative treatments for the seven forms of deadly botulinum poison but hasn't had the money to get them into full-scale production, he said.

"We've been fairly helpless, except to say we hope someone's paying attention," Henchal told a group of reporters.

"Until 9-11, it was difficult to get the pharmaceutical industry interested in our products. We have 20 medical products on the goal line, waiting to go."

Military officials assume Iraq has biological weapons including the smallpox virus, and Iraq can produce novel germ weapons such as antibiotic-resistant bacteria, Henchal said.

He said the Army is sending its only mobile biological testing unit to the Persian Gulf this week. The Maryland-based unit does rapid testing to help confirm an attack with germ weapons.

U.S. military intelligence officials say biological weapons are one of Iraq's few major threats to American forces should President Bush decide to go to war. The Pentagon assumes Saddam has the missiles,

aircraft and other gear needed to launch a biological attack against either military or civilian targets in the region.

Anthrax is the military's top biological weapon worry, since it's a common, hardy bacterium that's relatively easy to make into a deadly weapon, Henchal said. But countries like Iraq might be reluctant to use anthrax against U.S. troops because American soldiers are immunized against anthrax and have the antibiotics needed to treat anthrax illness, he said.

That makes botulinum toxins a big worry.

The U.S. military has some botulinum toxoids, which are inactivated forms of the poisons which work like vaccines to prevent the poisons' deadly effects. But those toxoids are losing potency, Henchal said. USAMRIID hopes to have vaccines against two botulinum toxins in production by the end of the year, he said.

The U.S. military assumes that North Korea, as well as Iraq, has samples of the smallpox virus, and it's possible the two countries have exchanged information on that and other biological weapons, Henchal said. He said "it's a bit of a fantasy" to assume that the only smallpox samples in the world are the two publicly declared samples in the United States and Russia.

"It's clear from intelligence that the genie is out of the bottle," Henchal said of smallpox ([UCLA, 2003](#)).

Title: South Korea Begins Anti-Chemical Weapons Training

Date: May 13, 2010

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: The Yonhap News has reported that South Korea this week began its annual anti-chemical weapons training program event in conjunction with several other Asian nations.

The program, which is the only one of its kind in Asia according to South Korea's Ministry of Defense, will train officials from 18 Asian countries in methods for dealing with certain terrorism scenarios, including CBRN attacks, according to Yonhap News.

South Korea began first began offering the course to officials annually in 2005. The courses are jointly conducted by South Korean officials and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Yonhap News reports.

Twenty-three officials from 18 countries will attend the training program. Yonhap News says that the nations of Jordan, Malaysia and Uzbekistan will be represented as well as others.

The training program will offer courses in dealing with attacks involving chemical weapons, methods for detecting chemical warfare agents and decontaminating chemical warfare agents, Yonhap News reports.

South Korea has become all too familiar with dealing with chemical weapons threats in recent times. Neighboring North Korea is believed to have a stockpile of chemical and biological weapons, and has pursued nuclear weaponry, Yonhap News reports. North Korea has not yet signed an anti-chemical weapons pact either ([Bio Prep Watch, 2010](#)).

Title: South Korea Prepares For Bioattack

Date: June 16, 2010

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: Tensions continued to mount Tuesday between North and South Korea when a nationwide civil defense drill was held in South Korea.

The defense drill was the first nationwide drill since 1989 aimed at handling possible chemical, biological and radiological attacks, officials with the National Emergency Management Agency told the Associated Press.

Both North and South Korea have exchanged hostile words since the recent sinking of a South Korean warship. However, Seoul officials told the AP they do not believe the renewed hostilities will lead to all-out war.

"Now, North Korea is maintaining a considerably strengthened vigilance posture and as you know it's been issuing many threats and statements through various channels," South Korean Defense Minister Kim Tae-young told the National Assembly on Tuesday, the AP reports. "But there have been no serious military activities at the border and in rear areas."

Meanwhile, the U.N. Security Council on Monday that it was "gravely concerned" about further hostilities and encouraged both sides not to engage in any hostile acts.

South Korea has taken punitive measures against North Korea, including trade restrictions, since the warship Cheonan was sunk in March, killing 46 sailors.

North Korea has denied sinking the warship and has warned that retaliation would trigger war, the AP reports.

