U.S. Military Forces on the Korean Peninsula
SPEAK LIKE YOU ARE ON PEN

Alliance: Also called the ROK-US Alliance, this is the term used to describe the military partnership between the United States and South Korean (Republic of Korea) militaries created by the Mutual Defense Treaty signed when Korean War hostilities ended in 1953.

CFC: Combined Forces Command, established in 1978 between the U.S. and South Korea. This is the only command in the world where an American four-star general is in charge of foreign troops.

CMA: Comprehensive Military Agreement, a bilateral agreement between the two Koreas, signed in September 2018, designed to build trust and prevent military confrontation by increasing the size of the buffer zones on land, air and sea while enhancing mechanisms to facilitate exchanges in the form of roads, railways and meetings.

DMZ: Demilitarized Zone, the strip of land running across the Korean Peninsula that separates the North from the South. It measures approximately 160 miles from east to west and is roughly 2.5 miles wide from north to south. The area was established by the Armistice that ceased the hostilities of the Korean War in 1953.

DPRK: Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the official name for North Korea.

G20: Group of Twenty, an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union. The G20 Summit is an annual meeting that brings together the heads of state and government from the G20 member states and bodies.

INDOPACOM: Indo-Pacific Command, one of six geographic combatant commands defined by the U.S. Department of Defense. Previously known as PACOM, or Pacific Command, the command was renamed in 2018 to include the Indian subcontinent and the Indian Ocean.

Inter-Korean Summit: Inter-Korean summits are meetings between the North Korean and South Korean heads of state. There have been five such meetings, the first occurring in 2000.

JSA: Joint Security Area, the only portion of the DMZ where North and South Korean forces stood face-to-face until the implementation of the CMA in 2018. This area is the iconic portion along the DMZ where meetings and exchanges between the North and South have taken place over the decades.

Katchi kapshida! (pronounced Kat-chi kap-shi-da), in English means We go together!

KATUSA: Korean Augmentation to the United States Army, South Korean troops that are augmented to the Eighth U.S. Army and work side by side with U.S. military and American civilians daily on bases and camps across South Korea.

MDL: Military Demarcation Line, a strip of land between North and South Korea that was established by the Armistice signed in 1953. Military commanders from both sides were, at the time, ordered to withdraw two kilometers from their last point of hostile contact. As a result, the northern boundary line and the southern boundary line were each set at a 2 kilometer distance from the MDL. This buffer became known as the DMZ. The line is technically a series of 1,292 yellow and black panel markers that run from coast to coast, and are spaced at 100 to 200 meter intervals.

On Pen: American slang for the geographic area of or around the Korean Peninsula. Usage: Q: "How long you been on Pen?" A: “I’ve been on Pen for about six months.”

Panmunjom Declaration: Officially known as the Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula, it is the statement made at the conclusion of the third Inter-Korean Summit held on April 27, 2018, and signed by South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The Summit was held at the village of Panmunjom within the Joint Security Area.

Pyongyang Declaration (2018): Officially known as the Pyongyang Joint Declaration of September 2018, it is the statement made at the conclusion of the fourth Inter-Korean Summit held on September 19, 2018, and signed by South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The Summit was held in Pyongyang the Capital of North Korea.

PyeongChang: Site of the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in South Korea.

Pyongyang: Capital of North Korea.

Repatriation: The process of returning a person, or their remains, to their place of origin or citizenship, including remains from the fallen during the Korean War.

ROK: Republic of Korea; the official name for South Korea

Seoul: Capital of South Korea

UNC: United Nations Command is the unified command structure for multinational military forces established in 1950 to support South Korea during the Korean War.

USFK: United States Forces Korea, established on July 1, 1957, supports the United Nations Command and Combined Forces Command. USFK also participates annually in joint and combined exercises with CFC to train and maintain readiness.

Resources

https://www.facebook.com/myusfk
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https://twitter.com/UN_Command

http://www.usfk.mil
http://www.usfk.mil/About/United-Nations-Command
http://www.usfk.mil/About/Combined-Forces-Command
2018 was a year full of events that kept the Korean Peninsula at the forefront of global discussions. This publication serves as a review of the year that was, and chronicles the adjustments made on Pen by U.S. military forces and our Allies in this ever-changing environment.
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**2018: THE YEAR ON PEN**

**U.S. Military Forces on the Korean Peninsula**

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Ambassador Harry Harris

As the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, it has been my greatest honor to begin serving this past year alongside United States Forces Korea and our South Korean allies.

Working side-by-side, I witness every day the extraordinary relationship we enjoy within an Alliance that continues to thrive and grow.

We, as Allies, share a history spanning well over 60 years and enjoy a robust level of mutual trust nurtured through shared values and goals. Both countries staunchly defend democracy, free trade, human rights and the rule of law, and we strive together to safeguard these ideals. The commitment of our two countries in upholding these values remains the cornerstone of future regional stability and security.

Though our Alliance sprung from military roots, it has broadened and deepened. Today we share a vibrant trading partnership, cultural exchanges and extensive study and training programs. Just this past year, we also renegotiated the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, establishing a new foundation for trade relations to benefit both of our economies and our citizens for years to come.

And as our Alliance has continued to expand and strengthen, the Korean Peninsula has experienced unprecedented changes over the past several months. Only 18 months ago tensions steadily rose with significant and recurring provocations from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK). Steadfast support from our Korean ally and the international community enabled the United Nations to respond to the DPRK (North Korea) threat by adopting the strongest sanctions yet against the DPRK (North Korea).

Anchored by the stalwart combined military power of many partner nations to deter military aggression in the region, these sanctions proved instrumental in helping bring about diplomatic engagement that drastically reduced tensions on the Korean Peninsula. Seizing this opportunity, South Korean President Moon Jae-in and President Donald J. Trump led the visionary effort to begin a dialogue with Chairman Kim Jong Un of North Korea which, if successful, will dramatically reshape the security situation on the Peninsula and in the region. Furthering this, we have witnessed regular and recurring military-to-military engagements between the ROK (South Korea) and DPRK (North Korea) and a Comprehensive Military Agreement (CMA) between the North and South that aims to build trust between the two Koreas while simultaneously reducing the risk of conflict along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

However, our work here is far from complete, as all changes bring about new challenges. We remain optimistic that change will continue for the better. To enable continued progress, we require vigilance and readiness from our military partners to support and enable our diplomatic efforts to maintain stability and security in the region. Thanks to the unwavering dedication of our U.S. Service Members who stand beside their South Korean counterparts, I am confident in our enduring efforts to help uphold security and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

Through United Nations Command (UNC), Combined Forces Command (CFC), United States Forces Korea (USFK) efforts, we maintain a bulwark to deter threats, enrich economic cooperation and cultural ties, and make our Alliance even stronger. I extend my deepest appreciation and gratitude to our U.S. Troops and their families for their sacrifices to serve the United States and defend the Republic of Korea. Their service forms the bedrock of this ironclad partnership and ensures we are ready for any contingency on the Korean Peninsula.

Looking ahead, this Alliance remains a shining example of our successful foreign policy in East Asia, and a source of stability for the region. The U.S. Embassy in Seoul stands steadfast in working alongside UNC, CFC, USFK and the Republic of Korea toward another robust year of enhancing this important Alliance.

Sincerely,

Harry B. Harris
U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea
Harry Harris, U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, views panels with the names of Korean War casualties at the War Memorial of Korea, Republic of Korea, Nov. 9, 2018. Harris took part in the grand opening of the 65th anniversary of the ROK-US Alliance exhibition.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Benjamin Parsons)
U.S. Army Gen. Robert B. Abrams, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, United States Forces Korea commander, honors Korean War casualties at the War Memorial of Korea on his second day as commander of all U.S. Forces on the Korean Peninsula, Nov. 9, 2018. Abrams and Park Han-ki, chairman of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff took part in the grand opening of the 65th anniversary of the ROK-US Alliance.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Benjamin Parsons)
Gen. Robert B. Abrams

I extend my sincere gratitude and admiration for all of our United States, Republic of Korea and United Nations Sending State Service Members and civilians whose dedication and selfless service are the foundation for all we do to ensure the defense of South Korea and the enduring stability and security of the region.

Our forces on the Korean Peninsula have sustained the Armistice Agreement for more than 65 years while acting as a strategic deterrent, prepared to respond to potential crisis or provocation and, if called upon, ready to defend the Republic of Korea and our allies in the region.

Over the past two years we have moved from provocation to détente, witnessed multiple presidential summits and supported inter-Korean dialogue and related confidence building measures. These steps have led to a palpable reduction in military tensions and provided necessary ingredients to the possibility of making historic change a reality.

The United Nations Command, as the home for international commitments in Korea and the guarantor of the Armistice Agreement, has been at the epicenter of the significant changes to our operational environment. The Command’s agile and adaptive support to the requirements of negotiations, while maintaining its responsibilities and authorities under the 1953 Armistice Agreement underscore the professionalism of the international staff and its commitment to serving as a catalyst to peace, while remaining the critical link between the international community and Combined Forces Command during periods of crisis or contingency.

Combined Forces Command is, as ever, the heart of the ROK-US Alliance. Tested throughout the difficult days leading up to détente, our Alliance stood firm, demonstrating the strength and resolve that has been its hallmark for more than 65 years. Forged in crisis and tempered in the crucible of combat, our military partnership continues to deepen and broaden at every echelon, and is truly worthy of being described as ironclad.

United States Forces Korea is the living proof of the United States continued commitment to the defense of South Korea. This year finds the Command continuing to build on a dramatically improved posture and sustaining required readiness while preserving space for diplomacy.

Together, these three commands serve as a bulwark against aggression and the foundation of support for security and stability on the Korean peninsula. Our posture and readiness permit our diplomats to speak from a position of unquestioned strength, provide options to our senior leaders in the event of crisis or contingency, and support our national commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific.

A tour of service on Pen connects our Service Members to the proud lineage of those who have secured the region’s defense while also providing the unique opportunity to be at the epicenter of world events. Korea is an overseas assignment centered in an ancient land, rich with culture and on the cutting edge of technology. From the Peninsula, service members routinely explore the many appealing and exotic locations within arm’s reach. Lastly, service in Korea provides the opportunity to serve side-by-side with an exemplary ally as we defend and safeguard South Korea from any threat.

I am extremely proud to Command the men and women of this singular force, and to work hand-in-hand with the Republic of Korea to protect our great nations.

Sincerely,

Gen. Robert B. Abrams
Commander
United Nations Command,
Combined Forces Command,
United States Forces Korea
A Year Watched by the World

2018 was a year full of events that kept the Korean Peninsula at the forefront of global discussions. North Korea’s repeated and provocative demonstrations of military capability that marked much of 2017 have been replaced by a détente brought about through dialogue, and a willingness to work toward lasting stability and a future peace.

Today in Korea there are tremendous opportunities, as well as some great challenges. Ongoing diplomatic engagement between South Korea, North Korea and the United States has led to a significant reduction in tension compared to the recent past, marked by missile launches and nuclear tests. Diplomacy is creating the opportunity for North Korea to choose the path of denuclearization, forge a lasting peace, and build a better future for its people. While diplomacy is not without challenges, it remains the mechanism underpinning the transformation witnessed over the past 14 months, as the Peninsula has moved from provocation to détente.

This publication, the 2019 Strategic Digest, serves as a review of 2018—the year that was—and chronicles the milestones and the adjustments made on Pen by U.S. military forces and our Allies in this ever-changing environment.
In Context

The Korean Peninsula is a land rich in history with a distinct culture that dates back thousands of years. This history, especially the events of the last 100 years, is an important part of any discussion about current events on Pen.

Any discussion of 2018 must include the rising tensions of 2017. The first North Korean missile launch of 2017 took place on Feb. 12—one of more than 20 that year.

2017

Jan 1
Kim Jong Un says North Korea is in the final stages of developing long-range guided missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads

Feb 12
PUKGUKSONG-2 (MRBM)

Mar 6
Unidentified (MRBM)

Mar 20
Rocket Engine Test

Mar 22
Apr 5
Apr 15
Apr 15
Apr 28
Failed launches

May 14
HWASONG-12 (IRBM)
estimated range: 4,350 miles

May 21
PUKGUKSONG-2 (MRBM)

May 27
SURFACE-TO-AIR GUIDED MISSILE

May 29
SCUD-VARIANT (SRBM)

Jun 8
KUMSONG-3 (ASCM)

Jul 4
HWASONG-14 (ICBM)
capable of reaching MOST of the continental United States
Aug 29
HWASONG-12 (IRBM)
estimated range: 4,350 miles

Aug 10
North Korea threatens to
fire ballistic
missiles near Guam

Aug 26
Unidentified
Missiles

Sep 15
HWASONG-12 (IRBM)
estimated range: 4,350 miles

Sep 3
NUCLEAR
TEST first of 2017, sixth overall

Nov 29
HWASONG-15 (ICBM)
estimated range: 8,000 miles

Capable of striking
ANY part of the
continental
United States

Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec

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PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games

After a 2017 that saw rising tensions on the Korean Peninsula over North Korea’s nuclear program—20 missile launches in 290 days—the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang offered an opening for inter-Korean dialogue.

