

‘No longer a nuclear threat’ from North Korea, Trump says

By ANNE FLAHERTY and JOSH LEDERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump declared today there was “no longer a Nuclear Threat from North Korea,” a dubious claim following his summit with leader Kim Jong Un that produced no guarantees on how or when Pyongyang would disarm.

Tempering Trump’s very upbeat assessment, his top diplomat, Mike Pompeo, cautioned that the U.S. would resume “war games” with close ally South Korea if the North stops negotiating in good faith.

The president had announced a halt in the drills after his meeting with Kim on Tuesday.

The summit in Singapore, which marked a major reduction in tensions, yielded a joint statement that contained a promise to work toward a denuclearized Korean Peninsula, but it lacked details. That didn’t stop the president from talking up the outcome of what was the first meeting between a U.S. and North Korean leader in six decades of hostility. The Korean War ended in 1953 without a peace treaty, leaving the two sides in a technical state of war.

“Just landed — a long trip,

but everybody can now feel much safer than the day I took office,” Trump tweeted early today. “There is no longer a Nuclear Threat from North Korea. Meeting with Kim Jong Un was an interesting and very positive experience. North Korea has great potential for the future!”

Pompeo, who flew to Seoul to brief South Korean leaders on the summit, said the U.S. wants North Korea to take “major” nuclear disarmament steps within the next two years — before the end of Trump’s first term in 2021. He said the North Korean leader understands that “there will be in-depth verifica-

tion” of nuclear commitments in any deal with the U.S.

While Trump was facing questions at home and among allies about whether he gave away too much in return for far too little at the summit, North Korean state media heralded claims of a victorious meeting with the U.S. president; photos of Kim standing side-by-side with Trump on the world stage were splashed across newspapers.

Trump’s own chest-thumping tweet seemed reminiscent of the “Mission Accomplished” banner flown behind President George W. Bush in 2003 when he spoke aboard a Navy ship

following the U.S. invasion of Iraq. The words came back to haunt the administration, as the war dragged on throughout Bush’s presidency.

Trump’s claim that North Korea no longer poses a nuclear threat is questionable considering Pyongyang’s significant weapons arsenal.

Independent experts say the North could have enough fissile material for anywhere between about a dozen and 60 nuclear bombs. Last year it tested long-range missiles that could reach the U.S. mainland, although it remains unclear if it has mastered the technology to deliver a nuclear warhead that could

re-enter the atmosphere and hit its target.

“Before taking office people were assuming that we were going to War with North Korea,” Trump tweeted. “President (Barack) Obama said that North Korea was our biggest and most dangerous problem. No longer — sleep well tonight!”

When asked whether Trump was jumping the gun by declaring victory, White House counselor Kellyanne Conway told reporters: “This president wants North Korea to completely denuclearize so obviously that has to be complete, verifiable and irreversible.”

Nelson: ‘If you were a friend of his, you were a friend for life’

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Nelson graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in Connecticut in 1953. A year later, he married his wife, Joyce. He would go on to make a lot of decisions in the next few decades, but he often told friends that his proposal to Joyce was his best one.

The rear admiral held a number of top positions in the Coast Guard that took him to Washington, D.C., Massachusetts, Newfoundland, Louisiana, Washington state and North Carolina. In each place, he would find an organization where he could volunteer.

“He was a very outgoing and intelligent man,” Joyce Nelson said. “He always vol-



Edward Nelson Jr.

unteered for other things. It’s a way of getting to know the local people.”

Nelson was a commander at Air Station Astoria from 1971 to 1974. By the time he retired as the commander of the 17th District, which monitors the entire Alaska region, he had become the Coast Guard’s Ancient Albatross — the longest-serving active duty aviator.

Peter Troedsson, now the Albany city manager, spent 30 years in the Coast Guard and was the commander in Astoria from 2006 to 2009. During Troedsson’s command, Nelson would act as a mentor both to him and junior officers.

Though his career started as Nelson’s was ending, Troedsson felt a kinship

“He was one of those folks that is interested in every aspect of the operation,” Troedsson said. “He maintained avid interest in everything the stations he commanded did.”

When he did retire, the Nelsons settled in Astoria. During the years he spent in the area, he enjoyed the city’s Scandinavian influence — similar to that of his hometown in Worcester, Massa-

chusetts. As always, the couple had plenty of connections.

