
US, SOUTH KOREAN MILITARIES WRAPPING UP DRILLS EARLY, A DAY AFTER NORTH KOREA'S MISSILE BARRAGE

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The U.S. and South Korean militaries were wrapping up their annual drills six days earlier than initially scheduled on Friday in a conciliatory gesture toward North Korea, though the North said the step isnt enough to convince it to return to talks.

U.S. President Donald Trump had earlier abruptly ordered the Pentagon to substantially reduce the Ulchi Freedom Shield exercises just before they began Monday. Trump cited what he described as a good relationship with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Koreas refusal to support him over the war in Iran.

Kim Yo Jong, the influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, brushed aside Trumps overture on Wednesday, saying the provocative, aggressive nature of the drills wont change only with the reduction of their duration and size.

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