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News

Missile launch the world should be afraid of

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Missile launch the world should be afraid of

WORLD

North Korea declares ballistic missile launch a success: 'Which can reach all of the mainland US'

Megan Palin, Debra Killalea and James Law, news.com.au

November 29, 2017 2:20pm



NORTH KOREA has broadcast a special television announcement to declare its latest missile launch a success and claimed it's "capable of striking the whole mainland of the US".

A North Korean Central Television (NKCT) newsreader today revealed that the test-fire of intercontinental ballistic rocket Hwasong-15, topped with a "super-large heavy warhead", was successfully carried out. The rogue nation came to a halt as citizens stopped in the streets to watch the broadcast on screens.

The presenter said the missile had technical capabilities far superior to the previous Hwasong-14 and had soared "to the highest altitude of 4475km" and landed in its targeted area, flying 950 kilometres.

The announcement contradicted a previous statement by the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff, who claimed the missile was an older Hawsong-14

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model.

The broadcast showed a still photo of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un signing the order for the launch.

A statement released by North Korea said:

“After making a 53-minute flight along its preset orbit, the rocket accurately landed in the target waters set in the open sea in the East Sea of Korea.”


According to the statement, Kim Jong Un “declared with pride that now we have finally realised the great historic cause of completing the state nuclear force, the cause of building a rocket power”.

“The development and advancement of the strategic weapon of the DPKR are to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country from the US imperialists’ nuclear blackmail policy and nuclear threat, and to ensure the peaceful life of the people, and therefore, they would not pose any threat to any country and region as long as the interests of the DPKR are not infringed upon.”

Earlier, North Korea launched its most successful intercontinental ballistic missile yet, with experts warning New York and Washington on the eastern seaboard of the US are now within striking range.

The ICBM was launched on a steep trajectory before crashing back to Earth 960km away in the Sea of Japan, 210km from the Japanese coast.

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📷 North Korea said on November 29 it had successfully tested a new intercontinental ballistic missile that put "all of the US continent" within its range. Picture: AFP / Jung Yeon-Je.



Steve Herman  @W7VOA

29 Nov

Replying to @W7VOA

#DPRK has begun completion of its nuclear program, says state TV broadcast. pic.twitter.com/j27TmqgB3v



Steve Herman  @W7VOA



This is a hint that #DPRK could possibly now claim it has achieved its goal of having a nuclear deterrent with the capability of dropping an atomic bomb on Washington, D.C., thus giving it a face-saving way to avoid further nuke and ICBM tests.

3:50 AM - Nov 29, 2017

During its 53-minute flight time, the missile soared 4500km into space — which is 10 times higher than the orbit of the International Space Station, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported.

US President Donald Trump was briefed on the development while the missile was still in the air, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders tweeted.

Mr Trump warned the US will “take care of it” following the launch and said “it is a situation that we will handle.”



President Donald Trump said the US would “take care of it” during a meeting in Washington. Picture: Susan Walsh/AP

Defence Secretary James Mattis said North Korea is endangering world peace, regional peace and “certainly the United States.”

“It’s a research and development effort on their part to continue building ballistic missiles that could threaten everywhere in the world, basically,” he said.

