## North Korea gearing up to fire ICBM

North Korea appears to be preparing to test-fire a long-range ballistic missile from a new launch base on its west coast. The missile is believed to be a Taepodong-2 capable of reaching the U.S. state of Alaska



Taepodong-2: Three-stage intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) Third stage: Solid-fuel, single thrust chamber.

rocket motor. 500kg nuclear-capable payload. Burn time: 100 seconds Second stage: Liquid-fuel, single thrust chamber

TM-185 fuel: Kerosene oxidized by fuming nitric acid and nitrogen tetroxide. Burn time: 110 seconds

Interstage: Explosive bolts

fire to separate first and second stages First stage: TM-185 fuel. four thrust chambers. Burn time: 120-130 seconds Jul 2006: Only known

test firing of Taepodong 2

ended after 42 seconds due to catastrophic failure of first stage North Korea has reportedly been trying to develop advanced version capable of striking San Francisco and Chicago

Length: 35.0m Diameter: 2.1m Launch weight: 64,000kg

Sources: Yonhap, Jane's Information Group

100km 60 miles

JAPAN