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STRATEGIC DIGEST



2015

2015

STRATEGIC DIGEST



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U.S. MARINE CORPS PHOTO/
LANCE CPL. TYLER S. DIETRICH

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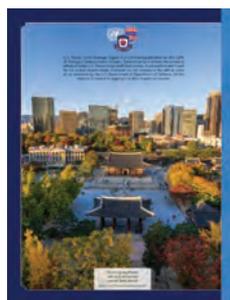
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DEOKSUGUNG PALACE
WITH AUTUMN LEAVES
VIEWED FROM ABOVE

SUNG-JIN KIM PHOTO
WWW.SJKIMPHOTOS.COM

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AMBASSADOR'S LETTER

Ambassador Mark Lippert

I am very honored to serve as the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Korea. The Alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea is one of the most important relationships in the world. Our two countries share deeply held values of free markets, democracy, and respect for human rights and the rule of law. We share a common history of fighting together to uphold these values and to defend our ways of life. The ties between our two countries have never been stronger.

I am proud of the professional team at the American Embassy in Seoul. Our career diplomats,

civil servants from a range of U.S. agencies, and local Korean staff are dedicated to advancing U.S.-ROK relations, building a better future for Americans and Koreans. In 2015, we will continue to work hard to make the Alliance even stronger.

One of the reasons why the Alliance has enjoyed 60 years of success is because of USFK's readiness and commitment to the defense of the Republic of Korea. Our Service Members selflessly put themselves in harm's way to defend the cause of liberty, further democracy, and protect the freedom our two nations cherish. I would like to thank our

American men and women serving in Korea today, thousands of miles away from home, to support our Alliance. We owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude for their sacrifice.

The U.S.-ROK Alliance effectively promotes security and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula, in the Asia-Pacific, and around the world. I hope 2015 will be an exciting year for all of us: Americans, Koreans, diplomats, Service Members, and all who pursue peace, stability, and prosperity.

Sincerely,
Ambassador Mark Lippert



U.S. EMBASSY SEOUL PHOTO

▲ AMBASSADOR LIPPERT WITH STUDENTS DURING A TRIP TO ANDONG, JANUARY 13, 2015.



U.S. EMBASSY SEOUL PHOTO

▲ U.S. EMBASSY SEOUL PERSONNEL PARTICIPATE IN THE NORTH CHUNGCHEONG PROVINCE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SEMINAR IN CHEONGJU, SOUTH KOREA, NOVEMBER 7, 2014.



U.S. EMBASSY SEOUL PHOTO

▲ AMBASSADOR LIPPERT WITH ACTOR KIM HO-JIN AND ACTRESS KIM JI-YOUNG AT THE 2014 SEOUL KIMCHI MAKING & SHARING FESTIVAL, NOVEMBER 14, 2014.

▲ U.S. EMBASSY SEOUL DINNER WITH KOREAN THINK TANK LEADERS, DECEMBER 16, 2014.



U.S. EMBASSY SEOUL PHOTO



INTRODUCTION FROM THE COMMANDER



United Nations Command
Combined Forces Command
United States Forces Korea

General Curtis M. Scaparrotti



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

I am honored to be a part of one of the most successful and longest-standing alliances in modern history. The 2015 Strategic Digest tells the Command's powerful story of dedicated and selfless people joined in a common cause during Armistice and crisis. This year, we are thankful to include perspectives about our mission and the Alliance from the Republic of Korea military, diplomats, and United Nations Command Sending State members ... all are critical to the Command's success in a whole-of-government effort.

The Command's mission is to defend the Republic of Korea and maintain stability in Northeast Asia. Our ability to achieve this mission hinges on our readiness. Over the past year, the Alliance enhanced its future war-fighting and interoperability capabilities by procuring precision guided

munitions; Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance platforms; Command, Control, Communications, Computer, and Intelligence systems; and ballistic missile defense systems. In October, our nations agreed to establish a ROK-U.S. Combined Division this summer to enhance our combined combat posture. Additionally, we increased the deployment of additive, rotational forces that arrive in Korea fully manned, trained, and at the peak of their combat readiness. The progress we have made in our combined defense posture has better prepared the Alliance to "Fight Tonight" and respond to any provocation, instability, or aggression.

As we improved the Alliance's readiness over the past year, North Korea's military also made progress in the development and training of their asymmetric capabilities such as

ballistic missiles, nuclear weapons, and cyber warfare. They increased the frequency of no-notice ballistic missile launches, expanded activities along the Demilitarized Zone and the Northern Limit Line, and threatened to conduct a fourth nuclear test. In this tense setting, our top concern is that a North Korean provocation could start a cycle of action and counter-action, leading to miscalculation and an escalation that could endanger more than 23 million South Koreans and nearly 50,000 Americans in the Seoul Metropolitan Area – all of whom are within North Korean artillery range. This underscores the need for the Alliance to maintain a high level of readiness and to work together.

Despite today's highly complex global security environment and period of fiscal uncertainty, we continue to see tangible evidence of our nation's



U.S. ARMY PHOTO/SGT. BRIAN GIBBONS



PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA SPEAKS TO USFK AND U.S. EMBASSY PERSONNEL AT COLLIER FIELDHOUSE DURING HIS VISIT TO UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON YONGSAN, SOUTH KOREA, APRIL 26, 2014.

“This Alliance is special, forged on the battlefield, and it has been fortified by the common values and mutual interest and mutual respect of our peoples. The United States and Korea are more than allies – we are friends.”

*President Barack Obama
U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan
April 26, 2014*

rebalance to the Asia Pacific region. The President’s 2015 budget included funding for rotational forces, military-to-military cooperation, capacity-building activities, joint training events, and essential force modernization within the region. Additionally, during last October’s ROK-U.S. Military Committee Meeting and Security Consultative Meeting, our nations’ leaders reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening the Alliance and agreed to further develop critical military capabilities to defend South Korea.

Forged on many battlefields and through shared sacrifices, the ROK-U.S. Alliance is the cornerstone for regional stability, security, and prosperity in Northeast Asia. Our shared values, mutual interests, and commitment to democracy and a market economy are grounded in

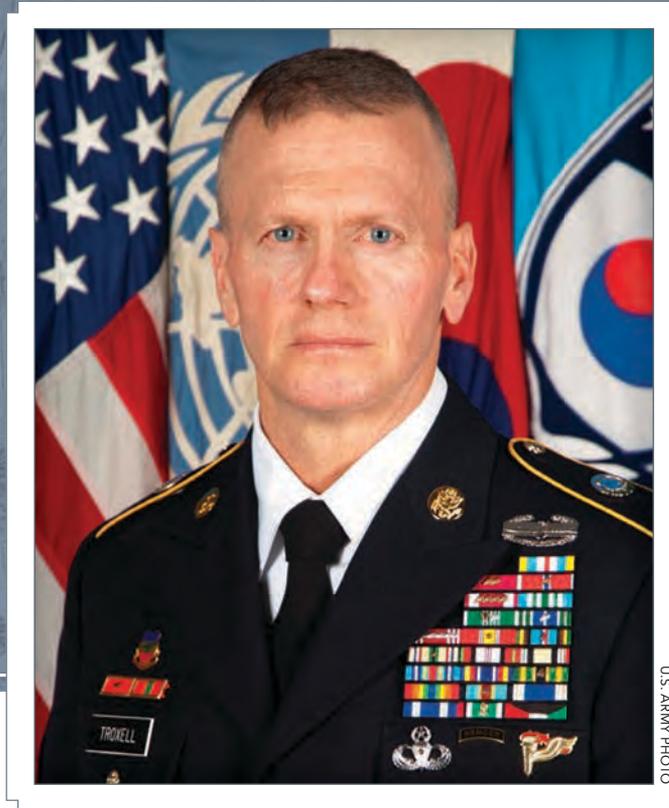
the enduring friendship, trust, and respect that tightly bind the American and Korean people. For over 60 years, our nation’s commitment to South Korea and its people has enabled the Republic of Korea to become one of our most valued allies, a global strategic partner, and a global leader.

I am very proud of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Civilians, and UNC Sending State members serving in our multinational, combined, and joint command. The very freedoms we enjoy testify to the contributions they make to our Quality Alliance in standing firm and deterring a real and formidable threat. The 2015 Strategic Digest showcases those who serve on “Freedom’s Frontier” and make a difference for freedom, prosperity, and security.

Commander’s Priorities For 2015

**One Alliance for One Cause:
The Defense of the
Republic of Korea**

- Sustain and Strengthen the Alliance
- Maintain the Armistice. Be Ready to “Fight Tonight” to Deter and Defeat Aggression
- Transform the Alliance
- Sustain the Force and Enhance the UNC/CFC/USFK Team



COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR'S WELCOME

Command Sergeant Major John W. Troxell

I am proud to lead our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Civilians in the Republic of Korea. We serve our country in a place where we must always maintain readiness. North Korea is not a legacy of the Cold War – the regime poses an increasingly dangerous threat to our Nation. We are here to maintain the Armistice, deter North Korean aggression, and be ready at a moment's notice to "Fight Tonight." Our commitment to this mission will ensure that Northeast Asia remains a stable, prosperous, and vibrant region.

To maintain readiness, our Service Members will continue to

train hard in combined and joint exercises. We will remain strong and resilient – mentally, physically, and spiritually – and vigilant to protect "Freedom's Frontier." Our Service Members are exemplary warfighters who also serve as ambassadors of the United States. I am very proud of the high standard that our Service Members live up to on a daily basis.

Although we are in a challenging environment, we have a great Alliance partner in accomplishing our mission. In 1950, we fought together, shoulder-to-shoulder, against a common enemy on the battlefield. Today, we train together

to deter, defend, and preserve our shared values. I have served in the Army over 30 years in many theaters throughout the world – I can say with confidence that we cannot ask for a better ally and friend than the Republic of Korea and the Korean people.

There is no doubt in my mind that Korea should be the assignment of choice for all Service Members. We deter aggression against a vital threat to our country and maintain stability in one of the most vibrant, strategic locations in the world – all with a gracious and modern host who extends a warm welcome to our Nation's finest men and women.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO/SGT. 1ST CLASS VINCENT ABRIL

▲ A UH-60 BLACK HAWK HELICOPTER ASSIGNED TO THE 2ND BATTALION ASSAULT, 2ND AVIATION REGIMENT, 2ND COMBAT AVN. BRIGADE, 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION, INSERTS U.S. AND ROK SOLDIERS ONTO A LANDING ZONE DURING A COMBINED AIR ASSAULT TRAINING EXERCISE AT CAMP STANLEY, SOUTH KOREA.



ROK NAVY PHOTO

▲ THE TICONDEROGA-CLASS GUIDED MISSILE CRUISER USS LAKE ERIE (CG-70) PERFORMS MANEUVERS WITH THE ROK NAVY CLASS TWO DESTROYER WAN GEON (DDH-978) AND OTHER ROK NAVY SHIPS IN WATERS OFF THE COAST OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA, MARCH 17, 2014.



U.S. MARINE CORPS PHOTO/CPL. LAUREN WHITNEY

▲ ROK AND U.S. MARINES TAKE A SEAT INSIDE A CH53-E, SUPER STALLION DURING EXERCISE SSANG YONG 14, POHANG, SOUTH KOREA, APRIL 1, 2014.

▲ AN MV-22 OSPREY TILTROTOR AIRCRAFT, ASSIGNED TO MARINE MEDIUM TILTROTOR SQUADRON (VMM) 265 (REINFORCED), TAKES OFF FROM THE FLIGHT DECK OF THE FORWARD-DEPLOYED AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT SHIP USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6).



U.S. MARINE CORPS PHOTO/LANCE CPL. HERNAN VIDANA



Northeast Asia Strategic Environment

In the 21st century, the Asia-Pacific region is expected to serve as an engine of the global economy, grow in political influence, and remain the focus of a variety of complex security challenges. The troubled history of the region, combined with the dynamic regional security situation, render strong alliances and partnerships critical to our nation's ability to defend our interests. As the

region faces strategic changes and security challenges, and lacks robust regional security institutions, the United States serves as the constant that provides presence, stability, and a framework for conflict avoidance and resolution. The United States has taken a vital role in Asia, as it has worldwide, in promoting international cooperation and the effectiveness of international rules and norms.

► Security

Northeast Asia has four of the world's six largest militaries in close proximity against a backdrop of historical antagonism and competing territorial claims. Unfortunately, the region lacks conflict prevention or resolution mechanisms. All of the nations in the region are working to adapt to rapidly evolving security dynamics.

RUSSIA

Russia increased its focus on the region, including its military presence and engagement, in a reassertion of its strategic interests.

CHINA

China is continuing on a comprehensive military modernization program, at times acting assertively to press its interests in the region.

NORTH KOREA

North Korea presents a grave threat to stability based on its demonstrated willingness to engage in military aggression and cyber attacks, and to improve asymmetric capabilities including WMD.

JAPAN

Japan is adapting its posture to include a move toward collective self-defense to enhance its ability to contribute to regional and global security. Due to historical issues, this is disconcerting to some of its neighbors.

SOUTH KOREA

South Korea sees the ROK-U.S. Alliance as critical to its security and continues to further develop its formidable military to not only address the North Korean threat, but to also make contributions to regional and global security.



This role is supported by America's enduring military presence, which serves as a foundational and visible element of U.S. leadership and commitment in Asia. In Korea, forward-deployed American forces stand together with our ROK ally and demonstrate unwavering resolve in the face of the growing North Korean asymmetric threat.