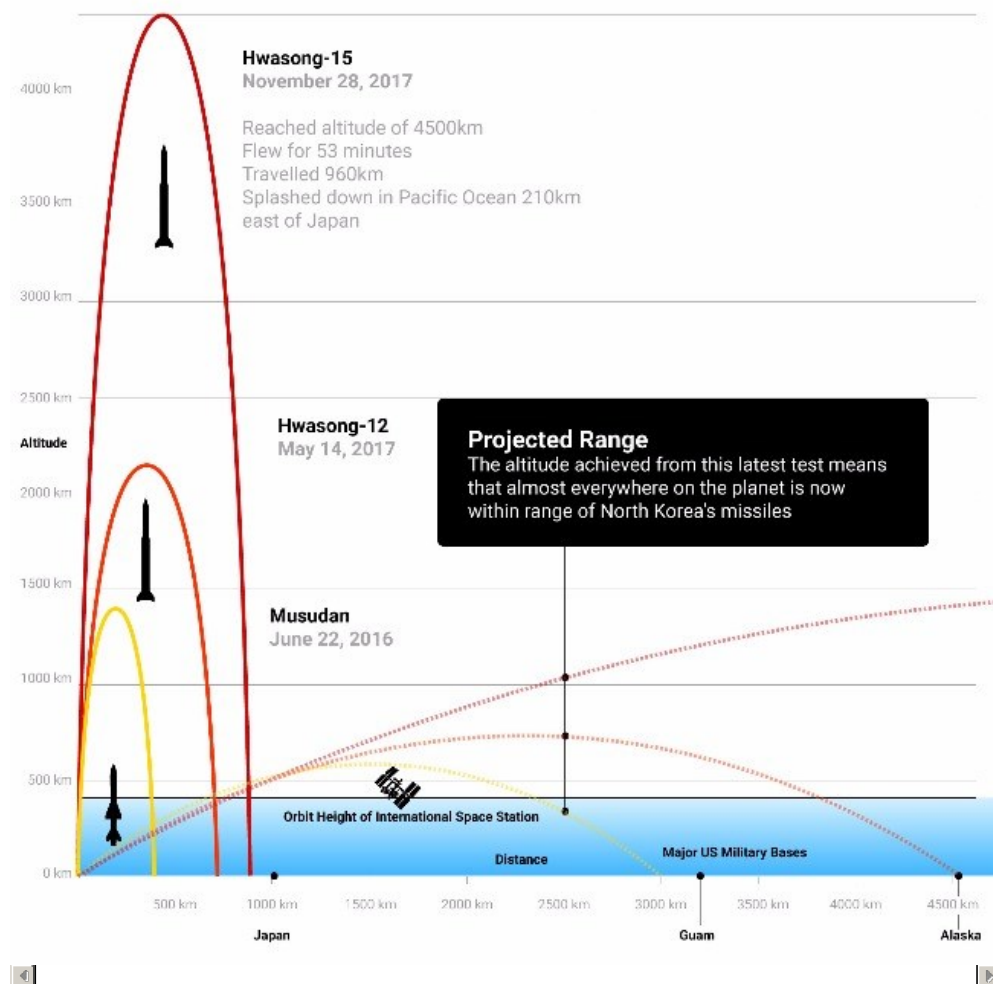
Mr Mattis said Seoul has fired pinpoint missiles into surrounding waters to make certain Pyongyang understands it can be “taken under fire” by the South.

EVERYWHERE UNDER THREAT

Defence analysts say this latest test demonstrates North Korea has the power and range of a fully functional ICBM, and is likely to have been a Hwasong-14 model missile with a simulated 100kg payload.

[David Wright, co-director and senior scientists at the Union of Concerned Scientists](#) said this was significantly longer than North Korea’s previous long range tests, which flew on lofted trajectories for 37 minutes.

North Korea missile reaches new heights



If flown on a standard trajectory rather than at a lofted angle, the missile would have a range of more than 13,000km, he warned.

This could reach not only the US but anywhere in Australia.

Shea Cotton, a research associate at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, said this put Washington, DC, within range.

He also said it was the highest performance we've seen in North Korea's ICBM to date.

 **Shea Cotton**
@Shea_Cotton

Per, David Wright, it looks like Washington, DC is now within range. allthingsnuclear.org/dwright/nk-lon...

8:43 PM - Nov 28, 2017

 **North Korea's Longest Missile Test Yet**
After more than two months without a missile launch, North Korea did a middle-of-the-night test (3:17 am local time) today that appears to allthingsnuclear.org

5 22 23

Vipin Narang, an Associate professor of political science at MIT and an expert on nuclear proliferation and strategy and South Asian security, tweeted "it's real folks" adding the North may have wanted to make clear it can hit the eastern US seaboard.

Vipin Narang
@NarangVipin



DPRK ICBM night launch, some quick implications:

Technical:

1. They want us to know they can hit eastern seaboard
2. Which means they probably got a higher thrust 2nd stage working

Operational:

1. Night launch helps with readiness, survivability, penetration.

It's real folks.

8:38 PM - Nov 28, 2017

💬 73 ↺ 1,377 ❤️ 1,736



PROVOCATIVE LAUNCH

The ballistic missile was fired from an area north of the capital Pyongyang, South Korea's official news agency reports.

The unidentified missile shot from Pyongsong, South Pyongan Province, flew into the East Sea about 3.17am Wednesday local time, South Korea's military chiefs told [Yonhap](#).

Japan's defence minister Itsunori Onodera said the missile broke up before it landed in the sea, in Japan's exclusive economic zone.



📷 A recent launch drill of the medium-and-long range strategic ballistic rocket Hwasong-12 at an undisclosed location in North Korea. Picture: AFP/KCNA via KNS

South Korea and US authorities are still analysing the launch, but the Pentagon said its initial assessment indicated it was an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

The UN Security Council has scheduled an emergency meeting over the latest launch.

The North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) determined

the missile launch did not pose a threat to North America, its territories or its allies, including Australia.

However experts warn the test is cause for concern and international pressure was forcing the rogue nation to act out “violently”.

Mr Cotton said the NORAD statement didn’t refer to the missile’s capabilities.

‘They meant that they saw the missile, analysed its trajectory while it was in flight, and assessed that it was not aimed at the US or any US allies,” he said.

“They’re not referring to the missile’s capabilities, which do pose a threat to all of those.”

