

The Pyongyang Diamond Pt. 1: A Look Inside Mangyongdae District

Recently, DTEX shared [their report](#) on the current state of the DPRK cyber apparatus, with a focus on the regime-funded educational pipeline. While this system reaches as far down as elementary schools, we will be focusing on the universities with specific ties to the APT groups within North Korean intelligence.

This article's focus will be on Kim Il Sung Military University, also known as Mirim College, Command Automation University, and much more. For the purposes outlined, the operational entity will be referred to as KISMU. KISMU serves "[...] to train a larger number of talented military personnel who are fully prepared for modern warfare." according to Kim Jong Un, and holds a variety of dedicated technology laboratories. (DTEX, 2025, p.45)

While the function of the majority of buildings isn't publicly known or documented, we can use architectural similarities from buildings elsewhere to find some points of interest in the area. In collaboration with Farnsworth Intelligence, 3 of these POIs were covered and analyzed.

<https://osintinsider.com/p/osint-insider-special-edition-1-north>

Research Limitations

The author does not claim expertise in GEOINT, IMINT, or remote sensing. Instead, their background lies in cyber threat intelligence analysis, and they seek to offer a general assessment of ITW operations, constrained by the data and imagery available to them. Any analysis of imagery should therefore be regarded as provisional and cannot be assured for complete accuracy.

The IOCs for ITWs are correctly attributed and cross-verified.

A Campus of Curiosities

Note: Locations, their names, and bounds are taken or derived from the [Stimson Center's Digital Atlas](#), [AccessDPRK's KMZ](#), [Wikimapia](#), and [Open Street Maps](#). All images are taken in Google Earth Pro.



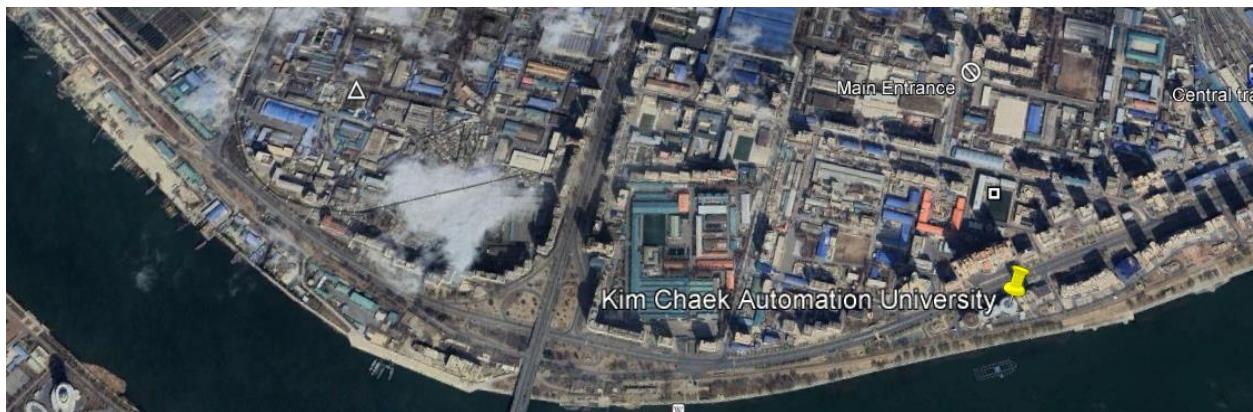
The KISMU campus, while somewhat majestic to look at, holds many secrets that even years of satellite imagery rarely catch a glimpse of. Encased by hills with their own dedicated Korean People's Army Air and Anti-Air Force (KPAAF) Unit, direct access to the KPA Arms Exhibition halls, and a modern industry park to the North, the location serves as a microcosm of Pyongyang's broader strategy of semi-centralized industry hubs. This is two-fold in Mangyongdae, as it also serves as an elite population hub, where talented children as well as those of Pyongyang's elite get sent to the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Academy before joining KISU, Kim Chaek, or other Military Universities.

Beyond the educational loop, what else makes the district important? This brings us back to the various POIs, and how they find themselves placed in relation to strategically valuable assets.