“We had a lot of friends back here, and they said, ‘Why don’t you retire here?’” Joyce Nelson said.

In 1991, just a couple of years after retirement, Nelson was appointed to the hospital board, where he once served as chairman. He wasn’t the most talkative during meetings, but others on the board remembered how supportive he was to them.

A military man, Nelson was also keen on details such as grammar.

“He would go through the budget and say — on page 42, paragraph four — that ‘it’s’ should be ‘its,’” said Constance Waisanen, the board’s current

president.

Nelson did not want a plaque or trophy when he stepped down last year. Rather, the board created a new title of trustee emeritus specifically for him.

“He always carried himself with such dignity,” Waisanen said. “He brought something really unique.”

In addition to the hospital board, Nelson served two years as a Port of Astoria commissioner and spent time on the Astoria Library advisory board. He created the local chapter of the Military Officers Association of America and also served on the organization’s national board.

Since 2015, Troedsson has been a member of the board that Nelson expanded locally.

“It provides, first and foremost, an avenue for advocacy of services for military families,” Troedsson said. “It also provides a social opportunity for officers to connect.”

A public memorial service for Nelson — with Troedsson, Phillips and state and Coast Guard officials scheduled to speak — is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday at the Air Station Astoria hangar. His inurnment will take place at the Coast Guard Academy Columbarium.

As time passes, friends and family will remember Nelson’s strong — and tasteful — sense of humor, even temperament, caring nature and loyalty.

“If you were a friend of his,” Phillips said, “you were a friend for life.”

Seaside: Simulation ran thousands of scenarios

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relative proximity to areas where people live and gather. They also fall in the path where tsunami inundation will most likely occur, researchers said. The simulation ran thousands of scenarios based on the starting points of 4,500 imaginary people, who were distributed mostly downtown and on the beach to resemble where most people would be on a busy, summer day.

While Horning agrees the Broadway Bridge and 12th Avenue structures are heavily trafficked, these bridges happen to be ones that will fare “quite nicely” in the event of an earthquake, he believes,

and that it is all the other bridges in town that could fail.

“I agree that the East Broadway and the 12th Avenue structures are important lifelines, but they ought to be regarded as capable of withstanding the next quake and they should be lauded as great examples of good bridges,” Horning said in an email.

Oregon State civil engineer Dan Cox said he did not want give the impression that the bridges were not good in this study since the team did not do any structural engineering analysis.

“The main focus of our study was to understand what were the most important bridges for

evacuation,” Cox said.

In a July work session, Horning hopes to discuss a strategy and funding mechanism to replace all of Seaside’s bridges.

Last week, Cox and his colleague Haizhong Wang emphasized their research — funded by the Oregon Sea Grant and the National Science Foundation — is not an end-all solution for tsunami preparations in Seaside, and that they hoped their findings would be a “piece of the puzzle.”

“This is not something to panic over,” Horning said. “It is something to participate in and complete within a responsible period of time.”

Bird: Council’s proclamation for next month

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Migratory Bird Treaty Act, a landmark federal law that protects dozens of species.

The red-winged blackbird was chosen because they are abundant and represent the local ecology, Maine said. Recognizing them would also hold historical value as many live on the Little Pompey Wetland — a marsh named after the son of Sacagawea from the Lewis and Clark Expedition by Cannon Beach Elementary School fifth-graders more than 20 years ago.

Part of the reason city councilors delayed the pro-

clamation was in response to some in the community asking why the town’s iconic bird — the tufted puffin — was not chosen. The council asked Maine if puffins were considered.

“No, we didn’t really consider the puffin. It wasn’t about the puffin,” Maine said. “Though it has been portrayed as a kind of battle of the birds.”

Maine reiterated that the committee believes the red-winged blackbird deserves the visibility more than the elusive tufted puffin, which only nest on Haystack Rock a few months a year. The puffin will always be an icon and already has the Hay-

stack Rock Awareness Program protecting its interests, Maine said.

Without hearing any strong objections, the City Council unanimously decided to schedule the proclamation for next month.

For Mayor Sam Steidel, the tension between the red-winged blackbird and tufted puffin was described succinctly in a letter from a former Cannon Beach Elementary School student who was a part of the Little Pompey Wetland project.

“Puffins are second homeowners,” Steidel quoted from the letter. “But the red-winged blackbirds are the residents.”

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