



MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
SEOUL
REPUBLIC OF KOREA
15 May 2012

General James D. Thurman
Commander
Combined Forces Command

Dear General Thurman,

On behalf of the Republic of Korea Armed Forces, I would like to extend my utmost respects to Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines of the United States Armed Forces for their noble sacrifices in defending peace and freedom around the world on this momentous occasion of Memorial Day.

This year marks the 62nd anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War. From the very onset of the North Korean hostilities, the United States Armed Forces led the United Nations forces' efforts to defeat the enemy, and preserve the freedom of the Republic of Korea, while sustaining great sacrifices in doing so.

The Korean people have never forgotten that the sacrifices and support of the US veterans, who fought so bravely with us in the Korean War, provided stout foundation for the freedom and prosperity of the Republic of Korea that we enjoy today.



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For the past 60 years since the Korean War, the United States Forces Korea have successfully fulfilled their duties to safeguard the Republic of Korea, and they still stand strong as a testament to the robust bilateral Alliance between our two nations. The Korean people, including myself, are deeply grateful for the unrelenting service and dedication of the USFK service-members.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deep gratitude to all the USFK service-members, who even at this moment are working tirelessly to maintain peace on the Korean Peninsula. It is my sincere hope that our great Alliance will continue to strengthen.

Sincerely Yours,



Kim, Kwan Jin