OTHER NATIONS

Other nations including the United States and key regional partners like Australia remain committed to contributing to regional stability and the security of allies and partners, to include robust military commitments and capabilities.



ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC) PHOTO

► The Rebalance

The U.S. strategy of rebalancing toward Asia brings together all of the issues laid out above, and ensures America's enduring efforts to act in concert with other nations to further our common values and interests. The whole-of-government nature of the rebalance postures our nation to achieve our interests and support our allies, partners, and the international community to pursue efforts to enhance stability and prosperity. With the U.S. Embassy's country team as the hub of U.S. efforts in Korea, and working in concert with U.S. Pacific Command and the ROK military, the military dimension of the rebalance in Korea is embodied by the United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, and United States Forces Korea.

CHINA PRESIDENT XI JINPING (LEFT), U.S. PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA (CENTER), AND INDONESIAN PRESIDENT JOKO WIDODO (RIGHT) AT THE WELCOME CEREMONY OF THE 22ND APEC ECONOMIC LEADERS' MEETING IN BEIJING, CHINA, NOVEMBER 2014.



THE ROK Today



SUNG JIN KIM PHOTO/WWW.SJKIMPHOTOS.COM

The Republic of Korea is a dynamic nation of 50 million people in a region critical to U.S. interests, as well as regional and global stability. The ROK's success, called "the Miracle on the Han River," is truly remarkable considering that less than 60 years ago the country was one of the poorest nations in the world. Emerging from the destruction of the Korean War, the ROK is now amongst the most vibrant democracies and economies in the world. However, this miracle did not occur by accident. Rather, the drive and spirit of

the Korean people combined with the security and stability provided by its Alliance with the U.S. has led to the ROK today – one of America's closest allies and an increasingly important and prominent player in the international community.

VALUES AND INTERESTS

The ROK and the U.S. share many values and interests and have deep social and cultural connections. Thus, our Alliance is not based solely on security or economic issues. Our values and interests in stability, peace,

and prosperity are in harmony. Our people share deep connections on a broad spectrum of activities and engagement between our peoples. We cooperate on issues ranging from assisting other nations in development and disaster relief to efforts in the realm of science and technology. While our common security and economic interests bring great focus to our international cooperation, our values and interests serve as a foundation for an enduring Alliance that already ranks as one of the most successful alliances in history.



SAMSGUNG TOMORROW PHOTO



ROK MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS AND TOURISM PHOTO

A MODEL NATION & GROWING MIDDLE POWER

Politically and economically, the ROK provides an example for other nations seeking to improve the lives of their citizens. Today, South Korea boasts a prosperous and vibrant economy, the world's 12th largest. With world-class universities and research and development centers, the ROK is also a leader in science and technology, as well as the world leader in internet connectivity with the fastest average internet connection speed. One of the achievements that the ROK is most proud of is its status as a rare nation to transition from being a recipient to a contributor of international development assistance. As a middle power with growing influence, South Korea is increasingly playing a role in setting the international agenda, to include concluding a series of free trade agreements, most notably the Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement. South Korea is also working to tackle some of the toughest international problems including climate change by hosting important initiatives and institutions like the United Nations' Green Climate Fund.

NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

The ROK recently promulgated a new national security strategy titled "A New Era of Hope." Taking a holistic

approach to providing its people stability and security, as well as prosperity and enrichment, the strategy acknowledges the critical role played by the U.S.-ROK Alliance. Unification is another main element of the strategy. "A New Era of Hope" sets forth a framework for making substantive preparations for unification, but keeps in sharp focus, the necessity of maintaining a robust defense posture, and developing future-oriented capabilities. The strategy also looks outward in terms of enhancing the ROK's relations with other nations and contributing to what the strategy calls "the co-prosperity of humankind."

ENDURING ALLY

The ROK is well poised to be an enduring and increasingly important ally to the U.S. based on its achievements and its national security strategy. As stated in the "Joint Declaration in Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States of America" by President Barack Obama and President Park Geun-hye in May 2013, our nations continue to work toward an alliance "to serve as a linchpin of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific." This is not only for the defense of the ROK against a growing missile and nuclear threat from North Korea, but for "a shared future of growth and prosperity."

OPPOSITE PAGE: CITYSCAPE OF SEOUL VIEWED FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP OF MT. ANSAN AT DAWN.

LEFT: AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE ROK'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP IN TECHNOLOGY, SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS HAS INTRODUCED A NEW-CONCEPT MULTI-PURPOSE CULTURAL COMPLEX IN THE HONGDAE AREA.

RIGHT: 2014 INCHEON ASIAN GAMES OPENING CEREMONY.

While our common security and economic interests bring great focus to our international cooperation, our values and interests serve as a foundation for an enduring Alliance that already ranks as one of the most successful alliances in history.



The NORTH KOREAN **THREAT**

North Korea remains a significant threat to United States' interests, the security and prosperity of the Republic of Korea, and the stability of the international community. It has demonstrated its willingness to use force, and continued its development and proliferation of nuclear weapons technology and long-range ballistic missile programs, and cyber attacks, all while denying its citizens the most basic of human rights. Due to the strength of the ROK-U.S. Alliance, North Korea lacks the ability to unify the Peninsula with its large but aging conventional military. North Korea could, however, use its asymmetric arsenal to provoke or attack South Korea, causing instability in the region.

NORTH KOREA'S STRATEGY

North Korea's primary goal is the survival of the ruling Kim family regime. To achieve this, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un must maintain internal security, develop a strong military deterrent, and pursue coercive diplomacy to attempt to compel international acceptance of its nuclear program. Rather than seeking rapprochement with the international community, North Korea's coercive diplomacy leaves it diplomatically and economically isolated. North Korea recognizes the strength of the ROK-U.S. Alliance, its perceived greatest threat. North Korea seeks to fracture the Alliance, to weaken it and deal with the United States and South Korea separately on its own terms.

NORTH KOREA'S INTERNAL SITUATION

North Korea remains a totalitarian dictatorship. Kim Jong-un maintains control as the head of the Korean Workers Party, the Supreme Commander of the North Korea People's Army (KPA), and the leader of the National Defense Commission. An extensive and capable internal security apparatus addresses perceived challenges to his rule, and replacement of top military leaders with those closer to his age solidifies his authority for the near future. Nevertheless, the regime is challenged by long-term struggles with the inefficiencies of a command economy and the population's increasing exposure to external information, a threat the regime must constantly address.

NORTH KOREA'S MILITARY FOCUS

The KPA—an umbrella organization comprising all of North Korea's military services—is the fourth largest military in the world. About 70-75% of its ground forces and 50% of its air and naval assets are within 60 miles

Significant Events Timeline

1998 AUGUST

North Korea fires a multistage long-range rocket which flies over Japan and lands in the Pacific Ocean, well beyond North Korea's known capability.

2006 OCTOBER

North Korea conducts its first nuclear weapons test at an underground facility. The UN adopts Resolution 1718 imposing economic and commercial sanctions on North Korea.

2009 APRIL

North Korea launches a long-range rocket, carrying what it says is a communications satellite; its neighbors accuse it of testing long-range missile technology. Condemnation from the UN Security Council prompts North Korea to walk out of Six-Party Talks and restart its nuclear facilities.

1998



2006



2009



2010

2006 JULY

North Korea test fires seven missiles including a long-range Taepodong-2 missile, which crashes shortly after take-off despite it reportedly having the capability to hit the United States.

2009 JANUARY

North Korea says it is scrapping all military and political deals with South Korea, accusing Seoul of "hostile intent."

2009 MAY

North Korea carries out its second underground nuclear test.

2009 JUNE

UN Security Council approves Resolution 1874 condemning North Korea over its second nuclear test.

of the DMZ. Consequently, assessing an indication of provocation or attack is challenging.

To date, North Korea has conducted three nuclear tests—in 2006, 2009, and 2013. It continues to prepare its test facility and could conduct another test at any time. In recent years, North Korea has continued to develop its asymmetric capabilities such as several hundred ballistic missiles, a sizable long-range artillery force, one of the largest chemical weapons stockpiles in the world, a biological weapons research program, the world's largest special operations forces, and an active cyber warfare capability. These forces can be employed with minimal warning and could cause great damage to South Korea.

Since assuming control three years ago, Kim Jong-un has taken a number of confrontational steps. The regime launched a space launch vehicle in December 2012 and conducted its third nuclear test in February 2013, disregarding United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013), and 2094 (2013). In 2014, North Korea continued to develop its ballistic missile

program, and conducted a multitude of tests of its KN09 developmental multiple rocket launch system, as well as no-notice Scud and No Dong missile tests from a variety of locations throughout the North.

The March 2013 cyber attacks on South Korea's banks and television broadcasting stations are all believed to have been conducted by North Koreans operating from China, and the November 2014 attack on Sony Pictures is also attributed to North Korea.

North Korea's increased activities along the Demilitarized Zone and the maritime Northern Limit Line (where North and South Korean fishing vessels operate closely monitored by both countries navies) remain the primary hotspots on the Korean Peninsula. Tensions have flared between the two countries along the NLL, resulting in casualties on both sides, most significantly North Korea's sinking of South Korea's Cheonan naval ship and the North's shelling of military and civilian targets on South Korea's Yeonpyeong Island. Of late, North Korea has renewed an aggressive posture in the Northwest Islands with their naval vessels and coastal artillery.

The KPA retains the capability to inflict serious damage on South Korea and to support the regime's coercive attempts to manipulate its neighbors through both the threat and acts of violence. However, the KPA likely understands it is not capable of defeating the U.S.-ROK Alliance and reunifying the Korean Peninsula by force, despite its propaganda to the contrary.



NORTH KOREA'S UNHA-3 ROCKET LIFTS OFF FROM THE SOHAE LAUNCH PAD IN TONGCHANG-RI, NORTH KOREA.

2010 MARCH

South Korean warship Cheonan sinks near the Northern Limit Line with North Korea, causing the death of 46 ROK sailors. A team of international experts concludes the ship was sunk by a torpedo launched from a North Korean submarine.

2012 DECEMBER

North Korea successfully launches a "rocket-mounted satellite" into orbit.

2013 MAY

North Korea launches four short-range missiles over one weekend.

2014 MARCH

North Korea test-fires two medium-range No Dong ballistic missiles for the first time since 2009.



2010 NOVEMBER

North Korean artillery fires near the NLL at Yeonpyeong Island result in the deaths of two ROK Marines and two ROK civilians.

2012 APRIL

A rocket launch, viewed internationally as a banned test of long-range Taepodong-2 missile, fails.

2013 FEBRUARY

UN approves fresh sanctions after North Korea stages its third nuclear test, said to be more powerful than the 2009 test.

2014 FEBRUARY

North Korea launches four KN09 rockets and four Scud missiles.

2014 SEPTEMBER

North Korea test-fires several short-range missiles.



SECURITY and PROSPERITY

THROUGH ARMISTICE COMPLIANCE



On July 27, 1953, the Commanders of the United Nations Command (UNC), North Korean People's Army (KPA), and Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) signed the Korean Armistice Agreement, ending a three-year war that caused terrible loss of life, physical destruction, and economic turmoil. This Armistice Agreement was not a guarantor of peace, but rather a military agreement by opposing commanders to separate their forces and abide by specific terms and conditions until a final peace settlement could be achieved. The Armistice Agreement established the Military Armistice Commission, with joint membership from the UNC and KPA, to negotiate and supervise Armistice compliance. Preventing the reoccurrence of hostilities on the Korean Peninsula has required a constant vigil over the decades and is accomplished by trained ROK, U.S., and UNC forces that rigorously adhere to the terms and conditions of the Armistice.

Under the direction of the UNC Commander, the members of the

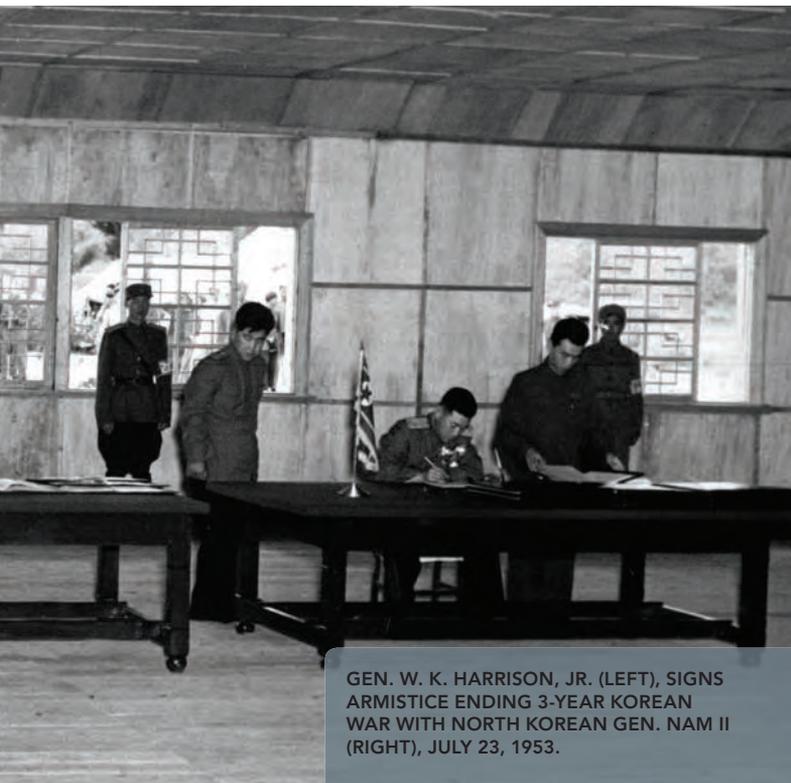
UNC Military Assistance Commission's Secretariat are charged with supervising the implementation of the Armistice Agreement and settling violations of the Agreement through negotiations. Armistice supervision includes investigating suspected Armistice violations, while inspecting and observing activities within the UNC Commander's area of military control, to include the demilitarized zone (DMZ), Han River Estuary, and the Northwest Islands. This supervision also includes controlling access to and monitoring movement within and across the DMZ. To effectively accomplish its Armistice supervisory mission, the UNCMAC Secretariat, which is staffed with military service members from the member states of the UNC coalition, is forward deployed in five locations in or near the DMZ, while maintaining its headquarters in Seoul to coordinate with the ROK military, the UNC staff, and UNC member states.