In meetings at the border village of Panmunjom, the two Koreas agreed to compete under a unified flag and field a joint women’s hockey team—the first time ever north and south Korean athletes would compete on a combined team at any Olympics.

United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, United States Forces Korea Commanding Gen. Vincent K. Brooks joined Vice President Mike Pence among the U.S. delegation to the games and attended the opening ceremony.

Pence’s attendance sought to underscore a clear message of U.S. resolve in defense of South Korea to the North Korean regime and reinforce a strong commitment to the ROK-US Alliance.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un dispatched his younger sister, Kim Yo Jong, to the opening ceremony—marking the first time a member of Kim Il Sung’s immediate family had crossed into South Korea since the signing of the Korean War Armistice Agreement almost 70 years ago.
North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-In review the South Korean military honor guard at Panmunjom on April 27, 2018. The meeting was the first between the leaders from North Korea and South Korea in more than a decade. The United Nations Command (UNC) supported the high profile event as a part of its mission to provide a framework for dialogue between North Korea and South Korea.

(Photo by Inter-Korean Summit Press Corps/Pool/AFLO/Alamy Live News)
Panmunjom Declaration

The Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula was adopted between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Kim Jong Un and the Republic of Korea's Moon Jae-in on April 27, 2018, during the 2018 Inter-Korean Summit on the South Korean side of the Joint Security Area.

In the agreement, South and North Korea pledge to:
- Seek the support and cooperation of the international community for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula;
- Work toward an official end of war declaration;
- Establish a permanent and solid peace regime via phased disarmament; and
- Adopt practical steps toward the connection and modernization of railways and roads in the demilitarized zone.

Held at the border village of Panmunjom, the summit came on the heels of a year in which the North rapidly scaled up its nuclear program, escalating tensions with the South. These historic events added a new chapter to what is one of the most symbolic pieces of land on the Korean Peninsula.
Singapore Summit

Two months after the April 2018 Inter-Korean Summit, a sitting U.S. president met with a North Korean leader for the first time, on June 12, 2018.

One meeting between an American and a North Korean head of state may not be enough to overcome decades of distrust, but as one Korean proverb states, “Getting started is half the battle.”

During the much anticipated event that captured the attention of the world, the two leaders broached the most controversial and high-profile of issues involving the North, namely its nuclear program. “There’s no limit to what North Korea can achieve when it gives up its nuclear weapons and embraces commerce and engagement with the rest of the world,” President Donald J. Trump said at a press conference following the meeting.

The summit resulted in Trump and Kim Jong Un signing a joint statement that committed the U.S. and North Korea to establishing a new bilateral relationship and efforts to build a lasting peace on the Peninsula. The statement also reaffirmed North Korea’s commitment to work toward denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula per the Panmunjom Declaration signed in April 2018 by Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, and committed the U.S. and North Korea to further recovery of POW/MIA remains.

While Kim signaled in Singapore his willingness to discuss denuclearization, the remainder of 2018 would reveal a lack of progress toward final, fully verified denuclearization.

“We’re prepared to start a new history and we’re ready to write a new chapter between our nations,” said Trump.
President Donald J. Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un shake hands as they meet for the first time, Tuesday, June 12, 2018, prior to their one-on-one bilateral meeting at the Capella Hotel in Singapore. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)
July 6
Kim Jong Un sends letter to President Trump, floats idea of second meeting

July 8
North Korea calls Pompeo meeting "regrettable" labels U.S. efforts "gangster-like"

June 29
UNC, USFK John W. Vessey, Jr. Headquarters Building opens on U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys (Camp Humphreys)
The ceremony marks a significant milestone in the relocation process from U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan begun in 2003

July 3-5
Observers report sharp decrease of anti-U.S. propaganda in North Korea

July 6-7
Mike Pompeo makes third visit to Pyongyang in four months

July 25
U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea Harry Harris presents his credentials to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Seoul

July
North Korea calls Pompeo meeting "regrettable" labels U.S. efforts "gangster-like"
Headquarters Relocation


The opening of the Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr. building and move from Seoul to USAG-H signifies a new transition for the two commands which have operated out of U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan since the end of hostilities during the Korean War.

The opening was a major milestone in the $10.7 billion transformation and relocation effort of the command as it represents the formal transition of the UNC and USFK Headquarters from USAG-Y to USAG-H.

UNC, Combined Forces Command (CFC), USFK Commanding Gen. Vincent K. Brooks hosted the grand opening ceremony and dedicated the headquarters building to retired Gen. John William Vessey, Jr., the first commander of the Combined Forces Command. His son David was in attendance and thanked the command for the honor bestowed on his father. June 29 would have been General Vessey’s 95th birthday.

In attendance were dignitaries from the 17 sending states to UNC and Song Young-moo, Republic of Korea Minister of Defense. Following the ceremony, the command dedicated an auditorium to the first four-star general in the South Korean military, Gen. Paik Sun-yup.

U.S. Ambassador Harry B. Harris Arrives on Pen

U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea Harry B. Harris arrived on Pen July 7, 2018. “It will be a great privilege for me to serve as President Donald J. Trump's representative in a country that’s an ally and important partner of the U.S., not only in Northeast Asia but globally,” Harris said.

Harris officially presented his credentials to South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha at a credential ceremony at the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae, or The Blue House, in Seoul on July 25, 2018.

The position of U.S. Ambassador in Seoul had remained vacant for more than a year prior to Harris’s arrival—the previous Ambassador Mark Lippert finished his term in January 2017. No stranger to the region, Harris, a retired U.S. Navy Admiral, served most recently as the Commander of U.S. Pacific Command.
Aug 23
Stephen E. Biegun appointed U.S. Special Representative for North Korea, responsible for leading U.S. efforts to achieve the final, fully verified denuclearization of North Korea

Aug 23
Mike Pompeo announces he will travel to Pyongyang the following day—his fourth visit in five months

Aug 24
President Trump cancels Mike Pompeo’s trip to Pyongyang

Sep 18-20
Moon Jae-in and Kim Jong Un meet in Pyongyang for September 2018 Inter-Korean Summit
First trip by a South Korean leader to the North Korean capital in 11 years, the third summit between the two leaders this year

Sep 18-Oct 5
73rd United Nations General Assembly in New York

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Sep 19
Moon Jae-in delivers speech at Pyongyang's May Day Stadium calling for cultural unity and reunification of Korea
Moon is the first ever South Korean leader to give a public address in North Korea

Sep 18-20
Pyongyang Joint Declaration signed

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Moon Jae-in and Kim Jong Un meet in Pyongyang for September 2018 Inter-Korean Summit
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Sep 18-Oct 5
73rd United Nations General Assembly in New York

Aug 1
Officials at Osan Airbase honor 55 repatriated sets of Korean War remains returned as part of agreements reached during June 12 Summit

Aug 20
The two Koreas hold Family Reunion events—the first in three years, with families from the South crossing into the North to temporarily meet relatives

Aug 23
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Never Forgotten

The solemn obligation of the United Nations Command is to account for those listed as missing or killed in action and return them to their families. The successful repatriation of those lost in combat is a meaningful step towards peace and healing the wounds of the past.

On July 27, 2018, North Korea returned 55 boxes of remains to United Nations officials in accordance with a commitment for repatriation as agreed upon in a joint statement signed by President Donald J. Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during the June 2018 Singapore Summit.

The historic repatriation was held over three days in July and August of 2018. UNC takes great care to ensure that remains from the Korean War are handled with dignity, so families may receive their loved ones in an honorable manner while fulfilling the promise to leave no one behind.

More than 7,700 U.S. troops are still unaccounted for from the Korean War. Around 5,300 U.S. remains are believed to be in North Korea. Following the signing of the Armistice Agreement in 1953, both sides were required to repatriate the remains of those killed in action. The U.S. received an estimated 4,219 human remains, of whom 2,944 are known or believed to be Americans.

“I propose that we should completely end the past 70 years of hostility... and take a big stride of peace to become one again.”

Sep 18-20
Moon Jae-in and Kim Jong Un meet in Pyongyang for September 2018 Inter-Korean Summit. First trip by a South Korean leader to the North Korean capital in 11 years, the third summit between the two leaders this year.

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Moon Jae-in delivers speech at Pyongyang’s May Day Stadium calling for cultural unity and reunification of Korea. Moon is the first ever South Korean leader to give a public address in North Korea.
Nov 12
CSIS study using open source satellite imagery locates 13 of an estimated 20 North Korean missile operating bases as yet undeclared by officials in Pyongyang.

Nov 8

Oct 31
50th U.S.-South Korea Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) held in Washington.

Oct 29
Disarmament of the Joint Security Area completed: security personnel reduced—35 from both North and South Korea—land mine removal confirmed, guard posts reduced to 2.

Nov 8
CSIS study using open source satellite imagery locates 13 of an estimated 20 North Korean missile operating bases as yet undeclared by officials in Pyongyang.
Gen. Robert B. Abrams Assumes Command in Korea


The ceremony was co-hosted by Jeong Kyeon-doo, minister of national defense, Republic of Korea, Gen. Paul J. Selva, vice chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff and Adm. Phil Davidson, commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

“General Brooks has led this command during one of the most dynamic and contentious times since the end of the Korean War,” said Adm. Davidson, commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. Gen. Abrams earned his commission from the United States Military Academy in 1982. He has commanded at every level from company through division, and led units in combat operations in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. He arrived in Korea after previously serving as commander, U.S. Forces Command—the largest command in the U.S. Army.


“I am committed to continue building on our special relationships with the Republic of Korea and each of the United Nations sending states and their national contingents as we work together in our collective missions for a peaceful and secure Korean Peninsula.”

–Gen. Robert B. Abrams
COMMANDER, UNC, CFC, USFK
Nov. 8, 2018
G20 Summit
Buenos Aires

At a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the annual G20 summit, President Donald J. Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in reaffirmed their commitment to achieve the final, fully verified denuclearization of North Korea.

The two leaders also agreed on the importance of maintaining vigorous enforcement of existing sanctions to ensure North Korea understands that denuclearization is the only path to economic prosperity and lasting peace.

Trump and Moon Jae-in held formal and informal meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The G20 meeting on Nov. 30, 2018, came amid a marked slowdown in U.S.-North Korean diplomacy in the second half of the year.
Dec 12  
Final inspection and confirmation of demining and disarmament of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)

Dec 20  
First meeting of U.S.-South Korea Joint Working Group in Seoul

Dec 26  
Ceremony at Panmun Station to inaugurate efforts to modernize and connect inter-Korean railways and roads

Dec 28  
Kim Jong Un sends "conciliatory" message to President Trump

Dec 30  
Kim Jong Un sends "goodwill" letter to Moon Jae-in aimed at jump-starting Inter-Korean economic projects vows to meet "frequently" with Moon on denuclearization in 2019

President Donald J. Trump participates in a bilateral pull-aside with South Korean President Moon Jae-in Friday, Nov. 30, 2018, at the Centro Costa Salguero in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)
We Go Together!

We Go Together! (pronounced Kat-chi kap-shi-da), in English means We go together! This motto—often heard in military circles across South Korea—stands as a reminder that the ROK-US partnership was forged in the crucible of combat more than 68 years ago. However, this partnership is not just a source of strength from the past; it is paving the way forward for both nations.

South Korea is known in defense and diplomatic circles as the linchpin of stability and prosperity in Northeast Asia. South Korea is also a critical U.S. ally, a regional economic powerhouse, a global trade hub and a creator of technological innovation. The Land of the Morning Calm continues to cooperate with the U.S. on a broad set of issues spanning international development, science and technology, economy and trade, and widespread cultural exchanges—building on decades of cooperation and shared values.

Under the umbrella of security provided by the U.S., South Koreans have brought about one of the most rapid economic ascents in human history. Known as the Miracle on the Han, South Korea went from one of the poorest nations on earth to one of the wealthiest in three generations.