"We are just a victim," Pak Tok Hun, North Korea's deputy U.N. ambassador, told reporters "So we'd like to make our position clear."

North and South Korea are still technically at war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty, according to the AP report ([Bio Prep Watch, 2010](#)).

Title: South Korea Discusses Bioterror Response Plan

Date: October 13, 2010

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: While meeting with the U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, South Korea's defense minister, Kim Tae-Young, discussed the country's reaction to a potential North Korean attack using biological weapons.

Kim addressed the issue of weapons of mass destruction to reporters covering the two-day 42nd annual security meeting of the U.S. and South Korea's defense officials, GovExec.com reported.

"We are currently in the process of coordinating the details of immediate response in the case of a biological threat from North Korea," Kim said, according to GovExec.com. "We cannot eliminate the possibility of a situation of instability in North Korea that would influence the security of both [U.S and South Korean] governments. It is the responsibility of both governments to prepare for all possible contingencies."

Gates was adamant about the U.S. response.

"North Korea's provocations and aggressions will not be tolerated," Gates said, according to the GovExec.com report.

The bilateral meeting took place shortly after reports from North Korea on Friday confirmed that Kim Jong-Il will be succeeded by one of his three sons, Kim Jong-Un.

"We cannot eliminate the possibility of a situation of instability in North Korea that would influence the security of both [U.S and South Korean] governments," Kim said, GovExec.com reports. "It is the responsibility of both governments to prepare for all possible contingencies ([Bio Prep Watch, 2010](#)).

Title: South Korea Runs CBRN Drills

Date: December 17, 2010

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: In Paju, South Korea, dozens of residents recently evacuated to underground parking lots and wore gas masks as part of a mass evacuation drill against chemical, biological and radiological attacks from nearby North Korea.

Rescue workers in Paju also conducted casualty simulation drills, bringing wounded residents pretending to be infected with chemical agents to local hospitals, according to WXYZ.com.

The drills came alongside new diplomatic pressure from the United States and regional powers towards North Korea. New Mexico's Gov. Bill Richardson was scheduled to stop in China on his way to North Korea this week. He has acted as a diplomatic troubleshooter with the rogue nation and has made several visits in the past.

Chinese State Councilor Dai Bingguo, China's lead foreign policy official, recently returned from North Korea and is scheduled to hold talks with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg in Beijing, WXYZ.com reports. China is being pressured by the United States to try to get North Korea to abandon its dangerous behavior.

Meanwhile, evacuation drills are being held across South Korea in the wake of the North Korean shelling of Yeonpyeong Island, a disputed island near the border. In the artillery duel that followed, four South Koreans were killed. Casualties in the north are unknown.

In Seoul, residents stopped their cars and ran to underground shelters in the country's largest ever evacuation drill, ending any previous indifference South Koreans may have had about a potential attack by Pyongyang.

"We will need these evacuation plans and skills sooner or later in case war breaks out, and I think war can happen any time," Han Yoo-jin said, according to WXYZ.com ([Bio Prep Watch, 2010](#)).

Title: South Korea Claims North Korea Possesses Mass Chemical, Biological Weapons

Date: December 31, 2010

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: In a recently published defense white paper, South Korea claimed that North Korea is in possession of and continues to develop chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

According to the white paper, North Korea has 2,500 to 5,000 tons of various chemical weapons and has extracted approximately 40 kilograms of plutonium by reprocessing spent fuel rods from a 5 MW nuclear reactor it has run since the 1980s.

Additionally, according to the paper's details as reported by English.Chosun.com, the North has increased the number of its special forces troops by 20,000 over the past two years, reaching a total of approximately 200,000, mostly deployed in a light infantry division under an Army Corps that is stationed near the frontline. A light infantry regiment has also been added to an Army division nearby.

The force of 200,000 is reportedly ready to carry out combined operations aimed at attacking major South Korean facilities, assassinating important people and infiltrating the South by using a network of underground tunnels.

A 2006 defense white paper estimated the North's special forces to number approximately 120,000. By 2008, that number had increased to 160,000, English.Chosun.com reports. Currently, they account for 17 percent of the total number of North Korea's 1.19 million soldiers ([Bio Prep Watch, 2010](#)).