The Armistice Agreement established a four-kilometer wide DMZ to serve as a buffer zone between

opposing forces to prevent a resumption of hostilities. The creation of the DMZ to separate forces was perhaps the most important aspect of the Armistice Agreement; and despite a history of repeated violations across the DMZ by North Korean forces, ROK and U.S. military forces have consistently responded in measured tones to prevent a resumption of hostilities. The collective desire of the UNC and its 18 member states, to include the ROK and U.S., is to preserve stability in Korea through the Armistice Agreement.

In 2014, in response to the KPA's encroachment in the DMZ and the Northern Limit Line (NLL), ROK forces returned fire on 11 occasions. Fortunately, none of these incidents produced a loss of life nor spread beyond the areas of incursion, but each incident underscored the necessity to accurately assess hostile intentions and actions before employing deadly force.

The UNC continues to make efforts to improve conditions for maintaining the Armistice Agreement.



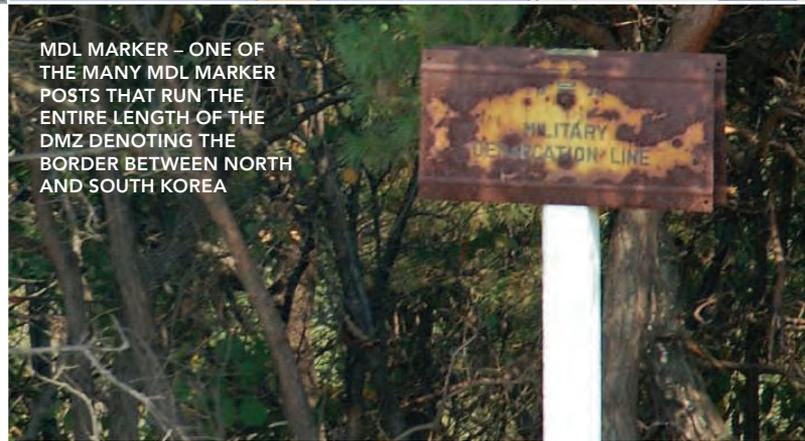
GEN. W. K. HARRISON, JR. (LEFT), SIGNS ARMISTICE ENDING 3-YEAR KOREAN WAR WITH NORTH KOREAN GEN. NAM II (RIGHT), JULY 23, 1953.

U.S. NAVY PHOTO/F. KAZUKAITIS

For example, the original 1,292 sign posts within the DMZ that marked the Military Demarcation Line (MDL), in many cases, are so badly damaged that they are no longer visible. This condition has created a dangerous situation of ambiguity as to the precise location of the MDL in many sectors of the DMZ. On nine occasions in 2014, the KPA rebuffed UNC's request to convene Colonel-level meetings to address re-marking of the MDL. Throughout 2015, UNC will continue to press the KPA to adhere to the Armistice Agreement directive that requires the MAC to supervise the maintenance of MDL markers within the DMZ.

The UNC and ROK military work together to ensure that their forces are properly trained to strictly adhere to the terms and conditions of the Armistice Agreement. The continuing existence of the Armistice has been, and continues to be, essential in maintaining a secure and prosperous South Korea.

PHOTO BY STEPHEN WILSON



MDL MARKER – ONE OF THE MANY MDL MARKER POSTS THAT RUN THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE DMZ DENOTING THE BORDER BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA

SUNG-JIN KIM PHOTO/WWW.SJKIMPHOTOS.COM



SONGDO INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (SIBD): A NEW 'SMART CITY' BUILT FROM SCRATCH ON 1,500 ACRES OF RECLAIMED LAND ALONG INCHEON'S WATERFRONT, 40 MILES SOUTHWEST OF SEOUL.



DEMILITARIZED ZONE (DMZ): EXTENDS 155 MILES ACROSS THE KOREAN PENINSULA



AMERICANS POSE FOR A PICTURE AT GYEONGBOK PALACE.

PHOTO BY LIZ ARATA

AMERICANS IN KOREA

FROM U.S. EMBASSY PERSPECTIVE

In 1950, the vast majority of Americans in Korea were Soldiers fighting alongside South Koreans against North Korean aggressors. Today, the face of American presence in Korea is much more diverse as it includes about 114,000 businesspeople, diplomats, Service Members, teachers, students, and tourists. Sixty years after the signing of the Armistice, approximately 28,500 U.S. Service Members continue to serve in Korea to deter aggression and defend the Republic of Korea. The Alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea has evolved into an unbreakable bond that encompasses defense, diplomatic, economic, and people-to-people ties.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

While the Mutual Defense Treaty underpins the ROK-U.S. security alliance, the Korea - U.S. Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) serves as the foundation

for bilateral economic partnership and growing trade and investment ties. The KORUS FTA established a long-term foundation for our growing economic partnership and has become a key driver in the commercial dimension of our rebalance to Asia since it entered into force on March 15, 2012. U.S. exports to Korea have significantly increased under the favorable terms of KORUS, creating what looks to be the best year ever for U.S. commodities exports. Moreover, the total value of exports to Korea for the period from January through October 2014 reached \$33.6 billion, up from \$30.3 billion during the same period in 2013. The KORUS FTA has also helped Korea attract more foreign direct investment, with American investment up more than 24 percent. South Korea is currently our sixth largest trading partner and the United States is Korea's second largest. Both governments are committed to continuing to improve the

investment climate through deregulation, initiatives that promote innovation, and stronger protection of intellectual property rights. The American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) Korea, which consists of an estimated 1,800 members and approximately 900 companies with diverse interests in the Korean economy, is just one example of America's prominent business presence in Korea.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

On the diplomatic front, the United States and Republic of Korea have joined forces to address global concerns. The two countries have worked together to restore stability and security in Afghanistan, counter foreign terrorist fighters in Iraq and Syria, and take action to confront the Ebola outbreak. South Korea joined the United States and other like-minded countries in speaking out against Syria's use of



**A U.S. EMBASSY SEOUL REPRESENTATIVE TALKS TO ►
KOREAN STUDENTS AT THE SUWON ACADEMY OF
WORLD LANGUAGES, OCTOBER 23, 2014.**

chemical weapons, and continues to be a strong partner in support of efforts by the P5+1 to convince Iran to cease its illicit nuclear weapons development activities. Together, the U.S. and ROK are advancing energy security and economic competitiveness through researching and developing nuclear energy and clean energy technology.

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE TIES

The growing people-to-people ties between Koreans and Americans are another important facet of the U.S. presence in South Korea. Beyond ties between businesspeople, the U.S. State Department has hosted more than 1,200 future South Korean leaders under the International Visitor Leadership Program, including two former presidents and seven former prime ministers. Over 1,100 American college graduates have spent a year or more as teachers in the most rural parts of South Korea under the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) program.

South Korea sends more university students to the United States per capita than any other major economy -- over 72,000 per year. Innovative exchange programs like the Work, English Study, and Travel, or "WEST" program, provide young Koreans internship opportunities in U.S. firms. Moreover, the large Korean-American community in the United States not only serves as a significant link between our two countries, but also makes valuable contributions to the strength and vitality of American society.

A BRIGHT FUTURE TOGETHER

Because of the ROK-U.S. Alliance's contribution to stability and prosperity, U.S. citizens in Korea now come from all walks of life -- from young students to business investors to Korean War veterans. Americans in Korea can pursue their passions in a vibrant democracy with a dynamic economy -- all in one of the most modern and safest countries in the world. In his October 2014 swearing-in, Ambassador Mark Lippert stated, "The partnership between the United States and the Republic of Korea is one of the most important relationships that we have in the world." Americans in Korea strengthen and enhance this partnership on a daily basis.

U.S. EMBASSY SEOUL PHOTO



AN AMERICAN WOMAN GREETES
A BUDDHIST MONK DURING HER
"TEMPLE STAY" EXPERIENCE.

PHOTO BY LIZ ARATA



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROK-U.S. ALLIANCE

For over 60 years, the military partnership between the United States and the Republic of Korea has been a pre-eminent example of bilateral security cooperation. Forged on the battlefields of the Korean War, a three-year war not yet concluded with a formal peace agreement, the Alliance stands the test of time and continues to make an important contribution to the security and stability of Northeast Asia.

Following the signing of the Korean War Armistice Agreement on July 27, 1953, a Mutual Defense Treaty between Seoul and Washington authorized the continued stationing of U.S. forces in South Korea. The Mutual

Defense Treaty serves as the anchor of an Alliance that has become the linchpin of security on the Peninsula. In 1978, in recognition of the growing capacity of the ROK, the Alliance established the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC) to assume the lead role in the defense of South Korea. The UNC remained in place to maintain the Armistice, demonstrate continuing international commitment to security on the Peninsula, and, if necessary, defend South Korea. CFC is a key contributor to stability on the Korean Peninsula, ready to “Fight Tonight” if called upon. The Alliance is engaged in transformation initiatives to ensure we remain capable and postured to adapt to a dynamic strategic environment. The annual Security Consultative Meeting between the U.S. Secretary of Defense and the ROK Minister of National Defense, and the Military Committee Meeting between the Chairmen of our respective Joint Chiefs of Staff are the pinnacle of our Alliance’s defense relationship. The U.S. and ROK militaries share a robust relationship that enables unified action in support of our common objectives.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO/STAFF SGT. RYAN HARRIS



The United States and South Korea continue to act in a common cause based on mutually shared values on the Korean Peninsula and beyond. The hard-earned success on the battlefields of the Korean War garnered a mutual appreciation that remains strong. South Korea continuously proves itself to be among America's most steadfast allies, having deployed forces to fight in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan, and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. Internationally, South Korea engages in counter-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia, in UN peacekeeping operations in eight locations around the world, and most recently in the fight to combat the spread of the deadly Ebola virus. The U.S. and ROK stand side-by-side in Korea and around the world.

During the 46th Security Consultative Meeting in October 2014, the U.S. Secretary of Defense and the ROK Minister of National Defense reaffirmed the commitment of the U.S. and ROK Presidents to continue to build a comprehensive strategic Alliance of bilateral, regional, and global scope based on common values and mutual trust. These were set forth in the June 2009 "Joint Vision for the Alliance of the Republic of Korea and the United States of America" and reiterated in the May 2013 "Joint

◀ ROK MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE THE HONORABLE HAN MIN-GU WITH GENERAL CURTIS M. SCAPARROTTI, COMMANDER, UNC/CFC/USFK, AND GENERAL PARK SUN-WOO, DEPUTY COMMANDER, CFC, DO A PASS AND REVIEW OF THE UNC HONOR GUARD DURING A CEREMONY ON KNIGHT FIELD, YONGSAN, SOUTH KOREA.

Declaration in Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States of America." In light of the evolving security environment in the region, the Secretary and the Minister decided to implement the ROK-proposed conditions-based approach to the transition of wartime operational control (OPCON) from the U.S.-led Combined Forces Command (CFC) to a new ROK-led combined defense command. The Secretary and the Minister reaffirmed the commitment of both sides to OPCON transition when critical ROK and Alliance military capabilities are secured and the security environment on the Korean Peninsula and in the region is conducive to a stable transition. The U.S. and ROK reaffirmed the scope and level of Alliance cooperation should continue to broaden and deepen by strengthening the combined defense posture on the Korean Peninsula and enhancing cooperation for regional and global security in the 21st century.

Against this backdrop, the Minister and the Secretary noted that the efforts of the "Korea-U.S. Integrated Defense Dialogue (KIDD)" significantly advance Alliance objectives by providing senior-level political oversight and coordinating and integrating various defense consultation mechanisms between the ROK and the U.S.

Few alliances in history have proven as effective and enduring as the ROK-U.S. Alliance. Based upon our mutual accomplishments and strength over the past 60 plus years, the Alliance remains well poised to deter North Korean aggression and promote peace in the region.

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON VISITS THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S DONGMYEONG UNIT DURING ITS PEACEKEEPING MISSION TO LEBANON, JANUARY 14, 2012.

ROK MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE PHOTO





U.S. ARMY PHOTO/SSG HEATHER DENBY

STRENGTHENING TAILORED DETERRENCE

▲ CAPT. EDWARD ELLINGSON, 35TH AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BRIGADE, EXPLAINS THE U.S. PATRIOT MISSILE SYSTEM TO REPUBLIC OF KOREA AIR FORCE ACADEMY CADETS, JANUARY 21, 2014.

