



UNITED NATIONS COMMAND

COMBINED FORCES COMMAND

UNITED STATES FORCES KOREA

STRATEGIC DIGEST



2017

PHOTOS ON THE COVER // FRONT COVER (From Left to Right): Top Row //

1) ROK-U.S. Airmen training (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Colville McFee), 2) USS Ronald Reagan and ROKN ships (U.S. Navy photo by Seaman Jamaal Liddell), 3) Secretary Tillerson and Gen. Brooks at Joint Security Area (U.S. Army photo by SFC Sean K. Harp), 4) A-10, F-16 Elephant Walk, Osan AB (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Travis Edwards). **Middle Row //** 1) U.S. and ROK Navy Destroyers (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Nathan Burke), 2) B-1B and F-15K Flyover (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Isaac Ibarra), 3) USS John C. Stennis arrives in Busan (U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Wesley J. Breedlove), 4) A-10 at Osan AB (SrA Kristin High), 5) Ground Forces Festival (U.S. Army photo by Cpl Jang, Il-Hwan). **Bottom Row //** 1) UN Korean War Veterans (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Wesley J. Breedlove), 2) View from Han River Park (Jeon Han photo, Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism), 3) Aerial rendition of USAG Humphreys (U.S. Army photo), 4) Gyeongbokgung Palace Royal Guard Ceremony (Jeon Han photo).

BACK COVER (From Left to Right): Top Row // 1) Joint Security Area, Panmunjom (Capt. Pete Bogart), 2) Gen. Brooks at KIDA (photo by Sgt. Russell Youmans), 3) F-16 taking off from Kunsan AB (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Colville McFee/Released), 4) ROK-U.S. Soldiers training (U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Jang, Il-Hwan). **Middle Row //** 1) ROK, U.S., and UK Air Commanders, ROKAF F-15K (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Dillian Bamman), 2) MV-22 w/ ROK and Thai Marines (photo by GySgt Ismael Pena), 3) Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey visits the DMZ (U.S. Army photo by KATUSA Pfc. Lee, Kyoung-min), 4) ROK-U.S. Soldiers rappelling (ROK Army photo), 5) ROK-U.S. Marines training (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Isaac Ibarra). **Bottom Row //** 1) Korean Traditional Dancers (Jeon Han photo), 2) Lt. Gen. Vandal, Korean University Officials (U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Jang, Il-Hwan, Eighth Army Public Affairs), 3) Korean War Memorial, Washington, D.C. (Todd Lopez, Defense Media Activity Army), 4) Busan cityscape (Jeon Han photo).

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2017 STRATEGIC DIGEST

UNITED NATIONS COMMAND
COMBINED FORCES COMMAND
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EMBASSY LETTER

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES MARC KNAPPER



The Alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea is among the strongest and most important in the world. As the foundation of peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula, it has flourished and remained steadfast over the years throughout economic and political change, promoting stability and security throughout the Asia-Pacific region. This would not have been possible without the United States Forces Korea's unwavering commitment to defend the Peninsula. Thanks to your support and sacrifice, from deterring security threats to enhancing economic cooperation and expanding our vibrant people-to-people ties, the Alliance has never been stronger. It is my great honor to serve as the United States Chargé d'Affaires to the Republic of Korea.

Our two nations share a relationship based firmly on a bedrock of common values, including democracy, free trade, human rights, and adherence to the rule of law. Together, we have worked side-by-side to defend these beliefs and our way of life. Last year, as a result of close and effective coordination between the United States and the Republic of Korea, the United Nations adopted the strongest sanctions to date against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Rooted firmly in our unwavering security alliance, the ROK-U.S. relationship has also grown beyond the realm of geopolitics to include a robust trading partnership, far-reaching cultural exchanges, and extensive study and training programs. We also continue to expand our collaboration into new and dynamic areas such as space, cybersecurity, environment, energy, and global health.

For over 60 years, our Alliance has continued to grow stronger due to USFK's readiness and commitment to defending the Republic of Korea. Our Service Members stand alongside their South Korean counterparts, prepared to promote democracy, advance prosperity, and protect the freedoms that both nations value. United, we are prepared for every contingency to deter and defend against all threats. To the American Service Members serving away from home to defend the Republic of Korea, I express my deepest appreciation and gratitude. Your sacrifice is the foundation of this crucial relationship.

The partnership between our two countries is a pillar of U.S. foreign policy in East Asia and a source of stability on the Korean Peninsula, in the region, and around the world. The U.S. Embassy in Seoul is firmly committed to working with USFK toward another productive and successful year in 2017 to advance this important relationship even further.

Sincerely,

Chargé d'Affaires Marc Knapper



Embassy Green Team family members mop the floor of Deoksugung Palace in Downtown Seoul to commemorate Earth Day, April 22, 2016.

Chargé d'Affaires Marc Knapper delivers welcoming remarks onboard the USS Carl Vinson, March 18, 2017.



Chargé d'Affaires Marc Knapper was the first foreigner in more than 600 years to participate in the Seokjeon Daeje, the greatest commemorative rite of all Confucian traditional ceremonies, as honorary Guard Chief Master, March 2, 2017.

Assistant Regional Program Officer Anthony Tranchina addresses participants of a U.S. Embassy "Go Green" event to celebrate Earth Day, April 22, 2016.



ALL PHOTOS BY U.S. EMBASSY

INTRODUCTION FROM THE COMMANDER



UNITED NATIONS COMMAND
COMBINED FORCES COMMAND
UNITED STATES FORCES KOREA

GENERAL VINCENT K. BROOKS



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DONALD HUDSON

I would first like to extend my utmost gratitude to all of the ROK-U.S. Service Members for their dedication and hard work to defend the Republic of Korea.

대한민국의 방어를 위해 헌신하는 모든 한미 장병 여러분께 진심으로 감사드립니다.

I am proud to say the ROK-U.S. Alliance has never been stronger and we continue our commitment to the defense of this great nation. We have weathered many storms together over the last seven decades, but one thing is clear: the United States and the Republic of Korea enjoy a unique partnership that continues to endure. Few nations in this world share a connection like ours, and we work every day to cultivate and strengthen that bond.

Over the last year, we have accomplished much while simultaneously enhancing deterrence and maintaining the Armistice. We enjoyed tremendous success with our combined-joint-multinational exercises, learning a great deal and expanding participation for our United Nations Command Sending State partners. We moved our rotational brigade from Camps Casey and Hovey to Camp Humphreys, while transitioning some of our permanently stationed units as well. We laid the groundwork for the deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system and the

UNC Commander Gen. Vincent K. Brooks addresses the United Nations Day 71st Anniversary Celebration in Tokyo, Japan, Nov. 21, 2016.

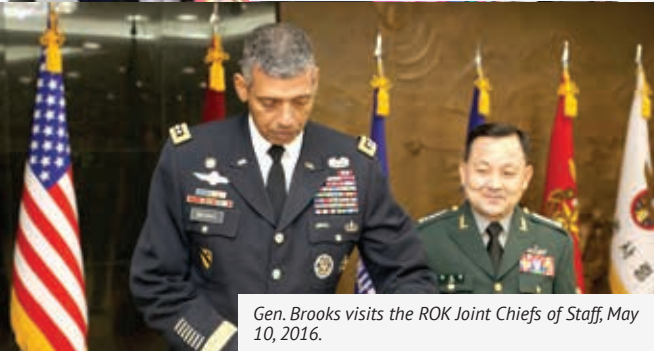


Gen. Brooks greets ROK soldiers participating in the HOGUK Exercise, Nov. 2, 2016.

SGT RUSSELL O. YOUNANS



Gen. Brooks at a Veterans Day Ceremony, Nov. 11, 2016.



Gen. Brooks visits the ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff, May 10, 2016.



UNC Ambassadors Roundtable, May 19, 2016.

doubling of the number of U.S. Apache attack helicopters here in the Republic of Korea.

In the midst of this, the corrupt regime to the north continued to defy the world, further alienating the community of nations. In January 2016, they detonated their fourth nuclear device, claiming it to be a hydrogen bomb. In May, Kim Jong Un convened the Workers Party Congress for the first time since 1980, a thinly veiled effort to consolidate his grip on power. In August, they conducted their first Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile test, followed in September by a fifth nuclear test. Their provocations have been numerous and consistent, but they only served to steel our resolve.

It is under these conditions we carry out our duties each and every day. We stand ready, honing our skills, to be the most lethal fighting force the world has ever seen. We are Allies united in purpose, ensuring that another conflagration such as the one witnessed here in the early 1950s never happens again. But should deterrence fail, we will act swiftly, destroying the enemies of freedom.

Whether in training, exercises, engagements, or sim-

ple day-to-day operations, the members of this Command have done an exemplary job in 2016. This is a “whole team” effort, and I want to recognize the hard work of all of our civilians and Service Members, which includes all of our Allies and UNC Sending State partners. Every person across the three commands contributed to peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula. Their families also shouldered an incredible burden, sacrificing every day to ensure that liberty and freedom continue to spread and flourish here in Northeast Asia.

The future is dynamic, but I am confident in the knowledge that our team is not only prepared to fight tonight, but is paving the way for a future that includes a bright and prosperous Republic of Korea, an enduring and steadfast partnership, and a stable and peaceful region.

Kamsa Hamnida
 감사합니다
 Katchi Kapshida!
 같이 감사다!



Gen. Brooks at ROKA Special Warfare Command, July 13, 2016.



Battlefield Circulation via KTX high-speed rail, July 12, 2016.

ALL PHOTOS BY SGT RUSSELL O. YOUNG

THE *STRATEGIC* ENVIRONMENT

R U S S I A

RUSSIA

China's weakening support for Kim Jong Un's regime has created an opening for stronger Russia-North Korea bilateral ties. Russia has been subtly increasing its contact with North Korea, but has not hindered United Nations economic sanctions against the regime. Moscow remains primarily concerned with its internal challenges, but will continue to pursue recognition as one of the centers of influence in the emerging multipolar world order. Regionally, ongoing negotiations with Japan over ownership of the Kuril Islands are being presaged by joint economic ventures with Tokyo to help ease the process.

CHINA

China remains a pivotal player and military power with influence across the region. China is balancing its efforts toward the Korean Peninsula by maintaining sufficient pressure on North Korea to appease the international community while simultaneously punishing South Korea for enhancing its defense against North Korea's growing threat. While Chinese leadership has expressed frustration with North Korea's intransigence, Beijing continues to prioritize stability on the Peninsula. Whether China becomes a committed partner in enforcing sanctions remains to be seen.

ULAN BATOR

M O N G O L I A

BEIJING

C H I N A

A COMPLEX *DYNAMIC* //

At the heart of Northeast Asia is a complex web of interlocking relationships. Though South Korea, Japan, and China are inextricably bound by strong economic ties, historical grievances and territorial disputes threaten to impede crucial cooperation on issues of mutual security. Beijing's longstanding partnership with North Korea also complicates multilateral efforts to thwart Pyongyang's pursuit of weapons of mass destruction. As North Korean provocations grow bolder and more frequent, the United States must navigate increasingly complicated geopolitical terrain.

THE U.S. AS A *SECURITY GUARANTOR* //

The United States serves as a regional constant maintaining stability, promoting engagement, and deterring aggression. The U.S. Military serves as a foundational element of America's leadership and commitment; the robust American presence at military installations across the Asia-Pacific safeguards the United States and its Allies from foreign provocation and allows the United States to nurture its partnerships through consistent on-the-ground interaction. In South Korea, forward-deployed U.S. forces stand with their South Korean counterparts to demonstrate unwavering resolve in the face of an increasingly asymmetric North Korean threat, serving American interests, those of U.S. Allies and partners, and the broader international community.

HONG KONG

The Asia-Pacific region is central to America's strategic interests at home and abroad. In addition to boasting three of the world's most dynamic economies, Northeast Asia is an international hub for cultural capital, technological innovation, and global business. Critically, the region is also one of the world's most heavily militarized, housing several of the largest militaries on the globe. The Korean Peninsula occupies a central position in this complex security landscape, as North Korea's persistent provocative behavior threatens the prosperity and stability of its neighbors and the entire international community.

NORTH KOREA



Despite the international community's successful efforts to further isolate it, North Korea continues to present a serious threat to regional and global security. Kim Jong Un's determination to weaponize a nuclear warhead has seen Pyongyang accelerate its nuclear and ballistic missile programs, conducting two nuclear tests and multiple missile tests in 2016 alone. These tests have produced greater yields and new successes for the regime, allowing North Korea to make significant progress in its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction. In addition, North Korea's capabilities include missile, special operations, and cyber forces that provide it with a critical asymmetric advantage.

JAPAN



Japan has taken concrete measures to play a more active role in regional security, pursuing collective self-defense and pledging to be at the front and center of multilateral efforts to thwart North Korean aggression. Japan also houses United Nations Command Rear, a logistics rear and staging link that is critical to any efforts during conflict. Though mutual distrust still impedes the pace of their ever-improving bilateral relations, Japan and South Korea recently agreed on the General Security of Military Information Agreement, enhancing trilateral cooperation and helping to bridge the gap between the United States' closest regional partners.

ILLUSTRATION BY RYAN MCNALLY AND JOSHUA BINDER

Pacific Ocean

SOUTH KOREA



South Korea continues to partner with the United States to maintain peace and stability. While Seoul has made significant investments to bolster its indigenous defense capabilities, joint cooperation to deploy the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense system contributes to broader efforts to build an ever more effective defense. South Korea remains a significant economic power in the region and an important contributor to various multinational efforts.

LOOKING AHEAD //

2016 saw a substantial increase in the tempo of North Korean nuclear and missile programs, with Pyongyang detonating two nuclear devices and conducting dozens of ballistic missile tests. The international community has responded with more stringent sanctions, but enforcement remains a challenge. With new administrations taking power in both the United States and South Korea, the enduring U.S. commitment to the defense of our South Korean and Asia-Pacific Allies remains critical to ensuring peace and stability.

