South Korea 2014 Defense White Paper Highlights DPRK Nuclear Threats

- The Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense (MND) issued its 2014 Defense White Paper Tuesday, January 6 (KST). This is the first Defense White Paper to be published under the Park Geun-hye administration.

- The ROK formally acknowledges North Korea as a nuclear weapons state, using the term “nuclear weapons of North Korea” for the first time in a Defense White Paper, and referencing its continued Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) program.

- The Paper suggests North Korea has crossed the threshold of nuclear warhead miniaturization, stating the North has obtained “considerable” technical capability to mount warheads on ballistic missiles.

The Paper suggests North Korean long-range ballistic missiles capabilities can now threaten the U.S. mainland, and also notes growing North Korean efforts to develop a sea-launched ballistic missile capability.

- The Paper cites the North maintains about 6,000 cyber-warfare personnel under its command, which is substantially larger than previous estimates.

*Korea Chair Snapshot* is a new product by the CSIS Korea Chair providing key takeaways from breaking events of the day.

*Korea Chair Snapshot* is published by the Office of the Korea Chair (http://www.csis.org/program/korea-chair) at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a private, tax-exempt institution focusing on international public policy issues. Its research is nonpartisan and nonproprietary. CSIS does not take specific policy positions. Accordingly, all views, positions, and conclusions expressed in this publication should be understood to be solely those of the author(s).