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THREE COMMANDS IN KOREA

- United Nations Command (UNC) integrates 17 Sending States in maintaining the Armistice to provide stability in Korea.
- ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC) is our bilateral Alliance warfighting headquarters.
- U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) is the U.S. joint command under Pacific Command.

FEBRUARY'S SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

Eighth Army

Change of Command (Feb. 2)

The U.S. Army's top operational command in South Korea held a change of command ceremony Feb. 2 at U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan in Seoul. During the ceremony, Lt. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux relinquished command of Eighth Army to Lt. Gen. Thomas S. Vandal. Several high-level American and Korean dignitaries attended the ceremony including the U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Mark Lippert, retired ROK Army Commander Gen. Paik, Sunyup, and U.S. Forces Korea Commander Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti.



Gen. Scaparrotti presents Lt. Gen. Champoux, with the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Yongsan Garrison, Seoul, South Korea, February 2, 2016.

"I can't overstate the significance of my last assignment in the Republic of Korea ... to command the storied Eighth Army; to serve this Alliance, under this leadership; in a country and with people I love; has been the highest honor, and one for which I could never thank you enough."

~ Lt. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux,
former UNC/CFC/USFK Chief of Staff
and Commander, Eighth Army

North Korea's Missile Launch (Feb. 7) and Alliance Responses

On Feb. 7, North Korea conducted a long-range ballistic missile launch in the wake of its Jan. 6 nuclear test, further demonstrating the serious threat the regime's continued development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missile pose to the security of the Republic of Korea, the United States, and the Asia-Pacific region.

In response, on Feb. 7, the United States and the Republic of Korea announced an Alliance decision to begin formal consultations regarding improvements to the Alliance missile defense posture, specifically the feasibility of bringing a Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system to South Korea.



U.S. Air Force F-22 "Raptors" fly over Osan, South Korea, February 17, 2016.

On Feb. 12, the United States, in close coordination with the Republic of Korea, deployed an additional ballistic missile defense asset, a Patriot battery, to South Korea. This was part of an emergency deployment readiness exercise.

On Feb. 17, four U.S. F-22 "Raptor" fighter aircraft conducted a combined formation flight alongside ROK F-15K "Slam Eagle" aircraft and U.S. F-16 "Fighting Falcon" fighter aircraft in Osan, South Korea, to demonstrate the capabilities of the ROK-U.S. Alliance.

Commander's Congressional Testimony (Feb. 23-24)

The UNC/CFC/USFK Commander testified before the Senate Armed Service Committee and the House Armed Services Committee. He testified about America's future in Korea, the Command's four priorities, and critical near-term Alliance transitions.



Gen. Scaparrotti testifies before Congress, Washington, D.C., February 23, 2016

FEBRUARY'S KEY VISITORS

We are honored to welcome Distinguished Visitors to learn about the Command, our mission, our people, and to exchange ideas. These were the most senior visitors in February:

- Frank Kendall, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics
- Brad Carson, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness
- General Dennis Via, Commanding General, Army Materiel Command
- Vice Admiral Joseph Aucoin, Commander, 7th Fleet
- Lieutenant General Karen Dyson, Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management & Comptroller)
- Lieutenant General Kenneth Dahl, Commanding General, Installation Management Command
- Lieutenant General Lawrence Nicholson, Commanding General, III Marine Expeditionary Force
- Representative Robert Wittman, Republican-Virginia
- UNC Sending State Ambassadors in a monthly roundtable discussion

COMING NEXT MONTH

In March, the Command will be conducting two key annual exercises, KEY RESOLVE and FOAL EAGLE, to ensure readiness to defend the Republic of Korea.