THE NORTH KOREAN THREAT

The Korean Peninsula remains one of the most contentious places in the world. Like his father and grandfather before him, Kim Jong Un is determined to sustain his regime and the Kim family dynasty, even at great expense to the North Korean state and people. To secure his reign, Kim pursues a strategy to balance three competing imperatives: the need to develop a credible nuclear deterrent to prevent external interference in North Korean affairs and forced regime change; the need to maintain adequate conventional and asymmetric capabilities to deter against external threats, real or imagined; and the need to attain some degree of economic success to maintain internal stability and prevent regime overthrow from within.

North Korea's top priority is the development of a credible nuclear deterrent to prevent any external intervention in North Korean affairs, a particularly crucial objective given the North's fragile state and potential for internal instability. With the end of the Cold War, Kim Jong Il watched counterparts and comrades in former socialist states fall one by one, and North Korea's official media made clear Pyongyang's interpretation of the cause of this sudden change: states that had pursued candy (economic development) instead of bullets (military force) were now the victims of the West. In the ensuing two decades, that narrative has increasingly identified nuclear weapons as the sole tool by which to defend the North Korean system in its current state. Judging by the pace of its aggressive ballistic missile and nuclear weapons development programs over the past year, it is clear Kim Jong Un shares these insecurities and concerns about his system's viability and thus his regime's continuity. While South Korea and its allies nominally pursue a denuclearized and peaceful Korean Peninsula unified under liberal democracy and free markets, such an outcome is anathema to Kim and his elites.

Toward that end, North Korea seeks a force that is able to defend against external intervention in its affairs, and believes if it can sufficiently check U.S. military capabilities in the region and hold the United States at risk by its nuclear arsenal, it can deter the Alliance as a whole. It conducted two nuclear tests in 2016, though previous tests were conducted years apart, as well as an unprecedented level of ballistic missile testing. These tests included the first ever test flight of North Korea's Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) and additional testing of its developmental Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM). Although North Korea has never successfully tested an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile

KCNA PHOTO



Standing in front of a ballistic missile with North Korean nuclear scientists, Kim Jong Un inspects what North Korea claims to be a miniaturized nuclear bomb, March 9, 2016.

(ICBM), Kim Jong Un announced in his New Year's Address that it is on course to do so. These provocations continued in 2017 with the testing of a new missile variant with solid fuel.

In order to secure the time necessary to develop its nuclear deterrent, North Korea must maintain its conventional military forces to deter external aggression. In spite of aging equipment, the sheer size of the Korean People's Army (KPA) makes it a significant military threat to South Korea, U.S. forces in the region, and other neighboring countries in Northeast Asia. Despite resource constraints imposed by the international sanctions regime and efforts to limit revenue streams from foreign military sales, the Kim regime continues to develop new conventional capabilities. North Korea also garrisons much of its combat power in the forward areas, so it is in a position to threaten Seoul. This is especially true of the KPA's long-range artillery forces, which can target the South Korean capital, a modern metropolis of 25 million.

In addition to maintaining a conventional threat against external aggression, North Korea continues investing in asymmetric capabilities such as special operations forces and cyber capabilities. North Korea's special operations forces are the best trained and equipped units in the KPA. Capable of air, sea, or land insertion into ROK territory, these forces may be used in limited objective attacks or to target critical infrastructure in the event of a general war on the Peninsula.

A PATTERN OF PROVOCATION

North Korean cyber capabilities continue to mature. North Korean cyberwarfare operators are capable of a variety of offensive cyber operations, including computer network attacks and computer network exploitation. Cyber operations offer North Korea an asymmetric, deniable capability to both collect intelligence and disrupt infrastructure. Conversely, North Korea's limited internet connectivity makes it less vulnerable to cyber warfare reciprocity.

North Korea's final strategic imperative is to seek enough economic growth to prevent instability that might threaten regime survival from within. Achieving this goal has become more daunting in the face of international economic sanctions designed to limit North Korean resources and constrain nuclear development. The regime also continues to face the conundrum that the fundamental changes to the economy necessary to achieve the growth that other former socialist economies have achieved also risk bringing about political and social change. Kim Jong Un is attempting to offset these constraints by achieving economic prosperity alongside simultaneous development of the nuclear deterrent.

Most experts believe it has been many years since the official state distribution system has been able to provide for the needs of the North Korean people. North Korea tries to compensate for this in two ways. First, it prioritizes the income it can secure to the political elite in Pyongyang. Second, it allows limited entrepreneurial and free market activity in the areas in which it is unable to meet the economic needs of the citizenry. While this arrangement seems to be working for now, it is also having unexpected side effects including social disruption, local corruption, and the emergence of a nascent middle class. At the same time, Kim's broader strategy continues to face the inherent contradiction that his relentless pursuit of a nuclear deterrent leads to greater economic sanctions and diplomatic isolation, which makes any but marginal economic improvements unlikely. North Korea is likely to continue along the path of the "Arduous March" of Kim Jong Il's era – when the North Korean people were told that the North must pursue a path of hardship and isolation in the aftermath of the collapse of the former Soviet bloc.

What remains unclear is the impact of a North Korean nuclear capability on Kim Jong Un's risk calculus: will Kim be emboldened to more dangerous adventurism with the wider range of options his growing asymmetric threat provides? Perhaps the most dangerous scenario would be the North Korean nuclear arsenal emboldening Kim

Jong Un to turn once again to the abandoned dream of his grandfather, Kim Il Sung: to re-unify the Korean Peninsula by force. While dangerous, this scenario would require North Korea to reinvest in a massive KPA modernization program to develop the capability required to defeat the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command in a conventional battle. Slightly less dangerous but more possible is North Korea's nuclear arsenal emboldening Kim Jong Un to take greater risks when considering inter-Korean provocations and limited objective attacks. The belief that his nuclear capability will limit U.S. and South Korean retaliatory options may encourage more aggressive action and a renewed confidence in the value of coercive diplomacy – an oft-used tool during the first seven decades of the Kim family regime, made increasingly dangerous by the asymmetric options now available.

North Korea launches what they claim is a ballistic missile launched from a submarine in waters near the northeast coast of Sinpo, May 20, 2015.



THE NORTH KOREAN THREAT

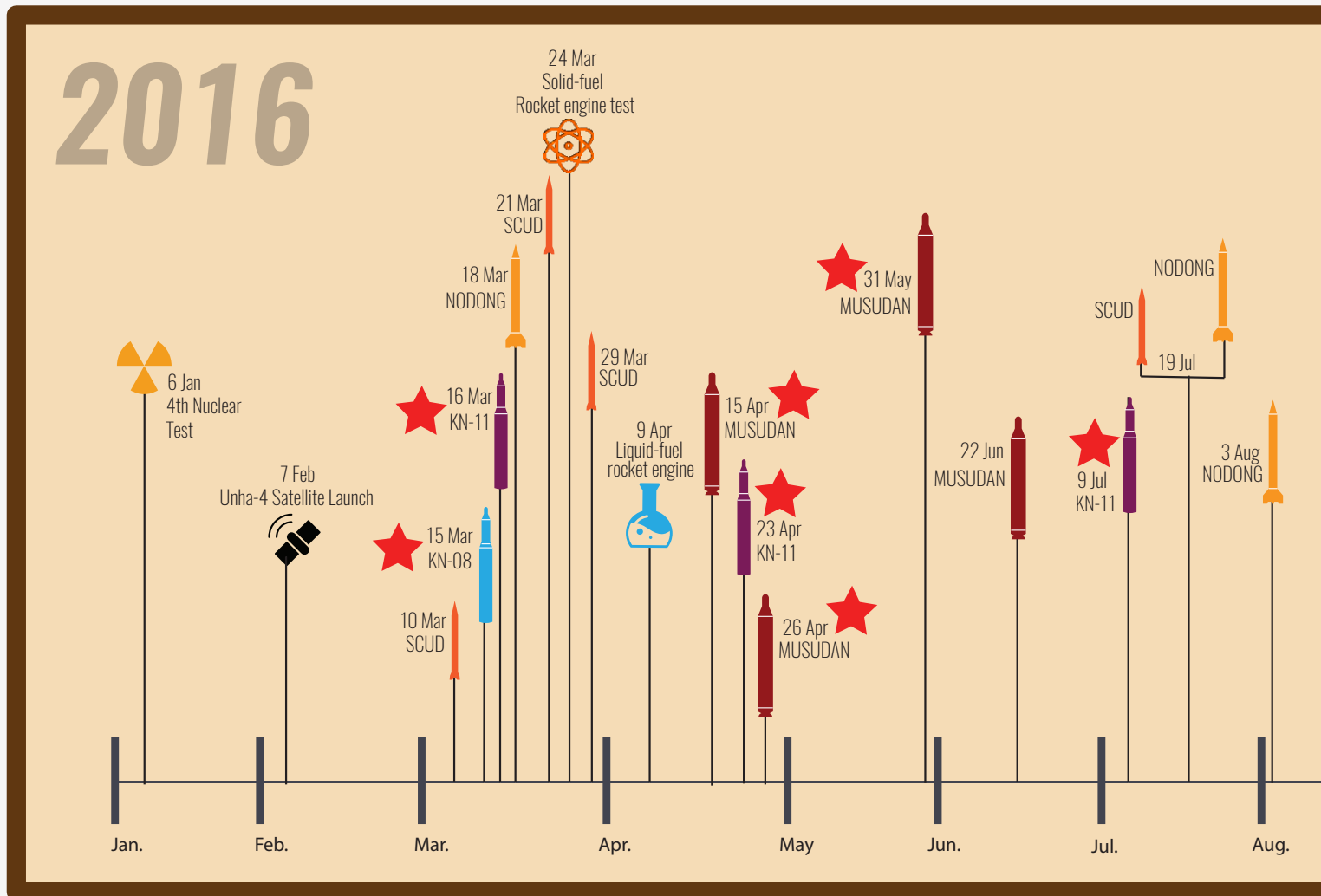
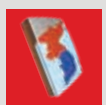


ILLUSTRATION BY JOSHUA BINDER



THE PRICE OF DETERRENCE //

The constant danger that North Korea poses goes beyond headlines and hyperbole. U.S., ROK, and Sending State Service Members put their lives on the line every day to safeguard peace and stability in Northeast Asia and deter a North Korean offensive on the Peninsula.

Some have paid the ultimate price for their service. In September 2016, three ROK Sailors lost their lives in a helicopter accident during naval exercises that followed North Korea's fifth nuclear test. CFC Commander Gen. Vincent K. Brooks and CFC Deputy Commander Gen. Leem Ho-young honored these young men and their families at a wreath-laying ceremony on Sep. 30, 2016.

As Gen. Brooks said in response to this incident, the sounds of mourning are the same in all cultures. The sacrifices that these Sailors and countless others have made are a sobering reminder of what is required to keep South Korea and the world safe from a rogue and dangerous regime. As long as North Korea continues to threaten the United States and South Korea's shared prosperity, the Alliance's Service Members will continue to stand side by side, prepared to give their lives for the values they share.



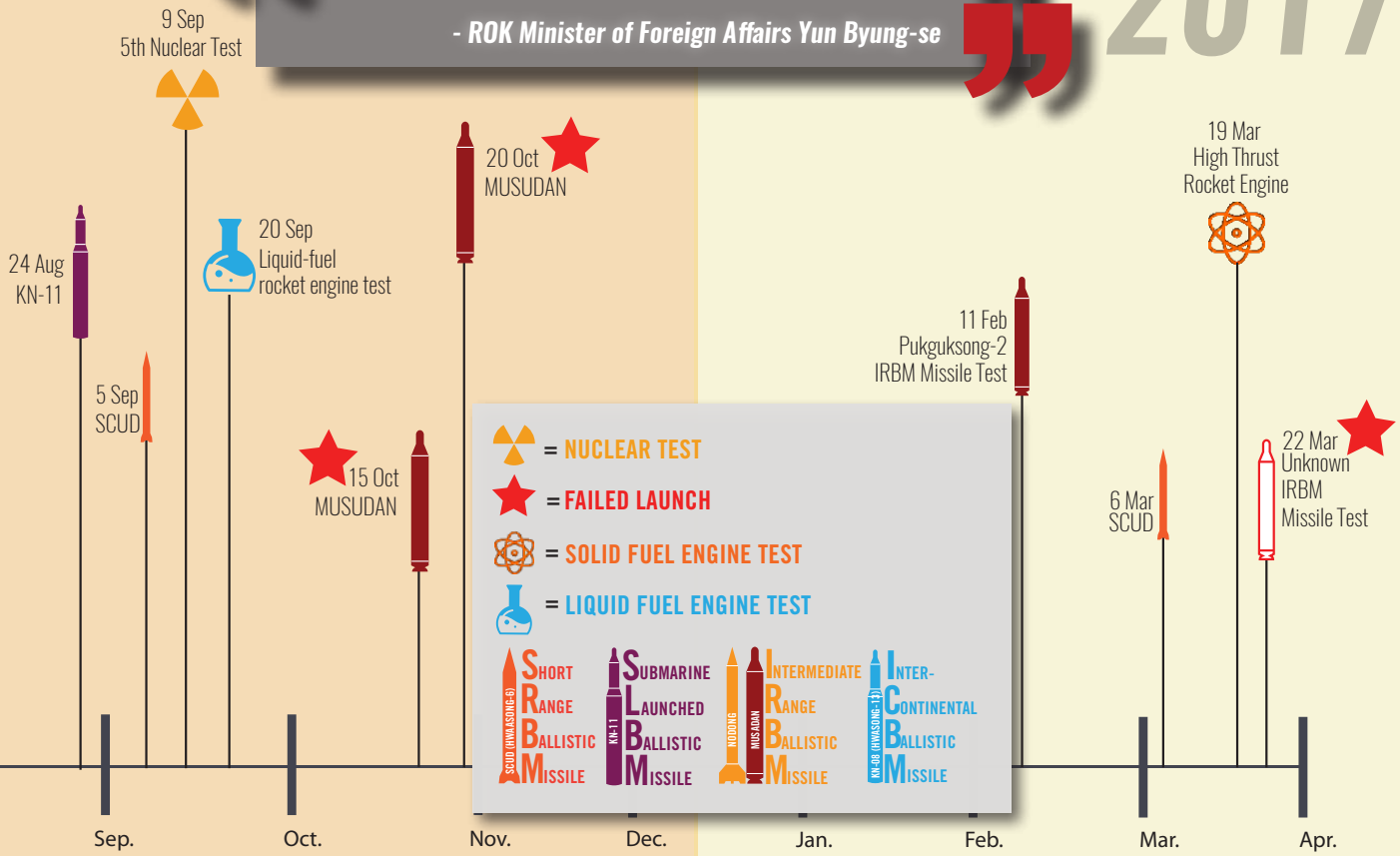
ROK NAVY PHOTO

A PATTERN OF PROVOCATION

“Every day is like the Cuban Missile Crisis”

