

Tsai orders faster missile production

Written by Taipei Times

Saturday, 26 January 2019 06:26 -



Soldiers from the Sixth Army Command greet President Tsai Ing-wen as she visits the unit's base in Taoyuan yesterday ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday.

Photo: Tyrone Siu, Reuters

Production of Tien Kung III ("Sky Bow III") and Hsiung Feng III ("Brave Wind III") missiles should be sped up, provided that quality is not affected, President Tsai Ing-wen (蔡英文) said yesterday, adding that higher production rates are needed as the Chinese military threat grows.

Tsai made the remarks during a visit to the Chungshan Institute of Science and Technology with National Security Council Secretary-General David Lee (李盛峰), Minister of National Defense Yen De-fa (嚴德發) and Chief of General Staff Lee Hsi-ming (李士明) to boost morale among research staff.

The officials were briefed on the mass production of missiles before inspecting the facility.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the institute's founding and personnel should be commended for embodying the founding spirit of the institute: to ensure Taiwan's defense autonomy and national security in the face of changing external circumstances, Tsai said.

The Tien Kung III and Hsiung Feng III missiles, which help Taiwan maintain a formidable defense, are the pride of the institute, but their success is due to the diligence of generations of researchers, Tsai said.

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“The institute’s researchers laid the foundation for its success by daring to brave the challenges they faced and learning from their failures,” she said, citing the institute’s motto: unwavering patriotism, innovative creativity, pragmatic application of the scientific method and the spirit of teamwork.

As the commander-in-chief of the armed forces, Tsai said she is well aware of the institute’s importance and has increased its funding.

She said she has also sought to improve relations between the institute and the Ministry of National Defense to ensure that the institute’s knowledge would find suitable applications.

Tsai called on Yen, who doubles as the institute’s chairman, and Deputy Minister of National Defense Chang Kuan-chun (張貫群) to carefully plan the future development of the institute, focusing on expediting the manufacturing of quality missiles.

Source: [Taipei Times - 2019/01/26](#)