Mangyongdae hosts a wide variety of crucial military and industrial complexes, especially in Kumsong. From the PIINTEC IT Center, to Fiber Optic Cable factories, and Mokran, we also discover some additional "elite" revolutionary schools and a Korean People's Internal Security Forces (KPISF) Training facility -- let's not forget about the Ministry of Justice either. The district also notoriously hosts Namchongang Trading Company, a sanctioned organization focused on the "support of the DPRK's nuclear-related procurement activities." (Donovan, 2009, para. 4) . This will become important later in the article.

Looking further east, additional components of North Korea's cyber capabilities present themselves, such as the former Korea Computing Center (KCC) and Sinhung IT, alongside the residence our friends at Farnsworth looked at. This concentration in critical regime components necessitates and also explains the air defense and security forces present.

Since 2015, there's been developments to a harbor and buildings across it, alongside an exit that leads underneath the main road. This area finds itself between the KISMU campus and guest houses, providing a shipping stop and cargo transfer area similar to the one near Kim Chaek.



Harbor at Kim Chaek



Harbor South of $38^{\circ}59'58.75"N, 125^{\circ}40'29.15"E$ (2015)



Harbor South of $38^{\circ}59'58.75"N, 125^{\circ}40'29.15"E$ (2019)



Harbor South of $38^{\circ}59'58.75"N, 125^{\circ}40'29.15"E$ (2024)

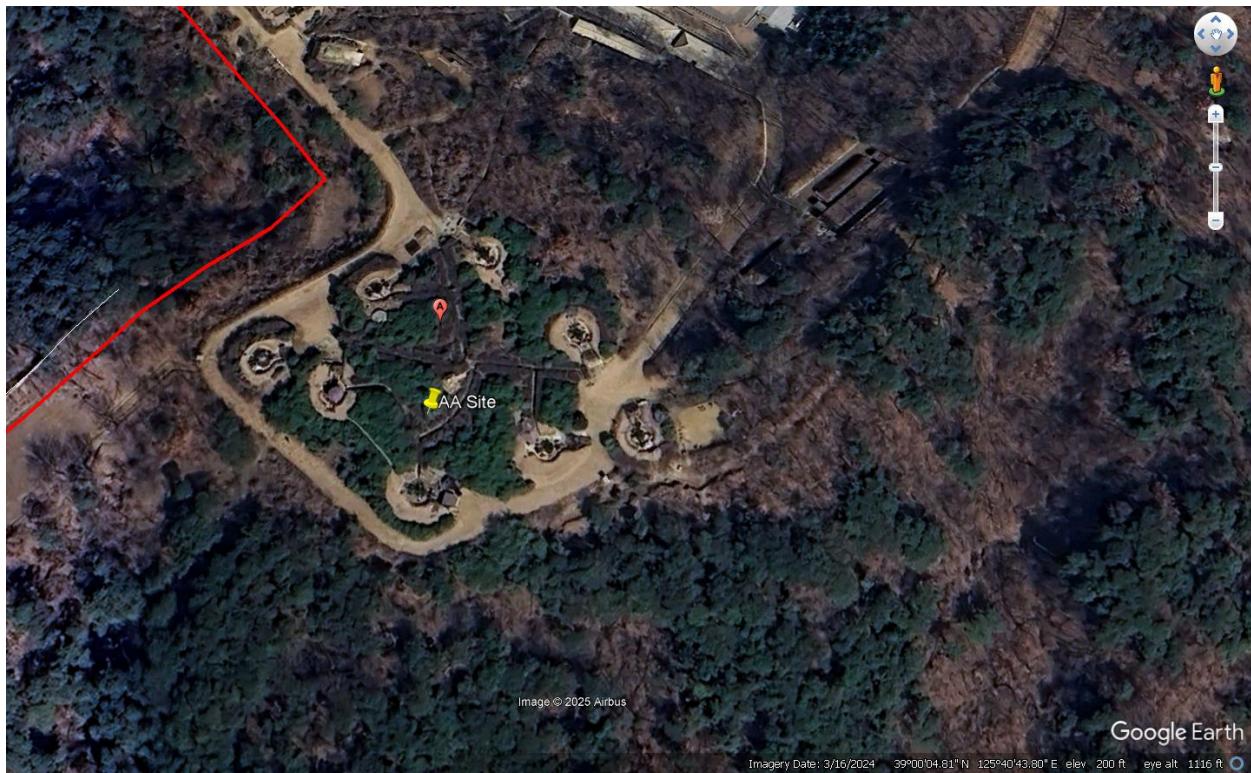
The resources within the harbor, such as the piles of materials, have grown and shrunk in size, indicating active usage and/or transport over the years.