This rapid growth has allowed South Korea to fund a strong military in support of its self-defense. South Korea spends 2.7 percent of its GDP on defense—the largest percentage among U.S. Allies in the region.
Republic of Korea Navy sailors wave flags as Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) pulls into ROK Fleet headquarters, March 15. The Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group is on a regularly scheduled Western Pacific deployment as part of the U.S. Pacific Fleet-led initiative to extend the command and control functions of U.S. 3rd Fleet.

(U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Chad M. Butler)
ROK-US Alliance

The Alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States is important to enduring stability on the Korean Peninsula and contributes to the shared security and economic prosperity of the two nations.

The ROK-US Alliance was forged in the crucible of war and has endured for over 68 years. Founded upon decades of shared sacrifice, the Alliance is strengthened by the common values and shared ideals of two nations, pledged to a common defense, and dedicated to maintaining the stability and prosperity of a Korean Peninsula free from conflict.

Successful deterrence is created through political resolve, unwavering readiness—and when necessary—disciplined demonstrations of capability. Together, the U.S. and South Korea have committed to the deterrence necessary to maintaining the Armistice Agreement and so ensured a stable Korean Peninsula allowing South Koreans to thrive and prosper.

Escalations in military tensions due to North Korean provocations have also marked the history of the Alliance, to include the difficult days of 2017. Throughout that period the Alliance responded to successive provocations with a series of combined, disciplined and full-spectrum military actions that communicated a clear, unequivocal signal—the Alliance will not falter.

Standing strong and unified against aggression created the opportunity for dialogue in place of saber rattling. As diplomats negotiate the steps required for a shared and lasting peace, they do so from a position of strength, knowing the Alliance remains ironclad.

In order to ensure the Alliance remains ready to fight tonight, South Korea and the United States have prioritized the development and deployment of a wide array of military assets. These capabilities, coupled with the Alliance’s ability to draw from diverse capabilities of U.S. maritime, aerial and ground weapons systems, make for one of the world’s most contemporary, formidable and credible fighting forces in the world.

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1. A group of U.S. Marines pose for a selfie with two of their Republic of Korea counterparts during the Joint Women’s Leadership Symposium June 21, 2018. (Defense Media Activity–Marines photo by Cpl. Bryce Hodges)

2. Vice President Mike Pence participates in an expanded bilateral meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in at the 2018 ASEAN Summit in Singapore, Nov. 15, 2018. The leaders discussed efforts to accomplish the two countries’ shared goals of achieving the final, fully verified denuclearization of North Korea and establishing a permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)
The requirement for a robust alliance has never been greater.
Tracing its roots to the defense of the Republic of Korea during the Korean War, the ROK-US Alliance has grown beyond its military origins to include significant economic and cultural connections that deepen and strengthen the ties between the two nations.
SOUTH KOREA spends 2.7 percent of its GDP ON DEFENSE largest percentage among U.S. Allies in the region

MILITARY
For over 68 years, Korean and United States Service Members have been serving side-by-side on the Korean Peninsula. Decades of combined training, operational experience and shared sacrifice have created a capable, ready force considered by many to be the most formidable military Alliance in the world. The ROK-US trains and exercises to conduct interoperable, mutually-supporting operations across all domains and to be prepared to fight tonight.

ECONOMIC
South Korea is an important ally and key trading partner. In 2017, U.S. foreign direct investment in South Korea was $41.6 billion. South Korean foreign direct investment in the U.S. was $51.8 billion—up almost 22 percent over the previous year.

Majority-owned South Korean firms employ more than 50,000 people in the United States. Majority owned U.S. firms employ more than 120,000 people in South Korea.

The U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS), negotiated in Sept. 2018, secured changes that promote further integration of the U.S. and South Korean economies. The agreement seeks to grow U.S. auto exports and U.S. pharmaceutical exports to a country where U.S. imports have steadily increased since 2009.

CULTURAL
As steadfast partners, the U.S. and the South Korea share a strong relationship based on common values and goals. More than 1.8 million Koreans live in the U.S. and approximately 150,000 Americans reside in South Korea. Both countries are staunch defenders of democracy, free trade, human rights and rule of law, and work diligently to safeguard these ideals. Cultural exchanges, officially sanctioned and organic, are abundant—from music to food, sports to academics and many more.

Left: U.S. snowboarder Chloe Kim celebrates winning a gold medal at the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games, Feb. 13. Kim, a native Californian who is first-generation Korean-American, said “The Koreans, if they don’t have anyone to cheer for in snowboarding, I want them to cheer for me. Because you know what? I’ll do it for both.” (Photo by Michael Kappeler/dpa/Alamy Live News)

Above: A U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon assigned to the 36th Fighter Squadron at Osan Air Base positions to receive fuel midair during a training flight over the ROK. A KC-10 Extender with the 6th Air Refueling Squadron, assigned to Travis Air Force Base, California, traveled to South Korea in support of nighttime air refueling training for F-16 Fighting Falcons and A-10 Thunderbolt IIs. Simultaneously, members of the ROK Air Force Air Mobility Reconnaissance Command exercised air refueling operations with their U.S. counterparts. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kelsey Tucker)

Opposite: The Uijeongbu City Dance Team performs a traditional Korean fan dance called “Buch-chum” during the Uijeongbu City Friendship and Respect Concert, commemorating the long-standing partnership at the Arts Center, Oct. 15, 2018. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Raquel Villalona, 2nd Infantry Division, ROK-U.S. Combined Division)
Unique relationships at every level play an important role on the Peninsula and are a strategic asset for the U.S. presence in Northeast Asia.

The daily lives of South Koreans, Americans and those that represent the additional 16 United Nations Command Sending State nations are inextricably linked to one another thanks to the continuous presence of multinational military forces on the Korean Peninsula since 1950.

Team building activities such as KATUSA Friendship Week—an annual event to bring Korean Soldiers who augment U.S. troops together with American families and Service Members—builds solidarity through friendly games of Tug of War. Cultural exchanges, like concerts and cooking classes, also help military Service Members, civilians and their families explore all that their local host communities have to offer. Fireworks displays open to the Korean public on the Fourth of July, is one of many examples of what Life on Pen means for the 55,000 international personnel affiliated with the three commands living and working throughout South Korea.

GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM
Visitors and newcomers to U.S. command presence in South Korea often remark on the unique relationship between Koreans and Americans. They comment on the closeness with which the two groups work and the personal relationships that extend outside official commitments.

These relationships are built by a concerted effort that is a focus of the command. United States Forces Korea (USFK) communities at every level work to sustain strong partnerships with our South Korean hosts through various engagements, both on and off military installations. Many of these engagements include sporting events, language exchanges, academic exchanges, internships and community service programs. The goal of these engagements is to strengthen the bilateral ROK-US Alliance by establishing and improving relationships between Koreans and Americans, while demonstrating America’s continuing commitment to the security of the Republic of Korea.
A U.S. Navy Sailor participates in a community relations event with a resident of the Aikwangwon Home and School for the Mentally and Physically Disabled in Koje-do on Apr. 28, 2018. The U.S. Navy and Aikwangwon community outreach partnership spans more than 60 years and began when U.S. Navy doctors and nurses assigned to the U.S. Navy base in Chinhae volunteered at the home during the Korean War. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class William Carlisle)

The USFK Community Relations program provides important venues to build these relationships. Through the Good Neighbor Program (GNP) the command educates service members and their families on Korean customs, history and culture and introduces Koreans to U.S. service members and educates them on USFK’s role in the region. The GNP is a holistic approach to bridging the cultural gap between U.S. personnel and our Korean hosts with cultural awareness training, military-to-military engagements and community engagements.

Through the GNP, thousands of new friends and colleagues now better understand American culture and the importance of the ROK-US Alliance. As the situation in Korea and Northeast Asia continues to rapidly evolve, these relationships will prove to be the foundation from which the Alliance can continue to affect positive change in the region.

1. South Korean locals assist U.S. Marines from Marine Corps Installation Camp Mujuk in preparing their costumes before participating in the Return with Glory parade, Sept. 16, 2018, as part of the Poeun Cultural festival in Ocheon-Eup, South Korea. U.S. Marines played the role of Poeun’s classmates by wearing traditional Korean Confucian scholar costumes: Poeun was a renowned mid-14th century Korean scholar. Community relations events like this one strengthen the U.S.-South Korean partnership. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Gunnery Sgt. Branko Bilicicich)

2. At Yeouido Han River Park in Seoul on Sept. 8, 2018, more than 430 service members, U.S. Department of Defense civilians and their family members joined forces with the their South Korean counterparts to run in the 15th Annual Korean Defense Comrade Marathon which included a 5K race, 10K race and a fun-run. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Mark A. Kauffman and Pfc. Lee You-chul)
ROK-US INVESTMENTS IN SECURITY

The United States currently manages a foreign military sales portfolio valued at more than $29 billion (32 trillion South Korean won) with South Korea supporting a number of Alliance critical military capabilities.

Between 2013 and 2017, South Korea spent $13 billion (14.5 trillion South Korean won) in U.S.-origin procurements via FMS, while the U.S. government also authorized $2.8 billion (3.2 trillion South Korean won) in licensed defense articles and services via direct commercial sales from U.S. industry for export to South Korea.

Acquisitions focus on intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), ballistic missile defense (BMD), air superiority, maritime security and include: unmanned surveillance aircraft, PATRIOT upgrades, naval vessels and upgrades to Joint Strike Fighter aircraft. These capabilities and commitments are designed to greatly enhance the warfighting readiness of the ROK-US Alliance, as well as meet many of the conditions required for successful transition of wartime operational control of Alliance forces to the ROK. Additionally, the United States is working with South Korea as it continues to develop its own indigenous defense industry to further meet defense modernization requirements.

Alliance forces continue to face both conventional and asymmetric threats on the Peninsula as well as increasingly complex challenges throughout the Indo-Pacific region. This requires the Alliance to bring to bear the most agile, lethal and effective capabilities to deter, defend and, if necessary, defeat these threats. This must be a combined effort between both governments, militaries and industry partners. Through JUSMAG-K, the United States and South Korea work together to develop and implement capabilities that stay ahead of threats and deter aggression.

Alongside management of security assistance programs, JUSMAG-K has also taken the lead in integrating bilateral engagements across multiple venues and forums. This effort has helped to ensure South Korea’s capability gaps are addressed in a consolidated and united fashion across the U.S. government. In addition, JUSMAG-K facilitates more than 50 co-development efforts between South Korea and the U.S. to ensure the Alliance stays on the cutting edge of innovation and future capabilities. Leveraging each country’s technical expertise in...
The F-35A (similar to the aircraft depicted here) will bring a fifth generation fighter capability to the Republic of Korea Air Force (ROKAF) this year. U.S. Air Force Maj. Bradley Zimmerman, 58th Fighter Squadron F-35A pilot, and Senior Airman Saovada Pum, 33rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, complete pre-flight checks October 2016, at Alliance Airport, Fort Worth, Texas. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Thompson)
Security Cooperation
JUSMAG-K MANAGES MORE THAN $29 billion in Foreign Military Sales with SOUTH KOREA
these areas, some of the more technologically advanced projects under co-development include: directed energy weapon systems; GPS anti-jamming capabilities; Next Generation Infrared Sensing; Autonomous Situational Awareness; Improved detect, track, defeat of aerial target threats, Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Elimination in Underground Facilities, and Terrestrial Laser Communications.

The United States’ and South Korea’s security cooperation relationship has not only endured, but has evolved into a strategic defense partnership to deter threats on the Korean Peninsula and cooperate, both regionally and globally, to maintain peace and security.

In light of an increasingly dynamic and challenging regional and global security environment, JUSMAG-K continues to develop into an agile and responsive organization that is strategically focused, operationally aligned and fully capable of supporting emerging warfighting requirements in the defense of South Korea. JUSMAG-K remains an integral component in the coordination and shaping of regional and global security cooperation and assistance efforts with South Korea.

JOINT U.S. MILITARY AFFAIRS GROUP–KOREA
As a U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Security Cooperation Organization, Joint U.S. Military Affairs Group–Korea (JUSMAG-K) maintains close coordination with United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command and United States Forces Korea, as they support the South Korean Government’s effort to enhance the capabilities of its armed forces.

JUSMAG-K is an integral part of the U.S. Embassy Seoul Country Team that works directly under the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea and reports to USINDOPACOM. JUSMAG-K operates under Chief of Mission authority and works with the larger defense community toward a mutually beneficial defense cooperation program.

