

## N. Korea Denies Passage To Enter Factory

PAJU, South Korea (AP) — In past deadly confrontations between North and South Korea, a jointly operated industrial park stayed open, churning out goods.

But in the latest sign that North Korea's warlike stance toward South Korea and the United States is moving from words to action, the North on Wednesday barred South Korean managers and trucks delivering supplies from crossing the border to enter the Kaesong industrial park.

It's an announcement that further escalates a torrent of actions that analysts say is aimed at pressuring the U.S. and South Korea to change their policies toward North Korea.

The Kaesong move came a day after the North said it would restart its long-shuttered plutonium reactor and a uranium enrichment plant. Both could produce fuel for nuclear weapons that North Korea is developing and has threatened to hurl at the U.S., but which experts don't think it will be able to accomplish for years.

The North's rising rhetoric has been met by a display of U.S. military strength, including flights of nuclear-capable bombers and stealth jets at annual South Korean-U.S. military drills that the allies call routine and North Korea says are invasion preparations.

## Worker Missing After Cruise Ship Breaks Away

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — U.S. Coast Guard officials are searching for a missing shipyard worker after a disabled Carnival Cruise ship broke free from its mooring in Mobile, Ala.

Petty Ofc. Second Class Bill Colclough says a crew is searching the Mobile River for the man. He went missing after the ship drifted from its mooring Wednesday afternoon. Colclough was unsure of where the worker was when the ship became dislodged.

The U.S. Coast Guard tweeted that high winds are likely to blame for the *Triumph* becoming dislodged. The National Weather Service reported winds between 35 and 65 mph blowing through the area. Carnival spokesman Vance Gulliksen says the ship drifted and is resting against a cargo vessel.

The *Triumph* was disabled Feb. 10 by an engine fire that stranded thousands of passengers onboard for days in the Gulf.

## West Virginia Sheriff Shot, Suspect ID'd

WILLIAMSON, W.Va. (AP) — A sheriff known for cracking down on the drug trade in southern West Virginia's coalfields was fatally shot Wednesday in the spot where he usually parked his car for lunch, a state official said, and a suspect was in custody.

State Police told Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin that Mingo County Sheriff Eugene Crum died of his wounds, said his chief of staff Rob Alsop.

State Police spokesman Sgt. Michael Baylous identified the suspect as 37-year-old Tennis Melvin Maynard and said he was being treated at Cabell Huntington Hospital in Huntington for gunshot wounds late Wednesday.

Baylous said the suspect's condition was unknown, but Maynard was shot by a sheriff's deputy after a short pursuit in Delbarton that ended with Maynard crashing his car.

The courthouse was evacuated after the shooting, streets into the city were temporarily blocked off and officers held white sheets around the crime scene, Crum's body further shielded by two vehicles.

## Israel, Gaza Militants Exchange Fire

JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian militants launched several rockets into southern Israel and Israeli aircraft struck targets in the Gaza Strip Wednesday in the heaviest exchange of fire between the sides since a cease-fire ended a major flare-up last year.

There were no casualties reported, but the violence nonetheless threatened to shatter the calm that has prevailed for more than four months. Israel's new defense minister issued a stern warning.

"We will not allow shooting of any sort (even sporadic) toward our citizens and our forces," Moshe Yaalon, a former military chief of staff, said in a statement.

By nightfall Wednesday, calm appeared to have returned. A small al-Qaida-influenced group was suspected. The rocket fire coincided with unrest in the West Bank over the death of a Palestinian prisoner.

Yaalon said he holds the Islamic militant Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since 2007, responsible for all such attacks from the seaside strip.

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon said Wednesday it was deploying a missile defense shield to Guam to protect the U.S. and its allies in the region in response to increasingly hostile rhetoric from North Korea. The North renewed its threat to launch a nuclear attack on the United States.

The threat issued by the General Staff of the Korean People's Army capped a week of psychological warfare and military muscle moves by both sides that have rattled the region.

On Wednesday, the Pentagon announced it will deploy a land-based, high-altitude missile defense system to Guam to strengthen the Asia-Pacific region's protections against a possible attack.

Pyongyang, for its part, said that America's ever-escalating hostile policy toward North Korea "will be smashed" by the North's nuclear strike and the "merciless operation" of its armed forces.

