

# Top US Military Officer Warns N. Korea that US Military Ready

SEOUL, South Korea — The top U.S. military officer said Monday that the United States wants to peacefully resolve a deepening standoff with North Korea but is also ready to use the “full range” of its military capabilities in case of provocation.

The comments by Marine Corps Gen. Joseph Dunford in a series of meetings with senior South Korean military and political officials and the local media appeared to be an attempt to ease anxiety over tit-for-tat threats between President Donald Trump and North Korea while also showing a willingness to back up Trump's warnings if need be. Dunford, the chairman of the



Joint Chiefs of Staff, is visiting South Korea, Japan and China after a week in which Trump declared the U.S. military “locked and loaded” and said he was ready to unleash “fire and fury” if North Korea continued to threaten the United States. North Korea, meanwhile, has threatened to lob four intermediate-range missiles into the waters near Guam, a tiny U.S. territory about 3,200 kilometers (2,000 miles) from Pyongyang, North Korea's capital. This would be a deeply provocative act from the U.S. perspective, and there has been widespread debate about whether Washington would try to shoot the missiles down if they're fired. (AP)

## China Issues Order to Implement U.N. Sanctions on North Korea



BEIJING - China's Commerce Ministry issued a ban effective from Tuesday on several imports from North Korea, including coal, iron ore, lead concentrates and ore, lead and seafood, a move that is in line with U.N. sanctions announced this month. Beijing issued the banning

order on Monday. U.N. sanctions must be implemented 30 days after the resolution was approved in a vote on Aug. 6. The Chinese government said any cargoes already on their way to China would be cleared by customs as usual before the U.N. sanctions deadline. (Reuters)

## Britain to have Transitional Period after Leaving The EU: Ministers

LONDON - Two of Prime Minister Theresa May's leading ministers said in a joint pledge Sunday that there will be a fixed transition period after Britain leaves the European Union (EU). But the pro-remain chancellor Philip Hammond and leave supporter and Secretary for International Trade, Liam Fox both insist Britain will not be staying in the EU by the “backdoor”. In an article in the Sunday Telegraph newspaper, Hammond and Fox jointly declare Britain

will completely leave the single market and customs union after Brexit in 2019. The Telegraph comments that after a summer of bitter infighting between cabinet ministers, Hammond and Fox, with their joint pledge, appear to have buried the hatchet. The newspaper adds that Theresa May, who is returning to 10 Downing Street this week after a walking holiday in the Italian Alps, will be hoping that the declaration of resolve by Hammond



and Fox will draw a line under weeks of damaging headlines in which the Chancellor had been accused of trying to derail Brexit.

The two ministers say a transition period will be time limited and designed to avoid a cliff edge that could damage British business. (Xinhua)

## Military Conflicts on Korean Peninsula “Catastrophic”: Russia



MOSCOW - It has come very close to the potential use of force on the Korean Peninsula and it will be a “real catastrophe” if the situation goes that way,

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Sunday. The United States fails to understand the serious consequences of an armed

conflict, Zakharova was quoted by TASS news agency as saying. “Representatives of the U.S. establishment and Congressmen are reassuring people that it will not kill people in the United States but in other countries. I think they not only imply the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) but also South Korea,” she said. On Friday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the risk of a military conflict between the United States and the DPRK is very high, and

Russia hopes common sense will prevail. These warnings came after Pyongyang and Washington exchanged threats to use force against each other earlier this week. The DPRK threatened Thursday that it would prepare a plan by mid-August to strike the U.S. territory of Guam with intermediate missiles. U.S. President Donald Trump tweeted on Friday that “Military solutions are now fully in place, locked and loaded.” (Xinhua)

## Russia Acquires New Methods of Striking Ground Targets from Experience in Syria

MOSCOW - The Russian Aerospace Forces acquired “new methods of striking ground targets” due to the experience gained in Syria, local media quoted the forces' chief commander as saying on Sunday. “This is an invaluable experience, we cherish (it) and will apply it in the future,” said Viktor Bondarev, commander-in-chief of the Russian Aerospace Forces. Taking into account the experience gained by the Russian military in Syria, the Russian military

has adjusted the combat training of Russian pilots and the system designed to train cadets, Russian news agency RIA Novosti further quoted Bondarev to report. The Russian Aerospace Forces started airstrikes against the Islamic State in Syria from Sept. 30, 2015. Bondarev also noted that the modernization of the military reconnaissance system continues, adding that the Russian Aerospace Forces recently received more than 100 aircraft and about 300 helicopters. (Xinhua)

## Brexit Campaigners Launch Bid to Oust Pro-EU Finance Minister

LONDON - One of the most vocal pro-Brexit campaign groups launched a campaign on Monday to oust finance minister Philip Hammond from parliament, saying he is part of a plot to stop Britain leaving the European Union.