- ROK Minister of Foreign Affairs Yun Byung-se

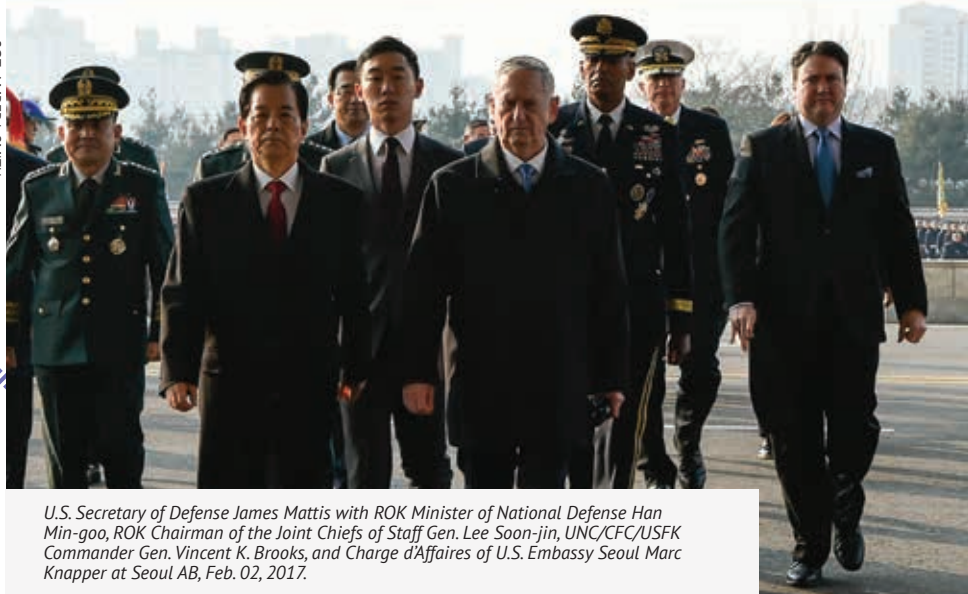
2017



ROK - U.S.

Since its inception in 1953, the ROK-U.S. Alliance has been a dynamic partnership that remains steadfastly committed to safeguarding peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula. In a nod to the Alliance's utmost importance to U.S. regional security and policy, U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis chose to visit South Korea for his first overseas trip in his new role. Bilateral collaboration continues to evolve to meet the increasingly asymmetric North Korean threat, and efforts to enhance Alliance security further deter North Korean aggression.

SGT AMBER I. SMITH



U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis with ROK Minister of National Defense Han Min-goo, ROK Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Lee Soon-jin, UNC/CFC/USFK Commander Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, and Charge d'Affaires of U.S. Embassy Seoul Marc Knapper at Seoul AB, Feb. 02, 2017.

ACTING TOGETHER TO RESPOND TO THE NORTH KOREAN THREAT

In 2016, the Alliance persistently and clearly communicated the resolve of both nations, demonstrated the robust arsenal of Alliance capabilities available to our military commanders and strengthened the international isolation of North Korea. As ROK Minister of Foreign Affairs Yun Byung-se has said, "The ROK-U.S. Alliance is evolving as one of the most successful and exemplary alliances in the 21st century." Secretary Mattis echoed this, remarking, "Our Alliance is a testament to mutual commitment and respect, and it is a linchpin of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region."

North Korea continued its relentless pursuit of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery vehicles throughout the year, conducting two nuclear tests and over 20 ballistic missile tests. In response, the Alliance has reiterated the United States' extended deterrence commitment and reinforced America's promise to defend South Korea. To this end, the Alliance conducted several Flexible Deterrence Operations, including a flyover of Osan Air Base featuring a pair of U.S. Air Force B-1B supersonic bombers supported by ROK F-15K fighters. Discussions on further improving strategies to deter North Korea from using ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction continued at the highest levels of both the ROK and U.S. governments. Additionally, the Alliance agreed to deploy the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense missile defense system as soon as is feasible. This system will augment existing Patriot batteries to enhance the layered defense against North Korean ballistic missiles.

As the ROK Minister of Defense and the U.S. Secretary of Defense agreed at the 47th Security Consultative Meeting in 2015, the Alliance continues to work toward a conditions-based transition of operational control (OP-

CON) of combined ROK and U.S. forces. The development and execution of this transition has been the focus of a collaborative bilateral group that unites subject matter experts and policymakers from USFK, the ROK Ministry of Defense, and the U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense, among other stakeholders. Extensive negotiations at the 10th Korea-U.S. Integrated Defense Dialogue in September 2016 resulted in significant strides in the areas of sustainment, munitions, strategic foundational document updates, and the post-OPCON transition command structure of the Alliance.

PROGRESS IN OPERATIONS

The Alliance has also worked to advance regional security writ large. The Alliance continues to conduct two large-scale combined command post training exercises, known as KEY RESOLVE (KR) and ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN (UFG). These routine training events are among the largest computerized command and control exercises in the world, highlighting the enduring ROK-U.S. partnership and our combined commitment to regional stability. In 2016, the United States contributed twice as many troops and equipment to KR and the associated combined field training exercise, FOAL EAGLE, as it had in past years, including a combat aviation brigade, a Marine mobile brigade, an aircraft carrier battle group, nuclear-powered submarines, and aerial refueling tankers. The Alliance also conducted UFG16, building from the success of KR16 with improved interoperability and coordination as a goal. UFG16 focused on defending against the rapidly evolving North Korean threat.

ALLIANCE



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO

Pilots from the 36th Fighter Squadron, U.S. Air Force, and the 121st Fighter Squadron, ROK Air Force, communicate before takeoff during BUDDY WING 16-1 at Seoson Air Base, Jan. 28, 2016.

BUTTRESSING THE ALLIANCE THROUGH EXPANDED TRILATERAL COOPERATION

This year, the Alliance made groundbreaking progress in the area of trilateral defense cooperation with Japan. Despite political challenges in Tokyo and Seoul, trilateral diplomatic and defense coordination swiftly took place after multiple North Korean provocations, and efforts like missile-warning exercise PACIFIC DRAGON have bolstered information-sharing capabilities against the North Korean nuclear and missile threat. Importantly, South Korean officials have concluded a General Security of Military Information Agreement with their Japanese counterparts, enhancing the overall effectiveness of the Alliance. Trilateral antisubmarine warfare exercises and increased naval cooperation to mitigate a growing North Korean Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile threat are also in the works.



CMSGT. KIM, KYEONG RYUL

A formation of two B-1B Lancers, two F-15K Slam Eagles, and two F-16s conduct a flyover near the Demilitarized Zone separating the two Koreas, Sept. 21, 2016.

THE ROK COMMITMENT: FACTS AND FIGURES

South Korea contributes to the strong ROK-U.S. Alliance by funding approximately 41 percent of the day-to-day non-personnel stationing costs for U.S. forces stationed on the Peninsula with contributions from the bilateral cost-sharing Special Measures Agreement (SMA). They reinforce that commitment by sourcing 92 percent of the total \$10.7 billion cost for relocation of U.S. forces from Seoul and other areas north to new facilities at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys and other locations south. South Korea dedicates 2.6 percent of their GNP to National Defense, surpassing a number of other allies within the Pacific and NATO, and provides nearly all of the forces stationed along the Demilitarized Zone.

Under the SMA, South Korea provides support across three cost-sharing categories: Korean National Labor, Logistics, and ROK Funded Construction. The United States Forces Korea Commander determines the final allocation across the three cost sharing categories. In 2017, the ROK SMA contribution was approximately \$817 million.



SGT. AMBER L. SMITH

U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis confers with leaders from the ROK Ministry of National Defense, Feb. 3, 2017.

Today, the Alliance is stronger and more capable than ever. The future of the Alliance will see a movement of U.S. Forces from Seoul as they re-station and re-consolidate around our enduring hubs in Pyeongtaek and Daegu, while smaller camps will continue to close and be returned to ROK control. We remain ever motivated by the everlasting spirit of Katchi Kapshida (“We Go Together”) as the Alliance forges on, always prepared to “Fight Tonight.”

ROK - U.S.

SEVENTH AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS PHOTO

It is difficult to overstate the threat North Korea poses to both the Korean Peninsula and the region. With the world's fourth largest conventional military located just 35 miles away from Seoul, the ROK-U.S. Alliance confronts and deters a potentially devastating conflict every day. Now more than ever, the Alliance is making every effort to maintain readiness to defend the Peninsula at a moment's notice. Buttressed by the frequent modernization of capabilities and ongoing efforts to bolster interoperability, the ROK-U.S. Alliance has continued to develop into a resilient and adaptable partnership to best respond to a changing security environment.



The first elements of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system arrive at Osan Air Base, South Korea, March 6, 2017.

ALLIANCE CAPABILITIES

A robust, integrated, and layered defense system is critical to counter the increased North Korean ballistic missile threat to the Korean Peninsula and region. For several years, the United States has deployed its third-generation Patriot missile batteries (PAC-3s), which increase shoot down capability of enemy ballistic missiles due to enhanced performance in range, height, maneuverability, and detection. Upgraded software enables tailored searches for Theater Ballistic Missiles and a “keepout altitude” to destroy missiles with chemical warheads or early release submunitions at specified altitudes, minimizing ground fallout. To enhance footprint coverage for Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD), the ROK is currently upgrading its PAC-2s to PAC-3s – which, when combined with current U.S. PAC-3s, will create an increasingly effective missile defense system across the Peninsula.

In response to the heightened North Korean missile threat, bilateral discussions in July 2016 led to an Alliance decision to deploy the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense system to the Peninsula. Designed to intercept short, medium, and intermediate range ballistic missiles at high altitudes in their terminal phase using a hit-to-kill approach, this system can mitigate the effect of enemy weapons of mass destruction before they touch the ground. THAAD is the

product of robust cooperation, forward-looking policy, and strong trust between Washington and Seoul. As a purely defensive capability against North Korean missiles, THAAD will provide an additional layer of defense to the Alliance BMD capabilities already in place, protecting approximately 10 million people as well as key ports and sites should conflict erupt.

In addition to U.S. contributions to South Korean missile defense, South Korea is seeking to enhance its indigenous missile defense capabilities with the Medium Range Surface to Air Missile and the Long-range Surface to Air Missile. Both systems are under development and will be incorporated into South Korean Kill Chain/Korean Air and Missile Defense concepts to provide additional defensive capabilities throughout the Korean Peninsula.

Advanced capabilities in Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) are mission essential, and both South Korea and the United States have prioritized enhancing these capabilities. Alliance air forces employ Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft, the U.S. E-3 Sentry, and the ROK E-737 Peace Eye. Both aircraft provide long range all-weather surveillance, command, control, and communications crucial to conducting Allied operations to control battle space.

To further increase its ISR capabilities, the Republic of Korea has purchased the RQ-4 Global Hawk high-altitude,

CAPABILITIES

SEAMAN DANIEL S. WILLOUGHBY



The ballistic missile submarine USS Pennsylvania's visit to the region reflects the United States' commitment to the Alliance, complementing the many exercises, operations, and other military cooperation activities conducted between the United States and South Korea, Nov. 1, 2016.

long-endurance Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). With high-resolution synthetic aperture radar, long-range sensors, and long loiter times, the Global Hawk can survey thousands of square kilometers daily and provide superior surveillance and intelligence capabilities for more precise weapon targeting to support friendly forces.

Seoul has also indigenously developed its Medium Altitude UAV (MUAV). When incorporated into Alliance ISR operations, the Korean-built MUAV will provide valuable intelligence necessary to prepare the battlespace and successfully defend the Korean Peninsula.

Through proven Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) methods, the Alliance has positioned itself to respond to North Korean submarines within ROK waters. With ROK P-3 Orions and U.S. P-8 Poseidon deployments to the Peninsula, the Alliance has enhanced its ASW capabilities and detection methods. The ROK Navy has also purchased

British AgustaWestland 159 Wildcat helicopters with lightweight torpedoes, sonar buoys, and dipping sonar to search, detect, and destroy North Korean submarines. These capabilities, in combination with current surface vessels and submarines, enable the Alliance to conduct a full-spectrum submarine prosecution.

Additionally, the Alliance has increased its air strike capabilities to achieve airspace superiority in combat operations. The ROK upgrade of its KF-16s with the addition of active electronically scanned array radar contributes a lower probability of intercept, increased jamming resistance, and a greater stand-off distance to eliminate targets before detection. The outfitting of the German-made Taurus 350 air-launched, long-range cruise missile on the KF-16 provides an excellent long-range strike standoff weapon to Alliance air strike capabilities.

