Abstract

The Present Status and Characteristics of North Korea's Foreign Military Cooperation in the Kim Jung Un Era: Focusing on the Third World such as the Middle East and Africa

LEE, Su-Seok

(Institute for National Security Strategy)

The purpose of North Korea's foreign military cooperation is to strengthen its ability to survive through cooperation in military fields and to achieve the goals of its foreign policy. Depending on the environment that has changed internationally, the goals and patterns of North Korea's foreign military cooperation have changed by time. During the Kim Il Sung era, military forces and military training were provided to third world countries such as the Middle East and Africa to form a sense of socialist solidarity and to promote the superiority of the North Korean system. In the Kim Jung Il era, the main goal was to earn foreign currency through exports of weapons of mass destruction, including conventional weapons, ballistic missiles and biological and chemical weapons. In addition, the goal of military power was set through the development of military technology and the development of nuclear technology.

In the Kim Jung Un era, North Korea aims to resolve the crisis and seek its own survival through military cooperation in the face of international community's sanctions against the North. To this end, it has secretly conducted military cooperation with the Middle East and African countries while avoiding surveillance of sanctions against the North. In this article, Kim Jung Un's era, North Korea's foreign military cooperation is focused on the Middle East and African countries. Thus, the actual condition and characteristics of North Korea's foreign military cooperation in the Kim Jung Un era were examined as follows: arms trade, dispatch, training of military personnel, the exchange of military technology, and the subjects and activities of North Korea's weapons marketing.