Opposite page: U.S. Navy and ROK Navy ships sailing together demonstrates the interoperability. ROKN’s purchase of 3 more Aegis Combat Systems will add a sea-based ballistic missile defense capability. (From left) ROKS Seoae Ryusungyong (DDG 993), U.S. Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Spruance (DDG 111), ROKS Yul Gok Yi (DDG 992), and ROKS Kang Gam Chan (DDH 979). Spruance joined ROKN Aegis destroyers, submarines, anti-submarine helicopters and U.S. and ROKN P-3 patrol aircraft in the operation that highlighted the unified naval force capabilities in defense of South Korea and the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class William Gaskill)
A Journey of Sacrifice and Friendship

YONGSAN RELOCATION & LAND PARTNERSHIP PLAN

Since liberation from imperial Japanese occupation at the end of World War II, the Republic of Korea and the United States have gone the whole way—together.

More than 2.5 million U.S. Service Members have come to South Korea, many with their families through U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan (USAG-Y), where the two countries cultivated a shared history and culture unlike any other place in the world.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Far East District (FED) has diligently worked alongside its South Korean partners in support of one of the largest transformation, relocation and construction projects in U.S. Department of Defense history: the Yongsan Relocation Plan (YRP) and Land Partnership Plan (LPP).

The construction and outfitting of facilities and the re-stationing of U.S. Forces in accordance with these plans continues to move forward. To date, 529 facilities, roughly 87 percent of those planned, are complete and the final facilities are scheduled for completion by the end of 2022. Several major headquarters completed their relocation into new facilities at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys (USAG-H) during the past year. These include the United Nations Command (UNC) and United States Forces Korea (USFK).

UNC was established in 1950 and USFK in 1957, and were located for more than 65 years at USAG-Y in Seoul. The grand opening of the new USFK headquarters on USAG-H on June 29, 2018, named in honor of retired Gen. John William Vessey, Jr. reinforced the United States’ strong commitment to the ROK-US Alliance.

Left: Father and son walk hand-in-hand for the first day of school at Humphreys Central Elementary School, Aug. 27, 2018. Schools on U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys opened their doors on August 27 for the 2018-2019 school year, welcoming new and returning students, faculty and accompanied family members. Both Seoul American Elementary, Middle and High Schools on U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan closed at the end of the 2018-2019 School Year after 60 years in operation. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Maryam Treece, 20th Public Affairs Detachment)
U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys: By the Numbers

87 PERCENT COMPLETE

$10.7 billion to build over ten years

ROK GOVERNMENT contributed more than 90 PERCENT OF ALL COSTS

40 miles of water piping

988 miles of cabling

17.6 million cubic meters engineered fill

SEAFLEVEL RAISED BY 8.5 feet

*High enough to weather a 100-year flood

40 miles of water piping
U.S. Army Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, former United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, United States Forces Korea commander, said “the relocation of UNC and USFK headquarters is one of the most significant events in the ROK-US Alliance since the signing of the Armistice in 1953.”

The Second Infantry Division (2ID) Headquarters also completed its relocation from Camp Red Cloud to USAG-H in October 2018. The relocation of the Warrior Division is the first time 2ID Headquarters has been located south of Seoul since its return to Korea in 1965.

In preparation of the return of USAG-Y to the Republic of Korea, USFK is engaged in joint events with the ROK Government and the city of Seoul to highlight the return of this historic property to the Korean people. USFK is hosting joint exhibits with Seoul city at USAG-Y that illustrate the importance of the strong ROK-US Alliance to peace on the Korean Peninsula and to the miraculous economic development of South Korea.

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**Top:** A map shows the planned use for former U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan land after implementation of the Yongsan Relocation Plan and Land Partnership Plan: portions in orange will remain U.S. installations, light grey indicates portions previously returned to the ROK Government, green areas are planned urban park space and portions in pink indicate areas where the use is yet to be determined by the ROK Government.

**Above, left:** A map of the Korean Peninsula indicates the location of Osan Air Base and U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys in relation to Seoul. 2018 saw the relocation of the headquarters for both the United Nations Command and United States Forces Korea to U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys near Pyeongtaek city. Both headquarters were located for more than 65 years at USAG-Y in Seoul.
USAG-Y exhibits many layers of shared history. Every building at USAG-Y is labeled with a number that is preceded by a ‘T’ or an ‘S’. The ‘T’ stands for temporary, the ‘S’ stands for semi-permanent.

There are no permanent facilities on USAG-Y, because the United States always intended to return this land to the Korean people.

Each temporary or semi-permanent change in mission and purpose throughout this history is reflected in the many manifestations and modifications made to these structures over time. Each building here contains its own story. Sacrifice, liberation, cohabitation, partnership and friendship are all embodied in the fabric of this place.

“The relocation of UNC and USFK headquarters is one of the most significant events in the ROK-US Alliance since the signing of the Armistice in 1953.”

–Gen. Vincent K. Brooks
FORMER COMMANDER UNC, CFC, USFK
June 29, 2018
[THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT]

At the Heart of Northeast Asia

Home to some of the world’s most influential and consequential powers, Northeast Asia is a complex web of historical conflicts, interlocking relationships, dynamic economies and strong militaries in pursuit of divergent national aims and interests.

Given Korea’s central location amidst this landscape, events on the Korean Peninsula have the potential to upend not only the region but the world. South Korea has worked alongside its allies, including the United States, to solidify its role as a trusted power in this dynamic and complex security environment.
ROK Army soldiers stand resolute at the iconic Joint Security Area where South and North Korean soldiers have stood face to face for decades across the Korean Demilitarized Zone, Panmunjom, South Korea, June 19, 2018. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Colletta)
A Complex Dynamic

South Korea is known in defense and diplomatic circles as the linchpin of stability and prosperity in Northeast Asia. South Korea has worked alongside its allies to solidify its role as an important middle-power in a dynamic and complex security environment.

CHINA

China remains the dominant regional influencer and maintains strong economic ties to all Northeast Asian countries. China is North Korea’s largest trading partner, but significantly decreased the volume of imports/exports in 2018 in support of UN sanctions. North Korean leadership visited China multiple times throughout the year, before and after presidential summits with South Korea and the U.S.

$228 billion
Military Expenditures

$39 billion
Military Expenditures

NORTH KOREA

North Korea shifted away from the overtly hostile acts towards South Korea and the U.S. that dominated its actions in 2017. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un participated in summits with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald J. Trump in 2018. Kim Jong Un agreed to denuclearize North Korea and increase cooperation with South Korea during these summits.

$3.9 billion
Military Expenditures

SOUTH KOREA

South Korean President Moon Jae-in began a campaign of rapid engagement with North Korea, seeking to normalize diplomatic and economic ties in response to North Korean overtures for improving relations. The relationship between South Korea and Japan saw an increase in tensions.

$39 billion
Military Expenditures

51 million
Population

25 million
Population

1.4 billion
Population

Beijing

Pyongyang

Seoul

Tokyo

Vladivostok

[THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT]
Russia exerted its influence throughout the region and hosted South Korean President Moon Jae-in during 2018. Russian leaders are among the strongest supporters for lifting sanctions on North Korea, which they have called unfair. Russian disputes with Japan over the Kuril Islands remain a source of tension and have prevented the two countries from ever signing a formal, bilateral World War II peace treaty.

"What South Koreans have achieved on this Peninsula is more than a victory for your nation. It is a victory for every nation that believes in the human spirit. And it is our hope that, someday soon, all of your brothers and sisters of the North will be able to enjoy the fullest of life intended by God."

–Donald J. Trump, President of the United States
November 17, 2017

ROK public opinion of the U.S. remains among the highest in the world.

Pew Research Center polling shows that 80 PERCENT of South Korean poll respondents expressed a favorable view of the U.S.

South Koreans prioritize denuclearization and a continuing role for U.S. Forces on the Peninsula.

81 PERCENT expressed support for maintaining U.S. Forces in South Korea without a Korean end-of-war declaration; this number falls to 62 percent if a declaration is signed.
North Korean Forces

Although 2018 saw a welcomed respite from recurrent North Korean provocations in 2016 and 2017, unchanged is the fundamental challenge the ROK-US Alliance faces in terms of the threat posed by North Korea.
The U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency noted in a report to the U.S. Congress in 2017 that the North Korean Army has more than 1 million soldiers, making it the world’s fourth-largest military. Six percent of North Korea’s 25 million people serve on active duty, and another 25 to 30 percent are assigned to a reserve or paramilitary unit. About 70 percent of North Korea’s ground forces and 50 percent of its air and naval forces are deployed within approximately 60 miles of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).
North Korea: A Land of Contrasts

In 2018 North Korean leader Kim Jong Un made a radical shift from multiple provocative actions—developing and displaying North Korea’s missile and nuclear capabilities—towards a policy of diplomacy, engagement and restraint.

From early in the year, Kim Jong Un began to engage the Republic of Korea (ROK) with a stated intent of creating a positive environment for the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics, an event to which he dispatched his sister and number two within the Workers’ Party of Korea Propaganda and Agitation Department, Kim Yo Jong.

BILATERAL DIPLOMACY
Eschewing multilateral engagements, Kim Jong Un subsequently embarked on a robust schedule of bilateral diplomacy, which has included:
• Three meetings with South Korea’s President Moon Jae-in,
• Three meetings with China’s leader Xi Jinping, and
• A summit with the president of Singapore.

The Inter-Korean Summits between President Moon and leader Kim Jong Un generated two historic declarations—the Panmunjom Declaration and the Pyongyang Declaration—which provide a framework for moving toward the goals of inter-Korean rapprochement and denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

A separate U.S.-Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) Singapore Declaration aims to improve U.S.-DPRK relations as well as the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The stage had been set for a second summit with the United States (held in Hanoi Feb. 27-28, 2019 and a meeting with Moscow (held in Vladivostok April 25, 2019). An additional meeting with Tokyo is envisioned for some point in the future.

HURDLES
Years of North Korean provocations and development of weapons of mass destruction, however, have resulted in significant hurdles to removing accumulated distrust and establishing permanent peace with a denuclearized North Korea. While Kim Jong Un ordered the

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1. Members of the North Korean delegation to the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games, including Kim Young Nam (l) and Kim Jong Un’s younger sister, Kim Yo Jong (middle) watch the Unified Korea vs. Swiss Women’s Ice Hockey match, Feb. 10, 2018. (Official Republic of Korea photo)

2. North Korean special operation forces Lighting Commandos march in a military parade to mark the 105th anniversary of the birth of Kim Il Sung on April 17, 2017. (Photo by Rodong Sinmun)
While Kim Jong Un ordered the dismantlement of a missile test site as well as the highly publicized destruction of the nuclear testing facility at Punggye-ri, much work remains to move toward the eventual goal of final, fully verified denuclearization.
dismantlement of a missile test site as well as the highly publicized destruction of the nuclear testing facility at Punggye-ri, much work remains to move toward the eventual goal of final, fully verified denuclearization.

Although the Pyongyang Declaration in September was accompanied by a number of mutual confidence building measures under the Comprehensive Military Agreement (CMA), only time will prove North Korea’s commitment to reducing tensions and pursuing peace. Toward these goals, and to enable the diplomatic process, adjustments in the scale, scope, timing and volume of some ROK-U.S. combined exercises have been made. Whether the North will reciprocate with sincerity toward the diplomatic process while showing similar restraint in its conventional forces is yet to be seen.

**ECONOMIC CONCERNS**

Also in 2018, Kim Jong Un announced a significant shift in focus to developing the North Korean economy. After an April 2018 plenary session of the Seventh Party Congress, North Korea announced the completion of its Byungjin policy that sought simultaneous nuclear and economic development, and a shift to a new strategic line focused solely on the economy.

Although accompanied by a steady stream of propaganda urging increased productivity, expanded use of advanced science and technology, and general application of creative and new methods of work, Kim Jong Un appears still committed to a traditional model that avoids reform and opening, and seeks “self-reliant and independent” development that does not require investment, aid or assistance. Kim Jong Un may see opportunities in areas such as tourism and sports exchange as mechanisms to skirt sanctions and secure much-needed foreign currency, but it is unlikely these will generate significant flows of currency, as other countries consider the risk involved in allowing such exchanges with the North.
While seeking aid and assistance from outside, Kim Jong Un has not yet made the policy decisions that would lead to sufficient sanctions relief and international confidence in North Korea as a stable country in which to invest. Short of these decisions, it is unlikely North Korea will be able to achieve major improvements to its economy and anything but marginal, symbolic accomplishments under the Five-Year Economic Strategy.

