



**Global Security Newswire**  
by National Journal Group

Daily news on nuclear, biological and  
chemical weapons, terrorism and  
related issues.

## Taiwan to Prepare Chemical Defense Unit for Nuclear Disaster

Thursday, March 24, 2011

Taiwan might rethink a plan to shift hundreds of troops out of a military unit trained to deal with chemical weapons threats, as it moves to prepare that corps to better manage atomic crises, Defense Minister Kao Hwa-chu said on Wednesday (see [GSN](#), Dec. 4, 2007).

Taipei had considered cutting 30 percent of personnel from the 3,000-member chemical warfare corps as part of a larger military reduction in force, the Taiwanese Central News Agency reported. However, the ongoing crisis at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant has led the government to reassess its plan for the chemical unit, Kao told a legislative panel (see related [GSN](#) story, today).

The corps is also expected to receive more training and gear for responding to an incident similar to the situation in Japan, the minister said. **Taiwan** now operates six atomic energy reactors at three sites, according to the Nuclear Threat Initiative.

Kao also said that the corps needs more biological defense equipment (Huang/Low, [Central News Agency I](#), March 23).

The defense minister said the military would take a hard look at continuing troubles with its missiles, CNA reported (see [GSN](#), June 4, 2010).

Only two of the four missiles fired in testing on Monday hit their intended targets, CNA reported. A Sparrow and a Mica both went off-course.

That followed a round of testing on January 18 in which 13 of 19 missiles operated as intended.

Kao said the troubles might involve both personnel and technology. The assessment will look at potential personnel issues, along with the holding and intended service life of the weaponry.

Taiwan's missile arsenal is part of its defense against China, which considers the island to be Chinese territory and has threatened a military response should it pursue formal independence ([Central News Agency II](#), March 23).