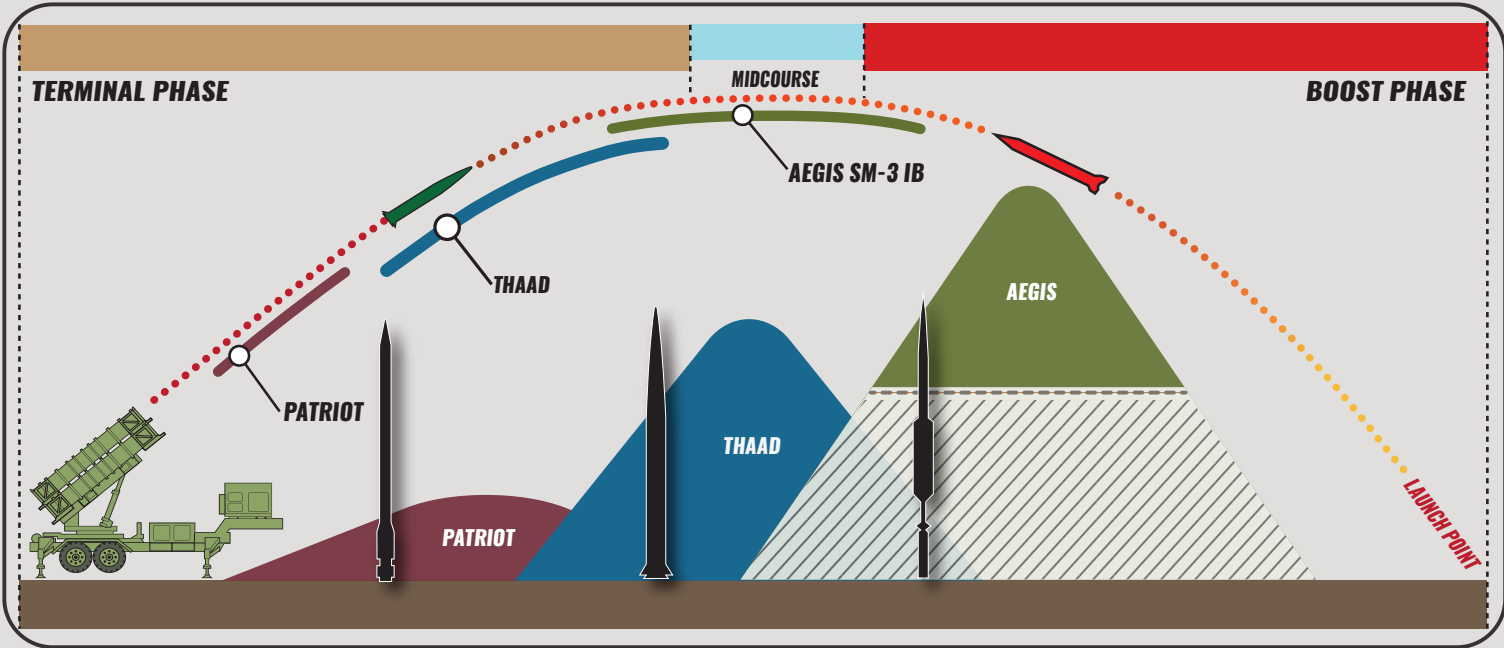
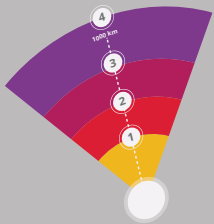
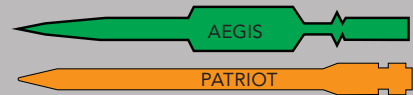


ILLUSTRATION BY JOSHUA BINDER



THAAD intercepts short and medium-range ballistic missiles inside and outside the atmosphere.

It is interoperable with other ballistic missile defense systems, highly mobile, and deployable worldwide.



Detection, threat classification, and threat identification of incoming missiles is provided by X-band ground-based radar, which can detect missile threats at ranges up to 1,000 km.

The THAAD missile can travel at speeds over
MACH-8

SEVENTH AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS PHOTO

THAAD: TERMINAL HIGH ALTITUDE AREA DEFENSE //

USFK continues its progress in fulfilling the ROK-U.S. Alliance decision to install a THAAD system on the Korean Peninsula, March 6, 2016.



THAAD FAST FACTS

THAAD is a U.S. Army transportable defensive weapon system that protects population centers and high-value infrastructure against hostile incoming threats, such as tactical and theater ballistic missiles. THAAD bolsters our overall BMD defense and complements existing systems already in place to create a multilayered defensive shield.

THAAD has a maximum altitude of 150 km and a maximum range of 200 km, making it more effective than all existing and planned systems on the Korean Peninsula to defend critical targets at a higher altitude over a larger area with more reaction time.

THAAD uses a hit-to-kill approach without carrying a warhead. Kinetic energy destroys the incoming missile.

"The timely deployment of the THAAD system by U.S. Pacific Command and the Secretary of Defense gives my command great confidence in the support we will receive when we ask for reinforcement or advanced capabilities"

- Gen. Vincent K. Brooks
USFK Commander



MODERNIZATION //

South Korea has committed to building new KDX-III AEGIS Destroyers with modern vertical launch systems capable of firing SM-3s or SM-6s and intercepting enemy short-to-intermediate-range ballistic missiles. These new destroyers combined with current U.S. AEGIS warships create a powerful maritime defense and maintain regional maritime security.

The addition of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, a fifth generation fighter, to both the U.S. and ROK arsenals will further modernize the Alliance's aerial capabilities. The enhanced interoperability between Allied F-35s will allow increased mission success and survivability in multiple scenarios, such as air-to-air combat, air-to-ground strikes, electronic attack, and ISR traditionally performed by specialized aircraft. The combination of advanced stealth capabilities with fighter aircraft speed and agility enables the F-35 to offer powerful capabilities for Allied airpower against enemy attacks.

The ROK Army also added two Apache battalions, which will further contribute to the Alliance's ability to defeat North Korean armor.

U.S. Marine Corps F-35B Lightning IIs, the world's first operational supersonic short takeoff and vertical landing aircraft, fly over Pacific waters, March 14, 2017.



SENIOR AIRMAN JOHN LINZMEIER

MOVING FORWARD //

While the Alliance's ability to adapt and modernize to meet the North Korean threat has enhanced regional and global security, success is not just limited to equipment. The Alliance must continue to improve interoperability and institutional combined operations. The Alliance's ironclad strength is made manifest through our signature ability to seamlessly integrate personnel and systems capabilities. By working together, the Alliance can win the "Fight Tonight" and defeat the enemy threat.

A dynamic nation of over 50 million people, South Korea is a pivotal player in a region critical to U.S. interests, regional peace, and global stability. South Korea's story, and its relationship with the United States, is often discussed in the context of its neighbor – North Korea. This, however, obscures a much larger, more powerful, and compelling story of a stalwart American ally that has achieved one of the most amazing national success stories in history.

SOUTH KOREA



A COMMITTED ALLY AT A PIVOTAL MOMENT



ROK soldiers stand guard on the South Korean side of the Joint Security Area near the UNC Military Armistice Commission conference building where international negotiations between the two Koreas take place, March 26, 2016.

Contemporary South Korea is a vibrant democracy with the world's 11th largest economy. South Korea's status as a global leader, however, is an historic achievement and was far from assured when an economically devastated and physically destroyed Korea emerged from war in 1953. With help from the United States and the international community, South Korea set itself on the path towards economic development, and later, democratization. The remarkable and rapid rise of South Korea in the late 20th century earned it the moniker "Miracle on the Han," and Seoul is recognized in the international community for its rapid progression from aid recipient to aid donor.

As South Korea faces an increasingly complex strategic environment, societal change, and multifaceted transnational challenges, the miracle is once again tested. Ever resilient, South Koreans are well poised to overcome the challenges of the 21st century with the support and partnership of the United States.

SOUTH KOREAN NATIONAL SECURITY

The United States has played a vital role in guaranteeing Korean security for 70 years. The ROK-U.S. Alliance is the security cornerstone that deters North Korean aggression, balances regional power dynamics, and ensures the stability required for South Korea to continue to prosper. Both U.S. and South Korean leaders have echoed this sentiment, affirming that the ROK-U.S. Alliance serves as the linchpin for regional peace and stability.

South Korea today is also making significant investments to enhance its military capabilities as it deters and defends against the North Korean threat. In the past three years alone, South Korea has committed to procuring

critical capabilities like the Global Hawk High Altitude Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missile defense systems, F-35A Joint Strike Fighters, AH-64E Apache heavy attack helicopters, and additional AEGIS Combat System-equipped destroyers. South Korea is also developing indigenous advanced military capabilities. The ROK Armed Forces will use the Future Frigate Experimental program to replace a number of existing ships with a new class of stealthy state-of-the-art ships, while also proceeding with the development of enhanced detection, interception, and response programs to deter North Korean nuclear and missile strikes. These capabilities will greatly enhance ROK-U.S. combined warfighting capabilities.

SOUTH KOREA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD

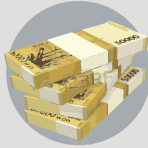
South Korea is also working to enhance regional security and prosperity by exercising leadership as a "Middle Power." South Korea continues to pursue bilateral and multilateral engagement not only across the Asia-Pacific region, but internationally, enhancing cooperation on issues relating to stability, growth, and international norms. South Korea currently has 1,106 peacekeepers deployed to twelve countries, provides financial support to reconstruction in Afghanistan and Iraq, and supports disaster assistance in the Philippines and West Africa. In the Asia-Pacific, South Korea is stepping up its security activities, including participation in military exercises, security assistance and cooperation, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief. It has also taken steps to improve its relations with Japan; following a trilateral missile drill with the United States and Japan in June 2016, Seoul and Tokyo inked the General Security of Military Information

SOUTH KOREA **FAST FACTS** //



OVERVIEW

- Area: 99,720 sq km (about the size of Indiana) with a population of 51 million.



ECONOMY

- Seventh largest in foreign currency reserves and the 11th largest global Gross Domestic Product (GDP).



INDUSTRY

- **SAMSUNG** is the world's largest producer of smartphones.
- South Korea is fifth in world exports experiencing an 84 percent increase in two-way trade in the last decade.



CONNECTIVITY

- South Korea has the world's fastest Internet. 84.8 percent of South Koreans have broadband.



TRAVEL AND TOURISM

- The number of Americans who visited South Korea increased by 21 percent (year- on-year) between June 2015 and June 2016.



INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE

- South Korea has 1,106 Global Peacekeepers deployed to 12 countries.

ILLUSTRATION BY JOSHUA BINDER



HANBIT UNIT PAO PHOTO

A member of the Hanbit Unit deployed to South Sudan teaches locals to operate a cultivator, April 16, 2016.

Agreement in November 2016.

Additionally, South Korea is partnering with the United States and other international partners to tackle complex transnational problems, ranging from enduring challenges of proliferation, international development, and women's issues to emerging problems relating to space, cyber security, global health crises, and piracy. South Korea is not only working to address problems; it is leading efforts to proactively create a better world.

SOUTH KOREAN DEMOCRACY

Both proponents and opponents of the government took to the streets in the fall of 2016 to demonstrate their commitment to democracy, and South Korean civil society has shown itself to be committed to peaceful resolution of steep differences and unquestionably resilient throughout. While at the time of writing the impact of the domestic political situation has yet to fully play out, it is clear that South Korea remains strong, as does the ROK-U.S. Alliance. The strength of the Alliance serves to underwrite South Korea's security, allowing its

democratic processes to proceed without impediment, despite the existential threat North Korea poses. South Korea has succeeded where so many others have failed in transitioning from authoritarianism and poverty to democracy and prosperity, strongly suggesting that South Korea will emerge from this political struggle as an even more impactful middle-power.

SOUTH KOREA - A WISE U.S. INVESTMENT

America's alliance with South Korea continues to provide a return on U.S. investments made more than 60 years ago and sustained through the present. The United States is fortunate to have a vibrant ally that shares our interests and values, while increasing contributions to international security on issues of the utmost concern to American security and prosperity.

2018 WINTER OLYMPICS //

In 2018, South Korea will host the 23rd Winter Olympic Games. The event will take place from Feb. 9-25, 2018, in the city of Pyeongchang. It will be the first Winter Olympic Games held in South Korea, and the country's second Olympic Games overall - a tremendous achievement that signals a confident South Korea poised to take a greater role in the global affairs and reflects the prosperity and security that the Alliance has fostered. The 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games will be an excellent opportunity to welcome visitors from all over the world and emphasize that South Korea's story transcends its peninsular division.



PyeongChang 2018



Olympic rings logo

UNITED NATIONS



PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS WESLEY BREEDLOVE



Representatives from 21 nations gather at the UN Memorial Cemetery in Busan to commemorate UNC Sending States Service Members who lost their lives during the Korean War, Nov. 11, 2016.

UK Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier, ROK Air Force Operations Commander Lt. Gen. Won In-choul, and U.S. Seventh Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Thomas W. Bergeson at Osan Air Base for exercise INVINCIBLE SHIELD; the first time British fighters came to Korea since 1953, Nov. 8, 2016.



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DILLIAN BAMMAN

Since its inception nearly seven decades ago, the United Nations Command (UNC) has been an enduring presence that safeguards stability and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula. Built on the legacy of 21 countries who came together to defend the Republic of Korea in 1950, UNC began its mission as a U.S.-led, multinational warfighting command responsible for defeating North Korean aggression and restoring peace and security to Northeast Asia.

Since the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement in 1953, the UNC has ensured day-to-day friendly force compliance through close coordination with the United States, South Korea, and UN member states. Today, the Command partners with 16 Sending States: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Columbia, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Republic of South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. UNC remains a visible reminder of the international community's steadfast resolve to defend South Korea and respond to North Korean breaches of peace under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. This enduring international commitment guards against the resumption of hostilities and insures peace on the Korean Peninsula.

While the UNC principally enforces the terms of the Armistice Agreement for all friendly forces south of the Military Demarcation Line, it also provides a standing multinational framework for the reception, staging, and integration of UN forces into the Command should such military operations become necessary to defend South Korea. UNC members participate in multilateral military exercises in South Korean territory as well as throughout the region. The Command also maintains important logistical infrastructure at seven key UN-designated bases in Japan. Current UNC revitalization efforts are underway to allow Sending States to play an expanded role in theater defense efforts that are critically important to the Alliance's ability to adapt and endure in a dynamic region.

One of the more common misconceptions of UNC is that it is a UN Peacekeeping Operation (PKO). The UNC is not a PKO; rather, the UNC was the first UN actor as a combatant in response to an internationally recognized breach of peace under Article VII of the UN Charter. UNSCR 83 and 84 (1950) provided international legal authority for the United States to establish a multinational command to control other UN-member nation forces to restore peace and security in the area under the UN flag.