As such, 2018 was marked by a much-welcomed détente and a return to diplomacy and negotiations. It is still difficult, however, to determine what direction Kim Jong Un ultimately hopes to head.

Periods of thawing tensions on the Peninsula have been observed in the past, with Pyongyang ultimately choosing to return to a path of provocation and coercion. Kim Jong Un continuing to expand diplomatic cooperation in order to integrate North Korea into the international community would be a significant sign that the country is breaking from the past.

If Kim Jong Un chooses a return to a provocative North Korea that feels free to conduct limited military actions to secure national objectives, the ROK-US Alliance is prepared. Either direction North Korea chooses to go, the three commands will remain ready to support diplomatic engagement while ensuring deterrence and the continued defense of South Korea.

_Opposite page:_ U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo is greeted by North Korea’s Vice Chairman Kim Yong Chol upon arrival to Pyongyang, North Korea on October 7, 2018. (U.S. State Department photo)

_Right:_ The Embroidery Institute and the Ryugyong Hotel, Pyongyang, North Korea, May 2, 2017. The Ryugyong Hotel, though modern on the outside, remains unfinished on the inside even after years of construction. (Photo 93088251 © Ablakat | Dreamstime.com)
UNITED NATIONS COMMAND

United Nations Command (UNC) is the unified command structure for multinational military forces established in 1950 to support South Korea during the Korean War.

COMBINED FORCES COMMAND

Combined Forces Command (CFC) is the heart of the ROK-US Alliance and remains an enduring testament to the dedicated partnership between the United States and South Korea.

UNITED STATES FORCES KOREA

United States Forces Korea (USFK) is responsible for supporting and training joint ROK-U.S. Forces and United Nations Command multinational forces.
A M109A6 Paladin fires a 155 mm inert training round during the 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment Defender, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division (Rotational) Table VI Gunnery at St. Barbara Range, Camp Hovey, Dec. 5. Table VI Gunnery is an annual training requirement for Field Artillery units that qualify individual howitzer crews and platoon Fire Direction Centers. This training focuses on overall readiness and maintaining Field Artillery core competencies at the section level. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Sean M. Kealey)
United Nations Command

*United Nations Command (UNC) is the unified command structure for multinational military forces established in 1950 to support South Korea during the Korean War.*

The Korean Armistice Agreement, signed July 27, 1953, and still in effect today, established a cessation of hostilities on the Korean Peninsula until a final peaceful settlement is reached. The agreement also established the Military Armistice Commission (MAC). Though the Korean People’s Army and the Chinese People’s Volunteers withdrew from MAC activities in 1990s, the UNC members of the MAC (UNCMAC) continue the commission’s important work of Armistice enforcement.

UNC, UNCMAC and UNC-Rear exist to:

- Be the continuing home for international commitments on the Korean Peninsula.
- Facilitate dialogue that leads to lasting peace.
- Coordinate international support for the defense of South Korea and enforce the rules of engagement for all participants.
- Provide a pathway for all technical and specialized military resources external to the Korean Peninsula.
- Receive and support international commitments in a time of crisis or need.
- Enforce the Armistice Agreement that ended hostilities in 1953.
The Mission
United Nations Command

The U.S.-led United Nations Command (UNC) is the multinational force that plays a pivotal role alongside the Combined Forces Command (CFC) and United States Forces Korea (USFK) to increase international legitimacy and collective resolve.

Comprised of 18 nations—Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States—UNC continues to be an important vehicle for coordinating multilateral engagement, bringing international partners into the fold and providing a standing multinational framework for the integration of multinational forces into the command, should military operations become necessary.

2018 marked 65 years that UNC has successfully enforced the Armistice Agreement, providing diplomatic space to find a lasting peace.

While steadfastly maintaining the Armistice, UNC continues to expand engagements with UN Sending States and like-minded international partners to further enhance intelligence sharing, interoperability and unified training, and planning opportunities. From the Vancouver Foreign Ministers Meeting on Jan. 16, 2018, comprised primarily of UN Sending States, to negotiations...
at the Joint Security Area (JSA) and the repatriation of fallen Soldiers from the Korean War, to behind-the-scenes work to facilitate various summits, UNC is uniquely postured to advance the objectives of the original UN resolutions that sought to restore peace on the Peninsula.

In 2018 UNC has harnessed efforts to increase its vitality and relevance. Most notable was the appointment of a Canadian Lieutenant General to serve as the deputy commander of UNC—the first non-U.S. officer to hold the post. This appointment comes at a critical juncture with the North-South agreement to implement the historic Comprehensive Military Agreement (CMA).

**COMPREHENSIVE MILITARY AGREEMENT (CMA) IMPLEMENTATION**
The CMA, a bilateral North-South agreement, was designed to build trust and prevent military confrontation by increasing the size of the buffer zones on land, air and sea, while enhancing the mechanisms to facilitate routine North-South exchanges in the form of roads, railways and meetings. Given UNC’s unique authority to enforce the Armistice, the command remains fully supportive and plays a critical role in operationalizing the CMA. During the first 90 days of CMA implementation, tension reducing efforts centered on: joint de-mining, the withdrawal of guard posts, support to remains recovery operations, and establishing a No Fly Zone above the military demarcation line (MDL) that separates the two Koreas.

UNC continues to seek out UN Sending State augmentation to the mission of inspections and investigations, observations, Armistice education, demilitarized zone (DMZ) access control, and advising and assisting foreign dignitary visits. Additionally, UNC continues to ensure the support and force flow through Japan that would be necessary in times of crisis.

Building on the heroic sacrifices of UNC and the ROK soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, conditions have matured with prospects for a major step toward a political settlement on the Korean Peninsula. Despite the challenges ahead, UNC continues to preserve the peace—in the spirit of the UN resolutions more than 68 years ago—to provide space for diplomacy and possibly a lasting inter-Korean peace settlement.

**UNited nations Command**
The United Nations Command (UNC) is a multinational force created through a series of UN resolutions in response to North Korean aggression more than 68 years ago. The UN Security Council called for UN member states to place their forces under a unified command.

Supplementing UNC activities on the Peninsula is UNC-Rear, with its small element at Yokota Air Base in Tokyo. UNC-Rear’s specially-selected cadre of international officers, led by an Australian colonel, is responsible for maintaining access to seven strategically designated UN-flagged bases in Japan.
Service Members of the Canadian Armed Forces assigned to the United Nations Command arrive at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea for the Turn Towards Busan Ceremony.

Turn Towards Busan is a ceremony held annually on Nov. 11 at the cemetery to honor UN Sending States Service Members both living and deceased, who fought in the Korean War.

(U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class William Carlisle)
UNC continues to be an important vehicle for coordinating multilateral engagement, bringing international partners into the fold, and providing a standing multinational framework for the integration of multinational forces into the command, should military operations become necessary.
Repatriations

The UNC maintains its solemn obligation to recover those who have fallen in battle and those listed as missing in action or prisoner of war. As part of discharging its duties to uphold and enforce the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement, an estimated 629 sets of remains have been repatriated over the last 29 years.

United Nations Command (UNC) is committed to providing the fullest possible accounting and dignified interment for Korean War Era personnel, ensuring all remains are properly identified and interred honorably. The remains received from North Korea have been handled with the utmost care and respect by professional historians, forensic scientists, uniformed personnel and government officials.

More than 7,600 U.S. troops remain unaccounted for from the Korean War with 5,300 believed to be in North Korea. Following the Armistice in 1953, which established the demilitarized zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas, both sides were required to repatriate individuals listed as killed or missing in action. The United States received an estimated 4,219 human remains, of whom 2,944 are known or believed to be Americans.

UNC with support from United States Forces Korea (USFK), repatriated 55 sets of remains from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) on July 27, 2018.

Opposite page: The illustration shows the process of repatriation from remains hand over, to catalog and inspection, to identification and accountability, to hometown burial. (Source U.S. Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.)
1. Personnel from the United Nations Command (UNC), U.S. Department of State, and Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) secure flags onto cases containing the possible remains of Service Members lost in the Korean War after conducting a unilateral transfer in Wonsan, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, July 27, 2018. UN flags were used to cover the cases because the nationality of the deceased had yet to be discovered. Upon identification, the cases will be covered with the flag of their respective nation. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class David J. Marshall)

2. The UNC returned a New Zealand sailor and soldier during a ceremony at Osan Air Base, Oct. 8, 2018. As part of a project called Te Auraki (The Return), the New Zealand Defense Force returns personnel and dependents buried overseas after January 1955. The ceremony, which began with a Maori prayer, brought traditional New Zealand song and dance from the island nation to Osan Air Base. (Media Center Korea photo by Sgt. Benjamin Parsons)


Combined Forces Command

Established Nov. 7, 1978, the Republic of Korea-United States Combined Forces Command (CFC) is the heart of the ROK-US Alliance.

The command remains an enduring testament to the ironclad Alliance and dedicated partnership between the United States and South Korea.

The ready and capable CFC stands at the crux of the command’s tripartite structure and enshrines the shared ROK and U.S. commitment to the defense of South Korea.

CFC is the heart of the ROK-US Alliance, a distinctive command that is unique from any other U.S. alliance. It serves as the realization of the military cooperation between the two nations. The CFC forms a complex and effective military architecture that brings the vast assortment of capabilities to bear in defense of the Peninsula and supports diplomatic, information and economic efforts.
Republic of Korea Army medics transport a U.S. Soldier casualty to a ROK helicopter that then transported the casualty to a ROK landing ship during a simulated mass casualty training. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Sarah Williams 2nd Infantry Division-ROK-U.S. Combined Division)
The Mission
Combined Forces Command

The Combined Forces Command (CFC) reflects the mutual commitment of the Republic of Korea and the United States to maintain peace and security, and the willingness and capability to take that commitment into battle, if the need arises.

More than a half century of fragile peace has marked the history of post-war Korea, where the world’s longest standing Armistice remains tenuously in force. For most of these years, the directing headquarters was the United Nations Command (UNC), which had also directed combat operations in the 1950-53 war.

The professional growth and development of the Republic of Korea’s (ROK) armed forces propelled the evolution of the ROK defense structure. As early as 1965, it was recognized that what worked in the war could be significantly improved by increasing ROK participation in the planning structure.

A combined operational planning staff—developed in 1968 as an adjunct to UNC, United States Forces Korea, Eighth United States Army Headquarters and the I Corps—evolved in 1971
as an integrated field army headquarters. It was not until 1978, as a bilateral agreement related to the planned U.S. ground combat force withdrawal of that time—subsequently canceled in 1981—that the senior headquarters in South Korea was organized as a combined staff.

Hostilities today are deterred by this binational defense team. Established on November 7, 1978, CFC is the warfighting headquarters. Its role is to deter, or defeat if necessary, outside aggression against South Korea.

To accomplish that mission in a contingency, CFC has operational control over more than 600,000 active-duty military personnel of all services, from both countries. In wartime, augmentation could include some 3.5 million ROK reservists as well as additional U.S. and Sending State forces deployed from outside South Korea. Also, CFC would provide a coordinated defense through its air, ground, naval and combined Marine forces component commands and the Combined Unconventional Warfare Task Force. Additional forces would be provided to the CFC for employment via their respective service components.

The CFC is commanded by a four-star U.S. general with a four-star ROK Army general as deputy commander. Throughout the command structure, binational manning is readily apparent: if the chief of a staff section is Korean, the deputy is American and vice versa. This integrated structure exists within the component commands as well as the headquarters. All CFC components are tactically integrated through continuous combined and joint planning, training and exercises.

Separate ROK and U.S. command post exercises were combined as Ulchi Focus Lens (UFL) in 1976. In December 2006, the CFC commander ordered the name of UFL be changed. The ROK staff retained the name of the ROK government exercise Ulchi and changed the exercise name to Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG). UFG is an annual joint and combined simulation-supported command post exercise that trains CFC personnel and major component, subordinate and augmenting staffs using state-of-the-art wargaming computer simulations and support infrastructures.

At the unit level, frequent no-notice alerts, musters and operational readiness inspections insure combat preparedness for ROK and U.S. Forces. Both countries are pursuing ambitious modernization programs to maintain a viable ROK-U.S. military posture.

South Korea is making strides in equipment improvement through a rapidly expanding domestic defense industry, as well as purchases from foreign sources. U.S. efforts toward modernization include newer, more powerful weapon systems, greater mobility and helicopter lift capability, and vastly increased antiarmor capability.

