

U.S. shows military might, flies stealth jets and bombers over the Korean Peninsula



(Photo: Handout, South Korean Defense Ministry vi)

The U.S. military flew stealth jets and bombers over the Korean Peninsula on Monday, days after North Korea launched an intermediate range ballistic missile over Japan.

The show of force came in response to Friday's missile launch, the U.S. Pacific Command said in a statement.

The missile flew 2,300 miles from the North's capital of Pyongyang and landed in the ocean.

Four U.S. F-35B Lightning II jets and two B-1B Lancer bombers joined four South Korean F-15K fighter jets and four Japanese F-2 fighter jets for the drills.

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The Lancer bombers came from the Andersen Air Force Base in the U.S. territory of Guam, which North Korea has threatened to launch four missiles toward.

The U.S. and South Korean aircraft “practiced their attack capabilities by releasing live weapons” at the South’s Pilsung Range training area, and the U.S. aircraft and Japanese fighters also flew over waters near Kyushu, Japan’s most southwesterly island, the U.S. Pacific Command said.

Captions for photos that accompanied the military statement said the mission demonstrated “the United States’ ironclad commitment to our allies in the face of aggressive and unlawful North Korean missile tests.”

While the latest missile launch posed no threat to the Guam, it was the longest-ever such flight of a North Korean missile and clearly showed that the island is within range of the country’s weapons.

Guam is located about 2,100 miles from Pyongyang.

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