



# STRATEGIC NEWSLETTER

VOL 3 NO 8  
AUGUST 2017

## JULY'S

### SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

#### *Alliance Response to North Korean July ICBM Launches*

To counter North Korea's destabilizing and unlawful actions on July 4 and 28, the Alliance conducted combined live fire exercises utilizing the Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) and the Republic of Korea Hyunmoo Missile II on July 4 and July 29, and a sequenced bilateral mission with South Korean and Japanese fighter jets escorting U.S. B-1 bombers on July 7.

The combined live fires into territorial waters of South Korea along the East Coast demonstrated how rapidly the system can be deployed and engaged. The demonstrated deep strike precision capability enables the ROK-U.S. Alliance to engage the full array of time critical targets under all weather conditions.

"Self restraint, which is a choice, is all that separates armistice and war. As this Alliance missile live fire shows, we are able to change our choice when so ordered by our Alliance national leaders," said Gen. Brooks. "It would be a grave mistake for anyone to believe anything to the contrary."

Also in response to North Korea's July 4 ICBM test, two U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancer bombers from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam conducted a 10-hour sequenced bilateral mission with South Korean and Japanese fighter jets on July 7. The B-1Bs flew to the Korean Peninsula where they were joined by South Korean F-15 fighter jets and U.S. Air Force F-16 fighter jets. The B-1Bs practiced attack capabilities by releasing inert weapons at the Pilsung Range. En route back to Guam, the B-1Bs flew and integrated with Japan Air Self-Defense Force F-2 fighter jets over the East China Sea.



PHOTO BY: STAFF SGT. SINTHIA ROSARIO

"U.S. bombers and Republic of Korea fighters are just two of many lethal military options at our disposal," said Lt. Gen. Thomas Bergeson, U.S. Forces Korea deputy commander. "This mission clearly demonstrates the U.S.-ROK alliance remains prepared to use the full range of capabilities to defend and to preserve the security of the Korean Peninsula and region."

*July 27 marked the 64th anniversary of the end of the Korean War, known as Armistice Day. What is significant about this armistice is that it did not end the three-year Korean War that left an entire nation in ruins and millions dead – including thousands of foreign service members. The armistice is an agreement signed in 1953 simply to stop fighting.*

#### *Eighth Army begins new chapter at USAG Humphreys, July 14, 2017*



PHOTO BY: SGT. JUNG DONGJIN

Eighth U.S. Army has been located in Seoul since 1953 serving to deter North Korean aggression and defend the Republic of Korea. After 64 years, Eighth Army began a historic new chapter by cutting the red ribbon stretched in front of the new headquarters doors.

The ceremony held at USAG Humphreys, South Korea, July 11, marked the unit's significant transformation and represented its successful relocation from Yongsan to Pyeongtaek.

"This would not have been possible without the continuous efforts of numerous organizations and effective bilateral consultation and collaboration. Further, I want to applaud the thousands of U.S. and Korean service members and civilians who have all been an integral part

of this successful transition. Their efforts will impact the ROK and U.S. service members on the peninsula for decades to come. This project serves as another example of how the U.S. and the ROK time and time again, join forces and succeed in every mission that we undertake together.

"The spirit of 'Katchi Kapshida' couldn't be more evident as each organization worked through numerous challenges and coordination to ensure the Eighth Army headquarters is a state-of-the-art, mission command facility that will allow us to operate here on the Korean peninsula well into the future," Vandal said.

*"After this recent interception, especially given that this is the 15th or 16th successful live interception by THAAD, I do not know why anyone would doubt that it is capable of doing what we intended for it to do by deploying it here to Korea -- that is, defeat incoming north Korean ballistic missiles threatening the Republic...I understand some people still doubt that THAAD will work. I am not one of them."*

*- GEN Vincent K. Brooks on the U.S. Missile Defense Agency's successful intercept test of THAAD.*

## JULY'S KEY VISITORS

*We are honored to welcome Distinguished Visitors to learn about the Command, our mission, our people, and to exchange ideas.*

- TH Fabien Penone, French Ambassador to the ROK
- Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL)
- TH Marc Knapper, Chargé d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy Seoul
- GEN(R) Walter "Skip" Sharp, Former CDR, UNC/CFC/USFK
- Mr. Robert Cardillo, Director, NGA
- Lt. Gen. Jerry Martinez, CDR, U.S. Forces Japan
- VADM Fred Midgette, Pacific Area Commander, USCG
- Ms. Anne Richards, Auditor General of the Army
- RADM Margaret Kibben, Chief of Chaplains of the U.S. Navy
- MG Jason Evans, CG, Human Resources Command
- MG Walter Piatt, CG, 10th Mountain Division
- MG James Pasquarette, CG, USARJ
- Mr. Kosei Murota, Japanese National Security Secretariat Cabinet Counsellor