MEMORANDUM OF SPECIAL UNDERSTANDINGS ON
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Consistent with Paragraph 2 of the Agreed Minutes to Article III of the
US-ROK Status of Forces Agreement,

Recognizing the importance of environmental protection, including the
prevention of pollution on facilities and areas granted to the United States Armed
Forces in Korea under the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1953 and the United States-
Republic of Korea Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) and in the communities
adjacent to such facilities and areas,

The Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of
Korea, consistent with their policies, have reached the following understandings on
governing standards, information sharing and access, environmental performance, and
environmental consultation.

Governing Standards

The Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of
Korea will continue their efforts to protect the environment through cooperating in a
periodic review and update of the Environmental Governing Standards (EGS). These
standards will continue to be developed with reference to the more protective standards
from relevant United States standards and policy and Republic of Korea laws and
regulations as generally enforced and applied within the Republic of Korea, without
prejudice to the United States Forces Korea, by undertaking biennial review of the EGS
for the purpose of accommodating new rules and standards. The Government of the
United States confirms its policy to undertake periodic review of the EGS for the
purpose of accommodating new rules and standards. If more protective rules and
standards come into effect between reviews, the Government of the United States and
the Government of the Republic of Korea will promptly discuss updating the EGS.

Information Sharing and Access

The Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of
Korea shall work together to exchange appropriate information regarding issues that
could affect the health and environment of Republic of Korea citizens and United States
military personnel, the civilian component, and their family members, through the
framework of the Joint Committee established by Article XXVIII of the Status of
Forces Agreement. Appropriate access to facilities and areas will be provided in
accordance with procedures to be established by the Joint Committee. Through the
Environmental Subcommittee of the Joint Committee, the Government of the United
States and the Government of the Republic of Korea will continue to discuss, on a
regular basis, environmental issues related to defense activities in the Republic of Korea
under the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1953. The Environmental Subcommittee will meet
on a regular basis to review areas for information exchange, appropriate access by
Korean officials to facilities and areas, and joint surveys, monitoring, and post-incident
evaluations.

**Environmental Performance**

The Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of
Korea will consult on any risks posed by environmental contamination on United States
Forces Korea facilities and areas, or in the communities adjacent to such facilities and
areas. The Government of the United States confirms its policy to conduct periodic
environmental performance assessments that examine, identify, and evaluate the
environmental aspects of United States Forces Korea operations in order to minimize
adverse environmental effects; to plan, program, and budget for these requirements
accordingly; to promptly undertake to remedy contamination caused by United States
Armed Forces in Korea that poses a known, imminent and substantial endangerment to
human health; and to consider additional remedial measures required to protect human
health. The Government of the Republic of Korea confirms its policy to take
appropriate measures, in accordance with relevant laws and regulations, to respond to
contamination caused by sources outside United States Forces Korea facilities and areas
that poses a known, imminent, and substantial endangerment to human health.

**Environmental Consultation**

The Environmental Subcommittee and other relevant subcommittees of the Joint
Committee will meet regularly to discuss environmental issues related to United States
Forces Korea facilities and areas, as well as environmental issues related to the
communities adjacent to such facilities and areas.

Through the Joint Committee, the Government of the United States and the
Government of the Republic of Korea will work on appropriate procedures to realize
the above understandings on environmental protection.


FOR THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA:

FOR THE REPUBLIC
OF KOREA: