

Top general says he'd defy an 'illegal' nuclear strike order from Trump

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By Rich Schapiro



The top U.S. nuclear commander said Saturday that he would resist an order from President Donald Trump to launch nuclear weapons if he believed it to be illegal.

Air Force Gen. John Hyten, commander of Strategic Command, told a panel at the Halifax International Security Forum that he's already contemplated what he would say if Trump ordered a strike deemed unlawful.



Trump waves as he departs after speaking about his recent trip to Asia in the Diplomatic Room of the White House on Nov. 15, 2017.

(JOSHUA ROBERTS/REUTERS)

“If it’s illegal, guess what’s going to happen. I’m going to say, ‘Mr. President, that’s illegal,’” Hyten said.

“And guess what he’s going to do? He’s going to say, ‘What would be legal?’” Hyten said.



North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un inspecting a launching drill of the medium-and-long range strategic ballistic rocket Hwasong-12 in an undated photo.

(KCNA VIA KNS/AFP/Getty Images)

“And we’ll come up with options with a mix of capabilities to respond to whatever the situation is, and that’s the way it works.”

The comments come amid escalating tensions between the U.S. and North Korea. Trump has vowed to unleash “fire and fury” if North Korea continues to threaten the U.S.

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