The ROK-U.S. Alliance strategy toward North Korea has long focused on preserving the Armistice and stability to deter another war on the Korean Peninsula. While this strategy has succeeded for more than 60 years, North Korea continues to use provocations and limited attacks as a component of its strategy. Further, North Korea continues to challenge the security and stability of the region through its development and fielding of asymmetric capabilities. In particular, the North's sustained efforts to develop nuclear weapons as well as ballistic missiles capable of striking the ROK, our allies, and the U.S. Homeland, require vigilance and readiness. The U.S.-ROK Alliance continues to be agile, adapting our strategy and capabilities to meet emerging challenges and threats.

The Extended Deterrence and Policy Committee (EDPC) is the ROK-U.S. Alliance's primary mechanism

for enhancing our ability to deter North Korea from using WMD. The Alliance established the EDPC in late 2010 to deter North Korea's expanding nuclear capabilities and increase confidence in U.S. extended deterrence guarantees. In 2011, the EDPC's focus was expanded to cover all WMD and deterrence concepts more broadly. In October 2014, the U.S. Secretary of Defense and ROK Minister of National Defense agreed to combine the EDPC with the Counter-Missile Capabilities Committee to take a holistic approach to North Korean WMD and missile threats.

TAILORING DETERRENCE

The EDPC created the bilateral Tailored Deterrence Strategy (TDS) in October 2013. The Alliance is now implementing the Strategy in what is one of the EDPC's tangible accomplishments. The Strategy enables the Alliance to deter North Korean

WMD use through a combination of raising the cost of use, denying the benefits of use, and encouraging North Korean restraint.

COUNTERING THE MISSILE THREAT

The October 2014 ROK-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting endorsed "Concepts and Principles for Comprehensive Alliance Counter-Missile Operations" or the "4D Strategy." This strategy will posture the Alliance to detect, defend, disrupt, and destroy North Korean ballistic missile threats. The concepts and principles apply in Armistice, crisis, and war. Further, they will guide operational decision-making, planning, exercises, capability development, and acquisitions. Capabilities include the ROK's "Kill Chain" and Korean Air and Missile Defense System, as well as U.S. capabilities on and off the Korean Peninsula.



NORTH KOREAN BM25 MUSUDAN MEDIUM-RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE ON DISPLAY DURING A NK MILITARY PARADE IN PYONGYANG.

PRINCIPLES OF COUNTER-MISSILE OPERATIONS

The following principles will guide Alliance decision-making, capability development, and operations to counter the growing North Korean missile threat.

1

The Alliance will acquire, field, and employ counter-missile capabilities based on a ROK-U.S. combined threat assessment of North Korean missile threats.

2

The Alliance will drive progress and enhance proficiency in counter-missile operations through combined exercises, training, interoperable capabilities, and refinement of procedures.

3

The Alliance will build and support capabilities required to implement the 4D lines of efforts, to convey the steadfast resolve and ability of the Alliance to counter missile threats.

4

The Alliance will execute counter-missile operations based on bilateral consultation and coordination.

4D LINES OF EFFORTS



Detect

Employ intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets to enable the other lines of effort.



Defend

Engage active and passive defenses to minimize damage and disruption by the North Korean missile threat.



Disrupt

Conduct kinetic and non-kinetic operations to reduce the effectiveness of North Korean missile operations.



Destroy

Execute strike operations to destroy North Korean missile forces and supporting assets.



→ PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENT PARK GEUN-HYE DEPART THE COMBINED FORCES COMMAND HEADQUARTERS FOLLOWING THEIR VISIT WITH GEN. CURTIS M. SCAPARROTTI, COMMANDER, UNC/CFC/USFK, AND DEPUTY CFC COMMANDER, GEN. PARK SUN-WOO, YONGSAN GARRISON, SOUTH KOREA, APRIL 26, 2014. THE VISIT WAS THE FIRST TIME THE LEADERS OF BOTH COUNTRIES MADE A JOINT VISIT TO CFC.

ROK GOVERNMENT PHOTO





KATCHI KAPSHIDA!

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA-UNITED STATES COMBINED FORCES COMMAND

FROM ROK MILITARY PERSPECTIVE

1 CONTRIBUTION TO THE MAINTENANCE OF STABILITY AND SECURITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA AS WELL AS NORTHEAST ASIA

CFC is a military organization that exercises operational control (OPCON) of assigned ROK-U.S. Forces. Because CFC is the center of gravity of the Alliance, CFC's role has helped establish the security of the ROK and North-east Asia and enabled South Korea to grow to be the 12th largest economy in the world. Therefore, CFC has worked as a linchpin of stability on the Korean Peninsula and the Asia-Pacific region.

2 Foothold of the Future Oriented ROK-U.S. Alliance

CFC is enabling ROK-U.S. security cooperation that supports political, economic, cultural, and societal cooperation, serving as a strong foothold for our future strategic alliance. Before the establishment of CFC in 1978, United Nations Command (UNC) had operational control of forces in Korea, and thus the chain of command was through the President of the United States to the U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), U.S. Pacific

Since the 1953 Armistice Agreement, the Republic of Korea (ROK) has been expanding its military role and capability, supported by ROK's economic growth. In the 1970s, South Korea had to adapt to the dynamic security environment on and surrounding the Korean Peninsula. The Combined Forces Command was established on November 7, 1978, to lead the defense of the ROK. CFC has been executing its mission to deter North Korean hostilities against the ROK with both nations' integrated military forces, and to defeat enemy forces if deterrence fails.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO/STAFF SGT. KEITH ANDERSON

Command Commander (USPACOM CDR), and then to the UNC/USFK Commander. Since the activation of CFC, the current structure was established in which CFC executes missions based on the Strategic Guidance and Strategic Directives from National Command Authorities, including both ROK and U.S. Presidents, Security Consultative Meetings of the ROK Minister of National Defense and the U.S. Secretary of Defense, and the Military Committee Meetings of each Chairman of ROK and U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.

U.S. ARMY GEN. MARTIN E. DEMPSEY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF (CENTER LEFT), AND ROK NAVY ADM. CHOI YOON HEE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ROK JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF (CENTER RIGHT), ATTEND A WELCOME CEREMONY AT THE PENTAGON, MARCH 11, 2014.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PHOTO/SSGT. SEAN K. HARP

3 CORNERSTONE OF THE UNIQUE AND BEST COMBINED DEFENSE STRUCTURE

CFC staff directorates are organized to strike a balance between ROK and U.S. personnel. It is unique and powerful to have two nations build such a closely tied command structure.

ROK MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE PHOTO



UNC HONOR GUARD.

Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense Media Agency
<http://www.mnd.go.kr>

4 CONTRIBUTION FOR DEVELOPING ROK OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY

CFC maintains a strong, combined "Fight Tonight" defense posture which deters North Korean provocations by conducting some of the world's biggest annual exercises with multinational, combined, and joint forces: KEY RESOLVE, ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN, and FOAL EAGLE. Through these exercises, the Alliance validates the proficiency of wartime combined operations. Meanwhile, the ROK military maximizes its operational capability by conducting combined tasks with the U.S. forces using cutting edge weapon systems, equipment, and well-developed doctrines.

The ROK-U.S. Alliance as a battle-tested Alliance has shared over 60 years of history. CFC prides itself on having an efficient, combined Command that maintains the stability and security of both the Korean Peninsula and the Northeast Asian region. The spirit of "We Go Together," which is the motto of CFC, will guide the team as it maintains cooperation between two battle-tested allies.



ROK-U.S. MARINE CORPS AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING.

ROK MARINE CORPS PHOTO



CAPABILITIES

OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK) ARMED FORCES

FROM ROK MILITARY PERSPECTIVE

The ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff (ROK JCS) carries out joint operations by executing operational command over joint units and operational commands. By strengthening jointness, the JCS continues to develop its mission execution system that enables close mutual support among the ROK Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and the integration of services. In preparation for conditions-based wartime operation control

transition and to establish a ROK military-led warfighting system, the ROK JCS has been reorganized to execute all operations in the ROK Area of Responsibility (AOR) simultaneously in an integrated manner. In order to do so, the ROK JCS continues to develop its mission execution system that strengthens jointness. Furthermore, the ROK JCS continues to coordinate with USFK to strengthen the ROK-U.S. Alliance.



ROK ARMED FORCES PHOTO

THE ROK ARMY

The ROK Army continues to strengthen its warfighting capabilities to lead joint operations in both Armistice and wartime. The ROK Army consists of the Army Headquarters (HQs), two field army commands, the 2nd Operational Command, Capital Defense Command, Special Warfare Command, and other supporting units. The ROK Army has approximately 495,000 troops; 2,400 tanks; 2,600 armored vehicles; 5,800 field artillery pieces and multiple-launch rocket systems (MLRS); and 60 guided weapon systems. The Army continues to acquire surveillance, strike, maneuver, and counter-fire assets such as reconnaissance Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), K-2 tanks, K-21 infantry fighting vehicles, MLRS, and utility and attack helicopters to maximize the efficiency of its existing forces while obtaining the capability to carry out joint operations.

ROK ARMY K21 INFANTRY FIGHTING VEHICLE FIRES ITS SMOKE GRENADE DISCHARGERS AS IT MANEUVERS DURING A LIVE FIRE GUNNERY COURSE ON A RANGE IN THE NORTHERN PART OF SOUTH KOREA.



ROK ARMED FORCES PHOTO

THE ROK NAVY

The ROK Navy focuses on acquiring the capability to operate multidimensional forces encompassing surface, subsurface, and aerial assets in an integrated manner. The ROK Navy consists of the Navy HQs, Naval Operations Command, Marine Corps HQs/Northwest Islands Defense Command (NWIDC), and other supporting units. The Navy has approximately 70,000 Sailors and Marines, 10 submarines, 110 surface combatants, 10 auxiliary vessels, and 30 anti-mine and supporting vessels. In the future, the ROK Navy will acquire next generation submarines, Aegis destroyers, frigates, Patrol Killer Medium, and maritime patrol aircraft to respond against existing and potential threats.

ROK NAVAL VESSELS MANEUVERING DURING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SECOND BATTLE OF YEONPYEONG.



ROK ARMED FORCES PHOTO

THE ROK AIR FORCE

The ROK Air Force channels its efforts to build capabilities with a self-reliant national defense posture that seeks to secure its capability to deter North Korea and thereby to maintain the Armistice on the Korean Peninsula. The ROK Air Force consists of the Air Force HQs and Air Force operational and supporting units. The ROK Air Force has approximately 65,000 airmen; 400 combat aircraft; 60 Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance (ISR) aircraft; 50 air mobility aircraft; and 160 trainers. The ROK Air Force will acquire next-generation fighters, indigenous Korean fighters, and aerial refueling tankers to develop into an aerospace force with increased operational reach capabilities, air superiority, ISR, and precision strike capabilities.

A ROK AF KF-16C FLIES FORMATION WITH A KOREA-BASED USAF 8TH FIGHTER WING F-16C, A USN EF-18G FROM VAQ-133, AND A USMC AV-8B FROM VMA 311 DURING RED FLAG ALASKA.



ROK ARMED FORCES PHOTO

THE ROK MARINE CORPS

The ROK Marine Corps, as a multipurpose rapid response force, carries out missions to enable friendly forces to seize objectives by conducting amphibious operations in the enemy's rear area. The ROK Marine Corps has approximately 29,000 Marines in two divisions and two brigades. The ROK Marine Corps will develop into a force that can readily adapt to carry out a variety of tasks based on situations and missions such as multidimensional high-speed landing, rapid response, and ground operations.

ROK MARINE CORPS INFANTRY PRACTICE THEIR URBAN WARFARE TACTICS IN AN URBAN RANGE COMPLEX.



ROK ARMED FORCES PHOTO

RESERVE FORCES

Established on April 1, 1968, the ROK Reserve Force is organized with approximately 2,970,000 troops. The Reserve Force, as a critical component of the ROK standing force, continues to strengthen its ready-to-fight capabilities through advanced training with state-of-the-art equipment while maintaining appropriate size of units. The Reserve Force is firmly postured to respond to a wide array of threats such as the North Korean threat, terrorism, and natural disasters. It mobilizes and participates in major exercises and training such as KEY RESOLVE, FOAL EAGLE, and ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN – all with the civilian sector, government, military, and police.

ROK RESERVISTS USE MILES (MULTIPLE INTEGRATED LASER EQUIPMENT SYSTEM) TO CONDUCT REALISTIC URBAN COMBAT TRAINING.



ROK ARMED FORCES PHOTO

ROK ARMY SPECIAL WARFARE COMMAND (SWC)

In case of conflict, units under the Special Warfare Command, with approximately 10,000 troops, will be committed to the enemy's rear area in the early phases of conflict to conduct reconnaissance and surveillance activities, as well as terminal guidance operations. In addition, the Special Warfare Command plays a vital role as a strategic rapid response force in both Armistice and wartime by engaging in counter-terrorism and peacekeeping operations (PKOs) with its sophisticated and advanced capabilities.

COMMANDOS FROM THE ROK ARMY V CORPS CONDUCT PATROLLING DURING TRAINING.



COMPONENTS EIGHTH ARMY



Improved Interoperability and Rotational Forces Highlight Major Changes for Eighth Army

1

2ID PHOTO

For over 60 years, the Alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States has preserved stability and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and throughout the Asia-Pacific. During that time, the structure and functionality of the Alliance has continually evolved to meet the mutual security interests of both nations, while maintaining a critical deterrent to the dynamic threat posed by North Korea.