Title: South Korea, U.S. Armies Demonstrate Bioweapons Response

Date: March 3, 2011

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: South Korean and U.S. soldiers participated in a training exercise this week that simulated the detection and disposal of North Korean chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons as part of military exercises between the two countries.

North Korea has described these exercises as a rehearsal for invasion while Seoul and Washington say that the simulations are purely for defensive reasons, the AFP reports. The U.S. has had a military alliance with South Korea dating back to the Korean War.

"North Koreans have threatened to use weapons of mass destruction," Brigadier-General Chuck Taylor said, according to AFP. "This exercise helps us to deter based upon our readiness, and if deterrence fails, to help prevail in any kind of threats and environment."

An expert estimation believes that Pyongyang, North Korea, may have enough plutonium to build six to eight small atomic weapons, though they are unsure if it is capable of mounting these atomic warheads on missiles, according to the AFP.

According to estimates by South Korea's defense ministry, North Korea has an estimated 2,500 to 5,000 tons of chemical weapons, which might consist of mustard gas, blood agents, nerve agents and phosgene, among others. They are also suspected to have biological weapons capability.

The annual drills, known as the Key Resolve/Foal Eagle drills, started on Monday and involve 12,300 U.S. troops and close to 200,000 South Korean service members, including reserves ([Bio Prep Watch, 2011](#)).

Title: U.S. And South Korea Begin Discussing Bioterrorism Exercise

Date: May 31, 2011

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: Military officers from the United States and South Korea recently held discussions regarding participation in the first-ever joint exercise aimed at testing their ability to cope with bioterrorist activities.

Despite holding annual exercises aimed against a possible invasion by North Korean forces, the two countries have never conducted a joint exercise solely for the purposes of dealing with the threat of bioterrorism, according to YonhapNews.co.kr.

The three day discussions, called Able Response 2011, began last week among senior defense officials from the two nations, including Andrew Weber, the U.S. assistant to the secretary of defense for nuclear, chemical and biological defense programs.

"In the wake of this week's discussions, South Korea and the U.S. plan to develop ways to hold a joint exercise against bioterrorism," Yang Young-mo, a senior official at Seoul's defense ministry, said, according to YonhapNews.co.kr.

The move, according to Yang, does not indicate that the United States and South Korea believe the bioterrorism threat posed by North Korea is growing. The two nations agreed to hold the discussions last year.

Tensions on the Korean peninsula remain high following two North Korean attacks against South Korea last year, when a total of 50 South Koreans were killed, including two civilians ([Bio Prep Watch, 2011](#)).

Title: U.S., South Korea To Practice Detection Of Bioweapons

Date: August 8, 2011

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: The United States and South Korea will form a joint taskforce to practice the detection and elimination of North Korea's weapons of mass destruction during an annual joint military exercise later this month.

The allied forces will use computer simulations to find the hidden locations of WMDs, including missiles, nuclear warheads, and biological and chemical weapons, and then dispose of them, the Korea Herald reports. The taskforce would then be sent to a certain area where they would participate in a WMD elimination exercise.

"The allies will form the joint taskforce and conduct virtual and actual drills during the Ulchi Freedom Guardian scheduled to take place from Aug. 16-29," a South Korean official told local media, according to the Korea Herald.

The U.S. Army will send the 20th Support Command while the South Korean Army will dispatch troops that specialize in handling WMDs.

Since it was established in October 2004, the 20th Support Command, based out of Maryland, has been involved in a series of WMD removal operations in conflict zones like Iraq.

Some military observers have claimed that South Korea should prepare itself to conduct WMD elimination operations as it attempts to take steps to retake wartime operational control from the U.S. in December 2015.

"In case of an emergency on the peninsula, the troops from the U.S. 20th Support Command could come late or could not be deployed here for some unexpected reason," a military official said, according to the Korea Herald. "So, there appears to be the need for us to establish our own unit, possibly a brigade-level one."

According to a South Korean defense white paper published in December, North Korea has 2,500 to 5,000 tons of chemical weapons. North Korea is also presumed to have obtained around 40 kilograms of plutonium after reprocessing spent fuel rods four times ([Bio Prep Watch, 2011](#)).

Title: South Korea's Smallpox Vaccine Stockpile Spoils

Date: September 8, 2011

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: Approximately one million doses of smallpox vaccine out of South Korea's stockpile of seven million have reportedly spoiled.