COMMAND HOME FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS



UNC-LED OPERATIONS IN THE HAN RIVER ESTUARY //

Through the summer and fall of 2016, UNC engaged in an operation to prevent Chinese vessels from fishing illegally in the Han River Estuary (HRE), a military-controlled area that remains a dangerous potential flashpoint between South and North Korean forces. After hundreds of Chinese boats fishing in North Korean territorial waters

crossed the Northern Limit Line into the HRE in June, Alliance forces under UNC command took combined action to drive out and keep unauthorized vessels out of the estuary. The successful mobilization of the UNC Military



UNC PUBLIC AFFAIRS PHOTO

Armistice Commission to enforce the Armistice without escalating tensions demonstrates the ongoing role our international partners play in contributing to peace and stability in Northeast Asia. UNC-led forces continue to patrol the Estuary to prevent illegal fishing to this day.

Enforcement of the Armistice entails significant support from the ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff (ROK JCS) and USFK. As the sovereign ROK command, ROK JCS controls hundreds of thousands of ROK troops protecting the Demilitarized Zone, the Han River Estuary, and the Northwest Islands. USFK fulfills U.S. commitments to South Korea as outlined in the Mutual Defense Treaty.

In 2016, the Commander elevated the priority given to UNC revitalization, recognizing the enduring importance of maintaining a multinational force buttressed by the power of multiple strong militaries. Sending States explored more avenues for observing and participating in military exercises, and UNC looks to further incorporate their intelligence, manpower, and capabilities into the Command's operations and plans. In the future, the UNC will continue to be an important vehicle for coordinating multilateral engagement as well as bringing other potential international partners into the fold. Further complementing the mandates of USFK and CFC, UNC allows the Alliance to optimize the broad support of South Korea and its importance in the maintenance of both regional and international peace and security.



"There have been British Foreign Exchange Officers in USFK since October 2015. The British Government's desire is to expand our roles into further participation with CFC, enabling British personnel to add value through the respective multinational / coalition experiences we gained in Iraq and Afghanistan. Along with our Australian and Canadian colleagues, we are firmly established in the Headquarters and contributing to the collective UNC/CFC/USFK effort. In addition, the increasing number of bilateral, trilateral and multilateral exercises taking place across the Northeast Asia Region is ensuring that interoperability in multinational and truly combined operations is fast becoming the norm. Having never been to Korea before, I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside my ROK, U.S. and other Sending State partners."



Col Michael B. Murdoch
The Royal Irish Regiment, British Army
Foreign Exchange Office CFC/USFK CJ35



REPUBLIC OF KOREA UNITED STATES COMBINED FORCES

A U.S. Air Force A-10 pilot discusses tactics with a ROK Air Force pilot during BUDDY WING 16-2 on Osan Air Base, Feb. 22, 2016.



SR AIRMAN KRISTIN HIGH

Staff Sgt. James Trekell works with ROK Army V Corps Soldiers to ensure safety procedures are met during a live fire exercise at Nightmare Range near Topyong-ri, South Korea, July 19-21, 2016.



CAPT. JOHN DEPINTO

There is no better expression of the United States' and South Korea's mutual commitment to defend the Korean Peninsula than the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC). United under the motto "Katchi Kapshida," or "We Go Together," CFC stands as a concrete manifestation of one of modern history's most successful and long-standing active alliances.

As a bilateral military command, CFC is the cornerstone of the ROK-U.S. Alliance and serves as the day-to-day realization of the two nations' abiding military cooperation. The CFC's mission is codified in Alliance

strategic agreements beginning with the 1953 Mutual Defense Treaty and carried out under the auspices of the United Nations Command (UNC). As ROK and U.S. capabilities evolved over the ensuing decades, the command structure on the Korean Peninsula did as well. In 1968, a combined operational planning staff was created, which later transitioned and grew into an integrated field army headquarters in 1971. CFC activated on Nov. 7, 1978, under the command of General Jack Vessey, and it was designed to function as an integrated, combined Alliance force. It employs and syn-

chronizes ROK and U.S. military force contributions and derives its strategic direction and operational guidance from two bilateral fora: the Security Consultative Meeting between the ROK Ministry of National Defense and the U.S. Secretary of Defense, and the Military Committee Meeting between the U.S. and ROK Chairmen of Staff. This is a unique command structure with no equivalent in the world. These Alliance-centric consultative processes allow the United States and South Korea to provide CFC with critical joint guidance that ensures that all CFC actions represent the clear will

COMMAND

THE HEART OF THE ALLIANCE

(L-R) The guided-missile destroyer USS Momsen, ROK destroyer ROKS Seodae Ryu Seong-ryong, and guided-missile destroyer USS Decatur are deployed as part of a U.S. 3rd Fleet Pacific Surface Action Group under Destroyer Squadron 31, May 21, 2016.



MC1 JAY C. PUGH



of both governments. Although the Commander of CFC does not assume operational control of Korean or U.S. combat forces until an Alliance decision in crisis, he is provided the requisite authority to prepare ROK and U.S. forces for these potential wartime missions through planning, training, and development of doctrine for combined military operations during normal Armistice conditions. CFC partners with UNC, the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the ROK and its subordinate military commands, and USFK to form a complex, yet effective Allied theater military architecture that brings the vast assortment of U.S. and ROK military capabilities to bear against any threat.

CFC components regularly conduct combined exercises with their various counterparts, including air, ground, naval, special operations, and Command Post exercises. CFC conducts two annual Command Post exercises,

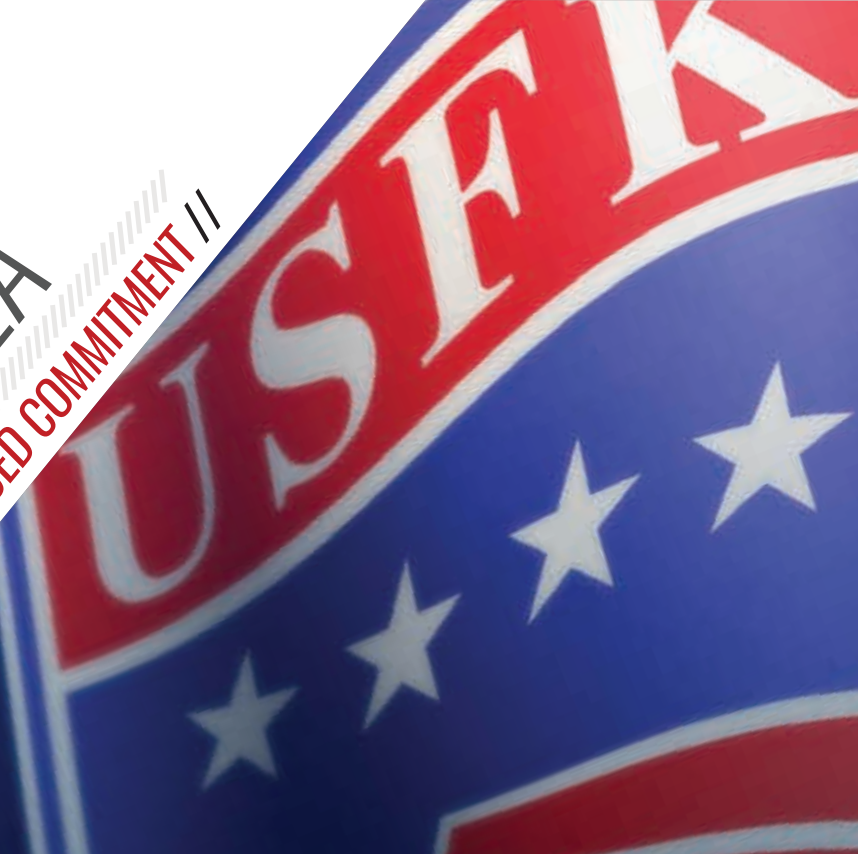
ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN and KEY RESOLVE, which are among the largest exercises of their type in the world. These exercises ensure that the ROK and U.S. forces supporting CFC are trained and ready to defend South Korea if called upon. They also clearly demonstrate the ROK-U.S. Alliance's mutual commitment to South Korean sovereignty and security. This communicates a clear message to the entire world that the two nations are of singular purpose, joined in a unified effort.

Just as it has in the past, the Alliance and its command relationship continues to change based upon developing conditions in the region and throughout the world. In mutual recognition of ROK development over the last 40 years, the Alliance has agreed to transform our combined security architecture to achieve greater ROK leadership in defense of the Republic as soon as the strategic

landscape facilitates such a transformation. This will complete a natural evolution over the 70-year history of the Alliance, from U.S. leadership during the UNC era (before 1978), to a ROK-U.S. partnership during the CFC era (since 1978), to the eventual establishment of ROK leadership and responsibility for its own defense upon OPCON transfer. Until the transformation conditions are met, CFC will resolutely continue to provide security and stability to ensure continued prosperity. The competency of CFC has assured a legacy that serves as an enduring example of cooperation and achievement that will inspire a standard of excellence for Alliance architecture in the future.

UNITED STATES FORCES KOREA

LIVING PROOF OF CONTINUED COMMITMENT //



COMMAND MISSION

United States Forces Korea (USFK) provides trained and ready forces to the United Nations Command (UNC) and the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC) for the defense of the Republic of Korea.

ROLE OF USFK

USFK is the senior U.S. military command for U.S. forces in the ROK. A subunified command under U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM), USFK represents USPACOM in a liaison role with its ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff counterpart.

The command supports the mutual defense of the United States and South Korea through the employment of agile forces and strategic deterrence. As North Korea continues to escalate regional tensions, USFK maintains a ready to "Fight Tonight" preparedness by ensuring the absolute best training for its Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines.

In times of crisis and hostility, USFK has a supporting operational role with a focus on non-combatant evacuation for American citizens as well as designated third country nationals and reception, staging, onward movement, and integration for U.S. and multinational augmentation forces. USFK also provides reach-back support for CFC to USPACOM, the functional combatant commands, the U.S. Joint Staff, and when authorized, with other U.S. agencies.

Rear Adm. Brad Cooper, the Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Korea, speaks with ROK Adm. Lee, Seong-Hwan, the Commander of the ROK 3rd Fleet, Nov. 9, 2016.

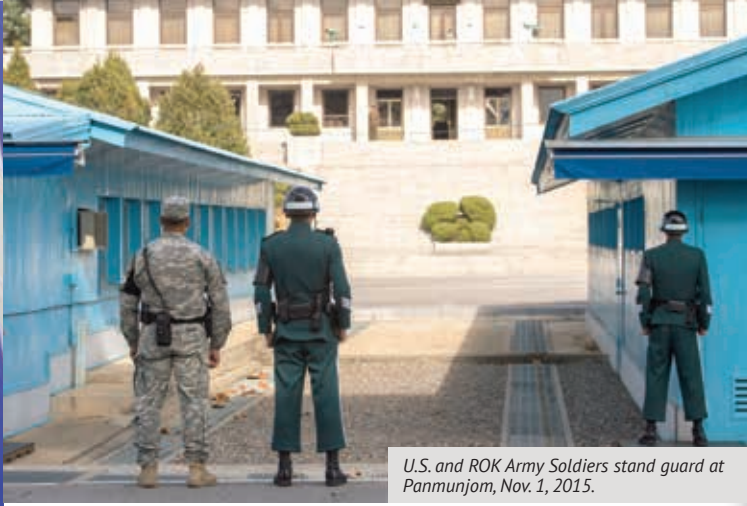


Lance Cpl. Isaiah Kiefer directs a ROK Marine during joint training exercise SSANG YONG, Pohang, March 9, 2016.



U.S. Air Force combat controllers and ROK soldiers pull security and establish communications on Kunsan Air Base, Oct. 22, 2016.





U.S. and ROK Army Soldiers stand guard at Panmunjom, Nov. 1, 2015.

SENIOR MASTER SGT. ADRIAN CADIZ

COMMAND'S IMPORTANCE

In 2016, USFK directed activities to enhance that readiness and its deep commitment to the stability of the peninsula and the Asia-Pacific region, including two strategic bomber flights over Korea: a B-52 Stratofortress in January 2016, and a B-1B in September 2016. Both aircraft, which flew from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, conducted low-level flights near Osan Air Base while escorted by Republic of Korea F-15K fighter jets and U.S. F-16s. These shows of force demonstrated the close cooperation between U.S. and ROK military forces that keeps them ready to respond at any time to threats to stability and security.

Critically, 2016 also saw bilateral agreement to deploy the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system on the Korean Peninsula. A joint venture between the United States and South Korea, the THAAD system enhances the existing theater ballistic missile defense capabilities to counter North Korea's continued development of ballistic missile technology in contravention of six United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

USFK is currently engaged in a major re-alignment of forces that will ultimately move the preponderance of its formations south of Seoul. The first major relocation south occurred in July 2016, with the movement of the rotational Brigade Combat Team stationed at the Camp Casey/Hovey complex to its permanent location at Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek. Movement of the brigade marks an important milestone in not only the larger relocation plan for U.S. forces, but also in the history of U.S. military commitment on the Korean Peninsula.

Last year it was decided that an additional battalion of 24 AH-64D Apache attack helicopters would be permanently stationed in South Korea. These helicopters will replace thirty OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters, greatly enhancing capabilities for American forces on the peninsula. Contracts were signed to begin work on parking aprons in two separate locations until facilities at Camp Humphreys are complete.

Trilateral discussions between ROK, Japanese, and U.S. forces also took place to address options to deter North Korea from future provocations and to strengthen theater stability. Trilateral efforts between the three nations continued to make progress toward greater intelligence sharing and ballistic missile defense.

PC3 CLASS WESLEY J. BREEDLOVE

LANCE CPL. KEISEY DORNFIELD

SENIOR AIRMAN COVILLE MCFEE



// THE HISTORY OF THE KATUSA

Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army - KATUSA - is a highly effective program in which Republic of Korea Army draftees with strong English language proficiency and military aptitude receive special training and subsequent assignment to a U.S. Army unit in South Korea. This unique program enhances U.S. Army interoperability and functionality, as well as mutual respect and understanding, throughout the Korean Peninsula.