"The U.S. had better ponder over the prevailing grave situation," said the translated statement, which was issued before the Pentagon announced plans to send a missile defense shield to Guam.

The Pentagon had no immediate reaction to the latest statement, but earlier Wednesday Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel labeled North Korea's rhetoric as a real, clear danger and threat to the U.S. and its Asia-Pacific allies. And he said the U.S. is doing all it can to defuse the situation, echoing comments a day earlier by Secretary of State John Kerry.

"Some of the actions they've taken over the last few weeks present a real and clear danger and threat to the interests, certainly of our allies, starting with South Korea and Japan and also the threats that the North Koreans have leveled directly at the United States regarding our base

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# U.S. Missile Defense Shield To Counter North Korea Threat



### About Kaesong

• Kaesong Industrial Complex was begun in 2003 to foster North-South cooperation

• Includes more than 120 factories that employ more than 50,000 North Koreans and several hundred South Korean managers

• Financed largely by the South; South Korean firms pay more than \$80 million yearly in wages to North Koreans

• In 2012, factories made \$470 million in goods, the largest source of North-South trade

Source: BBC, AP, ESRI  
Graphic: Pat Carr

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## Exacerbating tensions

North Korea has barred South Koreans from crossing the border to work at the Kaesong Industrial Complex, the latest in a series of actions that have heightened tensions between the two nations.

### Recent actions

**Dec. 12, 2012** North Korea launches rocket; says it put a satellite in orbit

**Feb. 12, 2013** North conducts underground nuclear test

**March 11** U.S., South Korea begin yearly military drills

**March 19** U.S. flies B-52 bombers over South Korea

**March 27** Pyongyang closes military hotline with Seoul

**March 28** U.S. flies B-2 stealth bombers over South

**March 30** North states it is in "state of war" with South

**April 2** North says it will restart its Yonbyon nuclear reactor

**April 3** North bars workers from South from Kaesong plant

in Guam, threatened Hawaii, threatened the West Coast of the United States," Hagel said.

He said he believes that the U.S. has had a "measured, responsible, serious responses to those threats."

Deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense System is the latest step the U.S. has taken to bolster forces in the region in a far-reaching show of force aimed at countering the North Korean threat.

In recent months, North Korea has taken a series of actions Washington deemed provocative, including an underground nuclear test in February and a rocket launch in December that

put a satellite into space and demonstrated mastery of some of the technologies needed to produce a long-range nuclear missile. Then, several weeks ago, the North threatened to pre-emptively attack the U.S.

In response, the Pentagon announced it would enhance missile defenses based on the U.S. West Coast, and it highlighted the deployment of B-52 and B-2 bombers, as well as two F-22 stealth fighters, to South Korea as part of an annual military exercise.

As the exchange of rhetoric grew, U.S. officials this week said the Navy would keep the *USS Decatur*, a destroyer armed with

missile defense systems, near the Korean peninsula for an unspecified period of time. Another destroyer, the *USS John S. McCain*, was shifted to the waters off the southwest coast of the Korean peninsula.

Tensions have flared many times in the six decades since a truce halted the 1950-53 Korean War, but the stakes are higher now that a defiant North Korea appears to have moved closer to building a nuclear bomb that could not only threaten the South and other U.S. allies in Asia but possibly, one day, even reach U.S. territory.

Even without nuclear arms, the communist North poses enough artillery within range of Seoul to devastate large parts of the capital before U.S. and South Korea could fully respond. The U.S. has about 28,500 troops in the South, and it could call on an array of air, ground and naval forces to reinforce the peninsula from elsewhere in Asia and the Pacific.

U.S. officials have said that the Pentagon's military response to Pyongyang's threats has so far been aimed more at assuring South Korea and other allies in the region that America is committed to their security. U.S. military leaders also have said that despite the escalating rhetoric, they have seen nothing to suggest that North Korea is making any military moves to back up its threats.

Hagel told an audience at the National Defense University that there is a path to peace on the troubled Korean peninsula, but it doesn't include making nuclear threats or taking provocative actions.

The land-based THAAD missile defense system includes a truck-mounted launcher, tracking radar, interceptor missiles, and an integrated fire control system. The Pentagon said the system will boost defenses for American citizens in Guam, a U.S. territory, and U.S. forces stationed there.

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