

NEWS RELEASE

BBC Radio Interviews Author Andy Harp on North Korea Missile Launch

Columbus, GA (April 16, 2009) — In Andy Harp's novel "A Northern Thunder," a pivotal part of the plot involves the launching of North Korea's Taepo Dong missile. This month, when North Korea actually launched the missile that Harp wrote about, BBC Radio interviewed the author to get his perspective and viewpoint.

Harp's interview was carried on BBC Radio "5 Live" show on Monday, April 6, and was broadcast throughout the United Kingdom. Harp, a retired U.S. Marine Corps Reserve colonel, delivered expert analysis on the launch, the missile's capability and the threat of North Korea.

"The Taepo Dong launch had a successful first stage and a second stage that took the payload well into the Pacific," said Harp in the interview. "North Korea is inching closer by the minute to a viable intercontinental rocket."

Harp wrote extensively about North Korea's long-range missile technology in "A Northern Thunder," a military thriller published in 2007 (Bancroft Press). In the book, North Korea's missile launch takes place from a secret underground facility. "North Korea literally has thousands of bunkers, some detected and some unknown," said Harp. "They even have bunkers for the protection of their submarine force."

Harp noted, as he wrote in his book, that North Korea sells its weapons technology to other dangerous countries such as Iran. "The Iranian missile launch of a satellite recently was based upon the Taepo Dong technology," said Harp. "Iran has announced that it will launch another more sophisticated satellite in the near future. Whatever North Korea learns in its advancement of this technology is certainly being shared with its customers."

Harp has extensive knowledge and expertise on North Korea from his military experience and exhaustive research for "A Northern Thunder." During his 30 years of military service, Harp participated four times in Ulchi-Freedom Guardian (previously known as Ulchi-Focus Lens), an annual joint military exercise between South Korea and the United States that focuses on defending South Korea from a North Korean attack. Also, Harp served as the officer in charge of the Crisis Action Team for Marine Forces Pacific, which included the responsibility of monitoring developments in North Korea and was mobilized for Operation Enduring Freedom in that role.

Harp has delivered expert analysis to the international media coverage of North Korea's recent missile launch. The author was also recently interviewed for an article published in the *Correio Braziliense*, the daily newspaper of the capitol of Brazil.

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