The Eighth U.S. Army, a disciplined and lethal partner in the Alliance from the very beginning, has been at the tip of the spear for many of the changes. Just within the past year, Eighth Army took several ground-breaking steps that vastly improve interoperability with the ROK Army, and will pay off as we move forward with the transition to a ROK-led defense.

Eighth Army currently supports the Alliance by providing vital capabilities including intelligence, air and missile defense, theater communications infrastructure, sustainment, and ground combat forces.

With a fully modernized combat force that includes the M1A2 SEPv2 Abrams tank, M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle, M1 Assault Breacher Vehicle, M109A6 Paladin, M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System, AH-64D Apache Longbow Block II attack helicopter, UH-60L Black Hawk general-purpose helicopter, and CH-47F Chinook heavy-lift helicopter, Eighth Army will continue to contribute to the success of the Alliance well into the future.

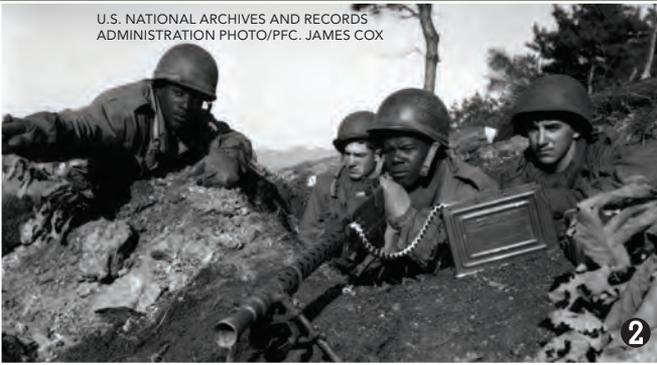
READINESS THROUGH ROTATIONS

To meet the Army's commitment to provide culturally attuned, scalable, mission-prepared capabilities amid the region's constantly changing strategic environment, Eighth Army began supporting routine rotational deployments in October 2013. These rotational deployments expose different Army units to the Korean theater of operations, while providing the Alliance with an improved ability to conduct bilateral military exercises with the ROK military.

The first brigade-sized unit to support Eighth Army will arrive in June 2015 when the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), 1st Cavalry Division from Ft. Hood, Texas, is scheduled to deploy to the ROK to replace the 1st ABCT, 2nd Infantry Division. To this point, Eighth Army has only played host to smaller Battalion or Company sized units, so the arrival of the 2nd ABCT will be a major achievement for Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno's Regionally Aligned Forces (RAF) initiative here in the ROK.

COMBINED DIVISION

Eighth Army achieved a significant milestone in July 2014 by agreeing to the first ROK-U.S. Combined Division. The 2nd Infantry Division will serve as the core of the Combined Division, with ROK and U.S. Army officers functioning as an integrated command team. The first ROK officers arrived in January 2015 with a proposed timeframe for the official establishment of the Combined Division in the first half of 2015.



U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION PHOTO/PFC. JAMES COX



21D PHOTO



U.S. ARMY PHOTO/SPC. JACQUELINE DOWLAND

The concept for the Combined Division is an evolutionary step in the Alliance and is expected to create an enhanced level of synergy at the tactical level through combined planning, training, and execution of operations. As a result, Eighth Army will possess another adaptive capability to deter future North Korean provocations, and, if necessary, to fight and win should deterrence fail.

ROK TROOPS TRAIN AT NTC

In another first for the Alliance, Soldiers from the Third ROK Army deployed in June 2014 along with Soldiers from both the 2nd Infantry Division and Special Operations Command-Korea to conduct Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) exploitation training at the National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, California.

With the persistent and unpredictable chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threat that North Korea poses to the ROK and the rest of the Asia-Pacific region, it is essential that Eighth Army work with its ROK counterparts to increase interoperability to maintain a critical WMD deterrent on the Korean Peninsula.

The ROK Army participation during the training met the Chief of Staff of the Army's strategic objectives, and helped to strengthen the combined capabilities of the Alliance to provide increased awareness of and depth for WMD operations. Future ROK Army deployments to the NTC are tentatively scheduled for every two-to-three years.

CONCLUSION

As the Army prepares for an increasingly complex operational environment, there is no better place to be stationed than Eighth Army. As an Eighth Army Soldier, there is a great opportunity to excel in the profession of arms through combined and joint training with the ROK Army, while helping to deter aggression and defend the Korean Peninsula against conventional and nonconventional threats.

From our storied legacy of service in the past, to maintaining the Army's first permanently integrated combined training environment in the future, it is an exciting time to be a Pacific Victor. Eighth Army: The Warfighter's premier assignment.

- 1 AIR ASSAULT TRAINING 2014.
- 2 FIGHTING WITH THE 2ND INF. DIV. NORTH OF THE CHONGCHON RIVER, SFC. MAJOR CLEVELAND, WEAPONS SQUAD LEADER, POINTS OUT COMMUNIST-LED NORTH KOREAN POSITION TO HIS MACHINE GUN CREW, NOVEMBER 20, 1950.
- 3 EXPERT INFANTRYMEN BADGE TRAINING.
- 4 AN OH-58D KIOWA WARRIOR HELICOPTER OF 6TH SQUADRON, 17TH CAVALRY REGIMENT, PROVIDES CLOSE ATTACK COMBAT SUPPORT AS BRADLEY FIGHTING VEHICLES OF 1ST BATTALION, 12TH CAVALRY REGIMENT ENGAGE THEIR TRAINING TARGETS AT RODRIGUEZ RANGE NEAR POCHEON, SOUTH KOREA, JULY 9, 2014.



COMPONENTS SEVENTH AIR FORCE



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO/SSGT JASON COLBERT

For more than six decades, a major cornerstone of the Alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea has been technological superiority over those who would threaten the security of the ROK. In 2014, both sides of the Korea air power team took significant steps to extend that superiority into the 21st century.

Joint Publication 1-02 defines air superiority as: “The degree of dominance in the air battle by one force that permits the conduct of its operations at a given time and place without prohibitive interference from air and missile threats.”

Air power represents a critical asymmetric advantage over our potential enemies in the Northeast Asia region. Should deterrence one day fail us and use of military force become necessary to confront aggressors in Northeast Asia, the first objective of the Combined Forces Commander is to gain and maintain air superiority in order to shape the battlefield and allow the free movement of air, ground, and naval forces, unimpeded by airborne threats.

The U.S. Air Force already has a significant presence of F-16 and A-10 aircraft in the ROK, which for decades have been constantly ready to take to the skies to meet any threat. However, the Korea air power team comprises much more than Airmen. It includes Soldiers, Sailors and Marines as well, without whom we simply could not “Fight Tonight.” We rely on Army surface-to-surface missiles and air defense; we rely on Navy aviation, fires and Aegis cruisers; and we rely on Marine aviation to achieve our objectives.

But U.S. airpower only serves to augment our very strong and technologically advanced partners in the ROK Air Force. At 65,000 strong, the ROKAF is a powerful modern air force that flies a variety of combat aircraft, to include versions of the F-15 and F-16. They also use H and J-model C-130s and a variety of reconnaissance aircraft.

In 2014, the ROKAF took some major steps to secure the future of their inventory. The ROKAF rolled out the results of their long-term project, the

FA-50. The FA-50 is a light fighter designed to replace aging ROKAF F-5 and A-37 fleets. The design phase of this extremely capable airframe began in 1997, and the progress through the long process of design, testing, and production is truly impressive. In fact, the U.S. Air Force is currently considering purchasing a fleet of the trainer version of the airframe, the T-50, to replace our own aging fighter-trainers. Most impressive of all, every component of the FA-50 was designed and produced in the Republic of Korea.

Another critical aspect to ROKAF's future inventory is its participation in the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program. This year, the Korean Ministry of National Defense moved forward with investment in a fleet of 40 F-35s, to begin arriving on the Peninsula in 2018. The F-35 will exponentially increase ROKAF's stealth, air-to-surface, air-to-air, ISR, and electronic warfare capabilities. ROKAF F-35s will also help their interoperability with future fleets of F-35s from the United States and a



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO/SENIOR AIRMAN KATRINA HEIKKINEN



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO/SENIOR AIRMAN PETER REFT

variety of our allies from around the world.

In the meantime, the ROKAF has extended the capabilities of their current inventory. Over the past two years, they have participated in RED FLAG ALASKA, the premier U.S. Air Force exercise in the Pacific. In September of 2014, airmen from the ROKAF's 20th Fighter Wing became the first to fly Korean F-16 aircraft across the Pacific Ocean, a major logistical accomplishment requiring extensive planning and multiple mid-air refueling missions. Their reward was to be the first KF-16s to participate in RED FLAG ALASKA, in which dozens of fighter aircraft flew hundreds of tactical air combat sorties designed to transform developing air crews into seasoned veterans.

Meanwhile, the U.S. side of the air component also made great strides in 2014. In November, we hosted the biggest-ever MAX THUNDER exercise at Kunsan Air Base, with more than 1,300 Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines

working alongside our ROKAF counterparts to practice accepting follow-on forces, then generating a high volume of combat sorties shortly after their arrival.

We also made history with our most recent BEVERLY BULLDOG exercise, where in addition to our routine readiness training, we tested our capability to receive follow-on forces for the first time, in the form of fighter aircraft from U.S. air bases in Japan.

The ROK-U.S. Alliance represents one of the strongest military partnerships in the world. Together, the combined air component has stood ready to quickly achieve air superiority for more than 60 years. Our constant readiness is one major aspect of the deterrent represented by U.S. and ROK forces that has helped maintain stability in Northeast Asia ever since the signing of the Armistice in 1953. The collective steps and investments we've made this year will ensure that our considerable air power is ready to "Fight Tonight" for decades to come.

- 1 F-15K SLAM EAGLES FROM THE ROK AIR FORCE'S 11TH TACTICAL FIGHTER WING OUT OF DAEGU AIR BASE, FLY HOME WITH AN F-16 FIGHTING FALCON FROM KUNSAN OVER KUNSAN AIR BASE, REPUBLIC OF KOREA.
- 2 STAFF SGT. MONICA BIZALLION RUIZ, 8TH SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON MILITARY WORKING DOG HANDLER, AND HER ASSIGNED 6-YEAR-OLD GERMAN SHEPHERD, STELLA, CONDUCT A CUSTOMS SECURITY INSPECTION AT KUNSAN AIR BASE, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, NOVEMBER 13, 2014.
- 3 U.S. AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. ZACKERY CODER, 36TH AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE UNIT CREW CHIEF ASSIGNED TO OSAN AIR BASE, SOUTH KOREA, CHECKS COMPUTER DATA DURING EXERCISE RED FLAG, EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, ALASKA, JUNE 19, 2014.



COMPONENTS COMMAND NAVAL FORCES KOREA



U.S. NAVY PHOTO/MC2 DECLAN BARNES

Deployed naval forces from the U.S. Seventh Fleet maintain continuous forward presence in waters around the Korean Peninsula to provide credible combat power and deterrence that contributes to the area's stability. A key part of this presence and deterrence comes from the close relationship and interoperability between the U.S. and ROK Navies. Each year, the U.S. and ROK Navies conduct more than 20 bilateral and multilateral exercises to enhance cooperation and increase readiness in the maritime domain. Additionally, U.S. Navy ships make more than 40 port visits each year in cities around South Korea, strengthening the Alliance through theater security cooperation engagements with ROK military forces and community outreach events with local citizens.

The USS George Washington (CVN 73) is the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier and conducts routine bilateral exercises in the Korea Area of Responsibility

(AOR) with the ROK Navy and Air Force. When combined with guided missile destroyers and cruisers, the carrier strike group is equipped with up to 12 ships and 75 aircraft. The surface combatant destroyers and cruisers often operate independent of the carrier strike group alongside their ROK Navy counterparts, providing theater Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) and long-range Tomahawk land-attack missile capabilities. Additionally, the U.S. Navy's advanced attack and ballistic missile submarines conduct routine exercises with the ROK Navy providing additional deterrence capabilities in the Korea AOR from under the sea.

The FOAL EAGLE exercises in March 2014 showcased the first bilateral training engagements with the U.S. Navy's newest maritime patrol aircraft, the P-8 Poseidon, and P-3 Orion aircraft from the ROK Navy. A militarized version of the Boeing 737, the P-8 provides intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities to the Alliance. The aircraft

also carries sonobuoys and torpedoes for anti-submarine warfare.

Additionally, the FOAL EAGLE exercise enables the U.S. and ROK Navies to exercise the full spectrum of maritime operations from anti-submarine warfare, joint tactics and maneuvering, salvage operations, mine warfare, and harbor recovery operations.

The Seventh Fleet also routinely deploys its four amphibious ships to the Korea AOR, the largest of which is the helicopter carrier USS Bonhomme Richard. Nearly the size of the USS George Washington, Bonhomme Richard is capable of carrying dozens of helicopters or MV-22 Ospreys and approximately 1,000 Marines. Amphibious ships are specifically designed to operate relatively close to shore in support of amphibious operations, but their design also makes them well suited to supporting humanitarian relief efforts.

In April 2014, the U.S. and ROK Navies, along with their Marine Corps counterparts, successfully



1
 IN WATERS TO THE WEST OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA, LT. LEE, DONG-HOON, ROK NAVY, AND LT. VINCENT SIMMON STAND WATCH IN THE COMBAT INFORMATION CENTER OF THE ARLEIGH BURKE-CLASS GUIDED-MISSILE DESTROYER USS KIDD (DDG 100) DURING BILATERAL OPERATIONS, JULY 17, 2014.