**CFC Leadership**

*Gen. Robert B. Abrams*  
COMMANDER, COMBINED FORCES COMMAND

Gen. Abrams has commanded at every level from Company through Division, and led units in combat operations in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan.

*Gen. Choi Byung-hyuk*  
DEPUTY COMMANDER, COMBINED FORCES COMMAND

Gen. Choi Byung-hyuk graduated from the Korea Military Academy and earned a master's degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. Gen. Choi is currently the Deputy Commander, Combined Forces Command and the Commander, Ground Component Command. He previously served as ROK Army Headquarters Vice Chief of Staff.

*Lt. Gen. Michael A. Bills*  
CHIEF OF STAFF, COMBINED FORCES COMMAND


**COMBINED FORCES COMMAND**

Activated on November 7, 1978 under the command of Gen. John William Vessey, Jr., CFC is the warfighting headquarters on the Korean Peninsula, functioning as an integrated, combined Alliance force that employs and synchronizes ROK and U.S. military assets.
A Unique Military Structure

Given the ironclad nature of the ROK-U.S. partnership, the Combined Forces Command (CFC) derives its strategic direction and operational guidance from both ROK and U.S. executive authorities.

This unique command structure allows CFC to collaborate daily on meeting external threats to South Korea through consistently transmitted joint strategic guidance from both capitals. CFC derives its structure, priorities and organization from bilateral agreements coordinated through the annual Military Committee Meeting (MCM), conducted between the U.S. and ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Security Consultative Meeting (SCM), which takes place between the ROK Ministry of National Defense and U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense. These Alliance-centric consultative processes allow the United States and South Korea to provide CFC with critical combined guidance that leverages CFC capabilities and establishes the command as a stabilizing force within Northeast Asia.

OPERATIONAL CONTROL (OPCON)

U.S. and South Korean defense leaders have made significant progress in preparation for transfer of wartime operational control over combined forces to the South Korean military. In a September 2017 address, ROK President Moon Jae-in declared his administration’s intent to pursue OPCON transfer and closer coordination and interoperability of combined forces, stepping up the

continued on page 68
Given the ironclad nature of the ROK-US partnership, CFC derives its strategic direction and operational guidance from both nations’ executive authorities.
ROK Ministry of National Defense’s efforts to craft a phased road map to carry out this process. In October, leaders from both nations signed the Alliance’s mutually declared guiding principles, which paves the way for a conditions-based transition of wartime operational control.

COMMAND STRUCTURE
As South Korea and the United States continue to modernize and strengthen their capabilities, so too will the command structure and orientation of CFC evolve to accommodate a changing strategic environment.

In the months and years to come, CFC will adapt as the command proceeds with its planned relocation. This relocation effort has seen USFK move its headquarters south to Pyeongtaek, while CFC remains in Seoul. Despite the physical separation, this command transformation will enhance CFC.

CFC will remain wholly combined from the tactical level all the way up to the headquarters, supported both by critical co-location at Commander, Naval Forces Korea headquarters in Busan and ongoing combined training partnerships with the ROK Marine Corps and ROK Air Force. As Eighth Army settles into its new home at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, integration with the ROK-led Combined Ground Component Command (CGCC) will continue to strengthen the ties between the two Army elements. The command’s forward-looking vision may involve change in the present, but that which endures at the heart of the command is CFC’s absolute unity of purpose and joint commitment to stability, security and prosperity in Northeast Asia. As the CFC motto states, “같이 갑시다” (pronounced Kat-chi kap-shi-da), “We go together!”

ROK-U.S. COMBINED DIVISION: 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION
The 2nd Infantry Division is the major U.S. ground combat unit in Korea. The Division’s headquarters is located at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, and its primary mission is to deter war on the Korean Peninsula by maintaining a high state of combat readiness and vigilance. 2ID units—Second to None—stand shoulder-to-shoulder with first-echelon Korean units on the Korean Peninsula.
1. 1st Lt. Evan Sabourin, assigned to the ROK-U.S. Combined Division, measures distance on his map during the Best Warrior Competition, April 10, 2018. The competition identifies and recognizes the most outstanding officer, warrant officer, non-commissioned officer, U.S. Soldier and Korean Augmentation To The United States Army (KATUSA) within the division. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Maryam Treece)

2. Capt. Rich LeBron, commanding officer of the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6), describes flight deck capabilities to Republic of Korea Army Gen. Park Han-ki, chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, during a ship’s tour. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Gavin T Shields)

3. Gen. Robert B. Abrams, UNC, CFC, USFK commander, exits a control room after meeting with several Republic of Korea soldiers at the Demilitarized Zone, Nov. 10, 2018. During the visit—only two days after he assumed command—Gen. Abrams reaffirmed that the ROK-US Alliance remains ironclad and will continue to play an important role in preventing armed conflict on the Korean Peninsula and promoting peace and stability in the region for many decades to come. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Alexandria Crawford)

4. Capt. Julia McKusick, Alpha Company 2-2 Assault Helicopter Battalion, commander and her co-pilot, 1st Lt. Melissa Taylor, the UH-60 pilot-in-command were traveling to a training exercise when they observed a South Korean firefighting helicopter crash into the Han River, Dec. 1, 2018. They immediately reported the incident to the Seoul traffic control tower and hovered above until rescue personnel arrived. 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade is a part of the 2nd Infantry ROK-U.S. Combined Division. 2nd CAB’s mission is to provide superior air support to U.S. and ROK ground forces. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Viet Nguyen 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade)

1953
BIRTH OF THE ROK-US ALLIANCE
At the conclusion of Korean War hostilities in 1953, South Korea and the United States signed a Mutual Defense Treaty. The simple document joins the two nations in their desire “to strengthen the fabric of peace in the Pacific Area” and serves as the foundation of a comprehensive alliance that endures today.

Called “the relationship forged in blood,” that alliance has evolved into a broad and deep partnership based on a shared commitment to ideals such as democracy and freedom.

Even today South Korea and the U.S. maintain a firm stance about the role and importance of this Alliance for peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

United States Forces Korea

United States Forces Korea (USFK) is responsible for training joint South Korea-U.S. Forces and United Nations Command multinational forces.

Established on July 1, 1957, USFK supports the United Nations Command (UNC) and Combined Forces Command (CFC). USFK participates annually in joint and combined operations with CFC to train and maintain readiness for personnel and augmentation units.

• USFK is evidence of the continued commitment to the ROK-US Alliance.
• USFK serves as a stabilizing force in the Northeast Asia region.
• U.S. Forces have stood side-by-side with South Korean and UN Sending States partners for more than 65 years.
• USFK provides strong and capable forces to allow a full range of instruments to national leaders.
An A-10 Thunderbolt II from the 25th Fighter Squadron sits on display during the Fourth of July Liberty Festival at Osan Air Base, July 4, 2018. More than 4,500 service members and their families attended the festival to enjoy food, entertainment and a fireworks show hosted by the 51st Force Support Squadron and various supporting organizations. (U.S. Air Force Photo by 1st Lt. Rachel Salpietra, 51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs)
The Mission

United States Forces Korea

United States Forces Korea (USFK) will continue to coordinate with South Korea to build combined capacity, through training and cooperation to achieve common security objectives.

USFK operates in synchronization with Combined Forces Command (CFC) and United Nations Command (UNC) during Armistice and in the event of crisis.

In the event of hostilities on the Peninsula, USFK is ready to undertake the reception, staging, onward movement and integration (RSO&I) functions for U.S. and multinational forces. In conjunction with U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) and partner agencies, USFK also plans to conduct Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations in conjunction with the U.S. State Department, should it ever be required.

The ironclad deterrence that the ROK, USFK and UNC have provided for more than six decades has created an environment that helped South Korea develop into a prosperous and stable democratic nation. While this deterrence has been successful, it has also set the conditions for historic diplomatic engagement in 2018, despite newly developed strategic threats from North Korea. These new threats have only strengthened the ironclad Alliance, which is prepared to respond with strong and capable forces—providing national leaders a range of options to address regional threats.

AN EVOLVING ENVIRONMENT

In order to further diplomatic engagement, USFK adjusted the scale, scope, timing and volume of some key exercises in 2018. However, the command continues activities to enhance its readiness and deep commitment to stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the Asia-Pacific region. The evolving approach to exercises ensures operational and strategic training for Combined Mission Essential Tasks (CMETs) is accomplished, while supporting Alliance objectives and diplomatic efforts.

HEADQUARTERS RELOCATION

In 2018, USFK relocated its headquarters and many subordinate units to U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys (USAG-H), which provides U.S. Forces better readiness and combat support potential. USAG-H represents the strength of the ROK-US Alliance and serves as the symbol of its strong resolve to safeguard the peace.
The deterrence that ROK, USFK and UNC have provided for more than six decades has created an environment that helped the Republic of Korea develop into a prosperous and stable democratic nation.
and stability of the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia for years to come.

50th U.S.-ROK Security Consultative Meeting
Also in 2018, the 50th U.S.-ROK Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) was held in Washington. During this historic SCM, then U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis and ROK Minister of National Defense Jeong Kyeong-doo noted that the SCM has played a pivotal role in the development of the ROK-US Alliance since the first meeting on May 28, 1968. They agreed that both sides will hold discussions on a joint vision to further develop Alliance defense cooperation in a mutually reinforcing and future-oriented manner in consideration of potential changes in the security environment.

As diplomatic efforts continue, USFK will continue to provide the Peninsula the breadth and depth of U.S. Military capabilities and will maintain a vigilant and unmistakable deterrence.

Above: U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to 2nd Infantry Division, 2nd Sustainment Brigade, engage targets during live fire training on the Montana Range near Warrior Base, South Korea. The Soldiers qualified on both day and night marksmanship. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Adeline Witherspoon, 2nd Sustainment Brigade)
South Korea and the U.S. maintain a firm stance about the role and importance of United States Forces Korea for peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia.

–Moon Jae-in, President of South Korea
July 11, 2018
Innovation

United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command and United States Forces Korea continue to evolve through a culture of innovation that drives solutions to our toughest challenges.

The USFK Innovation Team hosts experimentation, encourages collaboration and inspires new thinking in the command. These efforts strengthen the Alliance, deter adversary aggression and, if necessary, aid U.S. counterparts in the defense of the Republic of Korea. In 2018, the command sought opportunities to leverage emerging capabilities and provide innovative effects in close coordination with defense, interagency, industry and academic partners.

INTERAGENCY

Among command accomplishments with the interagency, USFK representatives led initial coordination with U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and the U.S. Department of Energy to support final, fully verified de-nuclearization planning and negotiation.

The command also successfully partnered with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to leverage strategic innovation and emerging technology efforts centered on public health preparedness for, response to, and recovery from disasters and public health emergencies.

DEFENSE

The small agile group of innovation experts at USFK formed new relationships with the Defense Advanced Research and Projects...
Agency (DARPA), the Strategic Capabilities Office (SCO), MD5-The National Security Accelerator, the Army Science Board, the Rapid Reaction Technology Office (RRTOS) and the Joint Capability Technology Demonstration (JCTD) Program office. The Defense Digital Service (DDS) supported command efforts to deploy technology and digital services incorporating private sector best practices and talent.

These mutually beneficial partnerships assisted the command in leveraging the Defense Innovation Ecosystem and provided unique opportunities to demonstrate and evaluate capabilities in an operational environment.

In coordination with USINDOPACOM and United States Army Pacific (USARPAC), the group executed an eight-month Rapid Capabilities Cell (RCC) and established a permanent Emerging Capabilities Council (ECC) on the Korean Peninsula. The RCC and ECC bring an unprecedented level of collaboration to address critical capability and capacity gaps.

The 694th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group built the first military-focused innovation lab on the Korean Peninsula at Osan Air Base. The purpose of the lab, and others like it across the U.S. Air Force, is to give ISRG Airmen the tools and supplies to drive innovation, enhance their mission and provide solutions to problems unique to their tasks. An additional theater innovation space was established on U.S. Army Garrison-Humphreys.

INDUSTRY
Effective teamwork and dialog with industry partners helped the command ensure commercial practices and knowledge were incorporated into the search for solutions. In 2018, Boeing Defense, General Atomics, The MITRE Corporation, Occam Solution and Raytheon assisted command innovation efforts.

