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## Japanese, US navies plan joint show of force towards North Korea

USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier leads strike group as it steams towards the Korean Peninsula, with plans to conduct joint exercises with Japan's Maritime Self Defence Force aimed at deterring secretive North Korean regime from further missile tests, two sources said.

By REUTERS

APRIL 12, 2017

Japan's navy plans a joint show of force with the US Navy's USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier strike group as it steams towards the Korean peninsula aimed at deterring secretive North Korean regime from further missile tests, two sources said.

With tension growing markedly, the Korean peninsula is the closest it has been to a "military clash" since Pyongyang's first nuclear test in 2006, an influential state-run Chinese newspaper said on Wednesday.

North Korea should halt any plans for nuclear and missile activities "for its own security," the Global Times said in an editorial.

While widely read in China and run by the ruling Communist Party's official People's Daily, the Global Times does not represent government policy.

Tension has escalated sharply on the Korean peninsula amid concerns that reclusive North Korea could soon conduct a sixth nuclear test or more missile launches and US President Donald Trump's threat of unilateral action to solve the problem.

Trump, who has urged China to do more to rein in its impoverished ally and neighbour, said on Twitter that North Korea was "looking for trouble" and the United States would "solve the problem" with or without Beijing's help.

Coming Kim's way... Trump adds to his Syria message by diverting the USS Carl Vinson strike group toward North Korea. Photo: Reuters

The Global Times editorial noted Trump's recent decision to launch 59 Tomahawk missiles at a Syrian airfield in response to a deadly gas attack last week.

"Not only [is] Washington brimming with confidence and arrogance following the missile attacks on Syria, but Trump is also willing to be regarded as a man who honours his promises," the Global Times said.

"The US is making up its mind to stop the North from conducting further nuclear tests. It doesn't plan to co-exist with a nuclear-armed Pyongyang," it said. "Pyongyang should avoid making mistakes at this time."

North Korean state media warned on Tuesday of a nuclear attack on the United States at any sign of American aggression.