Feb/March 2024 saw upgrades to the local AA site. Notice the blue tarp to the left of the "AA Site" pin.



$39^{\circ}0'6.77"N 125^{\circ}40'35.94"E$ (February 2024)

Imagery Date: 2/29/2024 39°0'0.14"N 125°40'37.49"E elev 207 ft eye alt 1116 ft



39° 0'6.77"N 125°40'35.94"E (March 2024)

Image © 2025 Airbus

Imagery Date: 3/16/2024 39°00'04.81"N 125°40'43.80"E elev 200 ft eye alt 1116 ft

Google Earth

Unknown East Campus

To the east atop the hill near the guest houses, a new architecturally significant campus is being built. The Hardened Facility pin was placed here by AccessDPRK's KMZ. This campus' road doesn't seem to have direct access to the KPAAF unit, but is rather an extension of the Guest House complex.



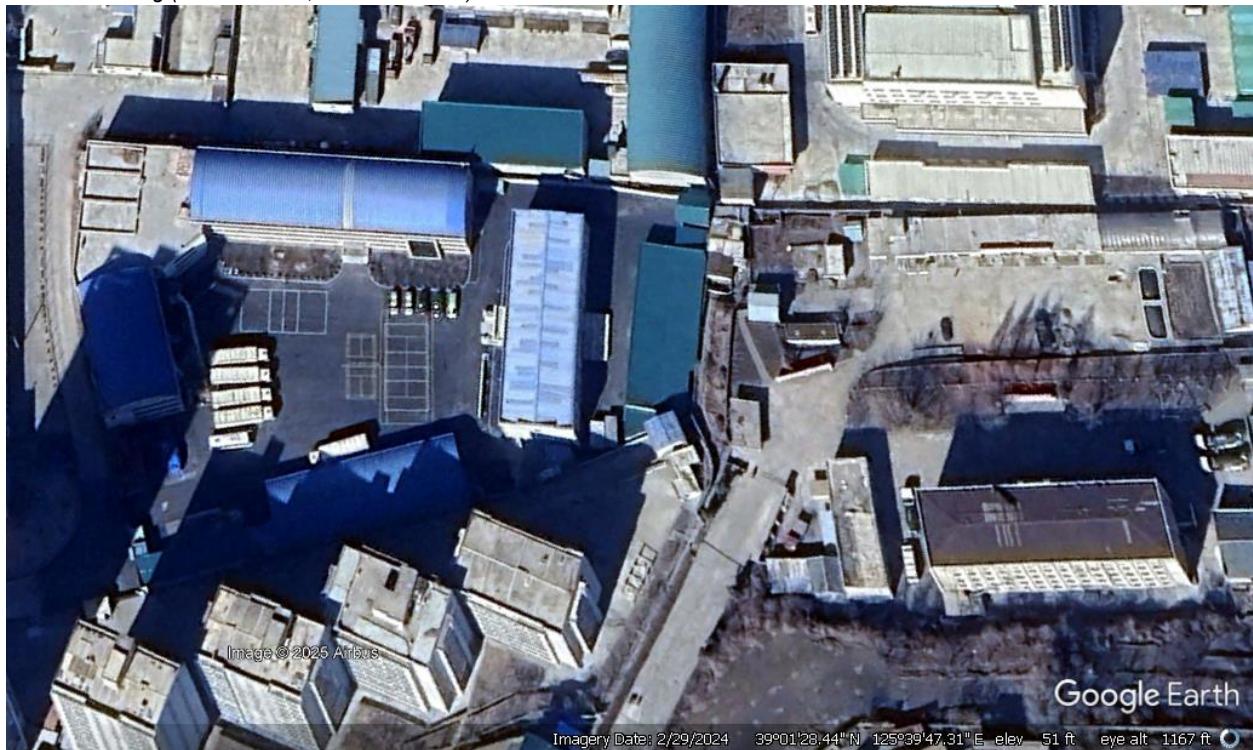
In the Northwest, we have a walled complex, with modern architecture and two marked areas, which interestingly enough are similar to those at Mokran and other buildings nearby.