The KATUSA program originated during the Korean War. In conjunction with efforts to rebuild the ROK Army, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur ordered the incorporation of ROK recruits into U.S. Army divisions on Aug. 15, 1950. Between August 18-25, 8,625 Korean officers and men were shipped to Japan, hastily trained, and assigned to the 7th Infantry Division, participating in amphibious landings at Inchon only a few weeks later. A total of 43,660 KATUSAs fought with the U.S. Army during the Korean War, of which 11,365 were killed or missing in action.

Today, the KATUSA program is administered by Eighth Army. KATUSA trainees are selected by lottery, with a 10.5-1 chance of being chosen. The KATUSAs continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with their U.S. Army counterparts, dedicated to defending South Korea and preserving freedom and democracy.

CPL. DASOL CHOI



KATUSAs meet with U.S. and ROK Army leadership to discuss tasks and events, Dec. 2, 2016.

ENDURING LEGACY

The Service Members of USFK have stood side-by-side with their ROK and UNC Sending State partners for more than 60 years. Together, these forces have maintained the Armistice that set the conditions for stability and prosperity in South Korea. Their contributions have helped South Korea grow into an economically robust, peaceful, and democratic nation. The continued presence of U.S. forces helps ensure the people of South Korea, including more than 51 million Koreans and nearly 200,000 Americans living and working in Korea, are protected from real and present threats from North Korea, to include long range artillery, ballistic missiles, nuclear weapons, special operations forces, and cyber-attacks.

Soldiers from 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, prepare to board a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during the start of exercise WARRIOR STRIKE 5 on Camp Mobile, South Korea, Feb. 14, 2017.

EIGHTH ARMY *A COMBINED AND CAPABLE FORCE*

STAFF SGT. WARREN W. WRIGHT JR

THE IRONCLAD ALLIANCE

Eighth Army has worked side-by-side with the Republic of Korea Army to maintain security and stability on the Korean Peninsula. Readiness remains the number one priority as they continue to enhance their combined capabilities within the ironclad Alliance.



Since the Korean War, Eighth Army has continuously worked together with the Republic of Korea Army to develop capabilities and increase the capacity of Alliance ground forces on the peninsula. Now that the Korean Army stands as a modern, lethal, and highly trained force, Eighth Army's focus has transitioned to developing combined defensive and joint warfighting capabilities in order to deter North Korean aggression and defend the Republic of Korea. As North Korea continues to aggressively pursue its nuclear and missile program, these efforts are increasingly timely.

One of the clearest signs of this integration is the success of the ROK-U.S. Combined Division. Established in 2015, the Combined Division comprises units from both the ROK Eighth Infantry Division and the U.S. Second Infantry Division. During armistice, the unit has a combined staff structure that will fully integrate ROK Army units during times of conflict. In addition to providing both Armies opportunities to train together in a combined environment, the close cooperation that the Combined Division fosters enhanced interoperability while sending a powerful message of unity across the globe.

After completing their Division War Fighting Exercise certification in October 2015, the Combined Division successfully completed multiple exercises in 2016, including KEY RESOLVE 2016 and ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN 2016. These exercises – the Peninsula's largest - demonstrated the ability to execute combined arms maneuvers in defense of the Republic of Korea.



2nd Battalion (Assault), 2nd Aviation Regiment, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-U.S. Combined Division and the ROK Army 603rd Air Assault Battalion prepare for a nighttime air assault, Oct. 14, 2016.

KATUSA CPL. JUNKYU PARK



CAPT. JONATHAN CAMIRE

U.S. soldiers from the 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division and ROK forces train to locate, identify, and neutralize enemy weapons of mass destruction sites during exercise WARRIOR STRIKE 5, Feb. 16, 2017.

The development of the Combined Ground Component Command similarly exemplifies the deepening ties between the ROK and U.S. Armies. This headquarters provides a central hub of mission command for ground forces in times of war and synchronizes ground forces, enhancing coordination between ROK and U.S. Forces. In the coming year, the ROK and U.S. Armies will begin to test the Combined Ground Component Command structure in order to enhance interoperability and strengthen the Alliance during the HOGUK-17 exercise.

ENHANCING READINESS WITH ROTATIONS

Since 2013, Eighth Army has integrated the U.S. Army's regionally aligned rotational forces to bolster readiness and ensure trained and ready forces integrate into USFK. Rotational forces ensure a high level of preparedness across the Army through rotational deployments to strategic locations around the world in accordance with the strategic land power concept. It also enhances the global responsiveness of the Army through deployment of highly trained units outside of the continental United States, allowing Eighth Army to train on reception, staging, onward movement, and integration into the Korean Theater.

During 2016, Eighth Army conducted two reliefs in place. In February, the "Ironhorse" Soldiers from 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, arrived from Fort Hood, Texas, to relieve their sister unit, the "Black Jack" Brigade of 2nd

Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. After participating in combined live fire exercises with the Korean Army at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex and completing two Peninsula-wide exercises, the Ironhorse Brigade was relieved by the "Devil" Brigade of 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division from Fort Riley, Kansas, in October.

Last October, Eighth Army also welcomed the 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery Regiment from Fort Sill, Oklahoma. This multiple launch rocket system Battalion replaced 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery Regiment, and will play an integral role in the Combined Division 210th Field Artillery Brigade's counter fire task force.

The seamless integration of rotational units with Eighth Army serves as a force multiplier for the Alliance, supports the U.S. Army's long-term strategic objectives, and enhances our readiness by ensuring crew stability as well as the continuous presence of trained and ready forces on the Peninsula.

THE POWER OF TRANSFORMATION

This is an exciting time to serve in Eighth Army. Along with its ROK counterparts, Eighth Army is making significant investments in tactical modernization. The joint Alliance decision to deploy THAAD is an important component of a layered ballistic missile defense. Additionally, aviation assets get a boost from the latest ver-

sion of the Apache attack helicopter and the introduction of the Grey Eagle unmanned aircraft system.

On-going theater transformation initiatives will further modify the force structure by consolidating U.S. forces at two primary hubs – U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys and U.S. Army Garrison Daegu. This restationing effort will provide enhanced force protection and Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence facilities, while maximizing U.S. force efficiency by reducing the number of camps in South Korea. All of these actions will enhance readiness. Once transformation is complete, Eighth Army will be better postured to support the Alliance with efficient, sustainable support to carry on its enduring mission in support of USFK. The combined development of Camp Humphreys is proof of both countries' commitment to the enduring ROK-U.S. Alliance.

As Eighth Army



continues to bolster capabilities and readiness to defend the Republic of Korea in an increasingly

complex operating environment, preparing for the future is vital. By continuing to seek out new ways to increase combined and integrated warfighting capabilities, Eighth Army will be able to sustain its "Fight Tonight" readiness, achieve enduring security outcomes in support of the Alliance, and foster a closer relationship with ROK Army forces.

SEVENTH AIR FORCE



RISING TO MEET THE CHALLENGE: MAINTAINING AIR SUPERIORITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

In the midst of North Korea's repeated provocations in 2016, members of Seventh Air Force served as a core element of the Alliance's robust response. However, the Korea Airpower Team is not simply content with dominating the battlespace of today; Seventh Air Force is working to ensure it dominates the battlespace of tomorrow. Working in concert with combined and joint partners, its unique skillset is a critical component in maintaining long-term safety and security on the Korean Peninsula.

BE READY TO "FIGHT TONIGHT"

Seventh Air Force's true strength is its Airmen, who plan the air campaign and fly combined sorties daily, preparing to execute missions in a heavily congested and contested battlespace when called on to defend against North Korean aggression. Standing shoulder to shoulder with their ROK Air Force (ROKAF) counterparts, they form one of the strongest airpower partnerships in the world. This was on display time and time again in 2016; in executing three bilateral shows of force following North Korean provocations, Airmen joined members of all the components as they demonstrated the Alliance's resolve and combat readiness.

To further bolster preparation to fight tonight, the Air Force deploys fighter squadrons as part of its

Theater Security Packages. These rotational units enhance readiness and ensure that Seventh Air Force is well prepared to meet the enemy threat at all times.

Critical infrastructure upgrades to ensure that Seventh Air Force is ready to "Fight Tonight" continued across the command in 2016, including communications, munitions storage, utilities, and airfield damage repair capabilities. Air planners revised the Air Tasking Order, used ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN to more fully integrate cyber warfare into plans, and improved command and control linkages across the theater. This year also saw the completion of five-year construction project to build a new runway at Osan Air Base. The runway provides a much improved ability to deliver air superiority and adds increased combat capability to the CFC commander.

MAXIMIZE THE COMBAT CAPABILITY OF KOREA'S AIRPOWER TEAM

Along with its Korean counterpart, Seventh Air Force participated in a number of military exercises in 2016. From 24-hour sortie generation and base defense operations in Exercise VIGILANT ACE to dynamic targeting involving Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance in MAX THUNDER, the combined Korea Airpower Team validates its ability to support the CFC Commander's objectives.

During MAX THUNDER-16, the largest annual flying exercise held on the Korean Peninsula, more than 1,500 personnel produced 900 sorties while honing airpower integration. This unparalleled opportunity allowed U.S. and ROK Airmen to plan, brief, execute and debrief side-by-side in a highly challenging scenario, preparing them for a combined U.S. and ROK deployment to Exercise RED FLAG





(Top and Bottom) A-10 Thunderbolt II and F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter aircraft perform an "Elephant Walk" during Exercise BEVERLY HERD 16-01 at Osan Air Base, May 9, 2016.



PACOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS PHOTO

SENIOR AIRMAN DILLIAN BAMMAN

ALASKA, where Airmen flew joint offensive counter-air, interdiction, close air support, and large-force employment training in a simulated combat environment.

Concurrent with this major off-peninsula deployment, Seventh Air Force hosted Theater Security Packages of F-16s and a September flight of the B-1B bomber to the peninsula. These deployments underscored the full array of off-peninsula assets available to support USFK operations and the United States' ironclad commitment to South Korea.

Aircrew training was expanded this year to include an air operability exchange, INVINCIBLE SHIELD, in which the United Kingdom Royal Air Force (RAF) sent its largest contingent of personnel and aircraft since the 1950s. Together, U.S., RAF, and ROKAF Airmen improved interoperability and the combat capability in the Pacific.

TAKING CARE OF OUR AIRMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Seventh Air Force is entrusted with the important duty of caring for its Airmen and their families. With more than a dozen facility upgrades, progress continued on multi-year strategic plans to improve the infrastructure and quality of life for Airmen and families assigned to Korea. One step in

During 2016, North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile tests represented a grave threat to security and stability. Airmen of Seventh Air Force were more than up to the challenge. Working together with our joint and Alliance partners, Seventh Air Force remains a key part in maintaining the security and safety of the Korean Peninsula. Success in this battlespace demands continued agility and adaptability. The United States and South Korea continue to work together shoulder-to-shoulder to constantly improve interoperability, maintain strong deterrence, and ultimately preserve stability in Northeast Asia.

that direction was the opening of a new 130,000-square foot elementary school at Osan Air Base, the first in Korea to accommodate the new Multi-age Community 21st Century program. Commanders across all installations involved leaders from all levels to ensure Airmen can live and work in an environment that supports their personal as well as professional growth.

TECH. SGT. TRAVIS EDWARDS



The Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier, USS Ronald Reagan, steams in formation with ships from Carrier Strike Group Five and the ROK Navy during exercise INVINCIBLE SPIRIT, Oct. 14, 2016.

COMMANDER, U.



Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Korea (CNFK) is the U.S. Navy's representative in South Korea, providing leadership and expertise in naval matters to improve institutional and operational effectiveness. CNFK is the regional commander for the U.S. Navy in the Republic of Korea and provides expertise on naval matters to area military commanders, including the UNC/CFC/USFK Commander.

CNFK's presence on the Peninsula dates back to 1957, when it was created to support the mission of the UNC and advise the organization, training, administration, and readiness of the Korean Naval Forces. Today, CNFK is distinguished as the only U.S. component in Korea located on a ROK base, having inaugurated its headquarters on

the ROK Fleet base in Busan on February 19, 2016. This ceremony, which the commanders of USFK, U.S. Seventh Fleet, and the ROK Navy attended, marked the first time since CNFK's inception that the headquarters was not located in Seoul on a U.S. base.

More than 70 U.S. Navy Sailors, civilians and family members have become part of the local community and now call Busan home. Sailors and civilians assigned to Busan experience all of the culture Busan has to offer by living on the economy in districts such as Haeundae-gu, Nam-gu, and Suyeong-gu. U.S. Navy children go to international schools, and U.S. and ROK children grow up shaping the future of the ROK-U.S. Alliance together.

The transition from Seoul to Busan ushered in a new era of U.S. and ROK Navy relations, and the move has already facilitated closer collaboration and communication between them. Coupled with the ongoing relocation of remaining personnel in Seoul to Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek, CNFK's restationing in Busan will help to facilitate the successful transitioning of wartime operational control for contingencies on the Korean Peninsula

PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS NATHAN BURKE



ROKS Sejong the Great (center) in formation with ships from Carrier Strike Group Vice during INVINCIBLE SPIRIT, Oct. 14, 2016.

PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS NATHAN BURKE



Petty Officer 1st Class John Diwa installs inboard and outboard bearings on the main tire mount of an F/A-18F Super Hornet in the hangar bay of the USS Ronald Reagan during INVINCIBLE SPIRIT, Oct. 13, 2016.

PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS ANDREW SCHNEIDER



Ens. Kyle Punkett, aboard the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville, takes a bearing before conducting replenishment-at-sea as part of INVINCIBLE SPIRIT, Oct. 13, 2016.

S. NAVAL FORCES KOREA

to South Korea. The end-state ensures that CNFK is best positioned to support the ROKN and USFK while maintaining stability in the region.

