



NDRRMC UPDATE

SitRep No. 1 re DPRK's Rocket Launch, ca., April 12-16, 2012

Releasing Officer


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Sources: OCDRCs I, II, III, IV-A, and V, DFA, PCG, AFP, CAAP, DILG, PIA, WIKIPEDIA

I. SITUATION OVERVIEW

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) based in London received a letter dated 16 March 2012, from the Maritime Administration of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) informing of the latter's decision to launch an earth observation satellite "Kwangmyonsong-3" (Bright Star 3) pursuant to DPRK's state plan for space development. Enclosed in the letter were the reserved launch date and time and the falling area coordinates. DPRK is a member-state of the IMO.

Upon receipt of said letter, IMO issued Document SN.1/Circ. 307, dated 16 March 2012 informing IMO Member Governments of the launching of "Kwangmyongsong-3" on 12 to 16 April 2012 and the coordinates of the "falling area" affected by the launch. The Philippines is one of the member governments of the IMO. Same was reported by the DFA to the Office of the President. The latter directed the DND/ NDRRMC to address the security implications and institute necessary preparedness measures.

On March 29, 2012, the SND and C, NDRRMC issued a memorandum to Executive Director, NDRRMC and Administrator, OCD to monitor the developments and prepare contingency plans in the event the rocket veers off course and falls on Philippine territory.

In compliance with the said directive, the SND called an NDRRMC meeting on 3 April on the above-stated subject matter with the Executive Director, NDRRMC and Administrator, OCD, USEC Benito T. Ramos presiding over it. It was attended by representatives from the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI), Philippine Navy (PN), Armed Forces of Philippines (AFP), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), Civil Aviation Authority of the

Philippines (CAAP) and other concerned agencies. Discussed were the possible scenarios and contingency plans for any untoward incident that may arise from the missile launch.

Despite international protest, DPRK remains firm over its planned rocket launch. As early as 8 April 2012, 4 days before the countdown of the planned missile launch, the North Korean's "Unha-3" was already in its launch platform at the Tongchang-ri Space Center in North Korea. The display was open to foreign reporters in an effort to show that the "Unha-3" rocket is not a disguised ballistic missile.

On Thursday, 12 April, the NDRRMC received an unverified report suggesting that the launch may happen anytime that morning. With this, the Executive Director, NDRRMC and Administrator, OCD called for a re-intensified vigilance and assured the public that all government entities involved in response are ready for any eventuality.

II. ROCKET PROFILE: UNHA-3

A rocket can be anything from a missile, spacecraft, aircraft or other vehicle which is boosted/ propelled by a rocket engine. "KWANGMYONGSONG-3", as DPRK claims it, is an earth observation satellite to be launched into orbit by means of a missile – "Unha 3" (Galaxy 3) rocket. This space observation program is in pursuant to DPRK's state plan for space development and also seen as a tribute to commemorate the birth centennial of DPRK's eternal President, Kim Il Sung which falls on 15 April. It is expected to be a multi-stage rocket that has two or more stages, each of which will drop its own engines and propellant. By jettisoning stages as they run out of propellant, the mass of the remaining rocket is decreased allowing the thrust of the remaining stages to more easily accelerate the rocket to its maximum speed and height.

Regardless of whether or not it contains anything lethal, the rocket as announced by DPRK, will disengage two of its boosters. As these boosters fall from space, the trajectory of the debris cannot be determined making the chance of fall-out on populated areas a possibility. And although it is classified as a Space Launch Vehicle (SLV), the Unha rocket is essentially the same as the Taepodong missile, which is being developed as a delivery system for weapons of mass destruction.