Unknown Building North-West of Campus (39° 0'14.31"N, 125°40'49.27"E)



Mokran Building (39° 1'21.33"N, 125°39'34.86"E)



Adjacent Building (39° 1'25.69"N, 125°39'43.77"E)

As the original image also shows, there's a new complex that has popped up in the 2024 imagery. Its purpose remains unknown at this time.



Building South-East of the Campus (39° 0'7.62"N, 125°41'3.68"E)

The past decade has seen consistent expansion in residential areas, allowing the region to foster an ever-growing population of regime-picked and groomed soldiers. As the DTEX report, and many others have made clear, the DPRK cyberwarfare program is a whole-society project. Mangyongdae provides all levels of necessary education, with pre-existing military infrastructure nearby that allows near immediate deployment into the cyber theater. Based on available intelligence, RC227 is also located somewhere within Mangyongdae.

Acting as the western bastion of the capital city, Mangyongdae's KISMU, is a straight shot to Wollo-ri (39°3'15.37"N, 125°37'9.54"E) right through the Security University (39°2'36.42"N, 125°38'1.69"E).

With Oryuri Base nearby, and the defense complex to the West near Daepyeong Station (38°59'31.72"N, 125°35'40.59"E), the district serves as a multi-modal hub for the development of North Korea's cyberwarfare units, and should be watched closely.

Lost in Translation

Unit/Office 91 is one of those groups that has been lost to time, and seemingly lost in romanization. One source told us "coverage of those orgs got pretty bad post-2019 and I think folks lost track of office 91", with "no way to know if 91 exists anymore."

According to Jennifer J. Erlendson's [NORTH KOREAN STRATEGIC STRATEGY](#), "The unit was located in two two-story buildings in Mangkyungdae-district of Pyongyang, NK. The buildings are 300m from the Ansan Bridge which crosses over the Botong River" (p. 24) As it turns out, just south of the equally mysterious Necropolis of the Heroes of the People's Army, lies what is believed to be the building described as Unit/Office 91.



To find this, two circles of roughly 350m radii were created to account for inaccuracies in testimony/purposeful obfuscation. While there are a variety of buildings on the eastern end of the bridge, those are all previously established and marked commercial or school buildings. The western side provides a more uncertain yet at the same time likely location for an otherwise unidentified building.



Based on the description, a search was conducted for two buildings together on one campus or complex that matched the height of two stories. No other structures fitting this description were identified aside from this one below:



(39° 1'24.02"N, 125°42'21.97"E)

It is the only complex matching the “two two-story buildings” description in the area. It has stood since before 2013 while also seeing vehicle activity in 2012. With a visible tunnel entrance into the mountain, it isn't unreasonable to consider this a potential location for the unit. Regardless

of whether it is in fact the true location, it is hoped that this will once again draw attention from individuals with greater resources and expertise.

The Stoic Eagle above Mt. Paektu

We have recently come upon some very interesting data points, thanks to our friends at the RGB. [Operation Phantom Circuit](#), covered by STRIKE, left us with some valuable goodies that have allowed us to better map out some physical persons behind the ITW operations, even specifically referencing our covered district. Amongst these names, we find a true gem, someone who has both high level experience, and is even published by the regime.

It's time for the world to meet Choe Song Bom, now part of the Kim Chaek faculty.



Kim Chaek University of Technology
<http://kut.edu.kp> : index.php : page

⋮

Research Project

Choe Song Bom, a section head at the Faculty of Information Science and Technology, has developed an image processor to obtain input images from hand-based ...

You might ask yourself how is he involved? Look at the screenshot below.

