



STRATEGIC NEWSLETTER

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OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

Gen. Abrams Confirmed as New UNC, CFC, USFK Commander

The U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee confirmed—by unanimous vote—Gen. Robert B. Abrams as the new head of the UNC, CFC and USFK on Oct. 11. During the hearing in September, Abrams said suspending military exercises on the Korean Peninsula may result in a “slight degradation” of readiness but conducting his own assessment of military readiness would

be “one of the top priorities when I get on the ground.” The Change of Command ceremony between Gen. Vincent K. Brooks and Gen. Abrams will be held at Camp Humphreys on Nov 8.

Korean-American Friendship Groups Host Farewell Luncheon for Gen. Brooks

Leaders from various Korean-American friendship groups hosted a farewell luncheon for Gen. Brooks at Yongsan Garrison on Oct. 18. The friendship groups are all volunteer, civilian and non-profit organizations built to promote

international relations and cooperation. At the luncheon, Gen. Brooks emphasized the strength of the ROK-U.S. Alliance, “We didn’t do it by ourselves; we did it as part of a team. That’s what the whole spirit of ‘Katchi Kapshida’ [meaning ‘we go together’] is all about. We lived every day in the spirit of ‘Katchi Kapshida.’”

USFK Mourns Passing of Retired Lt. Gen. Vandal

Retired Lt. Gen. Thomas S. Vandal, former Eighth Army Commander, passed away on Oct. 7. As Commander of Eighth Army from Feb. 2016 to Jan. 2018, Lt. Gen. Vandal was instrumental in the deployment of U.S. troops to Camp Humphreys and the stationing of the THAAD air defense system in South Korea. USFK personnel expressed their condolences by donning a black ribbon in remembrance of his contributions to the defense of South Korea and ensuring USFK is a stabilizing force in the Northeast Asia region.



SGT. BENJAMIN PARSONS, U.S. ARMY

UNC Assists with DMZ Disarmament

North Korea, South Korea and the UNC conducted several rounds of trilateral negotiations to develop a responsible implementation of the Comprehensive Military Agreement (CMA) signed at the Pyeongyang Inter-Korean Summit on Sept 19. The CMA is an effort to further improve relations between the two Koreas through a continued reduction of military tensions on the Peninsula. CMA efforts include landmine removal to enable safe access for joint recovery of remains operations and disarmament of the Joint Security Area. UNC has played a pivotal role in facilitating dialogue that leads to lasting peace. These actions have led to the repatriation of remains of those killed in the Korean War from North Korea to South Korea. UNC is “committed to enabling the current diplomatic efforts,” which include “successful implementation of the Comprehensive Military Agreement,” said UNC Deputy Commander Lt. Gen. Wayne Eyre.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

The following officials saw the three commands first-hand during visits this past month.

- Song Young-gil, National Assembly Member, Republic of Korea, Oct. 2
- H.E. Frode Solberg, Norwegian Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, Oct. 12
- Timothy Betts, acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Plans, Programs and Operations, U.S. State Department, Oct. 16
- Roni Modica, Director, Special Program Missile Defense, Oct. 16-18
- Neil Wiley, Director for Analysis, Defense Intelligence Agency, Oct. 21-25
- Vice Adm. David Lewis, Director, Defense Contract Management Agency, Oct. 23-25
- Lt. Gen. Scott Howell, Commander, Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), Oct. 24-27
- Rep. William “Mac” Thornberry (R-TX/13th), Chairman, House Armed Services Committee, Oct. 27-Nov. 2

FEEDBACK

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