2
 IN WATERS TO THE EAST OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA, A LANDING CRAFT AIR CUSHION (LCAC) PREPARES TO ENTER THE WELL DECK OF WHIDBEY ISLAND-CLASS AMPHIBIOUS DOCK LANDING SHIP USS ASHLAND (LSD 48) FOR ON LOAD OF M1A1 ABRAMS MAIN BATTLE TANKS, APRIL 4, 2014.

2

U.S. NAVY PHOTO/MC RAYMOND D. DIAZ III

carried out Exercise SSANG YONG. SSANG YONG, which means “Twin Dragons.” This is an annual combined exercise designed to strengthen interoperability and working relationships across a range of capabilities from disaster relief to complex, expeditionary operations. During SSANG YONG 2014, forward-deployed Navy forces and forward-based Marine forces demonstrated their ability to provide rapid deployment for a full range of military operations and contingencies in the Korea AOR.

Shortly after SSANG YONG, in mid-April 2014, the Sailors and Marines assigned to USS Bonhomme Richard put their training for contingencies to the test as the ship and its embarked air wing spent two weeks rendering assistance to the ROK Navy to support search and rescue operations for the sunken Korean passenger ferry Sewol.

In July 2014, the USS George Washington Strike Group returned to Korea for a strategic port visit to the city of Busan and bilateral exercises with the

ROK Navy along with the U.S. and ROK Air Forces. Additionally, the USS George Washington hosted more than 50 senior-level ROK dignitaries, from civil government to senior military officers, for guest embarks at sea, demonstrating the U.S. Navy’s strong forward presence and deep commitment to the security and stability of the Korean Peninsula.

U.S. Navy mine countermeasure ships also have routine presence in Korea with the capability to locate and neutralize mines and clear vital shipping lanes. Additionally, the Seventh Fleet maintains two MH-53E Sea Dragon mine countermeasure helicopters at Camp Mujuk that provide additional readiness for contingencies in waters around the Korean Peninsula. In October 2014, the U.S. and ROK Navies came together for exercise CLEAR HORIZON, a week-long bilateral exercise and exchange aimed at improving proficiency and enhancing capabilities across the full spectrum of maritime mine countermeasure operations.

U.S. Navy presence in Korea is more important than ever. U.S. naval forces help encourage dialogue, promote growth, and ensure the free flow of trade. Ninety percent of the world’s commerce travels by sea. Six of the 10 busiest shipping ports are located in Northeast Asia, including the port of Busan, which is the fifth largest commercial sea port by volume.

The nation’s rebalance to the Pacific will result in a shift to 60 percent of U.S. Navy fleet assets to the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, many of which will spend time operating in the Korea AOR. The U.S. Navy’s new Littoral Combat Ships (LCS), MV-22 Ospreys, EA-18 Growlers, P-8 aircraft, and the most up-to-date ships of each class, including the DDG 1000 Zumwalt class destroyers when commissioned, and the forward deployment of two additional BMD-capable destroyers, will all have future presence in Korea working alongside the ROK Navy to help maintain stability in the maritime domain.



COMPONENTS MARINE CORPS FORCES KOREA



U.S. MARINE CORPS PHOTO/CPL. SARA A. MEDINA

The U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Korea (MARFORK), is a service component headquarters assigned to USFK. It coordinates support for U.S. Marine units that come primarily from the III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) located in Japan. In peace time, its small headquarters staff focuses on maintaining a high state of preparedness for contingency operations, both for itself and the units it would support. The annual USFK exercises ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN and KEY RESOLVE are the main venues for MARFORK staff training and amphibious force integration, but year-round events provide multiple opportunities to strengthen the bonds between the U.S. and ROK Marine Corps, and between III MEF forces, USFK, and the Combined Forces Command.

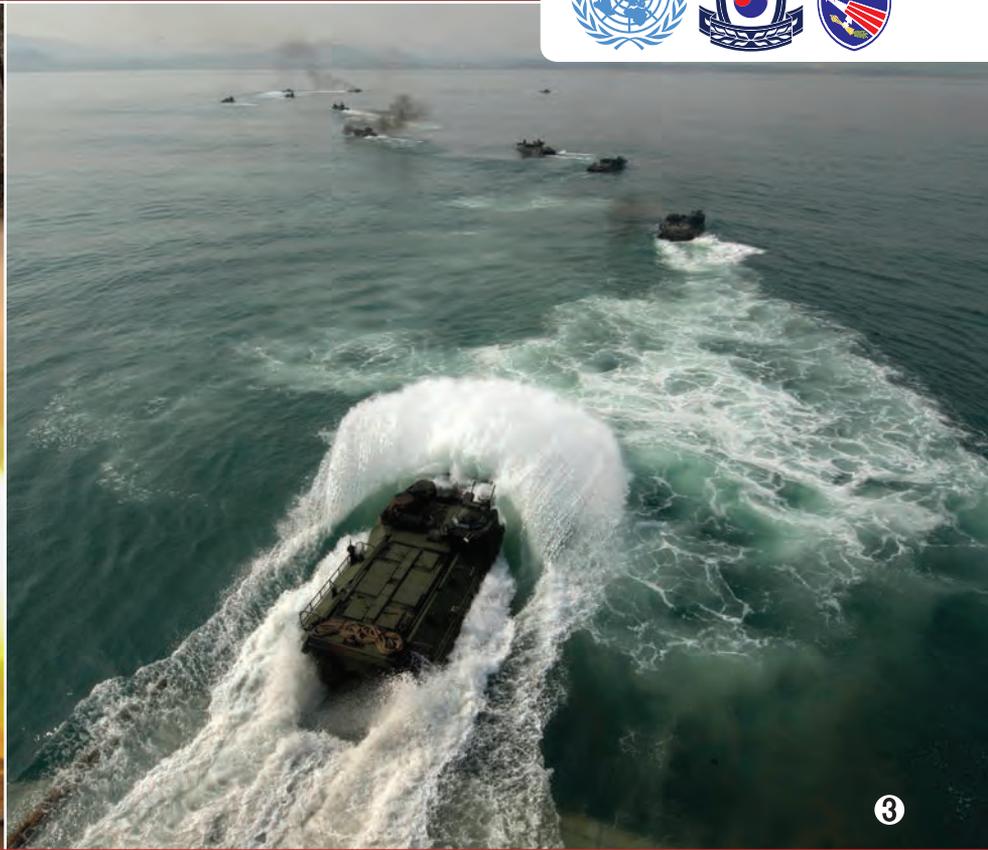
III MEF, based in Okinawa, mainland Japan, and Hawaii, is a part of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force and falls under Marine Corps Forces

Pacific. III MEF is able to rapidly deploy units to perform actions including humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to high-intensity combat and sustainment operations ashore. Comprised of the 3rd Marine Division, 1st Marine Air Wing (MAW), and 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF is the main force provider to USFK's Combined Marine Component Command (CMCC) during wartime. During Armistice, with MARFORK's assistance, III MEF rotates units to the Korean Peninsula through various military exercises in order to maintain a close working relationship with both the ROK Marines and USFK.

MARFORK maintains a close relationship with the ROK Marine Corps and helps ensure that combined planning and training events are of optimal benefit to both countries. Through daily staff interaction, staff talks, and general officer engagements both in and outside of Korea, MARFORK seeks to aid in

the enhancement of the ROK Marine Corps through several ongoing initiatives, such as the expansion of its aviation capabilities with the assistance of 1st MAW, and the development of a battalion-size live fire combined arms maneuver range, smaller in scope but identical in purpose to the U.S. Marine Corps facility in Twentynine Palms, California. The close relationship with the ROK Marines is maintained through the Korea Marine Exercise Program (KMEP). This cooperation deepens a strong partnership that already exists between the two Marine Corps.

In 2014, U. S. and ROK Marines conducted 13 combined KMEP events. These exercises spanned most of the year and ranged in size from platoon to regimental level. The forces for these exercises came from III MEF units along with ROK Marines from First and Second Divisions and the Northwest Islands Defense Command. The training was conducted



U.S. MARINES/CPL. LAUREN WHITNEY

U.S. NAVY PHOTO/MC RAYMOND D. DIAZ III

in a wide range of locations and ranges (aviation and ground) in order to meet weapons and maneuver requirements. From the Northwest Islands to the seas off of Pohang, South Korea, CMCC forces exercised the full range of military operations the U.S. and ROK Marine Corps could be expected to perform during conflict along with exchanging tactics, techniques, and procedures. Additionally, the U.S. and ROK Marine Corps' regiments combined with Australian Army units and ROK and U.S. Navy units to conduct SSANG YONG 14. This large force amphibious training exercise included 10 L-class ships and was the largest amphibious task force with embarked Marines to operate in the ROK since the late 1990s (equivalent to a Marine Expeditionary Brigade accompanied by military pre-position shipping). Directed by U.S. Marine

Corps Forces Pacific and the ROK Marine Corps, this exercise was the culminating event of the annual training plan and rehearsed all aspects of the Marine Air Ground Task Force during Combined Forcible Entry Operations in an amphibious venue, as well as follow-on actions ashore.

The U.S. Marine Corps is the premier amphibious fighting force in the world, and MARFORK makes this warfighting capability readily available to employ on the Korean Peninsula. Although a small staff when compared to other U.S. services in the ROK, MARFORK assumes a large responsibility during both Armistice and contingency operations. The close Marine Corps relationship ensures that the two forces, each powerful on its own, can combine to give the UNC/CFC/USFK commander a lethal amphibious capability.

1 MARINES WITH FOX COMPANY, BATTALION LANDING TEAM, 2ND MARINE REGIMENT, 3RD BATTALION, PERFORM A SIMULATED VERTICAL ASSAULT EXERCISE DURING SSANG YONG 14, AT POHANG, SOUTH KOREA, APRIL 2, 2014.

2 U.S. MARINES WITH DELTA BATTERY, 2D BATTALION, 14TH MARINES, 14TH MARINE REGIMENT, ASSIGNED TO III MEF, FIRE A REDUCED RANGE PRACTICE ROCKET FROM A HIGH MOBILITY ARTILLERY ROCKET SYSTEM (HIMARS) DURING A COMBINED JOINT LIVE FIRE EXERCISE, AT RODRIGUEZ LIVE FIRE COMPLEX, SOUTH KOREA, MARCH 28, 2014.

3 AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT VEHICLES LAUNCH FROM THE WELL DECK OF WHIDBEY ISLAND-CLASS AMPHIBIOUS DOCK LANDING SHIP USS ASHLAND (LSD 48) NEAR POHANG, SOUTH KOREA, MARCH 31, 2014.



COMPONENTS SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND KOREA



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO/ STAFF SGT. RASHEEN A. DOUGLAS

Special Operations Command-Korea (SOCKOR) is the Theater Special Operations Command (TSOC) in the Republic of Korea. SOCKOR is a functional component command of USFK, and maintains reach-back capability to United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) and the global Special Operations Forces (SOF) network to ensure rapid and responsive options to emerging threats in Northeast Asia.

SOCKOR commands and controls SOF across three organizations in support of the Alliance: US SOF to counter North Korean asymmetric threats in Armistice, crisis, and war; U.S. and United Nations Sending States SOF in support of the Combined Unconventional Warfare Task

Force (CUWTF); and, when ordered, the ROK Special Warfare Command (SWC), as one of the six warfighting components of the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC).

The relationship between the United States Special Operations community and the Republic of Korea spans more than 60 years. This enduring relationship is a critical element of the United States' ability to support the Alliance and defend the region. Since its inception, SOCKOR has been the only TSOC in which U.S. and host nation SOF are institutionally organized for combined operations. SOCKOR and the ROK SWC are integrated during armistice, crisis, and war. Our headquarters staffs work together daily and SOCKOR maintains Army, Navy, and

Air Force Special Operations elements to liaise and train with ROK Special Operations units. Special Forces Detachment-39 works with the ROK SWC brigades; the U.S. Navy SEAL liaison element is co-located with the ROK Naval Special Warfare Flotilla; the U.S. Air Force Special Operations liaises with the ROK Air Force 255 Squadron; and the Joint Special Operations Liaison Element coordinates with the U.S. Seventh Air Force and ROK Air Force Operations Command when conventional air support is required.

SOCKOR trains in annual Joint Chief of Staff exercises, with the CUWTF and UNCSOC staffs, and conducts rigorous training in the challenging Korean terrain through Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET)



SOCKOR PHOTO

2



ROK ARMED FORCES PHOTO

3



ROK ARMED FORCES PHOTO

4

exercises. U.S., ROK, and UNC SOF partners enhance interoperability and increase capability through these exercises, which strengthen both the Alliance and the SOF global network.

