

Commercial Satellite Image Catches North Korean Missile During Flight April 6, 2009

ISIS has obtained commercial satellite imagery from DigitalGlobe taken on April 5, 2009 (local time) in North Korea that appears to have caught the Musudan-ri missile in flight. The missile's exhaust plume can be seen, and the flame from the burning propellant registers in the imagery as a solid white mark (see figure 1). The terrain below the missile in the image is only a few kilometers away from the launch pad (see figure 2). Figure 3 is a close-up of the area where the missile may be, next to the white mark.

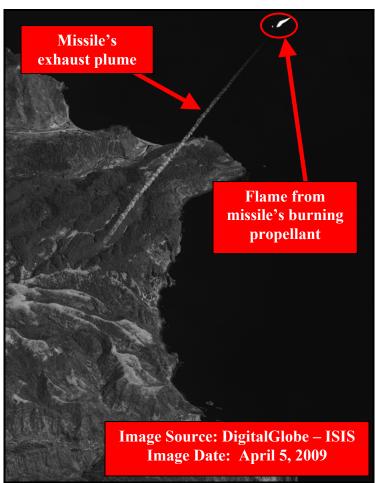


Figure 1. April 5, 2009 DigitalGlobe satellite image of the Musudan-ri missile launch in progress. The missile's exhaust plume and the flame from its burning propellant can be seen.

[Banner image credit: DigitalGlobe-ISIS]
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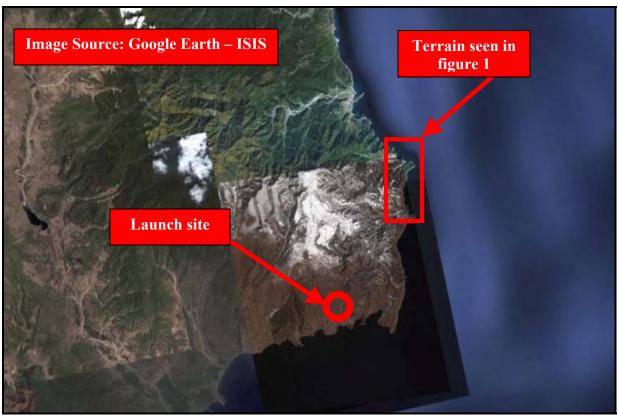


Figure 2. A wide-area satellite image from Google Earth. The inset square represents the area seen in Figure 1. The missile launch site is circled.



Figure 3. A close-up April 5, 2009 DigitalGlobe satellite image of the flame from the missile's burning propellant.