**North Korean Navy**

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| **Korean People's Army Naval Force** **조선인민군 해군** |
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| **Components** |
| **Korean People's Navy** |
| **History** |
| [History of the Korean People's Navy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Korean_People%27s_Navy) |
| **Ships** |
| [Current Fleet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_active_North_Korean_ships) |
| [Naval Bases](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval_bases_of_the_Korean_People%27s_Navy) |
| **Personnel** |
| [Senior Officers](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=List_of_senior_officers_of_the_Korean_People%27s_Navy&action=edit&redlink=1) |

The **Korean People's Army Naval Force** is the [navy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Navy) of [North Korea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Korea). The [Korean People's Army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korean_People%27s_Army) is made up of the [Ground Force](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korean_People%27s_Army_Ground_Force), the [North Korean Air Force](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Korean_Air_Force), and the Navy. It was established on June 5, 1946. The navy strength in the 1990s was about 40,000 to 60,000; current strength is at about 46,000. There are some 650 vessels including 3 frigates and 23 submarines (total displacement of approx. 107,000 tons).

The North Korean navy is considered a [green-water navy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green-water_navy) and operates mainly within the 50 kilometer exclusion zone. The fleet consists of east and west coast squadrons, which cannot support each other in the event of war with [South Korea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Korea). The limited range of most of the vessels means that even in peacetime it is impossible for a ship on one coast to visit the other coast.

**History**

Main article: [History of the Korean People's Navy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Korean_People%27s_Navy)

**Naval engagements of the North Korean Navy**

* [Battle of Chumonchin Chan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Chumonchin_Chan)
* [Battle of Haeju](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Haeju)
* [Gangneung Infiltration](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1996_Gangneung_submarine_infiltration_incident)
* [Battle of Yosu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Yosu)
* [First Battle of Yeonpyeong](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Battle_of_Yeonpyeong)
* [Battle of Amami-Ōshima](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Amami-%C5%8Cshima)
* [Second Battle of Yeonpyeong](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Battle_of_Yeonpyeong)
* [Battle of Daecheong](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Daecheong)

**Organization**

According to the 1997 edition of *North Korea Country Handbook*, published by the [Defense Intelligence Agency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defense_Intelligence_Agency):

"The 146,000-man North Korean navy (NKN) is primarily a coastal navy. The NKN is organized into two fleets: the East Coast Fleet, with eight operational commands, and the West Coast Fleet, with five operational commands. The East Coast Fleet is headquartered at Toejo Dong, with major bases at Najin and Wonsan. The West Coast Fleet is headquartered at Nampo, 39 with major bases at Pipagot and Sagon Ni. Numerous smaller naval bases are located along both coasts. The fleets do not exchange vessels because geographical limitations make mutual support almost impossible. The NKN does not have a Marine Corps or naval air. Amphibious operations are conducted by SOF units in addition to naval personnel."

According to South Korea's National Intelligence Service (in 1999):

"The DPRK Navy is divided into East Sea (10 squadrons) and West Sea fleets (6 squadrons) with a total manpower of 148,000.

North Korea's fleet consist of approximately 630 combat vessels (Patrol craft, guided missile boats, torpedo boats, fire support craft, destroyers, frigates, corvettes, and three cruisers), 100 submarines, and 340 support craft (landing craft, hovercraft). As with the ground forces, 60% of the vessels are stationed near the demarcation line.

North Korea has constructed and is operating up to 130 hovercraft, each one capable of transporting a special forces platoon and operating freely in difficult terrain such as tidal flats, and able to be used for multiple landings by special forces troops at the onset of the war."

[The Times](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Times) puts the total in 2009 at "420 warships and 60 submarines."

**Inventory**

The 1997 edition of *North Korea Country Handbook*, published by the Defense Intelligence Agency, assesses the North Korean navy (NKN) as follows:

Most NKN vessels are small patrol-size craft unable to operate over 50 nautical miles (nm) from the coast but capable of policing the DPRK's territorial waters. The navy's numerous amphibious craft and midget submarines are intended to clandestinely insert SOF units into the ROK. The DPRK also maintains coastal defense artillery and missile sites. Coastal defense artillery includes 122 mm, 130 mm, and 152 mm systems. Land-based coastal defense missiles include the SSC-2B SAMLET, CSSC-2 SILKWORM, and CSSC-3 SEERSUCKER. The NKN's most capable weapons systems are their approximately 43 guided-missile patrol boats equipped with the SS-N-2A STYX antiship missile (or its Chinese version, the CSS-N-1 SCRUBBRUSH). Though their small size limits operations to coastal waters and calm seas, they have a capability to quickly respond to Combined Forces Command (CFC) shipping approaching the coast. The NKN has 12 OSA-1 guided missile patrol boats, 10 DPRK versions of the OSA-1 called the SOJU, and 19 other fast-attack missile craft; the OSA and SOJU are all equipped with four CSS-N-1 missile launchers. The missiles have a maximum range of 25 nm and carry radar or infrared homing seekers. The largest part of the NKN consists of small combatants, including torpedo boats, patrol boats, patrol craft, fast attack craft, and small amphibious landing craft. Of the approximately 200 torpedo boats, nearly half are DPRK-built. Most are equipped with 25 mm to 37 mm guns.