Prof Narang said we should not “take too much comfort” over speculation that the missile may have contained a very light mock warhead and would therefore not be capable of carrying a nuclear warhead over such a distance.



📷 North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inspects a launch drill of the medium-and-long range strategic ballistic rocket Hwasong-12 at an undisclosed location. Picture: AFP/KCNA via KNS

South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said it had conducted a “precision strike” missile launch exercise about 3.23am in response to the North’s “provocation”, Yonhap reported.

President Moon Jae-in has convened a National Security Council meeting to discuss its next steps.

Japanese, South Korean and US officials were on high alert yesterday after they detected unusual activity and signs that suggested North Korea was preparing another missile launch, including radio signals.



📷 Kim Jong-un delivers an angry statement in response to Donald Trump's fiery speech to the United Nations. Picture: AFP/KCNA via KNS

This is the first time the North has launched a ballistic missile since it shot an intermediate-range ballistic missile over northern Japan into the Pacific Ocean on September 15.

It is North Korea's 20th missile test since the start of the year, compared to the 24 launched in 2016.

Ballistic missile analyst for Washington-based monitoring group 38 North and fellow for Missile Defence at the International Institute for Strategic Studies said: "NK appears to have taken another minor step forward as it attempts to mature its ICBM technology.

He said he believed a "viable ICBM" capable of reaching the west coast of the US mainland is still a year away.



38 North @38NorthNK
Replying to @38NorthNK @EllemanIISS
"The higher apogee and longer flight time suggest that today's test involved a Hwasong-14 similar to the one fired on 28 July, but with a second stage powered by four small engines derived from the Soviet R-27 missile, instead of just two."

28 Nov



38 North
@38NorthNK
"NK appears to have taken another minor step forward as it attempts to mature its ICBM technology. Many more tests are needed to establish the missile's performance and reliability..."
9:54 PM - Nov 28, 2017
2 15 13



KIM ACTING ‘LIKE A CORNERED RAT’

An Australian expert on international security says Kim Jong-un’s missile test shows tough sanctions against North Korea were not having the desired effect.

Australian National University Southeast Asia Institute director John Blaxland said the international pressure was forcing the rogue nation to act out “violently”.

“It strongly suggests sanctions are not working, that Kim plans to continue to defy the collective international pressure and that, if pressed further, could result in an attack in a manner reminiscent of Japan’s attack following the US-imposed oil embargo that preceded the attack in Pearl Harbor in December 1941,” Prof Blaxland told news.com.au.

“Like a cornered rat, KJU is displaying the tendencies of one prepared to strike out violently.”

**Shea Cotton**
@Shea_Cotton

Replying to @Shea_Cotton

Number of North Korea missile tests by this day for past 4 years:
2014: 19 tests
2015: 14 tests
2016: 24 tests
2017: 20 tests

6:38 PM - Nov 28, 2017

 18  363  533 

Mr Cotton said the test marked the end of a 74-day pause in the country’s missile tests, the longest we have seen this year.

“We are pretty sure they slow down testing this time of the year to conserve fuel and other resources but they have done tests around this time before,” he said.



“I wouldn’t exactly say this test took us totally by surprise, given the length of time, 74 days, between this test and their last.

“This gap in tests the past couple months aligned with a seasonal decrease in tests we’ve seen for several years, so we can’t exactly say if sanctions were the cause of it but I suspect not precisely because we’ve seen this decrease in the past.”



📷 The world had hoped its sanctions against North Korea may have halted Kim Jong-un's weapons testing. Picture: AFP/KCNA via KNS

Prof Blaxland agreed that this was usually a quiet period of the year for North Korean military aggression.

He said most of the national effort was usually focused on finalising the harvest and hunkering down for a bitterly cold winter, when fuel is of critical importance.

NORTH KOREAN MISSILE TESTS

Satellite imagery indicates that North Korea is moving an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) towards test facilities at Panghyon or Sohae, suggesting a launch during Saturday's founding day celebrations