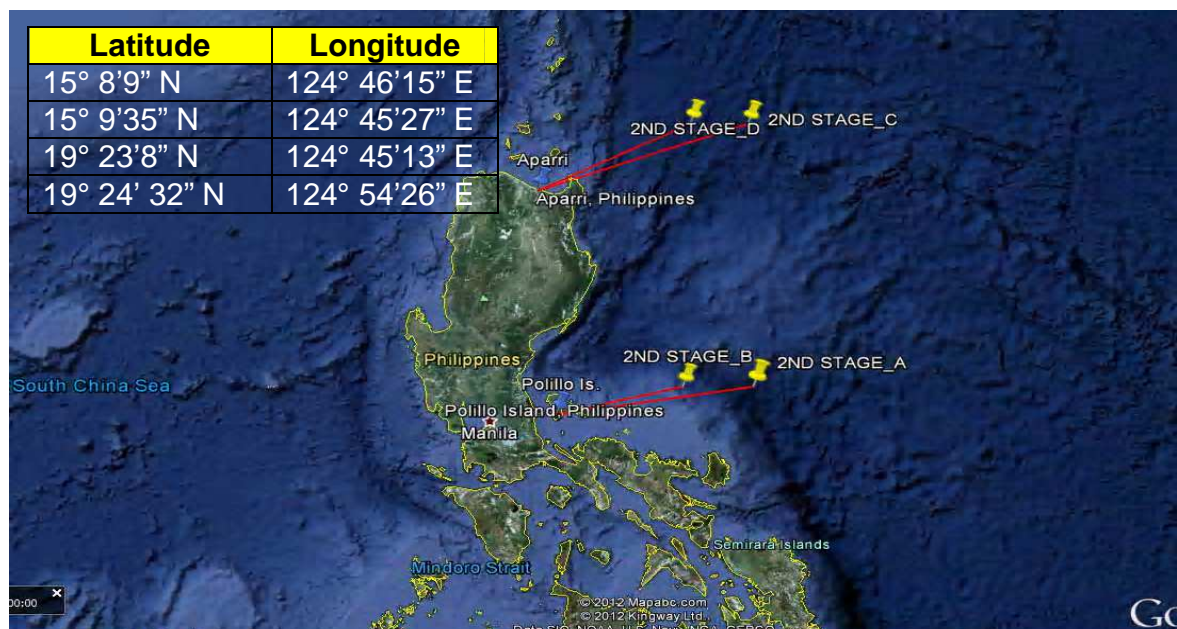
Based on the report from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the "KWANGMYONGSONG-3" will be launched into polar orbit from the DPRK's new Sohae Satellite Launching Station in the North Pyongan Province, near the border with China. The rocket's trajectory will be as follows:

- a. The rocket will follow a southward trajectory, reportedly along or over the Republic of Korea (ROK), toward Taiwan and the Philippines; and
- b. Unha-3 rocket's first stage will reportedly separate and fall in a zone 140 kilometers west of ROK's Byeonsan Peninsula, while the second stage is expected to fall east of Luzon.

III. POSSIBLE SCENARIOS

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is adamant on its objection to North Korea's rocket launch. Although PNRI said that they have not received any information that it will involve any radioactive material, the NDRRMC remains resolute in taking proactive posture on the possible effects of the rocket launch. According to state scientists, there are three (3) possible scenarios that we can expect from release of the boosters. Under the first scenario, the entire solid booster would crash on earth or in the sea. Another scenario would be that the metal booster would break into smaller pieces. The third scenario would be that the entire booster will disintegrate due to friction.

The anticipated impact area in the Philippine Sea is indicated based on the following coordinates:



With the information at-hand, practically the whole of Luzon is vulnerable and warned of falling debris in case there will be an error in the launch. High vulnerability was likewise seen in the eastern seaboard. Further, it is worth noting that this planned rocket launch will be the third attempt of DPRK. Previous launches allegedly were unsuccessful in reaching the orbit.

IV. ACTIONS TAKEN

NDRRMC

- NDRRMC Operations Center remains at "RED ALERT" status to monitor and coordinate all efforts relative to the missile test.
- USEC Benito Ramos regularly briefs the media on the possible effects, scenarios, and other information relative to the planned missile launch for the purpose of educating/ informing the public.