The doses, for use in case of a biological attack from North Korea, were recently found unfit for use and will have to be destroyed, according to Chosun.com.

The spoiled doses were produced by South Korean domestic pharmaceutical companies in 2009 and have yet to reach their expiration date. Another 4.59 million doses purchased from 2003 and 2008 have reached their expiration date but are currently not being eliminated from the stockpile.

According to data from the Korea Food and Drug Administration that was recently released by Lee Jae-Sun, a lawmaker from the Liberty Forward Party, a series of animal tests conducted on the doses produced in 2009 failed.

All of the guinea pigs used in the toxicity tests died after being injected with doses from the batch, Chosun.com reports. The KFDA said the high toxicity of the batch has made the doses unfit for human use and they have asked the Korean Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to destroy them.

Seoul acquired 980,000 doses of antibiotics to treat bubonic plague in 2001. They were destroyed after passing their expiration date and have yet to be replaced, according to KoreaHerald.com ([Bio Prep Watch, 2011](#)).

Title: Expert Details Joint U.S.-South Korea Bioattack Exercise

Date: September 19, 2011

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: The United States and South Korea held a joint exercise in May to counter potential biological attacks by North Korea, according to a ruling party member.

Kim Hak-song of the Grand National Party said that the anti-biological war drill was held at the South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command and the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses on May 17 through May 27 and was attended by senior officials from both countries' related agencies, the Korea Herald reports.

The exercise was presided over by the U.S., which tried to warn Seoul of Pyongyang's biological weapons, which pose threats to peace in Northeast Asia, Kim said. According to Kim, Seoul opposed the exercise, citing public anxiety and negative economic impact.

The drill was aimed at coping with North Korea's asymmetrical attacks with radiation leakage and biological weapons. North Korea is believed to have 13 types of weaponized stocks of biochemicals, including cholera, typhoid and anthrax.

Military and political heavyweights from both countries, including Gen. Walter Sharp, who was the then-commander of U.S. forces in Korea, participated in a seminar held at KIDA on the last day of the drill.

"South Korea found that it has been hardly prepared to counter North Korea's biological attacks," Kim said, according to the Korea Herald. "The defense ministry should come up with measures against biological warfare."

According to a study, a bomb containing one kilogram of anthrax could kill up to 11,000 people in a city

that has a population density of 14,500 per square kilometer. Seoul's density rose to 17,240 per square kilometer in 2010 ([Bio Prep Watch, 2011](#)).

Title: S. Korean Military Vulnerable To N. Korea's Biological Attacks

Date: September 25, 2011

Source: [Korean Times](#)

Abstract: The military is vulnerable to North Korea's biological attacks, due to lack of adequate equipment, an opposition lawmaker insisted on Sunday.

Rep. Shin Hak-yong of the main opposition Democratic Party said that the military currently owns scores of anti-biological vehicles capable of detecting only four kinds of biological agents, though the North has 13 kinds of biological agents, including anthrax bacterium, smallpox virus and cholera.

The anti-biological military vehicles are antiquated, as they were introduced here ahead of the 2002 World Cup finals co-hosted with Japan, the lawmaker claimed.

He noted that the military has commissioned a local private firm to develop an advanced biological toxin detector capable of monitoring 10 kinds of biological agents in two minutes, but its deployment is scheduled for 2013 at the earliest.

Shin said the military is planning to deploy the new anti-biological detector at the nation's major airports, ports and military facilities.

"Our military's defense has been excessively focused on preparedness for North Korea's chemical attacks, rather than for its biological attacks," said Shin, calling for greater efforts to expand defense against biological warfare ([Korean Times, 2011](#)).

Title: South Korea Vulnerable To North Korean Bioattack

Date: September 27, 2011

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: South Korea remains particularly vulnerable to an attack by North Korea using biological weapons because of it lacks proper equipment, a South Korean opposition lawmaker recently declared.

Democratic Party Rep. Shin Hak-yong said that the South's military currently uses vehicle-based biological weapons sensors that are only capable of detecting four kinds of biological agents, despite the fact that North Korea possesses at least 13 types of agents, according to [YonhapNews.co.kr](#).