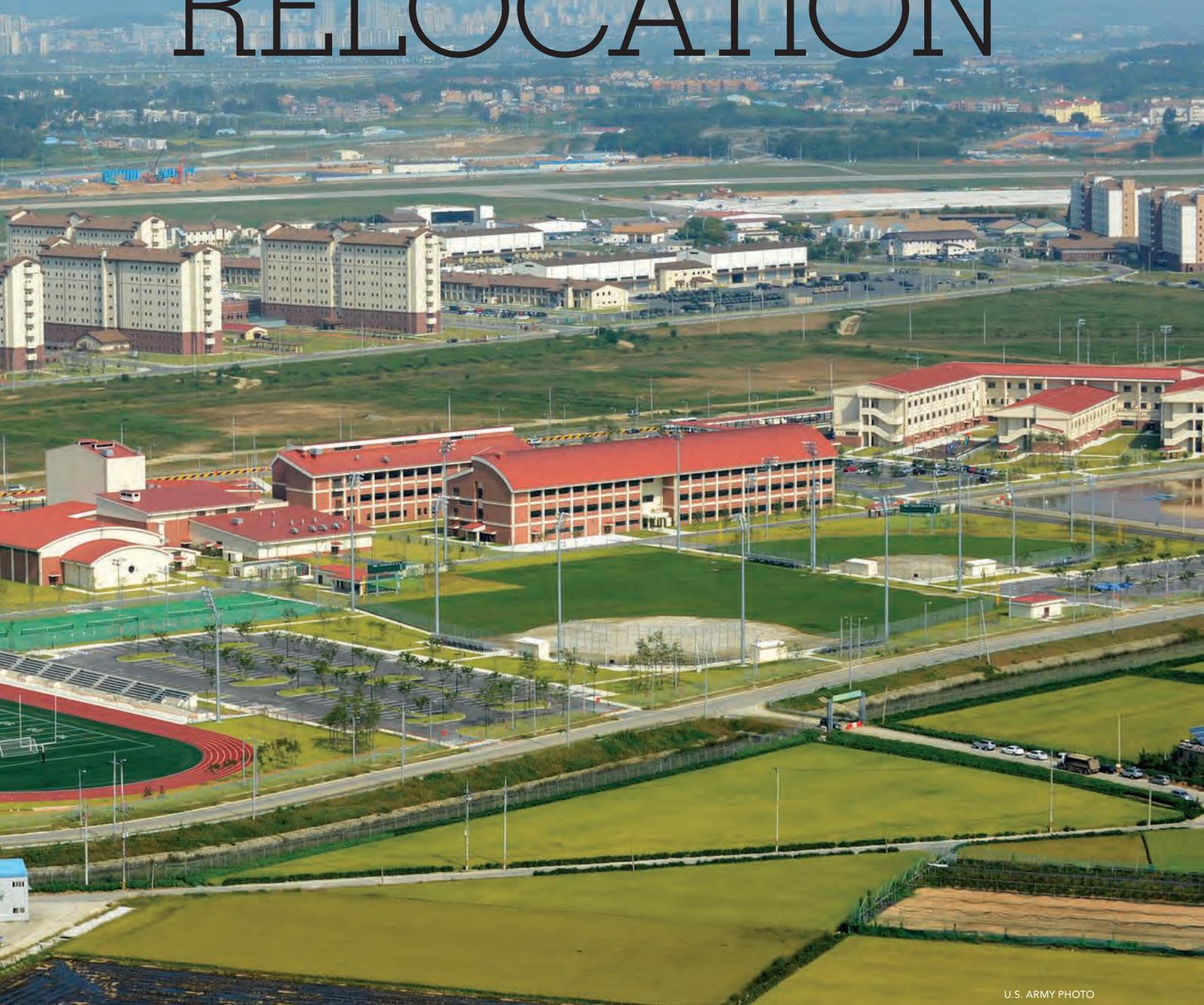
SOCKOR is committed to enhancing interoperability with U.S., ROK, and international SOF partners and conventional forces. In 2014, SOCKOR, in coordination with USSOCOM and USFK, expanded the rotational U.S. SOF presence in the Korean Area of Responsibility to further enhance SOF readiness, training, and agility. These rotational forces enhance interoperability, further the development of diverse SOF capabilities in Korea, and provide the strategic options required by the Alliance's leaders to mitigate threats in an evolving and uncertain world.

The United States and its allies expect SOF to accomplish the most challenging missions and, in today's dynamic and complex environment, the U.S. Special Operations community is committed to supporting our Ground Component Commanders with the immediate resources to address their requirements. SOCKOR provides greater strategic options and the operational forces to deter any number of emerging asymmetric threats in Northeast Asia. The integrated U.S., ROK, and UNC SOF partners leverage their relationships, expand interagency and intergovernmental partnerships, and draw on partnerships throughout the global SOF network to provide U.S. national and military leaders with immediate and decisive strategic options and solutions.

- 1 SOLDIERS FROM SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND KOREA'S (SOCKOR) 39TH SPECIAL FORCES DETACHMENT (AIRBORNE) AND THE ROK ARMY SPECIAL WARFARE COMMAND REVIEW COORDINATES OF THE DROP ZONE ON A MC-130 DURING A RECENT HIGH ALTITUDE LOW OPENING (HALO) OPERATION. U.S. & ROK SERVICE MEMBERS PERFORMED A JUMP TOGETHER AT 10,000 FEET.
- 2 U.S. NAVY SEALS AND THEIR ROK NAVY COUNTERPARTS CONDUCT A NIGHT TIME SHIP BOARDING ASSAULT DURING EXERCISE FOAL EAGLE.
- 3 ARMY SPECIAL WARFARE FORCE SOLDIERS
- 4 CONDUCT COLD WEATHER TRAINING.



FORCE RELOCATION



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

To posture forces on the Korean Peninsula in support of U.S. and the ROK national interests, both governments agreed to consolidate USFK into two enduring hubs south of Seoul near the cities of Pyeongtaek and Daegu. By consolidating into these two hubs, USFK will enhance readiness, improve efficiencies, and further augment Alliance capabilities. The USFK transformation program will accomplish these relocations through two major plans: the Yongsan Relocation Plan (YRP) and the Land Partnership Plan (LPP).

The YRP agreement is funded by the ROK Government to relocate USFK and United Nations Command Headquarters in the Greater Seoul Metropolitan Area to U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys (USAG-H) in Pyeongtaek. The LPP agreement consolidates forces north of Seoul to USAG-H, while still providing access to northern training areas and ranges. The majority of relocations involve U.S. Army units.

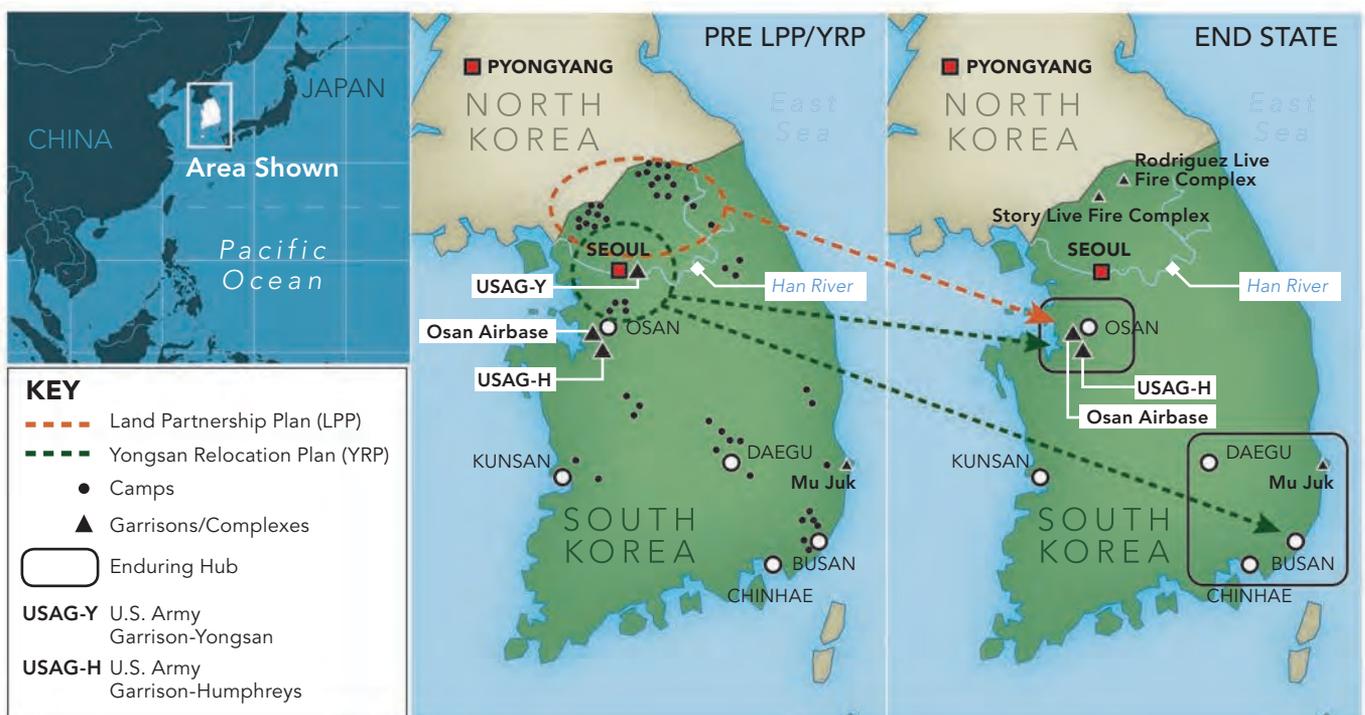
To support decisions of the 46th Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) in October

2014 by the U.S. Secretary of Defense and the ROK Minister of National Defense, USFK is assessing the U.S. Army Garrison-Yongsan footprint to sustain the Combined Forces Command (CFC) headquarters, including the minimum necessary personnel and facilities, until operational control (OPCON) transition occurs. That same assessment will also determine the Yongsan residual footprint which is expected to significantly reduce Yongsan to a smaller boundary, in order to return the vast majority of land to South Korea. At the SCM, the Alliance also agreed to maintain critical defense capabilities, like the 210th Field Artillery Brigade, north of the Han River, but will not delay the majority of 2nd Infantry Division (2ID) units from relocating south to Humphreys.

The USFK Transformation and Restationing Office (T&R), established in 2001, manages the YRP/LPP \$10.7 billion transformation program, which is well underway with over \$1 billion in current construction, including over 600 facilities.

AERIAL VIEW OF THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED CAMP HUMPHREYS MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS AND SPORTS COMPLEX (CENTER FRONT). THE SCHOOL OFFICIALLY OPENED JANUARY 8, 2014. DO-DEA KOREA DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT DR. IRBY MILLER SAID AFTERWARDS, "HUMPHREYS MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL IS TRULY AN EXCEPTIONAL LEARNING FACILITY IN EVERY REGARD."

Relocation Program



U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys

Family Housing

HUMPHREYS HIGH SCHOOL

A 950 student DoD dependent high school, including classrooms, shops, auditorium, gymnasiums, multi-purpose rooms, cafeteria with kitchen, information center, and administrative areas.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

CAMP HUMPHREYS HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS

Community Services

DENTAL CLINIC

The dental clinic includes 79 dental treatment rooms (DTR). Ancillary support services include radiology and central sterilization.

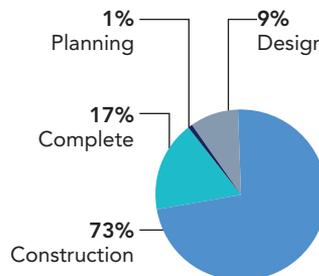


COURTESY PHOTO

ARTIST RENDERING OF DENTAL CLINIC

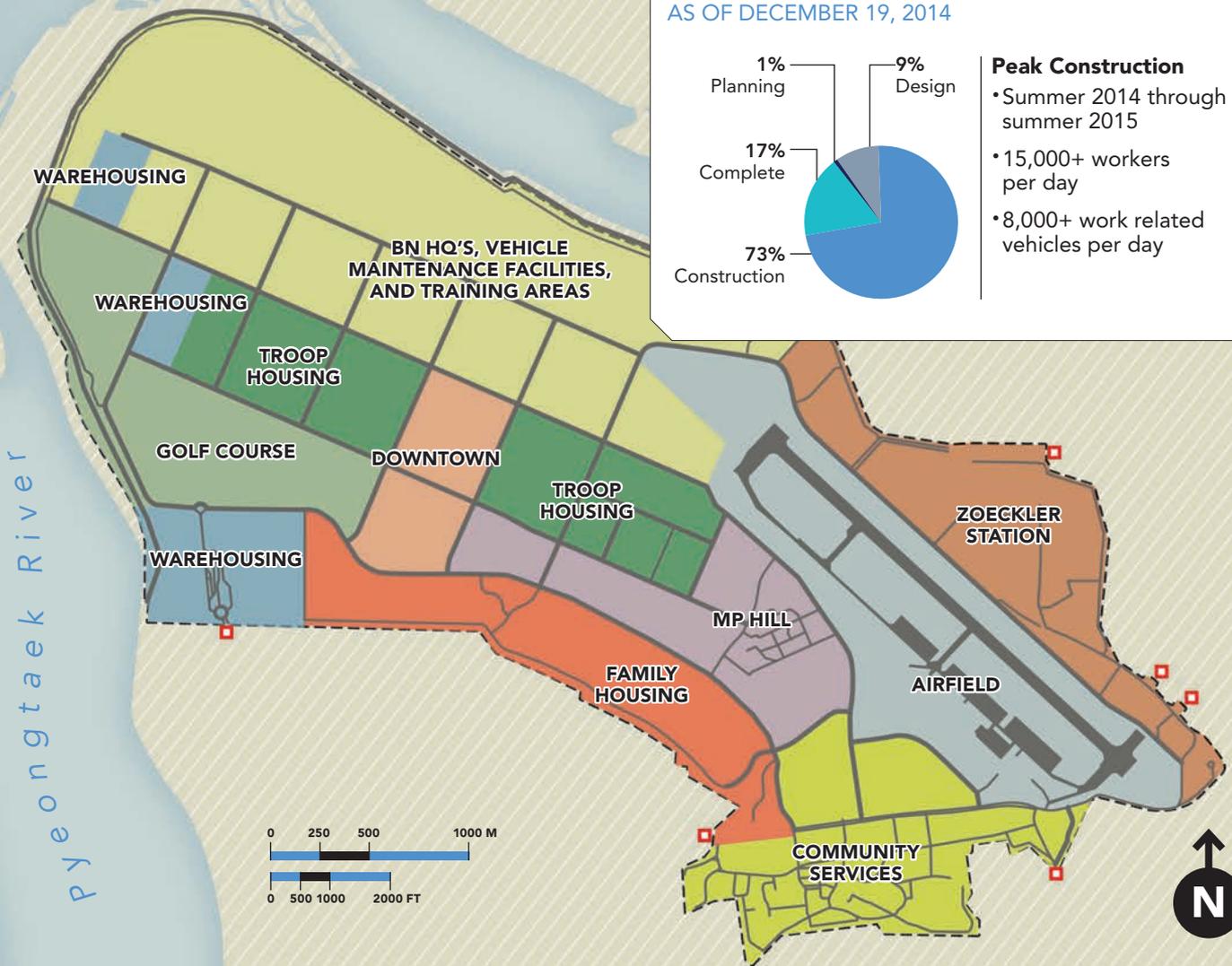
Program Execution Status

AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2014



Peak Construction

- Summer 2014 through summer 2015
- 15,000+ workers per day
- 8,000+ work related vehicles per day





Family Housing

ARMY FAMILY HOUSING (AFH)

High-rise family housing apartments accommodate a total of 210 Senior Non-Commissioned Officer through Field Grade Officer military personnel and their families. Ancillary facilities include tot lots, multi-age playgrounds, and underground parking.



