



# STRATEGIC NEWSLETTER

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## NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

### **Gen. Abrams visits the Joint Security Area**

The United Nations Command (UNC), Combined Forces Command (CFC) and U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) Commander visited the Joint Security Area (JSA) with Gen. Park Han-ki, Republic of Korea (ROK) Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, within his first week of taking command. During the visit Gen. Abrams reaffirmed that the ROK-U.S. Alliance remains ironclad, and will continue to play an important role in preventing armed conflict on the Korean Peninsula and promoting peace and stability in the region.

### **Gen. Abrams visits the ROK Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Gen. Abrams visited the ROK Ministry of Foreign Affairs for his first meeting with Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha on Nov. 20. In his remarks, Gen. Abrams said that he has every intention of strengthening the ROK-U.S. Alliance. Kang cited a huge change to the security conditions on the Peninsula over the past year, saying, "It's been possible because of the strong Alliance between our two countries. The Alliance has been fundamental to our endeavor and we see that getting stronger and closer as we move forward, and your role is instrumental in this." Gen. Abrams extended his appreciation to the foreign minister for her warm hospitality; affirmed the U.S.'s ironclad commitment to the defense of the ROK; and stated that as USFK Commander, he would continuously support diplomatic efforts to achieve denuclearization and a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

### **UNC supports the Comprehensive Military Agreement**

The UNC continues to support steps towards peace through implementation of the Comprehensive Military Agreement (CMA) signed by representatives from both Koreas in Pyeongyang in Sept. In November, the UNC supported the initial phases of landmine removal to enable safe access for the joint recovery of remains and disarmament of the JSA. Support also included the removal of border guard



SGT. BENJAMIN PARSONS, U.S. ARMY

### **UNC, CFC, USFK Change of Command**

Gen. Robert B. Abrams assumed command of the UNC, CFC, USFK from Gen. Vincent K. Brooks on Nov. 8. A Change of Command ceremony took place on a rain swept Barker Field in front of the UNC and USFK Vessey Headquarters Building at Camp Humphreys. In his remarks, Gen. Abrams stressed the need to maintain a "fight tonight capability" while supporting the diplomatic peace process that is changing the political environment on the Korean Peninsula. He emphasized his commitment to the ROK-U.S. Alliance and UNC Sending States, forged during the Korean War, and strengthened in the decades since. Gen. Abrams takes command during a time when USFK and CFC must maintain high standards of readiness and yet not hinder efforts towards denuclearization.

posts and facilitating inter-Korea road and rail inspections, all while maintaining international sanctions on the North. UNC will continue to support peace efforts without compromising the Armistice and international sanctions until denuclearization of the North is achieved.

## DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

**These officials saw the three commands firsthand during visits this past month.**

- Kari Bingen, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, U.S. Department of Defense, Nov. 4-6
- Air Marshal Phil Osborn, Chief, Defence Intelligence, U.K. Ministry of Defence, Nov. 5-7
- Gen. Paul Selva, Vice Chairman, U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Nov. 6-8
- George Barnes, Deputy Director, National Security Agency, Nov. 6-8

- Lt. Gen. Takayuki Onozuka, Vice Chief of Staff, Japan Ground Self Defense Force, Nov. 7-8
- Lt. Gen. Takashi Motomatsu, Vice Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, Japan, Nov. 7-8
- Adm. Phillip Davidson, Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Nov. 7-9
- Lt. Gen. Jerry Martinez, Commander, U.S. Forces Japan, Nov. 7-9
- Gen. Robert Brown, Commander, U.S. Army Pacific, Nov. 7-11
- Jeong Kyeong-Doo, Minister of National Defense, Republic of Korea, Nov. 8
- Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, U.S. Army, Nov. 14-17
- Lt. Gen. Bergeson, Deputy Commander, U.S. Central Command, Nov. 15-18
- Lt. Gen. Eric Smith, Commander, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Nov. 28-29
- Jonathan Knight, Deputy Director, Defence Intelligence, U.K. Ministry of Defence, Nov. 29-30