Divisions over Britain's Brexit strategy have resurfaced after Prime Minister Theresa May lost her parliamentary majority in an ill-judged snap election in June, generating renewed political pressure from some quarters for a softer exit. Hammond has led calls for a multi-year, staggered break from the EU in the name of protecting the British economy, much to the annoyance of some Brexiters who want a more decisive divorce when Britain's membership ends in March 2019. That has put Hammond in the crosshairs of campaign group Leave.EU, whose grassroots organization helped bring about last year's referendum vote to leave the bloc. “He is part of a cabal of Westminster MPs (Members of Parliament) who believe that if they can delay exit, they can overturn the wishes of the 52 percent who despite threats from the political classes drew upon the courage of their conviction at the ballot box,” said Leave.EU Chairman Arron Banks in a letter to voters in Hammond's constituency.

There is no automatic means for voters to get rid of their local member of parliament outside of an election period, and Britain is not scheduled to hold another vote until 2022. But Leave.EU called on their supporters to pressure the local Conservative Party not to select him as their candidate at the next election. (Reuters)

## German FM Warns Against War of Words between Washington and Pyongyang

BERLIN - German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel reiterated calls for moderation in the United States and the DPRK on Monday as the two sides continued to trade barbs. “It's bad enough that there is such a martial rhetoric,” Gabriel told the Redaktionsnetzwerk Deutschland Monday, and cited former German chancellor Helmut Schmidt as saying that “100 days negotiation is better than a minute shooting.” Gabriel said both the DPRK and the United



States should be held responsible for the current development of the situation, however, U.S. President Donald Trump's response of “fire and fury” rhetoric from his own golf club was inappropriate

and wrong. “I openly admit: This lack of responsibility shocks me,” said the minister, who believes Trump's rash behavior risked eroding faith in a rules-based international order. (Xinhua)

## S. Korean President Discusses DPRK Issues with Visiting U.S. Top General

SEOUL - South Korean President Moon Jae-in met Monday with visiting top U.S. general Joseph Dunford to discuss issues on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Presidential spokesman Park Soo-hyun told a press briefing that Moon met with the Blue House for about 50 minutes with the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) who arrived here late Sunday. Dunford met with South Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo before visiting the presidential office. During the meeting, Moon said security situations on the Korean Peninsula got grav-

er than ever due to the advanced nuclear and missile capability of the DPRK that became a serious and real threat. The DPRK test-fired what it called an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) twice in July, lofting the Hwasong-14 as high as over 3,700 km and flying it as far as about 1,000 km in the latest test-launch. Moon said Pyongyang should stop provocation and rapidly come to the dialogue table to defuse tensions on the peninsula, and shared the view that any more DPRK provocation should be strongly addressed based on the firm South Korea-U.S. alliance. (Xinhua)

## Ukraine Denies Selling Missile Technology to North Korea

KIEV - Ukraine denied on Monday that it had ever supplied defense technology to North Korea, responding to an article in the New York Times that said North Korea may have purchased rocket engines from Ukrainian factory Yuzhmash.

Concern that North Korea is close to achieving its goal of putting the mainland United States within range of a nuclear weapon has raised global tensions in recent weeks. The United States is a key backer of Ukraine.

The secretary of the Ukrainian Security and Defence Council, Oleksandr Turchynov, said Ukraine “has never supplied rocket engines or any kind of missile technology to North Korea.”

State-owned Yuzhmash said it had not produced military-grade ballistic missiles since independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

“In the years of independence, Yuzhmash has not produced, and is not producing, missiles and military missile systems,” it said in a statement published on their company's website. President Donald Trump warned at the weekend that the U.S. military was “locked and loaded” if North Korea acted unwisely after threatening last week to land missiles near the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam.

