



China Considers “Defensive Mobilization” for Potential War on Korean Peninsula

OE Watch Commentary: The 2018 Global Times Annual Conference was held in Beijing, China on 16 December. One of the panel discussion topics was, “Will the condition in the [Korean] peninsula bring about severe military conflict?” As the first accompanying passage from a Chinese newspaper points out, YinHong Shi, international relations professor from Renmin University, stated that “current conditions on the Korean peninsula now make for the biggest risk of a war in many years.” As the passage discusses, a common perception among the conference guest speakers was “a peninsula war was imminent and could break out at any moment.” As the second passage notes, a former deputy commander of the Nanjing Military Region predicted it could happen at any time before next March. As a result, he claimed that China, especially the Northeast region that borders the peninsula, should mobilize “for defensive purposes” and be prepared for war. As the second passage also notes, another military expert said that “military defense will be activated in the border area, deploying anti-missile weapons, while humanitarian aid should be prepared for potential North Korean war refugees.” **End OE Watch Commentary (Chen)**

“...current conditions on the Korean peninsula now make for the biggest risk of a war in many years.”

Source: Changyin Lu, “时殷弘：目前是多年来半岛爆发战争可能性最大的时候 (Yinhong Shi: The peninsula now faces the biggest risk of a war in years),” *Global Times*, 16 December 2017. <http://world.huanqiu.com/exclusive/2017-12/11454121.html>

During the 2018 Global Times Annual Conference, YinHong Shi, international relations professor from Renmin University, stated that current conditions on the Korean peninsula now make for the biggest risk of a war in many years.

Shi pointed out that historically the majority of the wars derived from interaction among the involving parties. Inspired by the progress it made in nuclear technology, Pyongyang strives to make a last shot in possessing nuclear weapons. The threats of military strikes from President Trump and US allies further convinced Pyongyang that its only option to ward off such military strikes is to seize the time in developing nuclear weapons.

On the other hand, Shi portrayed Trump’s strategy toward Pyongyang as “two knives” One is unprecedented intensive threat of using military force against the state, while the other is to frighten it economically by pressuring China and other U.N. members to cut their trade ties with Pyongyang. Such strategy will inevitably cause Kim to expedite the nuclear program, which in turn compels Trump to use his two knives more frequently.

Very complicated and imminent factors are at play right now as both parties wrestle against one another. As a result, the risk of a peninsula war is at the highest in many years because of Trump and Kim. However, both Trump and Kim are concerned about the massive danger and cost from the war. It will be an unprecedented disaster to the bordering countries should war break out.

Source: Deng Xiaoci, “China should prepare to defend against war in Korean Peninsula: expert,” *Global Times (China)*, 17 December 2017. <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1080722.shtml>

China should prepare for war defensively and be mentally prepared for it anytime on the Korean Peninsula, a former senior military official said on Saturday.

Lieutenant General Wang Hongguang, former deputy commander of the Nanjing Military Area Command, made the statement at an annual Global Times forum on Saturday.

“The war on the Korean Peninsula might break out anytime between now and March next year,” Wang said, stressing that “China should be psychologically prepared for a potential Korean war, and the Northeast China regions should be mobilized for that.”

“Such mobilization is not to launch a war, but for defensive purposes,” he added.

“Defensive mobilization” focuses mainly on the military, a passive coping mechanism in the country’s bordering regions which could be affected by nearby battles, Song Zhongping, a military expert and a TV commentator, told the Global Times on Sunday.

The military defense will be activated in the border area, deploying anti-missile weapons, while humanitarian aid should be prepared for potential North Korean war refugees, Song added.

“China should be psychologically prepared for a potential Korean war, and the Northeast China regions should be mobilized for that.”