AFH TOWERS



DINING AND LIVING ROOM
INSIDE AFH TOWERS

U.S. ARMY PHOTO

U.S. ARMY PHOTO

Community Services

FOOD, BEVERAGE, AND ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX

The consolidated Food, Beverage, and Entertainment Complex will include a name brand casual dining facility with 225 seating capacity, a dual fast food facility with 60 seating capacity, separate commercial kitchen facilities for both dining establishments, game rooms, a cocktail lounge, and a multi-purpose function room that can be subdivided into three separate rooms with a total of 400 seating capacity.



FOOD, BEVERAGE, AND ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX

U.S. ARMY PHOTO

To achieve program milestones, T&R works with the Far East District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Installation Management Command, each Service, the MND U.S Relocation Office (MURO), and other pertinent agencies to synchronize the program. The program also supports the Army's Force Generation rotational plan. At completion, the YRP/LPP bilateral U.S.-ROK program will enhance readiness and the U.S. commitment to the ROK and the region.

The construction at USAG-H has tripled the garrison size from 1,210 to 3,453 acres, with its population increasing from 10,000 to an enduring anticipated state of 36,000 military, civilian and family members. Key construction projects include unit headquarters, motor pools, barracks, family housing, medical facilities, communication centers, a "Midtown Community" complex, schools, installation service facilities, and underground utilities systems. Construction projects completed from 2013 through 2014 include an elementary school, a high school, family housing towers, a child development center, the waste water treatment plant, an airfield operations building, and supporting land fill for garrison expansion.

Housing is a top command priority, with a mandate for USAG-H to support 40% of command-sponsored families living on-post. The 40% requirement maintains "Fight Tonight" readiness and ensures quality of life for families. Furthermore, USFK and IMCOM are actively working with the City of Pyeongtaek and Korean industry to ensure quality housing is available off-post.

Along with Eighth Army, the Marine Corps Forces Korea headquarters located in Yongsan will relocate to USAG-H according to the YRP. Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea will relocate its headquarters to co-locate with the ROK Fleet Headquarters at Busan in 2015. This will strengthen day-to-day cooperation in the combined naval component, while leveraging the capabilities of nearby Commander Fleet Activities Chinhae, the only U.S. Navy base on the Asian mainland.

For Seventh Air Force at Osan Air Base, USFK will return real estate hosting dilapidated munitions storage areas to the ROK, and in turn the ROK will grant a larger parcel of land to construct new storage facilities which will enhance safety. Also, while not a YRP/LPP initiative, planning has advanced for a new Combined Air and Space Operations Center at Osan, to be funded in large part with host-nation funds, which will ensure a survivable, capable command and control capability for Airpower.



UNC TODAY

FROM UNC SENDING STATE PERSPECTIVE

In response to North Korea's invasion of the Republic of Korea in 1950, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), through UNSC Resolution 84, called for members to provide military forces to South Korea as part of a unified command under U.S. leadership. The UNSC chartered the United Nations Command (UNC) under a United States-led unified command to repel armed attack and restore international peace and security. Throughout the war, 53 nations supported

the UNC, of which 16 nations provided combat forces and five sent medical units. In 1953, the UNC, North Korea, and China agreed to an Armistice to halt hostilities. As a signatory to the Armistice, the UNC, specifically its Military Armistice Commission, works to maintain the terms of the agreement.

Today, North Korea remains a significant threat to international peace and security in an increasingly interdependent and globalized world. In addition to maintaining

the Armistice, the UNC and UNC member nations remain committed to demonstrating international resolve against this threat and providing assistance to restore peace and stability in the event of a crisis. As a tangible demonstration of international determination and legitimacy and as a strategic force multiplier, the UNC also plays an increasingly prominent role in supporting ROK and U.S. forces in deterring and defending against the North Korea threat.



GENERAL CURTIS M. SCAPARROTTI, COMMANDER, UNC/CFC/USFK, MEETS WITH AMBASSADORS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS SENDING STATES, YONGSAN GARRISON, SOUTH KOREA, MAY 8, 2014.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO/SGT. BRIAN GIBBONS

U.S. ARMY PHOTO/DEBBIE HONG



U.S. ARMY PHOTO/SGT. GIRARD



THE UNC COMMANDER VISION FOR THE UNC

Recognizing the potential of UNC to be more proactive and effective under existing authorities and resources, and based on increased interest on the part of multiple Sending States, the UNC Commander is working with the international community to strengthen the United Nations Command.

The growing commitment of Sending States means UNC will enhance its role as a multinational

enabler for peace and security on the Korean Peninsula in support of the ROK and Alliance objectives. UNC cooperation enhances the ability to maintain the Armistice; increase international contributions; empower strategic shaping, deterrence, and escalation management; and increase capacity to respond to aggression or instability. In short, UNC cooperation enhances multinational solidarity against North Korean aggression in defense of the Republic of Korea.

ABOVE LEFT: OPENED IN 1994, THE LARGELY MUSEUM-LIKE WAR MEMORIAL OF KOREA IN YONGSAN, SOUTH KOREA, OFFERS VISITORS AN EDUCATIONAL AND EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE OF THE MANY WARS IN WHICH KOREA WAS INVOLVED.

ABOVE RIGHT: UNITED NATIONS FLAG WAVES OVER CROWD WAITING TO HEAR DR. SYNGMAN RHEE SPEAK TO THE UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL IN DAEGU, KOREA, JULY 30, 1950.

THE UNC COMMITMENT

The UNC's commitment is increasingly apparent at all levels, from regular roundtables between the Sending State Ambassadors and the UNC Commander to participation in exercises and embedding military officers on the UNC staff. Multinational participation in theater exercises continues to increase. For example, participation during the annual exercise ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN increased from three countries and seven officers in 2009 to seven countries and 153 officers in 2014. Multinational officers also play a critical role on the UNC staff, to include shaping UNC strategy, strategic communication, and other critical functions. This increasingly impactful and highly visible multinational presence sends a clear message of continued international support for the defense of the Republic of Korea and for stability in the region.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO/SGT. DANIEL SCHROEDER

BRITISH MAJ. WILL TAYLOR, A BRITISH EXCHANGE OFFICER ATTACHED TO 1ST CANADIAN DIVISION, MONITORS HIS SCREEN FOR POSSIBLE ENEMY MOVEMENT ON THE BATTLEFIELD DURING EXERCISE ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN 2014.



U.S. MARINE CORPS PHOTO

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

A BOY FROM THE POHANG ORPHANAGE USES THE CAMERA OF GUNNERY SGT. ISMAEL PENA, COMBAT CAMERA CHIEF FOR THE COMMAND ELEMENT, 31ST MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT, AND A NATIVE OF YAKIMA, WASHINGTON, DURING A VISIT BY 24 MARINES AND SAILORS HERE, APRIL 5, 2014

Educating our Service Members and their families in Korean cultural awareness is an important element of the Good Neighbor Program (GNP) that was formally established in 2003. Building on the U.S. military's outreach efforts since the Korean War, the GNP is a command program for fostering positive relations between USFK and Korean communities. The goal of the USFK Good Neighbor Program is to strengthen the bilateral ROK-U.S. Alliance by improving people-to-people relations while demonstrating America's continuing commitment to the security of the Republic of Korea. The Good Neighbor Program is more than community relations activities; it is a holistic approach to bridging the cultural gap between USFK and our Korean hosts with Korean cultural awareness

training, military-to-military engagements, and student outreach.

Service Members begin cultural awareness training via the internet prior to their assignment in Korea, a process that continues with their "newcomers briefing" and extends through their entire tour. Training includes cultural briefings, tours, and a basic introduction to the Korean language. For example, newly assigned Soldiers and Airmen at Camp Humphreys and Osan Air Base participate in a week-long "Head Start" program, which consists of classes on culture, language and history, hosted by Pyeongtaek University. At Pohang, Marines who come to Korea for training are treated to a tour of the city by the local government. Commanders and our Spouses Organizations take an active role to ensure that this training is

a priority upon arrival and throughout a Service Member's tour.

Our military-to-military engagements focus on building relationships between Korean and American military units on a personal level. These can include sporting events, combined unit picnics, dinners, or even mountain climbing. USFK units at all levels have ROK military sister units or counterparts with which they both train and engage socially. At Kunsan Air Base, junior Airmen provide English classes to their Korean Air Force counterparts. At Chinhae, U.S. Sailors taught ROK Naval Academy Midshipmen how to play American football. Soccer matches between sister-units are common within Eighth Army.

Good Neighbor activities are conducted all across the Republic of Korea, from Chinhae on the south coast



U.S. ARMY PHOTO/STAFF SGT. LUKE GRAZIANI



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO



U.S. NAVY PHOTO/MC MATTHEW RIGGS

to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in the north. Traditional community relations events comprise the largest number of GNP events and include a myriad of activities which include installation open houses; participation in local festivals; friendship dinners; U.S. Navy ship visits; and key leader engagements. In Seoul, USFK senior leaders regularly address ROK friendship organizations; national leaders of the Rotary, different chapters of the Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Korean International Trade Association, the Korean Army Association; and numerous other national organizations. In Chinhae, Sailors annually march in the “Admiral Yi Victory Parade” in conjunction with that naval port’s spring cherry blossom festival. In Dongducheon, Soldiers deliver charcoal briquettes for heating to the elderly each winter, while family members in Seoul help prepare kimchi for needy families.

As a sub-component of community relations, our student outreach programs are very important. USFK Service Members interact on a regular basis, teaching English at hundreds of local schools throughout the Korean Peninsula. Many USFK installations conduct English camps throughout the year, which not

only helps Korean children improve their English proficiency but also provides an opportunity to meet our Service Members and learn about the role of USFK in the defense of their nation.

USFK Headquarters runs the Student Security Education Program weekly to educate Korean high school and college students on the security situation here, while providing an opportunity to visit the DMZ. Over 3,500 students participated in 2014. For over ten years, the U.S. Army Garrison-Daegu Intern Program has brought 50-60 Korean university students each semester from seven different schools to work in garrison offices while receiving college credit.

Through our USFK Outreach activities and the Good Neighbor Program, we have made tens of thousands of new friends and colleagues who better understand American culture and the importance of the ROK-U.S. Alliance. These positive and meaningful engagements with Korean communities and future leaders of Korea have proven effective and provide our Service Members with a more enriching and rewarding tour of duty in the Republic of Korea. USFK’s Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Civilians are very proud to serve in Korea.

1 MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND EIGHTH SOLDIERS GATHER FOR A PHOTO DURING A GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM EVENT, JANUARY 28, 2014. THE SOLDIERS VOLUNTEERED TO DELIVER RICE AND OTHER GOODS TO IMPOVERISHED ELDERLY CITIZENS FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

2 TWO AIR FORCE MEMBERS INTERACT WITH KOREAN MIDDLE SCHOOLERS AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE ADOPT-A-SCHOOL ENGLISH TUTORING PROGRAM. AS PART OF THE GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM, MEMBERS OF SEVENTH AIR FORCE SUPPORT THE CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH PROGRAM ORGANIZED BY THE OSAN CITY MAYOR FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL CHILDREN.

3 ENSIGN JOHN GREGORY (CENTER) AND ENSIGN ANTHONY JENNE (RIGHT) INTERACT WITH STUDENTS FROM JINHAЕ BOYS HIGH SCHOOL WHILE U.S. SEVENTH FLEET FLAGSHIP USS BLUE RIDGE VISITS BUSAN.



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