North Korean officials in turn have accused the U.S. leader of driving the Korean peninsula to the brink of nuclear war. On Sunday, the head of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency said he would not be surprised if North Korea tested another missile, after it conducted two tests in July. (Reuters)

## Neighbor News

### China, Pakistan Vow to Further Deepen Bilateral Pragmatic Cooperation

ISLAMABAD - China and Pakistan on Sunday promised to deepen their pragmatic cooperation in various fields during a meeting between Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and visiting Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang. Wang Yang is in Pakistan to attend activities marking the 70th anniversary of Pakistan's independence at the invitation of the Pakistani government. Noting that China and Pakistan are “iron friends” and all-weather partners of strategic cooperation who always understand and support each other, Wang said Chinese President Xi Jinping's successful visit to Pakistan in 2015 has ushered in a new chapter of the relations between the two countries. China would like to join hands with Pakistan to well implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries and ensure that more fruitful results

will be achieved in bilateral cooperation, he said. With regard to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which is a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative, Wang expressed the hope that the two countries strengthen coordination and make good plan and design from a long-term and top-level perspective. Proposed by China in 2013, the Belt and Road Initiative refers to the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, aiming at building a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along the ancient trade routes of Silk Road. While hailing fruitful cooperation in various economic fields over the past years, especially in the CPEC construction, Wang suggested that in the near future, the two countries put emphasis on ensuring early harvests in the CPEC project. (Xinhua)

### Time for Military Threats against Independent States over: Iran

TEHRAN - The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman says the time for using military threats and pressure against independent countries as a weapon has come to an end. “As global experience and contemporary political history have proved, the time for using military threats and pressure as a weapon against independent countries in order to force them to accept irrational and illegitimate demands is over,” Bahram Qassemi said on Sunday. He strongly condemned the recent “provocative and meddlesome” remarks by US President Donald Trump about domestic developments in Venezuela and his suggestion of using the “military option” to resolve the country's political crisis. (Presstv)

Qassemi expressed Iran's opposition to any foreign intervention in Venezuela's internal affairs and stressed the importance of respecting the sovereignty and independence of countries in line with international law. Speaking to reporters in New Jersey on Friday, Trump said all options remained on the table - including potential military intervention - regarding the unrest in Venezuela. Venezuela's Defense Minister General Vladimir Padrino later on Friday denounced Trump's “crazy” threat of military action amid escalating bilateral tensions over what Caracas views as Washington's meddling in the Latin American country's political crisis. (Presstv)

### Interior Ministries of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan Discuss Joint Crime Control

DUSHANBE - The Interior Ministries of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan for the first time reviewed a joint fight against crimes at the meeting of the Coordinating Group of the Interior Ministries of the two countries. The delegation of Tajikistan led by First Deputy Minister, major Abdurahmon Alamshozoda visited Tashkent to attend the meeting, the press service of the Tajik Ministry reported. During the talks with Minister

of Interior, major general of Uzbekistan Abdusalom Azizov, the sides reviewed the issues of development of bilateral cooperation between the law enforcement agencies, fighting crime, especially in the sphere of tourism, extremism, drug trafficking, security and other forms of violation of rule of law. Exchange of experiences, information and strengthening ties were also discussed at the meeting. (AKI)

### Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan Mull Border Issues

TASHKENT - Uzbek city of Namangan hosted latest round of ongoing negotiations between the working groups of the joint Uzbek-Kyrgyz Intergovernmental Commission on the delimitation and demarcation of the state border. Talks have lasted for nine days and ended August 13, according to the information published on the website of Uzbekistan's Foreign Ministry. During the meeting, the sides continued their joint work on the demarcation of certain sections of the Uzbek-Kyrgyz

borderline. Field surveys, as well as topographic and geodetic work on some sections of the Uzbek-Kyrgyz state border were also conducted. Following the negotiations, which were held in traditionally friendly and constructive atmosphere, relevant Protocol was signed. Total length of the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border is 1378.44 kilometers. Nearly 50 sections of the borderline, totaling at about 300 kilometers haven't been delimited yet. (Trend)