

# Balance of power on the Korean peninsula

South Korea has strengthened its rules of engagement with the North following the surprise shelling of Yeonpyeong Island, but the ramped up rhetoric emanating from both sides has led to calls of restraint from both the U.S. and China, who fear an unintentional escalation of the stand-off

## NORTH KOREA



**Armed forces**  
1.1 million  
**Reserves**  
4.7 million  
**Paramilitary**  
3.7 million  
**TOTAL**  
9.5 million



## SOUTH KOREA



**Armed forces**  
687,000  
**Reserves**  
4.5 million  
**Paramilitary**  
3.5 million  
**TOTAL**  
8.7 million

### ARMY: 950,000 troops

**Main battle tanks:** 3,500  
**Other armoured vehicles:** 3,000  
**Artillery:** 18,000  
**Special forces:** 88,000 personnel  
**Missiles:** 64 – Frog, Nodong, Scud



### ARMY: 560,000 troops

**Main battle tanks:** 2,750  
**Other armoured vehicles:** 2,800  
**Artillery:** 10,800

**Attack helicopters:** 60  
**Missiles:** 12 – NHK

### AIR FORCE

**Personnel:** 110,000  
**Combat aircraft:** 620  
**Attack helicopters:** 20



### AIR FORCE

**Personnel:** 64,000  
**Combat aircraft:** 490



### NAVY

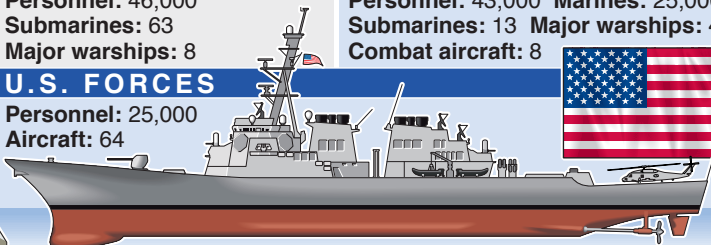
**Personnel:** 46,000  
**Submarines:** 63  
**Major warships:** 8

### NAVY

**Personnel:** 43,000  
**Marines:** 25,000  
**Submarines:** 13  
**Major warships:** 47  
**Combat aircraft:** 8

### U.S. FORCES

**Personnel:** 25,000  
**Aircraft:** 64



**7th fleet (Japan)** – 60 ships, 350 aircraft, 60,000 personnel