AFP

- Readied 50,000 soldiers from the AFP Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) and Southern Luzon Command (SOLCOM) including Military Reservists to assist in emergency situations.
- Prepositioned 6 choppers (2 choppers each for Clark, NOLCOM and Villamor Airbase) to ferry OCD, PNRI, and DOH personnel in the area/s where debris of the missile might be located.
- NOLCOM activated its "OPLAN DAGLI 2010" directing all Disaster Response Units (DRU) to be on alert status and coordinate with other government agencies for any eventualities or life-threatening situations that may arise from the launch.

DILG

- Issued an advisory directing all identified vulnerable Regions to:
 - Take all precautionary measures to prevent loss of lives and property
 - Advise and prevent fishermen from fishing activities from 6:00 AM to 12 NN, April 12-16, 2012 with April 15 as the high probability date of rocket launch.
 - Put on alert status the LDRRMCs and closely coordinate with other agencies such as the PN, PCG, MARINA, BFP, PRC, OCDRCs and DILG to implement necessary steps/ actions
 - In case of any fallen fragments found/ spotted, stay away from the debris and call the authorities/ NDRRMC or the local BFP as they are trained to handle such situation
 - Secure debris without human touch

CAAP

- Issued a "Notice to Airmen" (NOTAM) regarding the diversion of flights from the northeast portion of the northeastern and eastern Luzon
- Advised several airlines including Philippine Airlines (PAL), Cebu Pacific, All Nippon Airways (ANA), Japan Airlines, Korean Airlines, Garuda Indonesia, and Delta Airlines to seek alternative flight routes as the northeastern part of Luzon is normally utilized as route by airline companies
- Temporarily closed from all flights airways A582 and A597 which is the announced path of the missile starting 12 until 16, April

PCG

- Issued a "Notice to Mariners" (NOTAM) advising all vessels to stay clear of the northeastern side of the country from April 12-16 as a precaution from the North Korean satellite launch
- As part of the implementation, PCG sent out patrol ships to help enforce Notam

DOST-PNRI

- Assured the public that it is prepared to activate the National Radiological Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (RADPLAN) in case of a nuclear threat
- Intensified its conduct of air measurements (ambient gamma radiation) for radioactivity before and after the missile launch

PNP

- Activated the National Disaster Operations Center (NDOC) with personnel from the PNP Sub-Committee on Disaster Management (PNP SCDM)

- PNP 8 activated four 8-man Quick Response and Recovery Teams (QRRTs) designated at Police Regional Office 5 (PRO5- 5th RPSB), Camarines Sur PPO, Camarines Norte PPO, and Catanduanes PPO, respectively.
- Assigned personnel at the NDRRMC OpCen for updates on the rocket launch as well as the deployment of PNP personnel and resources for SAR operations as the need arises

DSWD

- Readied their preparedness plans as to the immediate response/ action on a possible emergency crisis due to the rocket launch
- Assured that the Disaster Management and Response Teams are readily available at the Field Offices and in the Provinces in the threatened regions
- DWSO FO2 has a 2,000 stockpile of food and non-food items available with PHP 800,000.00 standby funds

PIA

- Utilizes its text blast facilities in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4-A, 4-B, and 5 for the widest information and advisory dissemination.
- Likewise sent information and advisories through radio, TV, print, social networks and blog sites
- Assigned personnel at the NDRRMC OpCen to monitor the development through their regional situational reports and media monitoring reports for posting at PIA's facebook account

MARINA

- MARINA came up with their own contingency plan and will issue a Flag Advisory to all shipping companies regarding the falling of debris from the rocket
- Directed all MARINA Regional Offices to monitor the situation in their respective AOR