MISSILE RANGES

1 Scud B/C/ER 290-960km

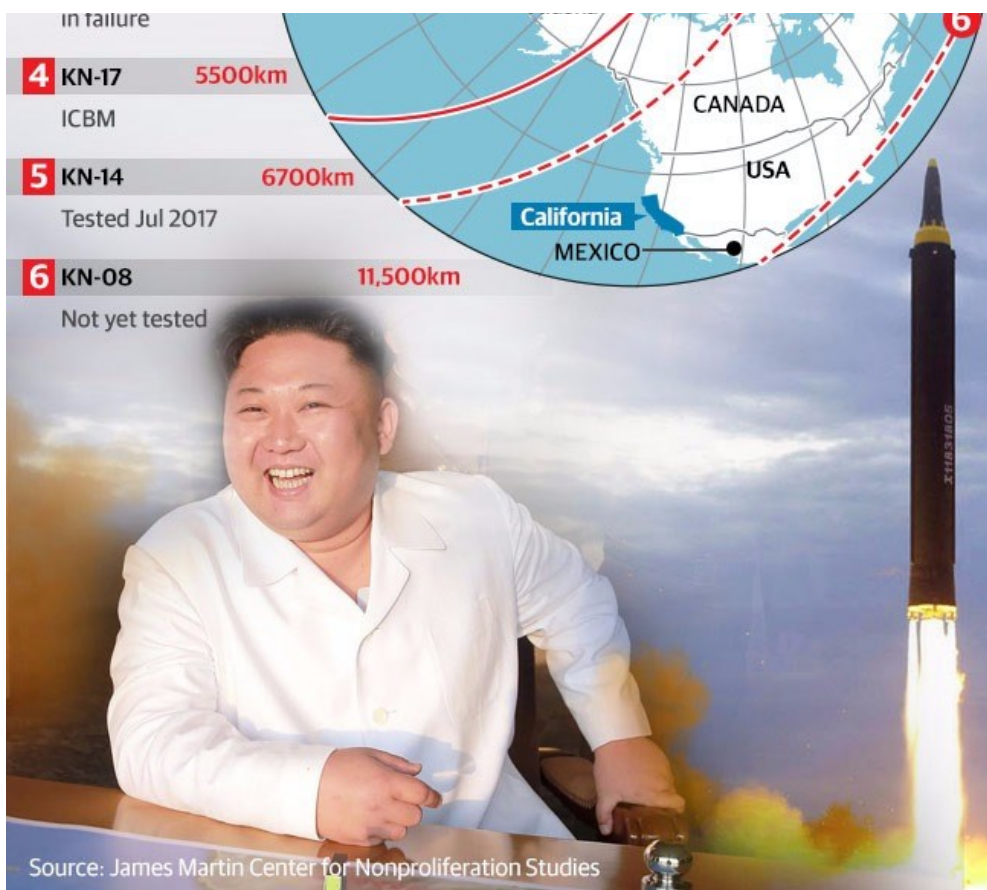
2 KN-11 1200km

SLBM - Submarine-launched ballistic missile.
In development

3 Musudan 3500km

Of 10 launches between Mar-Oct 2016 nine ended in failure





New York-based Asian specialist Sean King said testing missiles was simply what North Korea does and cautioned the West against overreacting.

“This is nothing new. If anything, Pyongyang appears to have waited until well after President Trump left Asia to have conducted this test,” he said.

“Plus there’s still no atmospheric hydrogen bomb test over the Pacific as threatened.”

Nuclear disarmament campaigner John Hallam told news.com.au it’s no surprise North Korea has launched another missile.

“The range of the missile now seems to be around 13,000km,” he said.

“However we don’t yet know the weight of the warhead/mock warhead it carried. A heavy warhead would significantly cut that range.”

He said it also wasn’t certain if the North has managed to perfect re-entry technology, sufficient to protect the warhead from the heat of high-speed re-entry through the atmosphere.

Dr Malcolm Davis, senior analyst in defence strategy and capability at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, said the launch in the middle of the night was surprising.

“It flew to a distance sufficient to ensure that it could reach the continental US, including the east coast, and flew to an altitude of about 4,500km,” he said.

“That is the highest the North Koreans have ever flown an ICBM. In doing this, it allowed them to test warhead design during re-entry speeds comparable to what would be experienced during an actual attack on the US.

“So clearly this test was designed to test a re-entry vehicle (the warhead) and ensure its ability to survive atmospheric re-entry so that it could detonate

over the target.”

CONDEMNATION GROWS

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop condemned North Korea’s continued violation of UN Security Council resolutions.

The South Korean President called the test a “serious threat” to global peace while Japan also slammed the test.

Professor Greg Barton from Deakin University told Sky News that China remained the only ones who could bring North Korea to account and warned against military action.

Prof Barton said the US could launch a series of special forces strikes against North Korean facilities but thousands of lives would be lost.

“The sad truth is we have no good options and when President Trump says I’ll take care of it we will deal with it there’s nothing good that can be done, and what might be done under pressure might result in some very bad outcomes,” he said.



'We will take care of it,' Trump says after N. Korea missile test

Originally published as [N Korea warns 'whole of US'](#)



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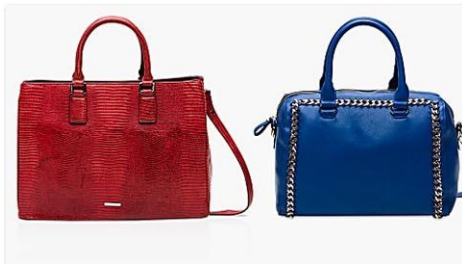
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