



North Korea: Military and Security Leadership

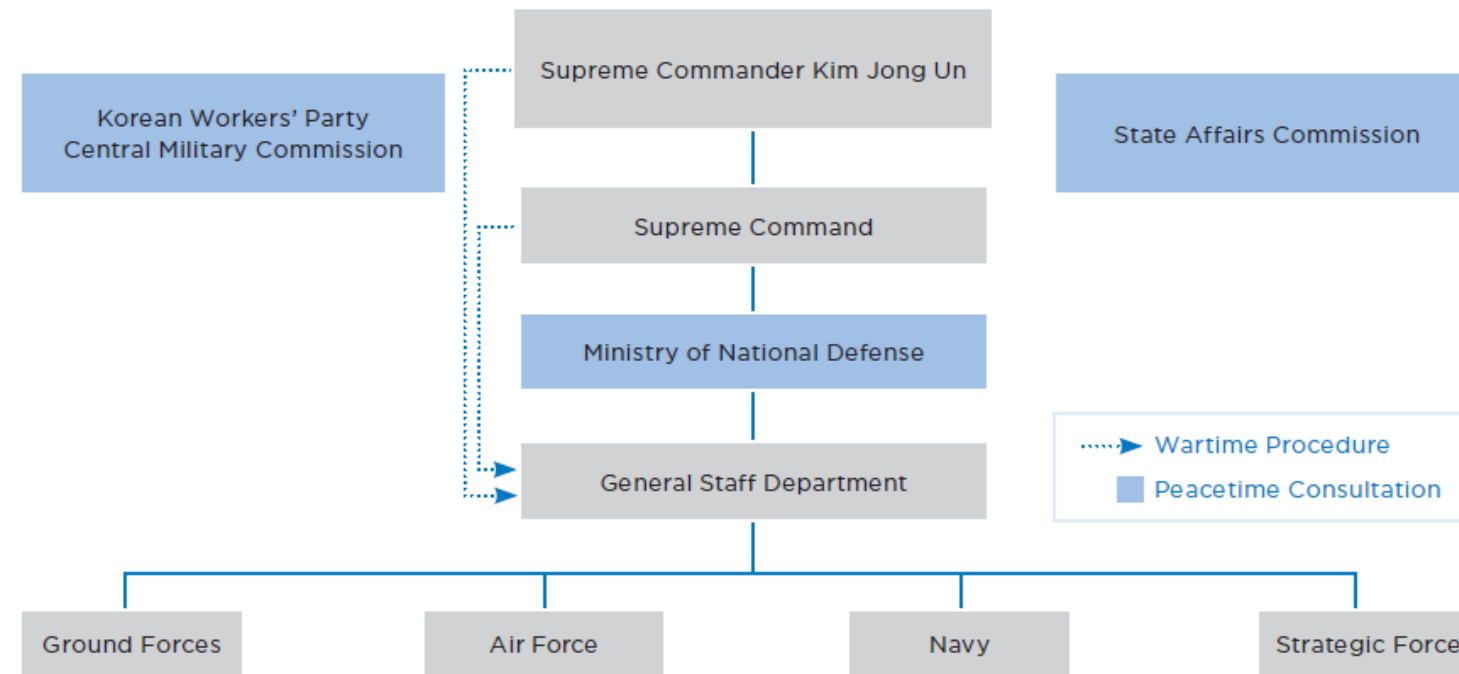
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(U) This infographic provides a North Korean Military and Security Leadership Overview. Kim Jong Un is the Supreme Commander of the Korean People Army (KPA) in addition to his position as Supreme Leader and head of all governmental, political, and security institutions in the country. He holds the rank of Marshal in the KPA and was appointed a four-star general before his succession. In North Korea's unitary leadership structure, Kim is the ultimate authority for all defense and national security decisions, including operational planning and execution, procurement and acquisition, and strategy and doctrine. He exercises personal command and control over North Korea's nuclear, ballistic missile, and conventional military forces. As the first secretary of the Korean Workers' Party, he establishes policy and guidance for North Korea's military and implements party policy through key national-level organizations. He is also Chairman of the State Affairs Commission (SAC) which is the supreme political authority for the country.

The Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Central Military Commission [CMC]



The WPK/CMC is responsible for the development and implementation of the WPK's (the Party's) military and defense policies. In joint coordination with SAC, the CMC has command and control over the KPA.



The Ministry of People's Armed Forces (MPAF)

MPAF is the DPRK's defense ministry (formerly known as the Ministry of National Defense). It is responsible for the KPA administrative affairs, logistics and rear services, processing munitions orders and conducting external affairs and diplomatic activity with foreign militaries.

The MPAF is directly subordinate to the dual command and control of the SAC and the WPK/CMC and ultimately answers to the KPA Supreme Command. The MPAF's primary mission, aside from representing the KPA externally (i.e. outside the DPRK), is managing and processing the manpower and resource needs of the country's conventional armed forces and special operations forces [SOF] and has at least ten subordinate organizations.

People's Republic of Korea State Affairs Commission (SAC)



The SAC is constitutionally the supreme political authority of North Korea. The State Affairs Commission was created by 2016 amendments to the North Korean Constitution to replace the previously military-dominated National Defense Commission.

Sources: [North Korea Military Power](#) (DIA)
[North Korea Leadership Watch](#) (38 North)