OCDRCs

- **OCDRC 1**
 - Issued a memorandum to all NDRRMC member agencies and PDRRMCs to be on alert to monitor and prepare contingency plans in the event that fragment/ debris from the rocket will fall in Region I
 - Attended to media interviews on the possible effects and other information relative to the missile launch
- **OCDRC 2**
 - Convened on 11 April in Tuguegarao City to discuss the measures to be taken in anticipation of the possible effects of the DPRK missile test.
 - Activated to "Red Alert" status to continuously monitor the Regional situation and maintain coordination with concerned agencies
 - Conducted a media briefing regarding the "Preparedness and Monitoring on DPRK's Rocket Launch".
- **OCDRC 3**
 - Continuously coordinates with concerned LDRRMCs particularly with the Aurora province where the preparedness measures in place must remain on high alert status
 - Alerted PNP, NOLCOM, and BFP for close monitoring and prompt action

➤ **OCDRC 4-A**

- Issued RDMMRC Memorandum No. 008 s.2012 to PDRRMO Quezon dated 4 April 2012. And disseminated the same to: MDRRMOs Polilio, Gen. Nakar, Real, and Infanta; and Regional (IV) Offices of DILG, DSWD, DOST, NEDA, DOH, SOLCOM, PNP-PRO, DOH, BFP, PCG, MARINA, and PAF to undertake identify possible scenarios and gaps, and come up with preparedness measures to address such
- Placed all DRRMOs and Emergency response groups on Alert status
- Ensures the widest dissemination of precautionary measures and possible evacuation

➤ **OCDRC 5**

- Convened on 9-10 April, 2012 re Bicol Contingency Plan for the planned missile test. Among the agreements reached were for DOST and PIA to assist in monitoring while DILG5 and LGUs implement the “no fishing” at specific falling areas
- Activated OPLAN “Bicol Watch” as a precautionary measure on the possibility of fallen debris. Residents were advised not to touch the debris and instead call the designated Quick Response and Recovery Teams (QRRTs) who will recover and secure said debris. The members of the QRRT are AFP, PNP, PCG and BFP.

LDRRMCs

➤ **REGION 2**

○ **PDRRMC Cagayan**

- Issued a directive to different Municipalities of Cagayan to take pre-emptive actions, take precautionary measures, monitor the situation and address the possible effects of the rocket debris in the event that it will touch ground within Cagayan’s AOR

○ **PDRRMC Isabela**

- Conducted an emergency meeting re DPRK Missile Test
- Constantly monitors the provincial situation

➤ **REGION 3**

○ **PDRRMC Aurora**

- Convened PDRRMC member agencies on 10 April re Preparedness Measures on the North Korea rocket launch
- Issued an Advisory to all concerned LGUs re “No Fishing Policy” particularly prohibiting fishing beyond 10kms from the bay of the municipal waters
- PCG, PA, BFP, and Bantay Dagat were also prepositioned in the coastal areas for any eventualities
- PDRRMC Aurora Operations Center was activated 24/7

○ **MDRRMC Baler, Aurora**

- Instructed PNP and BFP to conduct monitoring of the seaports at Brgys Sabang and Saball.
- Advised all fishermen to take extra precaution and sail for only about 10kms away from the shoreline

○ **MDRRMC Casiguran, Aurora**

- Advised all Brgy Officials along coastal areas to be alert and observe the “No Fishing Policy” from 6AM-12NN, April 12-16

- Advised social workers re availability of stockpile of commodities and foods
- Alerted all PNP, BFP, PA, PCG, and Bantay Dagat

➤ **REGION 4-A**

- PDRRMC Quezon
 - Convened last 10 April, together with concerned MDRRMOs for an Emergency meeting to discuss their consolidated contingency plan which is briefly summarized as follows:
 - ❖ **Monitoring** – 2 Incident Command Posts (ICPs) will be established, 1 each for the Municipalities of Infanta and Polilio. These ICPs will be responsible for giving warning to LDRRMCs immediately after receipt of information on actual launch
 - ❖ **Emergency Response** – The Operations Group composed of DANA, SAR, MEDICAL, FIRE SUPPRESSION, RELIEF and EVACUATION TEAMS shall automatically respond should there be a debris fall-out
 - Advised their residents to stay indoors during the possible launch dates and for fishermen and people from coastal towns to avoid venturing out to sea.
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