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OCTOBER'S SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

Senior ROK-U.S. Defense Officials Discuss Alliance Issues

U.S. and South Korean defense chiefs discussed the full range of issues confronting the alliance during two days of talks in Seoul, Oct. 27-28. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joe Dunford met with their counterparts, ROK Minister of National Defense Song Young-moo and ROK Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Jeong Kyeong-doo during the annual Military Committee Meeting and Security Consultative Meeting.



PHOTO BY NAVYPTI DOMINIQUE A. PINERO

Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, far left, Defense Secretary James Mattis, second from left, South Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo and South Korean Air Force Gen. Jeong Kyeong-doo, chairman of the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff, render honors during an honor guard welcome ceremony.

The meetings, that come in the shadow of North Korea's continuing nuclear program and following launches of its intercontinental ballistic missiles, are an annual opportunity for leaders to discuss issues the U.S.-South Korea alliance faces and assess how well the issues are being dealt with. The meetings also provide both countries the opportunity to plan and look ahead and set milestones.

"Diplomacy remains our preferred course of action, but as I have repeatedly emphasized, our diplomats are most effective when backed by credible military force in this sort of situation," Secretary Mattis said. "Make no mistake: Any attempt on the United States or our allies will be defeated," he added.

USFK Conducts Annual COURAGEOUS CHANNEL Exercise

In cooperation with the ROK Ministry of National Defense and U.S. Department of State, USFK conducted its annual COURAGEOUS CHANNEL exercise, 23-27 October, as part of its routinely-scheduled training.

The exercise maintains readiness by preparing service members and their families to respond to a wide range of crisis management events such as non-combatant evacuation and natural or man-made disasters.

Participants performed tasks that included readiness briefings, document and passport inspection, roster updates, and limited rehearsals. This year's relatively small scale and internal focus, with little to no disruption of daily activities on and around military installations, was consistent with past years' iterations.

"Although not directly tied to current geopolitical events, our forces must be ready in all areas, to include systems and personnel annually exercised in COURAGEOUS CHANNEL," said USFK Commander Gen. Vincent K. Brooks. "This training is as important to readiness as our other routine events such as tank gunnery and fighter wing exercises."

U.S., ROK Air Force leadership meet during the 20th International Aerospace Symposium



PHOTO BY SSGT VICTORIA H. TAYLOR

U.S. Air Force Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy, Pacific Air Forces commander, and Ms. Heidi Grant, Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs, meet with Gen. Lee Wang Keun, Republic of Korea Air Force chief of staff during the 20th International Aerospace Symposium. The symposium is one of many events taking place as part of the 2017 Seoul International Aerospace and Defense Exhibition, or Seoul ADEX, one of the largest, most comprehensive events of its kind in Northeast Asia, attracting aviation and aerospace professionals, key defense personnel, aviation enthusiasts and the general public alike.

ROK Navy Welcomes USS Michigan to Busan to Strengthen Partnership

PHOTO BY MCS WILLIAM CARLISLE



The Ohio-class guided-missile submarine USS Michigan, one of four U.S. Ohio-class guided-missile submarines, arrived at Busan, Oct. 13, for a routine visit during a regularly scheduled deployment to the Western Pacific. During the visit Sailors experienced the culture and history of the ROK, while fostering outstanding relations between the U.S. Navy, ROK military and the local Busan community.

OCTOBER'S KEY VISITORS

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

- Francois Hollande, Former President, France
- Amb. Tito Saul Pinilla, Colombian Ambassador to the ROK
- Hon. Julie Bishop, Foreign Minister, Australia
- Amb. Cho Yoon-Je, ROK Ambassador to the U.S.
- Amb. James Choi, Australian Ambassador to the ROK
- Hon. James Mattis, U.S. Secretary of Defense
- Hon. Marise Payne, Minister of Defense, Australia
- Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI), SASC (Ranking Member), SAC-D
- Rep. Tom MacArthur (R-NJ), HCFS
- Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), Chairman, HCSST
- Mr. Greg Moriarty, Secretary of Department of Defense, Australia
- Ms. Frances Adamson, Secretary of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia
- Gen. Joseph Dunford, Chairman, JCS
- Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, Chief of Defense Force, Australia
- Adm. Harry Harris, Commander, PACOM
- Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy, Commander, PACAF