"We have particular concerns with the activities of North Korea...in the biological weapons context, but also because of their...support for terrorism and their lack of compliance with international obligations," Assistant Secretary of State John C. Rood said in 2009, [PopularMechanics.com](#) reports.

The lawmaker said that the vehicles are antiquated. They were originally introduced into service in 2002, ahead of the 2002 World Cup finals South Korea co-hosted with Japan.

Shin said that South Korean military planners have commissioned a local firm to produce a new type of biological weapons detector capable of identifying 10 types of agents in a span of two minutes, but it is not scheduled for deployment until 2013 at the earliest.

The military has plans to place the new sensors at major airports, ports and military facilities.

"Our military's defense has been excessively focused on preparedness for North Korea's chemical attacks, rather than for its biological attacks," Shin said, YonhapNews.co.kr reports ([Bio Prep Watch, 2011](#)).

Title: South Korea Developing Bioweapon Defenses

Date: October 10, 2011

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: According to South Korea's defense minister, the country is researching and developing defensive measures against possible biological and chemical attacks from North Korea.

During an annual parliamentary audit, Kim Kwan-jin, the country's defense minister, said that while South Korea does not yet have vaccines against those types of offenses, they will be put in place soon, Yonhap News Agency reports.

"Since the project costs a lot of money, we haven't settled on the exact date on when we can develop vaccines," Kim said, according to Yonhap News Agency. "But once they're developed, there should be no major problem."

Kim said that U.S. forces in Korea have vaccines against anthrax and that South Korean health authorities have similar vaccines and the capability of developing their own vaccines.

Han Min-koo, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, said that U.S. troops and South Korea have engaged in joint identification and detection exercises and will cooperate with each other during contingencies. The defense ministry estimates that North Korea has up to 5,000 tons of chemical weapons and is capable of growing cholera, smallpox and anthrax.

Han addressed concerns that South Korea's Guided Weapons Defense Command may be vulnerable to missiles from North Korea, saying that the unit's armory and ammunition chamber will be well protected.

"Developments of mid-range surface-to-air missiles (M-SAM) and long-range surface-to-air missiles (L-SAM), which will be used in missile defense, have been included in the mid-term defense plans," Han said, according to Yonhap News Agency. "I think they may take five to 10 years to develop" ([Bio Prep Watch](#)).

Title: U.S., South Korea Examine North Korean Bioterror Threat

Date: November 15, 2011

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: Military officials from the U.S. and South Korea met in operations centers over the past two weeks to examine in great detail how they would respond to a biological or chemical attack from North Korea.

Many details of the computer-based Warpath III exercise are classified. The exercise gave 1,000 service members from eight South Korean and American brigades experience in how the alliance would react with the "full spectrum" of its equipment and manpower in the event the North made good on threats it has made over the years, Stars and Stripes reports.

"I think it would be irresponsible not to take that threat seriously," Lt. Col. Joe Scrocca, a 2ID spokesman said, according to Stars and Stripes. "If we don't practice, we will not be ready if they use those weapons. We're practicing for a real-world threat on the peninsula."

While North Korea's developing nuclear weapons program has made more headlines in recent years, those familiar with the North say its biological and chemical capabilities would be major elements of any all-out attack on the South. A 2007 Popular Mechanics investigative report stated that, according to South

Korean intelligence agencies, defectors and other sources, North Korea has built “one of the world’s most extensive biochemical warfare programs,” according to Stars and Stripes.

In September, Shin Hak-yong, a South Korean lawmaker, called for greater efforts to expand the South's defense against potential biological warfare, according to the Yonhap News Agency.

“Our job is to be ready for whatever comes,” Scrocca said, Stars and Stripes reports. “We’re just about the only ones in the Army doing this full-spectrum-type stuff against all possible type threats. This is all computer-based ... but we’re working on the strategies that would be used in a full spectrum of operations. We’re practicing the identification, detection and defense against chemical-biological weapons — How would we be able to detect (chemical-biological weapons)? What would happen once they are detected? How would we decontaminate soldiers and equipment if that happened?” ([Bio Prep Watch, 2011](#)).

Title: South Korea Seeks To Increase Bioweapon, WMD Defense

Date: February 13, 2012

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: Military officials for the defense ministry of South Korea said on Thursday that the country plans to undergo restructuring in an effort to strengthen the military’s defense against cyber warfare and weapons of mass destruction.

