



STRATEGIC NEWSLETTER VOL 4 NO 04 APRIL 2018

MARCH ACTIVITIES

Gen. Brooks Attends West Sea Defense Day Ceremony

USFK leaders, including Commanding Gen. Vincent Brooks, attended the West Sea Defense Day Ceremony in Daejeon. ROK Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon was also in attendance. The ceremony recognized service members who lost their lives during the Second Battle of Yeonpyeong in 2002; and the sinking of the Cheonan warship along with shelling of Yeonpyeong Island by North Korea in 2010. "We will never forget the sacred devotion of these mighty Warriors," Lee said.



U.S. FORCES KOREA

USFK Supports Paralympic Athletes

Gen. Brooks and Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Payton attended the 2018 Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony in Pyeongchang on March 9, along with a USG delegation from Washington led by Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen. They were accompanied by U.S. Embassy Seoul's Chargé d'affaires Marc Knapper; Marcia Lee Kelly, a Deputy Assistant to President Trump; and John Bardis, Assistant Secretary for Administration at the Department of Health and Human Services. The guest of honor was Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Marks of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program and



U.S. EMBASSY, SEOUL



SGT. JAMES M. GRIFFIN

2016 Paralympic Gold Medalist in swimming.

Four snowboarders from the U.S. Paralympic team visited Camp Casey on St. Patrick's Day (March 17) to shake hands, chat with Soldiers and sign autographs. The team won five gold, five silver and three bronze medals in snowboarding events at the 2018 Paralympics, which ran from March 9-18. Two of the Paralympians, Michael Spivey and Jimmy Sides, are former U.S. Marines who were wounded while serving in Afghanistan.

2018 EU Delegates Meeting

European Union delegates had the opportunity to sit down with Gen. Brooks on March 21 in Seoul. The meeting offered the delegates a chance to ask questions about the political climate on the peninsula and how it may impact the countries they represent.

Soldiers Participate in Bataan Memorial Death March



SGT. JAMES M. GRIFFIN

Soldiers from the 210th F.A.B., 2nd I.D., and other units participated in the Bataan Memorial Death March at Camp Casey on March 17. The event commemorated the 1942 march in which the Imperial Japanese Army forced 60,000 to 80,000 Filipino and American POWs to trek more than 60 miles to a prison camp. An estimated 500-650 Americans died during the journey.

ROK PRESIDENT MOON JAE-IN, LT. GEN. BILLS SPEAK AT KOREA NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST



SGT. MARYAM TEECE

USFK chaplains and Soldiers, including Eighth Army commanding general Lt. Gen. Michael A. Bills, attended the 50th Korea National Prayer Breakfast held in Goyang City on March 8. Republic of Korea President Moon Jae-in spoke at the event, praising the role of the U.S. in efforts to denuclearize North Korea.

"We have overcome one obstacle, while there exists many before we can reach lasting peace and the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," Moon said. The annual event attracts thousands of participants, including senior Korean and American officials, bringing them together in faith and with a common purpose.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

The following officials visited the three commands throughout the month to learn about the missions and get a first-hand perspective on what is happening on the peninsula.

- HE Juan Pablo Rodriguez, Colombian Ambassador to Korea
- Helga Schmid, Secretary General of EEAS, EU
- Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)
- Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT)
- Sen. David Perdue (R-GA)
- Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE)
- Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI)
- Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ 2nd)
- Rep. Rick Crawford (R-AR 1st)
- Lim Sung-nam, Vice Minister ROK MOFA
- Adm. Scott Swift, Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet
- Gen. James Holmes, Air Combat Command
- Lt. Gen. Bryan Fenton, DCOM USPACOM
- Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson III, MEF CG
- Ambassador Kathleen Stephens, Former U.S. Ambassador to South Korea