

Trump's Rage for War-making: Three US Aircraft Carrier Strike Groups Deployed to Korean Peninsula Waters

By [Stephen Lendman](#)

Global Research, April 18, 2017

Region: [Asia](#)

Theme: [Militarization and WMD, US NATO War Agenda](#)

In-depth Report: [NORTH KOREA](#)

Heightened tensions are undeniable. So is Trump's rage for warmaking. Whether he'd risk Korean peninsula nuclear war is another matter entirely.

Citing South Korea's Yonhap New Agency, [Zero Hedge](#) said

"the Pentagon has directed a total of three US aircraft carriers toward the Korean Peninsula..."

On April 8, the USS Carl Vinson strike group left Singapore. It's currently involved "in scheduled exercises with Australian forces in the Indian Ocean," far from North Korea, according to [Defense News](#).

US Naval officials declined to comment on its movements. They "flatly deny reports that three US carrier strike groups were being directed to mass off the Korean peninsula in a few weeks."

South Korean media reports about the Ronald Reagan and Nimitz strike groups joining the Vinson are overblown.

The Yokosuka, Japan-based Reagan aircraft carrier is undergoing maintenance there, scheduled for completion in May.

The Bremerton, Washington-based Nimitz carrier strike group is currently off southern California's coast, completing pre-deployment exercises. It's scheduled to replace the Vinson strike group in Pacific waters later this spring.

On April 8, US Pacific Command head Admiral Harry Harris ordered the Vinson strike group to Korean peninsula waters.

Defense Secretary Mattis said it

"operates freely up and down the Pacific, and (it's) just on (its) way up there because that's where we thought it was most prudent to have (it) at this time. There's not a specific demand signal or specific reason why we're sending (it)

up there.”

According to Beijing-based naval expert Li Jie, the Pentagon’s lack of clarity about deploying the Vinson strike group adds to Korean peninsula tensions.

“Obviously, it’s an intimidat(ing) tactic adopted by the Trump administration to push Kim Jong-un to yield to Washington’s carrier threats,” Li said.

“Such a tactic is very like Trump’s style, but I don’t think it’s a good way to handle the nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula because Kim will not compromise with threats.”

“He wants to get some pragmatic promises from the US, China and Russia to secure his regime.”

On Monday, North Korean Deputy UN envoy Kim In Ryong responded to Vice President Pence’s announced end of US “strategic patience” remark at the DMZ on Sunday. along with Washington’s intended naval presence in Korean peninsula waters, saying:

America “created a dangerous situation in which thermonuclear war may break out...pos(ing) a serious threat to world peace and security.”

“The US is disturbing the global peace and stability and insisting on the gangster-like logic that its invasion of a sovereign state is ‘decisive, and just, and proportionate,’ and contributes to ‘defending’ the international order in its bid to apply it to the Korean Peninsula as well.”

Any conventional or nuclear strike by Washington will be responded to “in kind,” he added.

Conflict on the Korean peninsula isn’t likely imminent. Yet given Trump’s rage for warmaking, anything is possible ahead.

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net.

His new book as editor and contributor is titled “Flashpoint in Ukraine: How the US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III.”

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html>

Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com.

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Stephen Lendman](#), Global Research, 2017

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Stephen Lendman](#)

About the author:

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html> Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com. Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca