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FAR EAST

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5. Attachment of armor to North Korean divisions raises enemy capabilities: During the past few months, the evolution of a North Korean Armored Command in western Korea has been revealed in enemy messages. Only recently was it suggested that the armor subordinate to this command, instead of operating as an organic tactical force, was to be disposed as supporting weapons for North Korean infantry divisions.

On 29 June an armored regiment in eastern coastal Korea reported to Armored Headquarters that "the problem concerning the coordination activity with the 7th Infantry Division was not decided." A 27 June message, possibly from the same armored regiment, mentioned "the combat attachment with the 37th Division." A west coast armored unit reported in late June "coordinating" with an infantry division. Messages of early June indicated that infantry divisions of the IV Corps were training in conjunction with armored elements.

Reflecting this attachment, North Korean Armored Headquarters on 30 June requested a subordinate regiment to gather information from senior tank officers as to whether infantry division commanders had properly employed the tank and self-propelled artillery assigned to their units. (CANOE ROK Int Grp M, Korea SK-K-784, 2 July; ROK Int Grp M, Korea SK-K-645, 28 June; 15RSM/15538, Korea, 30 June 52)

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE: 18-Mar-2010

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Comment: The evidence is still too fragmentary to accept the attachment of armored units, in battalion strength or higher, to North Korean reserve infantry divisions or to accept the deactivation of major armored units, such as the 105th Tank and the 10th Mechanized Divisions. Such a tactical doctrine would, however, be in keeping with former North Korean practices and would represent a considerable augmentation of the strength of North Korean infantry divisions.

6. New infantry division may have been formed in North Korean Army: In a message of 28 June, a North Korean armored unit in northwestern Korea referred to joint action with the "20th Infantry Division." The "439th Infantry Regiment . . . located at Sukchon" (just south of the Chongchon River) is also mentioned. (CANOE ROK Int Grp M, Korea, SK-K-684, 29 June 52)

Comment: No 20th Infantry Division is currently carried by the Far East Command in either the North Korean Army or in the Chinese Army in Korea. Recent messages from numbered regiments not known to be subordinate to any North Korean division have been intercepted from this area.

While speculative, it is possible that another infantry division has been organized in the North Korean army and is currently training in the coastal region between Pyongyang and Sinanju.

7. Chinese relieve North Korean tactical units north of Pyongyang: A major North Korean unit, probably one of the infantry divisions of the IV Corps in western Korea, reported on 27 June that "we have established the plan to turn over the defense line of the seashore to the 373rd Regiment of the Volunteer Army."

Another 27 June message from an unidentified North Korean regiment north of Pyongyang added: "nothing unusual has happened since we began the handing over business with the Voluntary (Volunteer?) Army." (CANOE ROK Int Grp M, Korea, SK-K-661/and SK-K-599, 28 June 52)

Comment: These messages suggest that elements of the Chinese 42nd Army, of which the 373rd Regiment is a part, are also being deployed north of Pyongyang. Other recent intercepts

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have indicated that 42nd Army units relieved elements of the North Korean 23rd Brigade southwest of Pyongyang.

8. North Korean armored unit locates southwest of Wonsan:
In a report of 29 June a North Korean armored unit on the east coast stated that "I inquired of VII Corps about the stationing area of the unit." He was told that he should select a place "which is proper for tanks." After reconnoitering the area, the reporting officer stated: "Posongni is proper for tanks to be stationed. . ." (CANOE ROK Int Grp M, Korea, SK-K-747, 1 July 52)

Comment: This unidentified armored unit, probably a regiment in strength, recently arrived in eastern Korea. Although it maintains communications with an armored headquarters in the west, probably it will be attached for operations to the VII Corps.

9. Chinese 50th Army still in northwestern Korea: A North Korean armored regiment in the Chongchon River area of northwestern Korea reported on 28 June that "we visited the Volunteer Army 248th Division which is at Yongampo and Cholsan. . ." (CANOE 15RSM/15461, Korea, 29 June 52)

Comment: "248" is the code designation of the Chinese 50th Army's 148th Division, located on coastal security duty from Sinuiju to Cholsan in northwestern Korea.

The 50th Army has been frequently reported by other intelligence sources as moving southwards into the area recently vacated by the Chinese 40th Army which is now in combat.

10. North Korean VII Corps chief of staff visits Supreme Headquarters: On 29 June, a North Korean armored unit in the Wonsan area reported that its "unit commander and the chief of staff of the VII Corps left for Supreme Headquarters this morning. . ." (CANOE 15RSM/15570, Korea, 30 June 52)

Comment: No reason for this visit is indicated. The currently-underway attachment of armor to VII Corps units and the possibility of the VII Corps relieving the III Corps on the line might be the cause of this trip.

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