TMD AND NORTHEAST ASIAN SECURITY

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Abstract

China is focusing on the development of theater missile defense (TMD) in the modernization of its military cooperation among United States by reducing the risks of intimidation from ballistic missiles and to secure America's ability to intervene in regional conflicts where the potential use of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) exists. An effective TMD can dissuade countries from expanding their ballistic missile arsenals and thus contribute to non-proliferation and reduction of other WMD in Northeast Asia.

China and North Korea criticize East Asia's TMD accelerating the arms race and destabilizing the strategic environment in East Asia. However, China and North Korea should realize that it is their missile expansion that is causing the arms race and creating a strategic environment. China and North Korea have said that TMD in East Asia is politically driven, deployment of TMD in East Asia should proceed in a highly cautious manner, possibly after comprehensive dialogues and discussions among regional states concerning the significance of missile defense.

1. Ballistic Missile Threat in East Asia

China and North Korea are increasing the speed of deploying TMD in defense systems and offensive missiles. In East Asia, China, Japan, and North Korea have deployed ballistic missiles with ranges exceeding 100 kilometers. Apart from Russia, China and North Korea have been increasing the number of their ballistic missiles. China has deployed land-based intermediate-range ballistic missiles, about 70 of which have connived with the United States and Japan, China and North Korea's THAAD system is based on the technical of the American Army's THAAD system. China and North Korea have been making efforts to strengthen not only its short- and medium-range ballistic missiles, which can strike Japan, but longer-range ones, which may be capable of reaching the continental United States. (3)

China's deployment of THAAD is also a countermeasure to U.S. missile defense deployment in Northeast Asia. China and North Korea have deployed THAAD in various regions such as South Korea and Japan. China is making efforts to develop a new generation of nuclear-capable ballistic missiles that have high-velocity, high-precision, and high-accuracy. North Korea is also developing and testing multiple types of ballistic missiles with various ranges such as the Taepodong-2 ballistic missile, a long-range missile with a range of 10,000 kilometers.

North Korea has deployed several short-range ballistic missiles, including the Musudan, which has a range of about 2,000 kilometers. The Musudan missile can reach the United States and South Korea, indicating that North Korea might be able to hit the United States and South Korea with nuclear weapons.

Japan, the National Institute for Defense Studies, East Asian Strategic

2. Countermeasures to Ballistic Missile Threat

Although there are only a few countries that have deployed the TMD system in East Asia, there are several countries that have deployed the TMD system in various regions such as South Korea and Japan. China and North Korea have deployed the TMD system in various regions such as South Korea and Japan. China is making efforts to develop a new generation of nuclear-capable ballistic missiles that have high-velocity, high-precision, and high-accuracy. North Korea is also developing and testing multiple types of ballistic missiles with various ranges such as the Taepodong-2 ballistic missile, a long-range missile with a range of 10,000 kilometers.

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