Under the proposed changes, the ministry’s department of non-proliferation would be renamed the department of WMD response. Officials working in that department would form the country’s defense policy against potential WMD attacks from North Korea, providing the necessary guidelines for successful defense, [Yonhap News Agency](#) reports.

This newly-named department would also oversee nuclear policies, missile defense, response to chemical and biological weapons, and non-proliferation. Another change would see the information protection team renamed to the cyber protection policy team. This team would come up with a South Korean response to the cyber warfare threats of North Korea.

“North Korea has continuously developed missiles, nuclear weapons and chemical and biological weapons,” an official for the defense ministry said, according to [Yonhap News Agency](#). “We’re also aware of actual cyber attacks by North Korea. We need to develop policies to actively respond to such instances, and to strengthen roles and functions for relevant departments, accordingly.”

Under the proposed change, the ministry would increase the number of civil servants employed there from 621 to 634 ([Bio Prep Watch, 2012](#)).

Title: South Korea Begins Military Drills Despite Threat From North Korea

Date: February 20, 2012

Source: [Fox News](#)

Abstract: South Korea conducted live-fire military drills near its disputed sea boundary with North Korea on Monday despite Pyongyang’s threat to respond with a “merciless” attack -- a threat it did not immediately make good on.

Analysts said North Korea was unlikely to respond with more than words because it is focusing on internal stability two months after the death of leader Kim Jong Il. North Korea is also days away from its first nuclear disarmament talks with the U.S. since Kim's death.

Washington and North Korea's neighbors are closely watching how Kim Jong Un, Kim Jong Il's son and successor, navigates strained ties with rival South Korea and a long-running standoff over the country's

nuclear weapons programs. In another potential point of tension, U.S. forces will be conducting annual military exercises with South Korea over the next few months.

South Korea's drills took place Monday in an area of the Yellow Sea that was the target of a North Korean artillery attack in 2010 that killed four South Koreans and raised fears of a wider conflict. North Korea didn't threaten similar South Korean firing drills in the area in January, but it called the latest exercise a "premeditated military provocation" and warned it would retaliate for an attack on its territory.

A North Korean officer said in an interview Sunday with an Associated Press staffer in Pyongyang that North Koreans would respond to any provocation with "merciless retaliatory strikes."

North Korea is fully prepared for a "total war," and the drills will lead to a "complete collapse" of ties between the Koreas, the North's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea said in a statement carried Monday by the official Korean Central News Agency.

Such rhetoric has been typical of North Korean officials in the past.

Later Monday, South Korean troops on five islands near the disputed sea boundary fired artillery into waters southward, away from nearby North Korea, a Defense Ministry official said on condition of anonymity, citing department rules. South Korea reported no action by North Korea following the drills, which ended after about two hours.

North Korea's military maintained increased vigilance during Monday's drills, though Seoul saw nothing suspicious, a South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff officer said on condition of anonymity, citing department rules.

South Korean military officials said they were ready to repel any attack. Residents on the front-line islands were asked to go to underground shelters before the drills started, according to South Korea's Defense Ministry and Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Analysts said the threats allow Pyongyang to show its anger over what it sees as a violation of its territory, but that an immediate attack was unlikely during what is a delicate time for inter-Korean and U.S.-North Korean relations, and for internal North Korean politics.

"South Korea's military would have immediately responded this time, and that's something that North Korea can't afford" during its transfer of power to Kim Jong Un, said Yoo Ho-yeol, a professor at Korea University in South Korea.

The North's threat appeared aimed at mustering internal support or could be the result of top military officers showing their loyalty to Kim Jong Un, Yoo said.

The North knows that raising tensions ahead of nuclear talks with the United States won't be advantageous, said Cheong Seong-chang, an analyst at the private Sejong Institute in South Korea.

The Korean Peninsula has been technically at war for about 60 years. The maritime line separating the countries was drawn by the U.S.-led U.N. Command without Pyongyang's consent at the close of the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended with a truce, not a peace treaty. North Korea routinely argues that the line should run farther south.

Relations between the Koreas plummeted following the 2010 shelling of front-line Yeonpyeong Island, seven miles (11 kilometers) from North Korean shores, and a deadly warship sinking blamed on Pyongyang. North Korea has flatly denied its involvement in the sinking, which killed 46 South Korean sailors.

