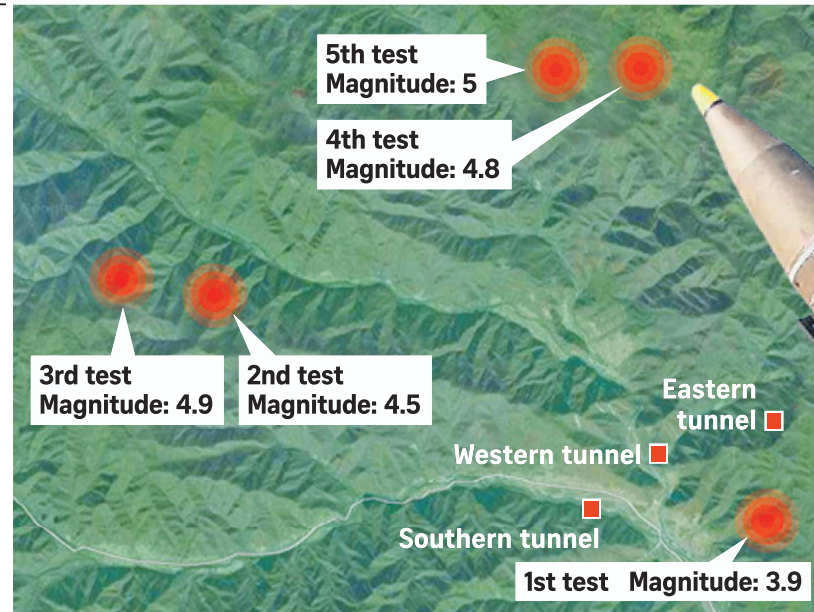


NORTH KOREA'S LATEST NUCLEAR TEST

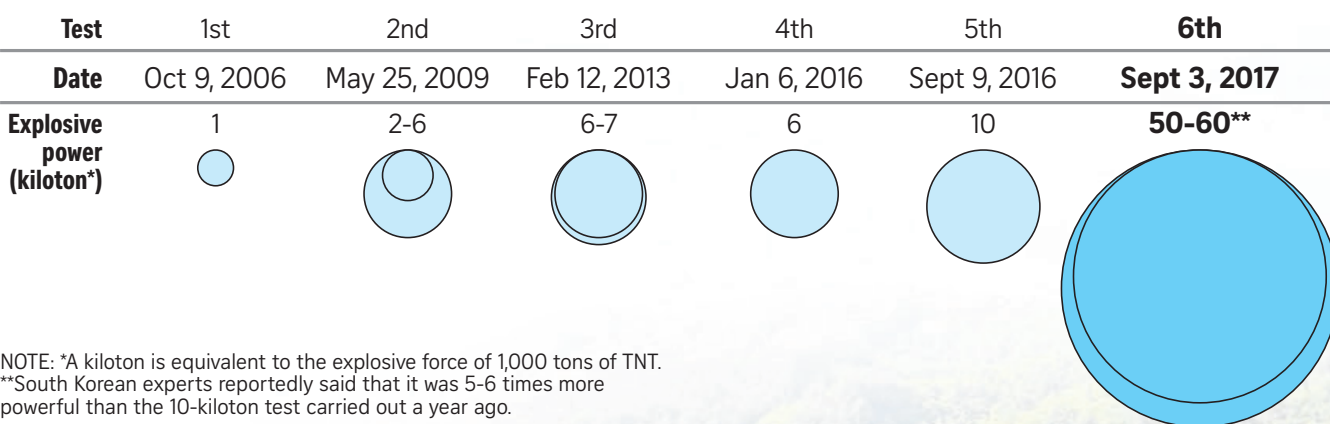


PREVIOUS TESTS

- The first and second nuclear tests were conducted on Oct 9, 2006 and May 25, 2009 respectively during Kim Jong Il's reign (1994–2011).
- The third nuclear test was conducted on Feb 12, 2013 under Kim Jong Un's leadership.



NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS COMPARED



North Korea claimed yesterday it has successfully tested a hydrogen bomb that can be loaded onto an intercontinental ballistic missile. On the right is the Hwasong-14 intercontinental ballistic missile in an undated photo released by North Korea.

Pyongyang's nuclear might

North Korea claims it has developed a hydrogen bomb that possesses "great destructive power". Here is a look at the country's growing nuclear threat.

NUCLEAR BOMBS: ATOMIC V HYDROGEN

What is it?

ATOMIC BOMB (A-BOMB)

• It is a fission bomb which splits uranium and/or plutonium into smaller atoms, triggering a nuclear chain reaction that unleashes massive amounts of destructive energy.

HYDROGEN BOMB (H-BOMB)

• Also known as thermonuclear bomb, it uses the same fission reaction that powers an A-bomb to release enormous heat and pressure which cause hydrogen atoms within the H-bomb to fuse.
 • This process sets off a fusion reaction similar to how the sun works.

Which is more powerful?

• The two A-bombs – "Little Boy" and "Fat Man" – dropped by the US in Japan during World War II produced blasts equivalent to 15 kilotons and 21 kilotons respectively.
 • More than 200,000 people were killed in the two attacks.
 • These were the only times atomic weapons were deployed in battles.

• The H-bomb packs more punch than the A-bomb.
 • The Soviet Union's Tsar Bomba H-bomb was the largest nuclear bomb detonated in history.
 • In its test blast in October 1961, the device generated 50 megatons, or 50,000 kilotons, of energy.
 • It was more than 3,000 times more powerful than "Little Boy".
 • H-bomb has never been used in combat.

What is an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack?

• It is an attack launched in a nuclear explosion that causes an intense burst of electromagnetic energy.
 • EMP is not known to harm the human body. But an EMP attack can destroy electronic devices in a vast area and cause power disruptions.