Throughout the year, CNFK and the ROK Navy cooperate on over 30 ship visits, exercises, and symposiums, as well as on detailed planning designed to strengthen and transform the alliance, maintain the armistice, and sustain the force. The Bilateral Anti-Submarine Warfare Cooperation Committee, co-chaired by the commanders of the ROK Fleet and U.S. 7th Fleet, was established in 2014 to synchronize the numerous efforts of both navies spanning all domains (surface, subsurface, and aviation) in order to improve capability in these crucial warfare areas. The navies also work together to successfully complete more than 20 bi-

lateral and multilateral exercises, including the command post exercises ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN and KEY RESOLVE as well as field training exercise FOAL EAGLE. These exercises enable both navies to apply the full spectrum of maritime operations, from anti-submarine warfare, common tactics and maneuvering, salvage operations, mine warfare, and harbor recovery operations. Routine ship visits, including one by the only forward-deployed U.S. aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, help foster relationships through theater security cooperation engagements and community outreach events.

The U.S. and ROK Navies are critical components of Command efforts to revitalize the UNC, joining an annual combined mine warfare (MIW)

event aimed at improving proficiency and enhancing capabilities across the full spectrum of maritime MIW operations. Additionally, CNFK hosts the annual UNC Naval Component Commander Mine Countermeasures Symposium, while ROKN Flotilla 5 hosts the multinational MIW exercise CLEAR HORIZON.

U.S. Navy presence in the Republic of Korea maintains the armistice and is more important than ever. U.S. naval forces help encourage dialogue, promote growth, and ensure the free flow of trade.

U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES, **KOREA**



MCIPAC CPL. ERICK LOARCA

U.S. Marines with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines conduct military operations on urban terrain training with ROK Marines as part of KMEP in South Korea, April 2, 2016.

U.S. Marine Corps Forces Korea (MARFORK) is the U.S. Marine Corps Service Component for USFK and UNC. Commander, MARFORK commands all U.S. Marine forces assigned to USFK and UNC; advises USFK and UNC on the capabilities, support and proper employment of Marine forces; and supports the defense of the ROK by facilitating the rapid introduction of U.S. Marine forces onto the Korean Peninsula in order to maintain stability in Northeast Asia. Additionally, the Commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Korea is the U.S. Marine Corps' representative to the Commandant of the ROK Marine Corps (ROKMC).

MARFORK continues to enhance its familial relationship with the ROKMC by routinely working, planning and training together so that we are ready to "Fight Tonight" with its Allies. MARFORK and ROK Marine Headquarters come together on pertinent issues to include combined training objectives, enhancing ROKMC capabilities and increasing interoperability in amphibious operations.

Furthermore, senior leaders from both services convene on a recurring basis to ensure their respective vision and intent is clear and appreciated.

MARFORK supports U.S. Marine units conducting rotational training in South Korea. This is accomplished through the Korean Marine Exchange Program (KMEP), a year-round program that seeks, in accordance with the USFK Commander's priorities, to maximize training for both U.S. and ROK Marines in a combined environment. In 2016, MARFORK, in conjunction with Marine Forces Pacific (located at Camp Smith, Hawaii) and III Marine Expeditionary Force (located in Okinawa, Japan), coordinated and executed 21 KMEP training events, which ranged from platoon to battalion-level training and covered nearly the full range of military operations. These events took place in various locations in South Korea, enhancing U.S. Marines' familiarization of the Peninsula while simultaneously developing with their ROK Marine counterparts the kind of faith and trust only established

through rigorous and realistic training.

As the UNC Marine Component, MARFORK advocates for other allied and partner nation forces to participate in exercises and serves as the integrator of these forces for UNC during a time of crisis. Should the need arise for UNC Sending States or other nations to send forces to South Korea, MARFORK stands ready to advise the Commander on the integration of these arriving amphibious forces during a crisis. These forces include not just Marine forces but also other allied service units, both aviation and ground, designated for employment.

MARFORK not only brings the Marine Corps' esprit de corps and amphibious expertise to the Korean Peninsula, but also its traditions. On Nov. 10, 2016, Marines of MARFORK paid homage to a time-honored tradition by hosting the Seoul edition of the 241st United States Marine Corps Birthday Ball. Located at the Walker Hill Hotel in Seoul, MARFORK played host to over 400 guests including senior civilian and military leaders from both sides of the Alliance.

Though the total footprint may be smaller than that of other service components on the Peninsula, MARFORK executes their mission with the alacrity and zeal that has come to embody the word "Marine." Whether building goodwill with the Korean People to sustain and improve the Alliance, or vigorously training with the ROK Marines to improve operational capabilities, the Marines of MARFORK work tirelessly to ensure ready, relevant, capable amphibious fighting forces - able to respond to any challenge.

LANCE CPL. CAMERON DARROUGH



A U.S. Marine trains with ROK Marines during KMEP 16-15, Baengnyeondo, South Korea, Oct. 3, 2016.

SGT. JOSEPH SANCHEZ



U.S. Marines with Crisis Response Company, 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division conduct an amphibious landing in support of exercise SSANG YONG 16, near Pohang, South Korea, March 11, 2016.

LANCE CPL. CAMERON DARROUGH



U.S. Marines with Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines and ROK Marines with 2nd Company, 31st Battalion, 1st Marines execute room clearing drills during exercise HOGUK outside of Pohang, South Korea, Oct. 20, 2016.

SGT. ISAAC IBARRA



A U.S. Marine and a ROK Marine operate an M107 .50-caliber Special Applications Scoped Rifle during a live-fire range as part of KMEP in South Korea, April 6, 2016.

SGT. AARON ROGNSTAD



SOCKOR

Special Operations Command Korea (SOCKOR) provides the USFK Commander a Joint Special Operations crisis response capability to deter or defeat North Korean asymmetric capabilities and maintain the Alliance.

A CRITICAL AND CAPABLE FORCE

SOCKOR traces its history on the Peninsula back to the 1980s, when a Special Operations Division (SOD) element was created. In 1995, the SOD was split to form an independent functional component command of USFK. Since its inception, SOCKOR has been the only Theater Special Operations Command in which U.S. and Republic of Korea Special Operations Forces (SOF) are organized for combined operations in the event that deterrence fails. SOCKOR is headquartered at Camp Kim, adjacent to Yongsan Garrison in Seoul.

SOCKOR is an operationally focused headquarters, responsible for planning and conducting special operations. In this capacity, SOCKOR is able to operate in three key areas: mission command of SOF rotational forces, training evolutions to include Korea-wide exercises, and ROK SOF partner engagements. A wide range of U.S. SOF rotational forces have trained on the Korean Peninsula, including elements of the 75th Ranger Regiment, 1st and 19th Special Forces Groups (Active and National Guard Groups), 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, the

U.S. Air Force 353rd Special Operations Group, and Navy Special Warfare Group 1.

SOCKOR is the only Theater Special Operations Command stationed and training in a complex, combined operating environment in which it may be called to fight with little to no warning. Nested within United States Special Operations Command and integrated with its ROK SOF partners, it maintains reach-back capability to U.S. interagency and intergovernmental partnerships. SOCKOR is prepared to execute the full spectrum of special operations to support warfighting capabilities and maintain stability in Northeast Asia.

During Armistice, crisis and war, SOCKOR commands apportioned U.S. SOF to counter and defeat emerging North Korean threats, develops supporting plans, and coordinates with ROK Army Special Warfare Command (SWC), ROK Navy Special Warfare Flotilla, ROK Air Force 255th Special Operations Squadron, and SOF from UNC Sending States in support of the UNC/CFC/USFK Commander. In the event of hostilities, SOCKOR will task-organize as a Special Operations Joint Task Force, aligning U.S. and UNC

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS



MC3 ALFRED A. COFFIELD

SR AIRMAN COLVILLE MCREE

U.S. Air Force combat controllers assigned to the 1st Special Operations Squadron, 320th Special Tactics Squadron and ROK 255th Special Operations Squadron pull security and establish a line of communication on Kunsan Air Base, Oct. 22, 2016.

Members of the ROK Navy Underwater Dive Team prepare for explosive ordnance disposal operations off the coast of Jinhae as part of exercise FOAL EAGLE, March 3, 2017.



Special Operations Forces into functional task forces. The SOCKOR Commander also serves as the Deputy Commander of the ROK-U.S. Combined Special Operations Component Command-Korea, one of the six CFC warfighting components. Additionally, the SOCKOR Commander is the Commander of the UNC SOF Component.

Throughout the year, SOCKOR participates in an array of major training exercises on the peninsula to include KEY RESOLVE and ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN. In addition, the command participates in FOAL EAGLE, a ROK-U.S. bilateral series of annual, defense-driven training events intended to increase readiness, protect the Korean Peninsula, and maintain stability in Northeast Asia.

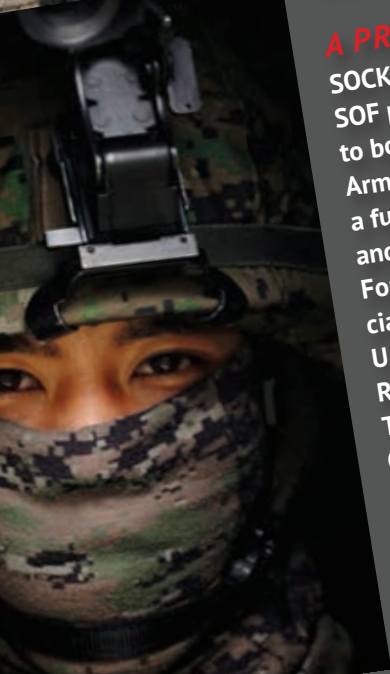
A PROVEN PARTNERSHIP

SOCKOR's enduring relationship with its ROK SOF partners spans 66 years and is paramount to both sides' ability to support the Alliance. U.S. Army Special Forces Detachment-39 serves as a full-time liaison between U.S. and ROKA SWC, and active and reserve component U.S. Special Forces Groups regularly partner with ROKA Special Warfare Brigades for exercises and training. U.S. Air Force SOF train monthly with both the ROK Air Force 255th Squadron and ROK SOF. The Joint Special Operations Liaison Element at Osan Air Base coordinates with Seventh Air Force and ROK Air Force Operations Command to en-

sure both Special Operations Forces and conventional air platforms are available. A rotational U.S. Navy SEAL element is co-located with the ROK Naval Special Warfare Flotilla.

Also critical to SOCKOR's present and future functions are its abiding partnerships with UNC Sending State SOFs. 2016 was a hallmark year for SOCKOR's international relationships, and the UNC is committed to continuing to expand the depth and breadth of our multinational capabilities. UNC SOF bring combat-proven experience and expertise to collective defensive capabilities. Most importantly, their presence further strengthens the ROK-UNC SOF partnership while their contributions develop and shape strategic options for countering asymmetric threats from North Korea.

SOCKOR continues to fill a vital role in maintaining the Armistice and stability in Northeast Asia. The ability to leverage a crisis response capability with operational U.S. SOF or employ unique Combined ROK-U.S. SOF capabilities provides U.S. military and national leaders with strategic options to deter or defeat North Korean asymmetric threats and maintain the Armistice.



TRANSFORMATION AND **RELOCATION**

REDEFINING THE FUTURE //



ABOVE: Aerial rendition of USAG Humphreys residential facilities. **BELOW:** The new USFK and Eighth Army Headquarters at USAG Humphreys (**LEFT**) and a residential facility (**RIGHT**).



U.S. ARMY PHOTOS

After years of close coordination and hard work between the United States and South Korea, the initial wave of unit moves to begin transporting the majority of U.S. forces from Seoul and north of Seoul to areas in the southern half of South Korea are underway. Referred to as the USFK Relocation Program, the plan draws from two ROK-U.S. bilateral agreements (the Yongsan Relocation Plan and the Land Partnership Plan), enhances ROK-U.S. Alliance readiness, and supports maintaining credible deterrence and stability on

the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

The USFK Relocation Program consolidates U.S. forces into two enduring hubs: a central hub around the cities of Osan and Pyeongtaek and a southern hub around the city of Daegu. Locating most of personnel at these two centers improves USFK's capacity to respond to future defense initiatives and streamlines non-combatant evacuation procedures.

At the center of USFK's relocation efforts is the development and construction of Pyeongtaek's Camp

Humphreys, an innovative new home for our Servicemen and Servicewomen that will help us maximize efficiency and bolster readiness. The Humphreys Garrison is designed so that most support services are within easy walking distance of headquarters and barracks. The modern downtown "city center" encompasses most base amenities and is conveniently located next to family housing and schools to the south and barracks and vehicle maintenance facilities to the north. The result is one of the most updated installations the U.S. military has in the world.

The \$10.7 billion relocation program is a tremendous commitment and undertaking for the Alliance. The Humphreys Garrison has tripled in size to nearly 3,500 acres, roughly the size of downtown Washington, DC. Since 2006, thousands of trucks have placed over 14 million cubic yards of earth to raise former rice paddies above the flood plain. Construction focuses on building 655 new buildings and remodeling or demolishing 340 existing buildings. These buildings serve to accommodate the increase in population from approximately 12,000 to more than 36,000 service members, families, civilian employees, contractors, and Korean Augmentees to the U.S. Army (KATUSAs). Overall, the move is equivalent to relocating the entire student population of Baylor University to Texas Tech.

Key facilities completed to date include: an elementary school, a middle school, a high school, family housing

high rises, a child development center, a waste water treatment plant, an airfield operations building, an area distribution node, a medical brigade headquarters, a barracks project, a tel-video center, railhead, dental clinic, additional barracks, a communication center, and two dining facilities. By the end of 2017 a chapel, post office, library, and an additional child development center are expected to be complete. A new Post Exchange and Commissary will open in early 2018.

The unprecedented expansion of Camp Humphreys is an enormous endeavor that has not been without challenges inherent in projects of such scope. There have been construction delays that have led to postponement in unit moves as USFK ensures the quality and safety of the horizontal and vertical construction to provide a safe and updated environment for our Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen and their families. A re-

vised Camp Humphreys will markedly improve both the quality of life and the preparedness of USFK forces, and USFK stands ready to respond to the difficulties that this complex project entails. 2017 will see elements of Eighth Army, Marine Forces Korea, and select USFK units relocate to Pyeongtaek, building on the progress the Alliance has made so far.