Kim Jong Un's handling of North Korea's military and diplomacy will come into sharper focus in the next several weeks.

The United States and North Korea will have important nuclear disarmament talks Thursday -- the third round of bilateral talks since last summer and the first since Kim Jong Il's Dec. 17 death. They are aimed at restarting six-nation aid-for-disarmament negotiations on North Korea's nuclear program.

The North pulled out of those negotiations in early 2009 but has said it is willing to restart the six-party talks, which also include China, Japan, Russia and South Korea. But the U.S. and its allies are demanding that the North first demonstrate its sincerity in ending its nuclear weapons program.

Additionally, a series of military exercises between the United States and its ally Seoul will extend over more than two months. Seoul and Washington say their long-planned annual drills are defensive in nature, but North Korea calls them preparation for an invasion.

South Korea began joint anti-submarine drills Monday with the United States, but the training site is farther south from the disputed sea boundary, South Korean military officials said. About 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea as what U.S. and South Korean officials call deterrence against North Korean aggression.

South Korean and U.S. troops will start 12 days of largely computer-simulated war games next week, and two months of field training drills in early March.

Early Monday, the powerful Political Bureau of the Central Committee of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party announced it would convene a special political conference in mid-April to "glorify" the late leader and to rally around his son.

The last time such a conference was held was in September 2010, when Kim Jong Un was named to a high-ranking party military post in the first public confirmation that he was being groomed to succeed his father.

The conference could wrap up the North's power succession process, analysts said, with Kim Jong Un possibly promoted to general secretary of the Workers' Party, the ruling party's top job and one of the country's highest positions ([Fox News, 2012](#)).

Title: South Korea Releases Bioterrorism Response Guidelines

Date: March 5, 2012

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: According to a ruling party lawmaker, the defense ministry of South Korea has dispensed guidelines for responding to alleged bioterrorism threats posed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The defense ministry sent out the 130 page guidelines on the recommended responses to bioterrorism and the successive medical support to all military units. The guidelines are the first of their kind to be created by South Korea's defense ministry, [Xinhua](#) reports.

The guidelines offer detailed explanation on 13 bioterrorism agents that the DPRK is believed to have large amounts of, including smallpox, plague and anthrax.

"There is an urgent need to develop additional vaccines against bioterrorism," Song Young-sun, a lawmaker of the ruling Saenuri Party, said, according to [Xinhua](#).

The U.S. and South Korea have conducted joint drills since 2010 aimed at identifying, detecting and neutralizing biological and chemical weapons that the DPRK allegedly possesses.

“North Korea’s biological agents are asymmetrical weapons that can cause overwhelming chaos and damage, and we need to quickly develop additional vaccines,” Song Young-sun said, according to [Yonhap News](#). “Under the new North Korean leadership of Kim Jong-un, things could change suddenly on the peninsula. We have to be fully prepared for bioterrorism and other sorts of threats” ([Bio Prep Watch, 2012](#)).

Title: South Korea Not Prepared For North Korea’s Bioweapons Capability

Date: March 13, 2012

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: When compared with the biological warfare defenses of the United States, South Korea’s capabilities to deal with the smallpox virus fall well short despite North Korea’s biological weapons capacity.

In a defense white paper, the Ministry of National Defense said that North Korea has biological capabilities, including the ability to synthesize the smallpox virus. The United States sees South Korea as one of the most likely places to see a return of the deadly virus, the [Korea Herald](#) reports.

Smallpox is estimated to have killed more than 300 million people during the 20th century. The only treatment is to receive a vaccination within 72 hours of being infected.

While South Korea began stockpiling smallpox vaccines in 2002, tests showed that of the seven million doses, 1.06 million were unfit for use and 4.59 million doses had exceeded the recommended storage duration. The country has no other project for smallpox vaccine stockpiling in the future. In comparison, the U.S. smallpox vaccination program covers its entire population.

“As the Korean military’s bio-chemical defense capabilities have been focused on chemical warfare, preparations for biological warfare have been neglected,” Shin Hak-yong, a representative with the Democratic Unity Party, said, according to the [Korea Herald \(Bio Prep Watch, 2012\)](#).