DESKTO P-795J2U C	http://192.168.91.15/	csb1111	choesongb omchoeso ngbom	188.43.13 6.33	Russia	2021-07-1 5 19:50:2 8.342042	2021-07-1 5 19:50:1 8.686353
DESKTO P-795J2U C	http://192.168.91.25/	csb1111	choesongb omchoeso ngbom	188.43.13 6.33	Russia	2021-07-1 5 08:14:0 1.347457	2021-07-1 5 08:13:5 2.228221

That range is one of the more well-known KPOST subnets, covered for example by [TrendMicro](#). There was also another similar entry, this time for the account "manyong-csb". Here's where our wonderful Namchongang Trading Company comes to the rescue, and why they were mentioned earlier. Their academic references (Pandey 112) list the location as "Manyong", spelled the same as Choe's. [OFAC lists](#) them as being in Mangyongdae. This allows us to create a clear connection between these variations, and we can conclude Manyong is most likely an alternate form of what we call Mangyongdae.

There were many more of these entries, a genuinely staggering amount of ITW's personal data stored within these stealer logs, giving us an invaluable glimpse into the state's own monitoring program. These infections are not believed to be primarily accidental, but rather part of a larger surveillance apparatus.

The data below was shared with us by <https://x.com/browsercookies> in relation to Choe Song Bom.

Name: 최판소 ("Choe")

godknight10@naver.com
godknight10@sayclub.com
ernestpapyan96@gmail.com
vladimir-0107@outlook.com
crowemackay@outlook.com
smartdevpro001@gmail.com
sharashkynkonstantyn@outlook.com
erpapyan96@gmail.com
ma.liguo@outlook.com
mihovmykyta@gmail.com
maxim.pohonet@yandex.com
dev@fastandslick.com
nureso@outlook.com
grishasatryan9@gmail.com
yatsukalbert@outlook.com
tomladd1@outlook.com
tyomkhachatryna@gmail.com
info@arahglobal.com
ernestpapyanwork@gmail.com
bocharnikovnestor@outlook.com
rexfgng@gmail.com
bestservice4u001@gmail.com
smartdev91@outlook.com
maxima@yandex.com
asileindonesia@gmail.com
yatsukandrey1990@outlook.com

Some additional links to this are:

<https://github.com/topsmartpro>

<https://github.com/topsmartpro/topsmartpro/commit/6884acfd9d02ff4847ca73c67908c2501f9f88>

[88](#) → Brent-Jeremy → <https://medium.com/@smartdev0205> →

<https://github.com/topsmartpro/sui-staking-contract> → <https://github.com/squirdev>

Beyond this, the logs also disclosed some more accounts of the "manyong" variety:

PC_name	URL	Username	Password	Ip	Country	created	last
DESKTO P-795J2U C	http://192.168.91.33/login	manyong- csb	manyong- csb	188.43.13 6.33	Russia	2021-07-1 5 08:15:3 5.003364	2021-07-2 2 09:41:4 5.096244
DESKTO P-795J2U C	http://192.168.91.15:3128/	manyong- kjs	smart	188.43.13 6.33	Russia	2020-12-1 0 10:29:4 2.119729	2020-12-1 0 10:29:0 1.743708
DESKTO P-795J2U C	http://192.168.91.25:3128/	manyong- gen	genius	188.43.13 6.33	Russia	2020-12-0 7 04:32:0 6.588593	2020-12-0 7 04:31:5 9.636487
DESKTO P-795J2U C	http://192.168.91.25:3128/	manyong- kjs	smart	188.43.13 6.33	Russia	2020-11-3 0 23:46:0 5.825222	2020-11-3 0 23:45:5 8.833348

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We only have limited information on manyong-kci, and none on the others.

manyong-kjs

manyong-gen

manyong-kci ->

daniil@clikdapp.com

selivestrovdanil47@gmail.com

gotosatori@trashinbox.net

ernestpapyanwork@gmail.com

With their own logs in hand, we have concrete proof (not that we needed it) for the connection between the ITW cadre and the educational infrastructure within Pyongyang itself.

Mangyongdae will remain the heart of the military-first application of this path, RC227 providing us with the prime example for this idea. With that shared, we conclude our first look into Pyongyang, and more specifically Mangyongdae. Please also check out our secondary publication on this topic, entitled "Towards Divinity: Centralizing Power and Purpose in Pyongyang".

Join us in the future, as we tackle the next part of Pyongyang's Diamond, Kim Il Sung University, aka KISU.

References

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