

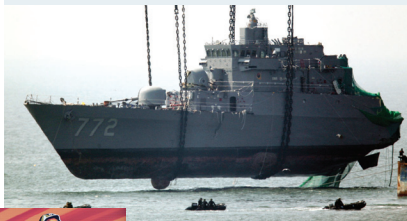
General Kim Yong-chol

Former North Korea spy chief becomes the most high-profile North Korean official to visit the U.S. in nearly 20 years

■ **2006-08:** Rises to prominence as Pyongyang's chief military negotiator during inter-Korean talks

■ **2009:** Named director of **General Reconnaissance Bureau**, unit tasked with cyber-warfare and intelligence gathering

■ **2010:** Accused of masterminding attack on South Korea warship **Cheonan** in which 46 seamen were killed, and shelling attack on Yeonpyeong island, which killed two South Korean civilians



■ **2014:** Reportedly oversees hack of Sony Pictures over American comedy film **The Interview**, which lampoons **Kim Jong-un's** regime

■ **2016:** Appointed director of **United Front Department** – civilian intelligence agency which handles inter-Korean affairs

■ **Feb 2018:** Attends closing ceremony of Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, where he sits close to **Ivanka Trump**, daughter of U.S. President

■ **May 30:** Flies to New York as moves to reschedule cancelled U.S.-North Korea summit in Singapore on June 12 gather pace