The DPRK built at least 62 CHAHO fire-support patrol units. This unique vessel has a multiple rocket launcher in the center of its deck to provide fire support to ground troops or attack surface ships. The DPRK's attack submarine inventory is estimated to include 4 former Soviet [Whiskey class submarine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whiskey_class_submarine), 22 Chinese [ROMEO Class submarines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romeo_class_submarine), and DPRK-built ROMEO Class submarines. The WHISKEYs, acquired in the 1960s, can carry 12 torpedoes or 24 mines. Shortly after delivering four ROMEOs in the early 1970s, China helped the DPRK start its own ROMEO construction program. The ROMEOs are well equipped, have an improved sonar, and can carry 14 torpedoes or 28 mines. To date, the DPRK has indigenously produced over 200 personnel landing craft. This includes approximately 100 NAMPO personnel landing craft based on a former Soviet P-6 torpedo boat hull. The NAMPO has a maximum speed of 40 knots (74 km/h) and a radius of 335 nm. (620 km) at 28 knots (52 km/h).

The NAMPOs provide a limited amphibious capability, each carrying up to 30 troops with a basic combat load. Amphibious assaults against CFC probably would be small, clandestine landings involving two to six NAMPO craft; CHAHO or other naval craft could provide fire support. Other amphibious craft include 8 HANTAE medium landing ships, which can carry 3 to 4 light tanks, and approximately 125 KONG BANG amphibious hovercraft. The DPRK has a credible mine warfare capability. There are numerous small surface ships that are capable of delivering mines within both the navy and civilian sectors. Mines will be used to defend against amphibious assaults, defend strategic ports, and provide seaward flank protection for land forces. Defensive mine fields will be monitored by coastal observation teams and radar, and they will be supported by well emplaced artillery and missile batteries. This will make close approach and mine clearing operations extremely hazardous. DPRK has a large inventory of older technology mines, significant historical experience with their effectiveness, and, most importantly, the willingness to use them.

**Propaganda**



Propaganda poster claiming to have sunk the [USS *Baltimore*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Baltimore_(CA-68))

A military museum in [Pyongyang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyongyang) holds an exhibit claiming their navy to have sunk the [USS *Baltimore* (CA-68)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Baltimore_(CA-68)) on July 2, 1950, during the [Korean War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korean_War). It claims the [cruiser](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cruiser) was attacked and sunk by four [torpedo boats](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torpedo_boat), of which one is currently preserved in the museum. In fact, the *Baltimore* was never deployed to Korea, nor did it see action again after [World War II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II). The [actual battle that occurred](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Action_of_2_July_1950) on that date involved the [USS *Juneau* (CL-119)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Juneau_(CL-119)) as well as two British vessels that destroyed a fleet of Korean boats escorting supply vessels.

**Fleet**

Main article: [List of active North Korean ships](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_active_North_Korean_ships)

**Bases**

The KPN has 20 bases split between the two coast (East Sea and Yellow Sea). For more see [Naval bases of the Korean People's Navy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval_bases_of_the_Korean_People%27s_Navy).

**Weapons**

* [MSI Yukto](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=MSI_Yukto&action=edit&redlink=1) I/II countermeasures
* [Silkworm missiles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silkworm_missile)



* [P-15 Termits](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P-15_Termit)



* [122 mm gun M1931/37 (A-19)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/122_mm_gun_M1931/37_(A-19)) guns



* [SM-4-1](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=SM-4-1&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [M-1992](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=M-1992&action=edit&redlink=1) 130 mm self-propelled gun



* [152 mm howitzer-gun M1937 (ML-20)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/152_mm_howitzer-gun_M1937_(ML-20)) ML towed artillery



**Uniforms**

The naval officers wear black jackets and pants with blue shirt and dark tie underneath. Their visor caps are from the Soviet era. In summer jackets are white.

Junior ranks and sailors wear white shirts with black jackets and slacks (skirt for women).

**Ranks**

See [Comparative military ranks of Korea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparative_military_ranks_of_Korea)

**See also**

* [Comparative military ranks of Korea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparative_military_ranks_of_Korea)
* [North Korea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Korea)
* [North Korea and weapons of mass destruction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Korea_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction)
* [Korean Demilitarized Zone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korean_Demilitarized_Zone)
* [List of Korea-related topics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Korea-related_topics)
* [Nodong-1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nodong-1)
* [Military of South Korea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_of_South_Korea)
* [North Korean Arms Industry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Korean_Arms_Industry)
* [South Korean Navy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Korean_Navy)

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