



Lauder School
of Government,
Diplomacy & Strategy

IPS
Institute for
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The Annual Conference on Israel's China Policy

China on the World Stage: Strategic Implications for Israel

Simulation Scenario - The conflict between North Korea and the U.S.

Background

The Korean peninsula

Tensions on the Korean peninsula have risen markedly in recent months after North Korea's latest missile and nuclear tests, conducted in defiance of international pressure and United Nations resolutions. North Korea had tested its most advanced intercontinental ballistic missile which is capable of reaching the United States.

South Korea to buy "Iron Dome" missile interception system

Foreign media has reported that South Korea is negotiating to buy the Iron Dome missile interception system from US weapons corporation Raytheon, which developed the system in cooperation with Israeli company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd. The system marked for sale to South Korea will probably differ from the Iron Dome used by the IDF. Its interception range will be longer, similar to that of David's Sling, also jointly developed by Rafael and Raytheon, which is designed to intercept medium and long-range rockets.

A spokesman for North Korea's foreign ministry said that deployment of Israeli interception system in South Korea will be considered as an act of war and Israel will be severely punished.

Iranian-North Korean cooperation on military, ballistic missiles

U.S officials claimed that Iran and North Korea are sharing ballistic missile and rocket technology. Iran and North Korea have "covert contacts," with missile technicians from Iran's Shahid Hemmat Industrial Group traveling to North Korea .

One of the company's top officials, has allegedly worked in tandem with the Korea Mining Development Trading Corp. (KOMID), which the United States and U.N. have sanctioned for being a central player in procuring equipment for Pyongyang's nuclear and ballistic missile programs

Iran sent North Korean arms to the Houthi rebels in Yemen

North Korean weapons were seized aboard Iranian smuggling ships in the Gulf of Aden near Yemen. The weapons were on their way to war-torn Yemen when they were caught by an U.S destroyer. It is believed the weapons were sent by Iran in an attempt to support the Houthi rebels in Yemen.

The simulation scenario

South Korea and the United States launched large-scale joint drills

South Korea and the United States launched large-scale joint drills. Around 12,000 U.S. service members, including from the Marines and Navy, will join South Korean troops. Aircraft taking part will be flown from eight U.S. and South Korean military installations. South Korean media reports said: B-1B Lancer bombers, F-35 fighters and six F-22 Raptor stealth fighters to be deployed among the more than 230 aircraft taking part.

A spokesman for North Korea's foreign ministry said in a statement carried by North Korea's official KCNA news agency that: "Recently, as the U.S. is conducting the largest-ever joint drill on the Korean peninsula targeting the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, its high-level politicians are showing alarming signs by making bellicose remarks one after another, these confrontational war-mongering remarks cannot be interpreted in any other way but as a warning to us to be prepared for a war on the Korean peninsula. The remaining question now is: when will the war break out? We do not wish for a war but shall not hide from it."

North Korea launched a ballistic missile to Guam

A ballistic missile launched from North Korea exploded in Guam on midnight of December 25, 2017. The missile made no injuries or damage. A spokesman for North Korea's Ministry of Defense said that the missile is a final message to the Americans to stop the aggression against North Korea.

The U.S attacked targets in North Korea

The United States on December 25, 2017, fired dozens of cruise missiles at military targets in North Korea in retaliation for missile attack on Guam. The Pentagon said 30 Tomahawk cruise missiles were fired from two warships in sea, targeting the base from where North Korea launched the missile to Guam.

The Middle East

Houthi rebels launched cruise missile to Tabuk

Saudi air defense intercepted on December 25, 2017, a cruise missile northeast of Tabuk, Saudi state run news channel Al-Ekhbariya said. The missile was destroyed near Tabuk air base. Tabuk is close to the Jordan-Saudi Arabia border, and houses the largest air force base in Saudi Arabia.

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels claimed they had fired the missile, targeting the airbase, the Houthi Al-Masirah television said. The missile was identified as an Iranian Soumar cruise missile, with a range of up to 3,000 kilometers. The missile is reportedly a re-engineered Russian KH-55 cruise missile, which is capable of reaching Israel from Iran or Yemen.

Anti-ship missiles attack north to Bab al Mandab straits

Yemen's Houthi fighters said in a statement on their sabanews.net website that "Missiles targeted a U.S warship as it approached the coast of Mokha on the Red Sea and it was completely destroyed".

A video posted on social media, purporting to be a footage of the incident, showed a vessel being targeted at night and later was on fire.

US officials confirmed that an American destroyer that was sailing off the coast of Yemen in the southern end of the Red Sea was attacked. Missiles were fired from areas under Houthi control but the missiles fell well short of the ship.

At the same time, a Chinese cargo ship near Bab al Mandab straits was attacked. The attack did not cause any damage to the ship, while a crew member was hurt.

Bab el Mandeb is a strategic maritime chokepoint that connects the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean through the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. More than 4.7 million barrels of oil flowed through this waterway daily.