ACADEMIC
Academic partnerships with Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI), Stanford University and George Mason University gave command innovation experts the chance to tap the knowledge base of three outstanding universities.
ON THE HORIZON

In 2019, UNC, CFC and USFK will continue to cultivate partnerships and streamline processes to better leverage cutting-edge technologies. This success requires the introduction of new and innovative ways to shape and counter emerging threats across all domains. Command innovation efforts in 2019 are focusing on intelligence, lethality, interoperability and readiness. As our South Korean counterparts pursue defense reform and seek game changers to increase fighting capability, the command will expand collaboration with the Joint United States Military Affairs Group-Korea (JUSMAG-K).

Efforts will also be made to expand outreach to United Nations Sending State partners to enhance combined interoperability. Finally, as diplomatic efforts to denuclearize the Peninsula proceed the command will continue seeking capabilities to enable final, fully verified denuclearization.

Above: A 3D-printed mushroom showcases the ability of a 3D printer during the opening ceremony of the Korea Innovation and Research Center (KIRC) at Osan Air Base, June 26, 2018. The KIRC is the first military-focused innovation lab on the Korean peninsula, open 24/7 to allow Airmen access to high tech equipment and a relaxing environment designed to stimulate creativity. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kelsey Tucker)

Opposite Page: ROK Navy Seaman Sung Su Im uses BEMR Lab’s Virtual Equipment Environment (V2E) virtual reality system at the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2018 Innovation Fair held on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The world’s largest international maritime exercise, RIMPAC, provides a unique training opportunity while fostering and sustaining cooperative relationships among participants critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security of the world’s oceans. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Justin R. Pacheco)
72ND ANNIVERSARY OF U.S. INDO-PACIFIC COMMAND

INDO PACOM is the largest and oldest U.S. geographic combatant command. United States Forces Korea is proud to be a part of that legacy and support our ROK allies. The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), foreground, leads a formation of Carrier Strike Group Five ships as Air Force B-52 Stratofortress aircraft and Navy F/A-18 Hornet aircraft pass overhead for a photo exercise during Valiant Shield 2018 in the Philippine Sea, Sept. 17, 2018. The biennial, U.S.-only field-training exercise focuses on integration of joint training among the Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. This iteration is the seventh exercise in the Valiant Shield series that began in 2006. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Chad M. Butler)
U.S. Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, (Gimlet Battalion) use suppressive fire during a Force on Force exercise at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex, Yeongpyeong-ri, South Korea, April 6, 2018. Members of the 25th Infantry Division engage in the Force on Force exercise to utilize strategic thinking, maneuvering and to strengthen pre-deployment readiness. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Elizabeth Brown)
Eighth Army

Enabling diplomacy and maintaining readiness on the Peninsula, Eighth United States Army is the ground component of United States Forces Korea (USFK) and a lethal partner in the ROK-US Alliance.

Eighth Army builds and maintains Army force readiness, transitions to combined organizations and increases its interoperability with the ROK Army to deter aggression and reassure partners, while supporting diplomatically-led efforts to bring peace, prosperity and stability to the Korean Peninsula.

Throughout 2018, Eighth Army worked with the U.S. Army enterprise on a variety of readiness priorities to set the Korean theater of operations (KTO) and ensure forces on the Peninsula were ready to fight tonight. This effort shaped force posture by identifying key capability gaps and maintained the KTO’s readiness on sustainment, communications, intelligence, chemical and biological defense, protection, mobility, medical operations and manning.

READINESS
Rotational units are pivotal to Eighth Army readiness. They ensure tailored flexibility to force structure in the KTO by providing a diverse mix of rapidly deployable capabilities that are modular, scalable and ready to fight tonight. The use of rotational units to the Peninsula exposes more Soldiers to South Korea and the region, enhances the partnership between the ROK and U.S. Army, and supports the Army’s vision of being globally responsive and regionally engaged. Rotational units include an armored brigade combat team (ABCT), a Multiple Launch Rocket System artillery battalion and an AH-64 Apache helicopter heavy attack reconnaissance squadron. As an example of Eighth Army’s ability to increase readiness and the importance of rotational units to readiness, Eighth Army conducted an equipment draw of the Army’s Prepositioned Stock for the first of 17 companies, which validated readiness of this fleet and exercised reception, staging and onward movement systems and processes.

Training and exercises are requisite components to maintain a high readiness level. In the spring of 2018, Eighth Army participated in Key Resolve-18 to improve mission command and assess its key wartime responsibilities, continued on page 84.
including reception, staging, onward movement and integration (RSOI); counter weapons of mass destruction (CWMD); non-combatant evacuation operations (NEO); and theater sustainment. Eighth Army adjusted the scale, scope, timing and volume of some exercises to preserve space for diplomacy. To maintain readiness, Eighth Army continued to conduct numerous small-scale and staff-level training exercises throughout the fall. Combined training with Eighth Army’s ROK counterparts increased readiness significantly. For example, Maritime Counter Special Operation Force (MC-SOF) annual training builds proficiency for countering potential infiltration by maritime special operating forces.

**SHAPING THE THEATER**

Eighth Army continues to posture for the future by leading U.S. transformation and relocation efforts on the Korean Peninsula. In 2018, the headquarters for both 2ID ROK-U.S. Combined Division and USFK completed transition to U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys. In 2019, Eighth Army expects most of the rotational ABCT and the hospital to complete their transition to USAG-H.

More than $10.7 billion has been spent to transform USAG Humphreys and U.S. Army Garrison Daegu installations into modern garrison communities with a wide variety of amenities and services that enhance Alliance readiness, deterrence and defense posture in support of U.S. and ROK national interests on the Korean Peninsula.

**STRENGTHENING THE ALLIANCE**

In addition to combined training, Eighth Army began an ambitious expansion of its combined headquarters by placing 48 U.S. Soldiers into the ROK-led Combined Ground Component Command (CGCC) as well as the inclusion of a ROK Brigadier General as a deputy commanding general in Eighth Army headquarters.

CGCC, a combined headquarters manned by both Eighth Army and ROK personnel, is a foundational component in strengthening the Alliance and will become the ground component to the Combined Forces Command in 2019. In 2018, Eighth Army and ROK personnel began working diligently to meet CGCC initial operating conditions, including combined personnel and facilities management, operational planning, interoperability of command and control, communication, computer networks and intelligence.

Eighth Army provides an array of talented and diverse officers and noncommissioned officers, to include the CGCC Deputy Chief of Staff, Brig. Gen. Andrew Juknelis. Eighth Army aimed to further strengthen the Alliance by planning and initiating a combined Eighth Army Headquarters. Eighth Army welcomed ROK Brig. Gen. Kim Tae-up as Eighth Army’s first Deputy Commanding General-ROK.

Lastly, Eighth Army Soldiers supported the Comprehensive Military Agreement (CMA) by providing observers and technical experts to the ROK for the deconstruction of guard posts and demining operations at the Military Demarcation Line, displaying Eighth Army’s ironclad commitment to our ROK counterparts and the Alliance.
1. Soldiers participate in the 9/11 Memorial Ruck March at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, September 11. The 24-hour ruck march and competition served as a memorial to those who gave their lives on September 11th and in the defense of our nation. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Maryam Treece, 20th Public Affairs Detachment)

2. 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division prepare to qualify on M240/249 Montana Range in South Korea, Jan. 25, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Alon Humphrey, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division Public Affairs)

3. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ronald Myers plots points on a map at the night land navigation event during the Eighth Army Best Warrior Competition, May 14, 2018. The competition recognizes the top performing officer, warrant officer and Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army (KATUSA) soldier at the Eighth Army level. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Maryam Treece, 20th Public Affairs Detachment)

**2ND INFANTRY DIVISION (ROK-U.S. COMBINED DIVISION)**
The 2nd Infantry Division (2ID) is the major U.S. ground combat unit in Korea. Its primary mission is to deter war on the Korean Peninsula by maintaining a high state of combat readiness and vigilance. 2ID units *Second to None* stand shoulder-to-shoulder with first-echelon Korean units immediately south of the Demilitarized Zone.

**19TH EXPEDITIONARY SUSTAINMENT COMMAND**
The 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command is the logistic support arm of Eighth Army, with the mission of sustaining combat power throughout the Peninsula. Its headquarters is on Camp Henry in Daegu, with subordinate commands located in each of the Army’s four areas of operation on the Peninsula.

**1ST SIGNAL BRIGADE**
Headquartered at U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan with units throughout Korea, 1st Signal Brigade provides strategic and tactical communications and information management to United States Forces Korea and component commands. It also operates and maintains all American Forces Network-Korea (AFKN) TV, FM and AM radio transmission facilities.

**35TH AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BRIGADE**
The 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, headquartered at Osan Air Base, stands *Ready In Defense* of Commander UNC, CFC designated assets. 35th ADA Brigade employs the Patriot and the Avenger Air and Missile Defense Systems. The Brigade has units located at Camp Casey, Suwon, Osan, Kunsan and Gwangju.

**65TH MEDICAL BRIGADE/ 106TH MEDICAL DETACHMENT**
The 65th Medical Brigade coordinates U.S. Army medical support at the operational and tactical levels through the early stages of conflict. Its secondary mission is to provide theater level command and control of assigned and attached medical units in the Korean theater. The 106th Medical Detachment (VSS) has responsibility for the peacetime veterinary medical and food safety and defense missions throughout the Republic of Korea.

**501ST MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BRIGADE**
The 501st Military Intelligence Brigade is subordinate to the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command and provides intelligence and security support to headquarters, Eighth Army. The brigade’s mission is to provide combat information and multidiscipline intelligence to joint and combined warfighters. It is comprised of the brigade staff elements and four battalions with remote elements throughout Korea.

**2501ST DIGITAL LIAISON DETACHMENT**
The 2501st Digital Liaison Detachment deploys in support of the soon-to-be Combined Ground Component Command (CGCC) to provide continuous liaison capability between Eighth Army and the ROK Army headquarters. This function enables mission command and unity of effort through coordination, information exchanges, and the integration of war-fighting capabilities.
**Korean Theater of Operations (KTO).** 3rd BCD also provides direct support to synchronize air power with the Army's scheme of fires and maneuver within the Ground Component Command and the Commander, U.S. Army Forces to the Command, United States Forces Korea, and Eight Army, including its subordinate headquarters.

**3rd Battlefield Coordination Detachment**
The 3rd Battlefield Coordination Detachment (BCD) represents the Commander, Ground Component Command and the Commander, U.S. Army Forces to the Commander, Air Component Command in the Korean Air Operations Center in order to synchronize air power with the Army's scheme of fires and maneuver within the Korean Theater of Operations (KTO). 3rd BCD also provides direct support to the two Fighter Wings in the KTO through detachments located at Osan and Kunsan.

**Korean Service Corps Battalion**
The KSC Battalion consists of 17 organic companies strategically placed throughout the Korean Peninsula from the Demilitarized Zone to Busan. The KSC Battalion operates mission command of 2,185 KSC personnel throughout the Korean Peninsula in order to provide HET, Live Fire Support, Maintenance, Medical Evacuation, Air Traffic Control, Water Survival, Linguistic support to Eighth Army and United States Forces Korea.

The UNC Security Battalion-Joint Security Area is composed of both ROK and U.S. Military personnel. The unit's mission includes providing security in the JSA, manning Observation Post Ouellette in the Demilitarized Zone and running the Panmunjom tour program. The unit is also responsible for the security and civil affairs of Tae Song Dong, the only Korean village within the Demilitarized Zone.

**4-58th Airfield Operations Battalion**
The 4-58th Airfield Operations Battalion (AOB) conducts air traffic services across the Korean Peninsula using Guardian Airspace Information Center and tactical facilities. The 4-58th AOB conducts maintenance operations on several remote sites and stands ready to deploy Peninsula wide to provide air traffic services during conflicts.

**Korea Field Office**
The Korea Field Office supports commanders extending from the International Date Line to the Indian sub-continent by conducting Army, Joint and Combined criminal investigations of serious, sensitive or special interest matters, and criminal intelligence, logistics security, counter-drug, anti-terrorism, force protection and protective services operations in support of United States Forces Korea, Eighth Army and U.S. Army Japan.

**Eighth Army Noncommissioned Officers Academy**
The Academy trains promoted Sergeants in basic leadership skills, NCO duties; newly assigned Republic of Korea Army soldiers to serve as Korean Augmentation Troops to the U.S. Army (KATUSA); and U.S. Army and Army Civilian leaders to present quality instruction.