The relocation program enhances Alliance readiness and deterrence through sustainable force posture and presence while also improving the U.S. partnership with local communities. By moving into less congested areas, the United States supports South Korea's national interests and ensures that the long-term commitment between the two nations remains robust and steadfast.



USAG Humphreys High School.



The new USAG Humphreys Commissary.

CAMP HUMPHREYS: **FAST FACTS** //

- Camp Humphreys will serve as the official headquarters for USFK, Eighth Army, and 2ID
- Upon completion, Camp Humphreys will be one of the largest overseas U.S. military bases
- The project is estimated to cost \$10.7 billion
- Camp Humphreys will house 36,000 Service Members, families, civilians, contractors, and KATUSAs
- The installation features 655 new buildings
- The installation is designed to be Service Member, family, and pedestrian friendly
- The new Post Exchange and new Commissary are among largest in the world
- Camp Humphreys boasts five new chapels, three fitness centers, a 48 lane bowling alley, a movie theater, a library, theme restaurants, and a community activity center
- Pyeongtaek is a transportation hub for efficient travel throughout South Korea

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Across Korea, members of the USFK community continue to engage with and participate in their adopted Korean neighborhoods. Established in 2003, the Good Neighbor Program provides the basis for strong and vibrant USFK community relations throughout the Korean Peninsula. These local programs cultivate constructive personal interactions and reflect a positive image of the United States and the American military through a variety of events designed to facilitate fruitful engagement and further strengthen the ROK-U.S. Alliance. In 2016, USFK service members and families hosted or participated in over 2,000 events nationwide.

CHINHAE

On the southern tip of the Peninsula, the Commander, Fleet Activities Chinhae (CFAC) community relations program provides structure, opportunity, and a particular focus on youth. Chinhae Sailors have partnered with several orphanages in the area and have maintained a special relationship with the Aikwangwon Home, a facility for handicapped children and adults, for more than 65 years. CFAC Sailors also spend their off-duty time teaching English to Korean middle school and high school students in the area. In Busan, the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea is also heavily involved in community activities at the United Nations Cemetery that commemorate the start of the Korean War, UN Founding Day, and Turn Toward Busan (honoring Korean War dead).

PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS WESLEY J. BREEDLOVE



Petty Officer Jason Swing plays with residents of the Aikwangwon Home and School for the Physically and Mentally Disabled during a community service visit on Geoje Island, South Korea, Nov. 5, 2016.

STAFF SGT. JONATHAN STEFFEN (ALSO TOP LEFT)

Prince Enyioko thanks Tech. Sgt. Stefan Hanyes, 51st Force Support Squadron, for helping save the lives of his wife and three children from a fire at Songtan shopping district, South Korea, May 2, 2016. Service members from the 51st Fighter Wing, 8th Fighter Wing and 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade came together to rescue the family from the burning building on April 29, 2016.



POHANG AND OCHEON

The Marines at Camp Mujuk, a small installation on Korea's southeast coast, have a strong connection with the nearby Pohang and Ocheon City communities. Marine Staff Sgt. Jesus Ubinas epitomized this relationship; his leadership in organizing a summer camp for orphan children and his activities at the Ocheon High School established personal relationships with the students that created an atmosphere of trust and openness, fostered a positive learning environment, and helped cultivate far-reaching and mutually beneficial ties. He also taught English at the Dasom Children's Center. Staff Sgt. Ubinas received the 2016 USFK Ambassador for the Alliance Award from General Vincent K. Brooks in recognition of his efforts.



Eighth Army participates in a Ground Forces Festival representing U.S. Army stationed all over South Korea, Oct. 2, 2016.

CPL JANG, IL-HWAN

US ARMY PHOTO

DAEGU

In Daegu, Soldiers from the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC) and U.S. Army Garrison Daegu interact with local Korean students and other community members on a daily basis. U.S. Army Garrison Daegu runs a model intern program, which places 55-60 students from six different local universities in different offices on the installation each semester. These interns become USFK's de facto ambassadors as they share their stories with their friends and family. In addition to teaching English at various schools in Daegu and Chilgok County, Camp Walker Soldiers volunteer their time to host the annual Nam-gu Global English Camp. Daegu-based units also have a long tradition of sponsoring local orphanages.



A U.S. soldier smiles at a Korean child standing on an Apache helicopter at an open house event, Sept. 23, 2016.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

SENIOR AIRMAN DILLIAN BAMMAN



U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Nick Castle, 25th Fighter Squadron pilot, poses for a photo with a family during Air Power Day 2016 at Osan Air Base, Sept. 24, 2016.

OSAN

Each October, Seventh Air Force hosts Air Power Day at Osan Air Base to showcase ROK and U.S. Air Force airpower. This annual event is USFK's largest "Good Neighbor" event, with more than 80,000 Korean visitors attending. The 51st Fighter Wing at Osan Air Base has a large presence in Songtan through its vibrant "Adopt-A-School Program," which includes Seokwoo, Wonil, Daeho, Seongho, Munsi, and Wuncheon middle schools. The 8th Fighter Wing runs a similar program for 23 elementary schools in the Kunsan area. Pyeongtaek City and Pyeongtaek University also co-host a two-day cultural training program for Seventh Air Force newcomers known as the Korea Indoctrination Program. Incoming personnel learn about Korean language, music, etiquette and culture, attend Korean cooking classes, and tour Seoul.

PYEONGTAEK

In Pyeongtaek, incoming Soldiers, Civilians and family members learn about Korean language and culture through Pyeongtaek University's three-day "Head Start" program. During the program, university professors deliver lectures on Korean history, culture, politics, society, and language. These classes help incoming Americans gain a deeper understanding of their Korean hosts and foster close friendships and mutual respect. Camp Humphreys Soldiers also volunteer their time and efforts teaching English at local schools, cleaning up the local community, and sponsoring events at Jacob's Orphanage and Seong Yuk Orphanage. Camp Humphreys has a rigorous and expanding intern program in which Korean college students get practical experience working in offices on-base in lieu of a semester in the classroom.

PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS JAMES LEE



Petty Officer 3rd Class Risa Nielsen, assigned to the USS Ronald Reagan, participates in a cultural exchange with students at Daechon Middle School in Busan, South Korea, Oct. 19, 2016.

UIJEONGBU AND DONGDUCHEON

In Uijeongbu and Dongducheon, 2nd Infantry Division Soldiers are actively involved in their local communities through installation open houses and outreach programs. Soldiers from the 210th Field Artillery Brigade volunteer their time to teach English at both Shinhan University and the Dongducheon Volunteer Center. The 55th Military Police Company also conducts an annual park cleanup in Dongducheon, while members of the Korean Service Corps regularly host and serve lunch meals to senior citizens at the Uijeongbu City Volunteer Center. At the Korean Demilitarized Zone, the United Nations Security Battalion-Joint Security Area sponsors the elementary school in the village of Taesong Dong, located less than one mile from North Korea. Soldiers of the battalion regularly engage with the students through sporting events, English classes, and various holiday parties.

PHOTOGRAPHER JEON HAN

SEOUL

Located in the heart of the capital city of Seoul, U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan is an important central hub of the Good Neighbor program. With its large civilian population, the Garrison operates across several spheres to contribute to the surrounding community. The Department of Emergency Services regularly engages in joint training with local Korean fire departments and the Korean National Police to enhance readiness and safety. During the winter holidays, the HQ Element delivers coal briquettes directly to residences in underprivileged neighborhoods. Other important partnerships and programs with the host nation include the Base Defense Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of National Defense and the 218th Home Reserve Regiment, cultural visits for American newcomers to Area II, cultural education opportunities like cooking and language classes, and donations and outreach activities to local underprivileged families and organizations.



USFK outreach activities and events have impacted tens of thousands of Koreans who better understand USFK and the importance of the ROK-U.S. Alliance. These positive and meaningful engagements with Korean communities and the future leaders of Korea have proven rewarding and provide our Service Members with a more enriching tour of duty in the Republic of Korea.



USS John C. Stennis pulls into the ROK Fleet base in Busan, the new home for the U.S. Navy in Korea, March 12, 2016.

MC3 WESLEY J. BREEDLOVE

FIGHT TONIGHT FORGE TOMORROW

A PARTNERSHIP AGAINST TYRANNY; AN ALLIANCE FOR THE FUTURE

When the first great salvo of the Cold War erupted on the Korean Peninsula on June 25, 1950, the momentum of the 5,000-year long history of the Korean people was irrevocably redirected. The Cold War has been consigned to history, but the threat from the intransigent regime in North Korea remains real and ever-present. As it has since the first shots were fired, the ROK-U.S. Alliance stands ready to meet the challenge of its aggression.

While the Alliance was forged in fire, the all-encompassing nature of the bilateral relationship has ensured its endurance. A military alliance against communism, tyranny, and oppression has evolved into a united partnership for democracy, liberty, and the promotion of human rights across the globe. From economic cooperation to joint peacekeeping missions to educational exchanges, the Alliance has proved itself to be far more than just a military relationship; indeed, it is a friendship anchored in the joint pursuit of a peaceful, prosperous, and stable future. As the Alliance looks beyond the North-South divide, its comprehensive foundation will ensure it continues to stand strong.

CRAFTING A NEW JOINT VISION

The story of the ROK-U.S. Alliance was written at Incheon, at Nakdong, and at the Chosin Reservoir, but it was cemented in American businesses and chambers of commerce offering economic assistance and advice. This partnership supported the drive of the Korean people to enable Korea to grow from a devastated, war-torn nation to the 11th largest global economy producing some of the world's most modern vehicles, televisions, and telephones. Thousands of Koreans have immigrated to the United States and served in its armed forces, and thousands of American service members have stood on the DMZ alongside their Korean brothers and sisters.

As this friendship has grown, it has shifted from a relationship based on mentorship to a true partnership of equals, shouldering together the burden of protecting freedom in the world. With a new generation of Koreans poised to take the helm of their society, an ideological shift is on the horizon. Young Koreans' values and interests align with those of the United States, but their political positions are less contingent on the party lines of the past than they are on policy substance and vision for the future. The Alliance faces a distinct opportunity to reach out and engage these future leaders, policy makers, and public influencers, exploring avenues of cooperation that will reshape the bilateral relationship in the decades to come. A young, receptive Korean audience could promote pragmatic policy changes regarding national defense, reunification, and international security cooperation.

The ROK-U.S. partnership has always prioritized the people-to-people ties that bind the two nations together. Today's increasingly interconnected world makes it easier than ever for the Command to share its message and bring the next generation into a fruitful and transformative dialogue.

AN ENDURING GLOBAL ALLIANCE

As the Alliance looks to the future, it must lay the groundwork for a long-term vision of ROK-U.S. cooperation that transcends the current North-South divide. The United States has significantly invested in its enduring presence here; the most concrete example is the force relocation plan that will see the establishment of two central hubs around Pyeongtaek and Daegu. But while the military aspects of the Alliance are the most visible, its true strength can be seen in the growing diplomatic, economic, and people-to-people ties that Americans and Koreans strive to cultivate. The two nations have derived great mutual benefit from U.S. presence in the region and stand to continue reaping the rewards of joint cooperation for decades to come.

For years, leaders in the United States and South Korea have understood that their ironclad Alliance is as comprehensive as it is robust, contributing not only to peninsular security, but also to global peacekeeping efforts, economic prosperity, civic cooperation, academic exchange, and environmental protection. In recent years, South Korea has been an invaluable partner, carrying out counterterrorism and counterpiracy operations, and advancing the Global Health Security Agenda.

BUILDING AN INTERNATIONAL COALITION

The bilateral Alliance is ironclad, but it is reinforced by the nations that stand with us in the United Nations Command. Twenty-one countries contributed troops and humanitarian aid to the United Nations forces during the Korean War; 3,959 sons and daughters of these nations lost their lives in Korea. A resilient network of Sending States and international partners continue to significantly bolster readiness.

North Korea's belligerence continues to demand a unified response, with international partners cooperating for peace and security on the peninsula and throughout the region. This year, USFK increased its efforts to further strengthen engagement with the UNC in its day-to-day operations, and

it will continue to aggressively pursue avenues for multilateral participation and international support.

The UNC offers the Alliance a channel through which multilateral engagement in support of the ROK is coordinated. It also provides forces on the ground with a breadth and depth of capabilities that only multiple militaries working in concert can provide. Sending States add crucial support to air, land, and sea operations if and when the Alliance requires additional resources. In the past year, it was evident how critical the UNC can be in operations in the Han River Estuary and along the Demilitarized Zone.

In 2016, the Command welcomed Sending States' enthusiasm to increase participation in joint military exercises and looks forward to discussing enhanced participation and incorporation. Multilateral input and support enable a long-term conversation on how to bring additional international partners into the fold and work with regional and global stakeholders that are invested in bringing peace to the Korean Peninsula. In an important shift, Uganda cut long-running military ties with North Korea and requested a Command-led visit to the Demilitarized Zone. As more countries recognize that the future of Korea lies in Seoul instead of with the regime in Pyongyang, this multinational coalition has the potential to expand even further.



As North Korea digs in its heels, it has never been more important for the United States and South Korea to explore opportunities to increase the scope and strength of the ROK-U.S. Alliance. Maintaining existing channels of military and civilian cooperation will ensure that the United States and South Korea remain prepared to effectively respond to any regional or global threat in the future. But Kim Jong Un's rogue regime will one day be gone, and when it is, the ironclad relationship that stood firm through the dynamic oscillations of the last seven decades will endure. The Alliance is not only ready to deter and defend against North Korea, but is also postured for a peaceful and prosperous future, prepared to continue working in concert to promote the shared values upon which their comprehensive partnership stands. A united partnership that has transcended its beginnings as an alliance against communism, tyranny, and oppression has evolved into a partnership standing for democracy, liberty, and the promotion of human rights throughout the world.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford hosts ROK and Japanese counterparts for the first ever Trilateral Chiefs of Defense meeting, Oct. 14, 2016.



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