

This briefing was developed for **The Blue Book Project**, lead by the Commonwealth of Virginia, support by CNA, and funded through a FEMA regional catastrophic planning grant.

Blue Book Project Goal: Develop a coordinated operational process to support local, state, federal, and private sector priorities; support Virginia residents; and ensure continuity of government while managing consequences from a coordinated nation-state cyberattack on critical lifeline services.





The Blue Book Project

North Korea Threat Briefing



North Korea: A Formidable Threat



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North Korea is still at war.

- 1.1 million soldiers
- 1000+ tanks
- 8,000+ heavy artillery
- Nuclear weapons
- 200+ ballistic missiles
- Active cyber capabilities
- Horrible human rights record



71 years after the Korean War, North Korea remains hostile to the US. It has a long history of violent behavior and maintains a massive military that includes nuclear weapons.

North Korea Cyber: 2 Tiers of Threat

Very Capable



Steady State

**Operates from China,
Europe, & Africa**




Crisis



North Korea Steady State Threat



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Known threat groups	Andariel Lazurus Kimsuky Bluenoroff	Legitimate IT business, hacking, cyber crime
Likely targets		Generate revenue, gather intelligence, & penetrate critical infrastructure
Known examples	Sony 2014 Seoul Subway 2014	\$1B+ cyber theft 2022 WannaCry ransomware

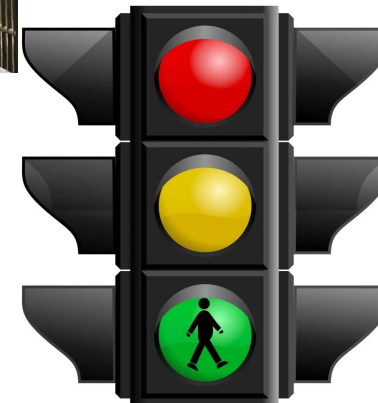
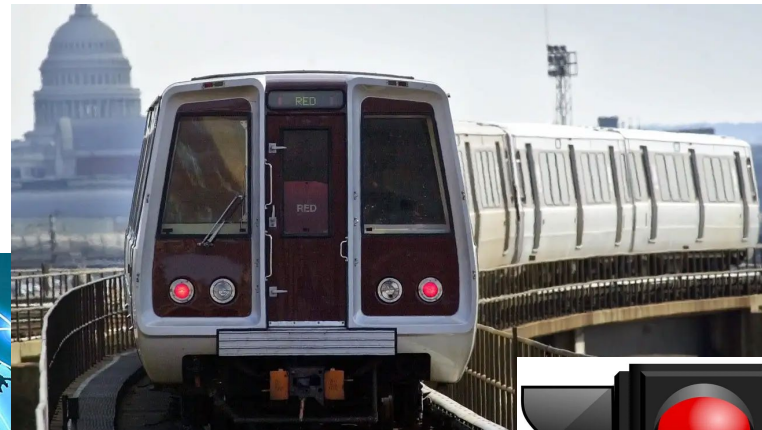
Under “normal” circumstances, North Korea is unlikely to conduct large scale cyber attacks against critical Infrastructure

North Korea Crisis Threat



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In the event of a war on the Korean Peninsula, North Korea will likely employ cyber capabilities to cause confusion & damage in US



Virginia has numerous critical infrastructure assets that are potential targets for North Korean cyber attacks

North Korea use of false and misleading information



Miscellaneous Efforts

Primary targets are South Korea and the US

- Clear professionalization since 2020
- Targets journalists in order to influence narratives
- Social engineering, rapport-building, etc.
- State-sponsored media, multi-lingual elites, US and Chinese social media platforms
- Unexpected success on TikTok

The New York Times

North Korean Propaganda Gets a YouTube Makeover: Fewer Parades, More Pizza

You Tube and other social media platforms give the country an easy way to spread propaganda and push a more modern, upbeat message



Let's Connect



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Feel Free to email us with questions
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Check out the Blue Book TV Reading Corner for more information and resources

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