**Eighth Army Band**
The Eighth Army Band is assigned to the Korean Peninsula to provide music in support of the thousands of service members of Eighth Army, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command and United States Forces Korea. The band frequently leaves its home base to travel throughout the Korean peninsula and Asia, serving as musical ambassadors to the people of the region on behalf of the U.S. Army and the United States.
Seventh Air Force

The Seventh Air Force is a numbered air force of the U.S. Pacific Air Forces—the air component command of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. During crisis and wartime, Seventh Air Force serves as the air component of United States Forces Korea.

While 2018 marked a shift in rhetoric, enhanced diplomacy and historic milestones toward enduring peace, the U.S. and Republic of Korea Air Forces remain committed to providing the most lethal air capability to the Alliance, stressing interoperability as the key to mission success. Seventh Air Force, the U.S. Air Force component on the Korean Peninsula, continues to demonstrate unshakeable resolve and commitment to its mission of deterring aggression and maintaining the Armistice, defending the Republic of Korea, and defeating any attack against the Alliance.

Nearly 9,000 Airmen comprise the U.S. side of the Korean airpower team at two main operating bases and five co-located operating bases. Osan Airbase serves as home to Headquarters Seventh Air Force and subordinate units including the 51st Fighter Wing that operates F-16 Block 40 Fighting Falcons and A-10 Thunderbolt IIs; 607th Air Support Operations Group; 607th Air Operations Center; 694th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group; and 5th Reconnaissance Squadron that flies U-2 Dragon Ladies. The 8th Fighter Wing operates F-16 Block 40s out of Kunsan Airbase.

Over the last two years, the Korean airpower team generated the highest personnel, aircraft and air base readiness status it’s ever had. The command filled war reserve materiel shortages and restored warfighting capability to ensure dominant combat air power remains well-postured across the Korean theater of operations. The component incorporated new weapons that have dramatically increased its combat lethality, and have partnered with other components to maximize its joint fires.

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integration. The component delivered flexible deterrence options with various partners to employ airpower in support of the U.S. Department of State Maximum Pressure Campaign, thereby reinforcing diplomatic efforts to defuse rising tensions. The component reassured allies and strengthened ties through an ironclad commitment to the ROK-US Alliance.

While 2018 offered an unprecedented opportunity for peace on the Korean Peninsula, the Seventh remains ready to fight tonight, and continuous training remains the heart of joint efforts to ensure readiness. The Seventh Air Force is committed to finding creative solutions to maintain preparedness and stay focused on air asset integration and interoperability. In this current period of diplomacy, the Seventh supports U.S. Department of State-led efforts by maintaining readiness to present viable military options to National Command Authorities and allow U.S. diplomats to negotiate from a position of strength.

In 2019, the Seventh will remain focused on infrastructure and readiness in South Korea. The component will remain prepared and flexible as a new normal reveals itself. This approach requires agile execution, resilient capabilities and forward thinking to implement the National Defense Strategy. Airmen will apply air, space and cyberspace capabilities with allies and partners to secure peace and stability.

As the Seventh continues to be ready, resilient, and postured for the future, the component will demonstrate combat credibility by committing to force improvement. This success requires increased lethality as a joint force through enhanced design and posture while working closely with allies and partners to improve interoperability through training and innovation. Whether in competition...
or conflict, Seventh Air Force Airmen must execute at a high standard and be disciplined in execution to fly, fight and win. Seventh Air Force and the ROK Air Force continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder on the frontier of freedom, united in purpose and ready to defend stability and security on the Korean Peninsula. Armed with a commitment to continuous training and air domain dominance, this unparalleled airpower team will keep the Alliance strong and the Peninsula safe for decades to come.

1. 8th Security Forces Squadron Airmen conduct a sweep for simulated opposing forces during an immersion tour for Gen. CQ Brown, Jr., Pacific Air Forces commander, Kunsan Air Base, South Korea, Aug. 29, 2018. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Stefan Alvarez)

2. Lt. Gen. Kenneth S. Wilsbach, deputy commander, Seventh Air Force receives his first salute from the men and women of his command during a change of command ceremony, Osan Air Base, South Korea, Aug. 27, 2018. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Savannah L. Waters)

3. Vice President Mike Pence lands at Osan Air Base, South Korea, Feb. 8, 2018. The visit was the Vice President’s second to South Korea within the past 2 years. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Franklin R. Ramos)

4. U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons escort a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III as it transfers the remains of fallen Korean War veterans from Wonsan, North Korea, July 27, 2018. It was the first time in 65 years an American aircraft had landed in North Korea. The F-16s are assigned to the 36th Fighter Squadron from Osan Air Base, South Korea and the C-17 is assigned to the 535th Airlift Squadron from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Rachel Maxwell)
3rd Reconnaissance Battalion conducts high altitude low opening jumps to support increased parachuting proficiency, Nov. 12. III Marine Expeditionary Force in Japan use the large and diverse training facilities offered on the Korean Peninsula to maintain annual military readiness requirements. (Courtesy photo by 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion Staff)
MARFORK executes its operational-level mission to Set the Force for all Marine forces on the Korean Peninsula, so Marine forces can fight and win. Set the Force includes command and control (C2) capability; reception, staging, onward movement and integration; operational-level logistics planning; survey, civil engineering assessments and validation of base operating support-integrator (BOS-I) sites; theater security cooperation between the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) and Republic of Korea Marine Corps (ROKMC); and planning and coordination of the combined rear area for Marine forces on Peninsula to include anti-terrorism and force protection.

These operations contribute to Combined Forces Command (CFC) and U.S. Forces Command (USFK) lethality and readiness to fight tonight.

MARFORK has changed significantly in its purpose and scope since the command’s establishment in 1995 with significant changes in the last year alone. The command has transitioned from more of a liaison element for U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific (MARFORPAC) to an independent component with a dedicated general officer and its own Mission Essential Tasks (METS). The command originally consisted of a small staff with the commander serving as both the commander for MARFORK and as the Assistant Chief of Staff of the C/J-5 for USFK and CFC.

The U.S. Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) directed an augmentation staff to support the command’s growing role. The CMC also sent an independent general officer to enable one Marine Corps general officer to focus specifically on the mission for MARFORK and the other on their role as C/J-5 for USFK and CFC.

MARFORK maintains a close relationship with the ROKMC and helps
ensure that combined planning, training and capability developments optimize both services’ forces for operational readiness. As part of this relationship, the CMC entrusts the MARFORK commander to serve as his personal representative to the Commandant of the ROKMC. MARFORK also successfully signed an agreement with the ROKMC in which the commander, MARFORK, now serves as deputy commander to Combined Marine Component Command during Armistice. New responsibilities include daily MARFORK staff interaction with ROKMC counterparts to synchronize efforts and develop combined capabilities in support of CFC requirements.

**MARINE-TO-MARINE INTERACTION**

MARFORK seeks to aid ROKMC development and enhancement by providing instruction and coordinating training for aviation and tactical air control.

This Marine-to-Marine interaction carries down to the individual training unit level on both a formal and informal basis as partnered training units learn to work and live together to form a more effective combined Marine force.

In 2018, the USMC conducted 17 combined Korea Marine Exercise Program (KMEP) events ranging from platoon to brigade-level training with more than 20,000 U.S. Marines participating. The forces for KMEP came from U.S. Marine units belonging to III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF), the ROKMC First and Second Marine Divisions and the Northwest Islands Defense Command. Marine forces conduct these training events throughout Korea in locations to include Pohang, Paengnyeong Island, Gimpo, PyeongChang and the Story and Rodriguez Range Complexes. The training supports the different types of military operations the U.S. and ROK Marine Corps may perform together around the Pacific. MARFORK and the ROKMC have reduced the size and scope of KMEP to support ongoing diplomatic efforts, yet the success of KMEP has led to an increase in the frequency and type of training events within KMEP to 24 individual events in 2018. The collective result of these training events in 2018 demonstrate increased emphasis on expanding combined capabilities development and shared understanding of the modern and future battlespace between the combined services.

2. U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Beau M. Higgins posts security beside a South Korean marine during convoy escort training as part of Korean Marine Exchange Program 16-11 in South Korea, July 11, 2016. The program offers realistic training, leveraging the most advanced tactics and technology to ensure a trained and ready U.S.-South Korean force. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Amaia Unanue)

3. U.S. Marine Corps Forces Korea celebrates the U.S. Marine Corps 243rd birthday, Nov. 9, 2018. MARFORK opened the Marine Corps’ birthday ball to its joint partners as well as its South Korean military and civilian counterparts to share the history and tradition of the service. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Nathaniel Hanscom)


MARFORK Leadership

Maj. Gen.
Bradley S. James
COMMANDER, U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES KOREA
Maj. Gen. James most recently commanded Marine Forces Reserve, Marine Forces North and the 4th Marine Air Wing. He has accumulated more than 5000 flight hours in the KC-130 E/F/R/T variants.

Col.
Timothy G. Burton
DEPUTY COMMANDER, U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES KOREA
Col. Burton has flown more than 30 different aircraft and has earned every tactical and instructor qualification in the F-18A-F.

Sgt. Maj.
Michael R. Saucedo
SERGEANT MAJOR, U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES KOREA

U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES KOREA
U.S. Marine Corps Forces Korea (MARFORK) is the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) Service Component assigned to United States Forces Korea (USFK).
Rear Adm. Michael Boyle, former commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea (CNFK) congratulates newly commissioned Republic of Korea (ROK) Naval Officers during a graduation ceremony held at the ROK Naval Academy. Boyle, along with other Sailors from CNFK and Navy Region Korea (CNRK), attended the graduation to show support for the newly commissioned officers and to help further strengthen the ROK-US Alliance. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Chad M. Butler)
Co-located with the Republic of Korea Operational Fleet Headquarters in Busan, CNFK is committed to strengthening cooperation with the ROK Navy (ROKN) and has a vital role in maintaining the strength of the ROK-US Alliance by increasing naval readiness, enhancing interoperability and advancing combined maritime capabilities.

As United States Forces Korea’s (USFK) naval component, CNFK is the principal maritime advisor to the USFK Commander and represents U.S. Navy matters on the Korean Peninsula. During Armistice, CNFK also serves as the Deputy Naval Component Command (DNCC) under Combined Forces Command (CFC). CNFK’s role as the DNCC creates critical linkages between off-Peninsula U.S. Navy forces and the ROKN, advancing cooperative efforts to increase the naval component’s combined lethality at sea and ashore.

As the United Nations Command (UNC) Naval Component commander, CNFK advocates for and facilitates the participation of multinational navies in operations and exercises in the waters surrounding the Korean Peninsula. Lastly, CNFK is also the U.S. Navy’s Region Commander in South Korea, providing administration and oversight for the approximately 500 U.S. Navy personnel serving in South Korea as well as shore installation management of Commander, Fleet Activities Chinhae (CFAC)—the only U.S. Navy base on mainland Asia.

To maximize combined warfighting lethality, CNFK works side-by-side with the ROKN to elevate Alliance...
naval readiness through a series of bilateral and multilateral exercises, including an array of anti-submarine warfare, maritime patrol aircraft, mine warfare, amphibious warfare, ballistic missile defense and maritime counter-special operations forces field training events. CNFK enables Alliance capability development through key forums such as the annual Anti-Submarine Warfare Cooperation Committee and the UNC Naval Component Mine Countermeasures Symposium. Additionally, with an eye towards operational control (OPCON) transfer, CNFK plays an essential role in shaping and developing the future Combined Naval Forces Component Command. CNFK directly supports the ROKN as it plays an increasingly important role ensuring regional peace and security in the Indo-Pacific.

CNFK enables U.S. naval presence on the Korean Peninsula including routine port calls made by U.S. Navy vessels such as aircraft carriers, guided-missile destroyers and fast attack submarines. CNFK provides logistics support during port visits while also facilitating relationship-building between the visiting ships and local communities. In October 2018, the USS Ronald Reagan made a historic port visit to Jeju Island to participate in the ROKN-hosted International Fleet Review. The event was a resounding success that showcased the strength of the U.S. Navy and the high-level of cooperation with the ROK.

Since the CNFK headquarters’ relocation from Seoul in 2015, the city of Busan has welcomed CNFK Sailors and their families with open arms. CNFK is now a duty station of choice among U.S. Navy Sailors who seek demanding but rewarding tours in the Indo-Pacific region. CNFK offers sailors and their families a truly unique opportunity of completely living on the economy among the Korean people.

The partnership between the U.S. and ROK navies has never been closer, and the prospects for the future are promising, with a series of combined naval exercises and training events on the horizon. Ultimately, the UNC, CFC, USFK maritime service component is ironclad and getting stronger every day: 같이 항해합시다! (pronounced Kat-chi hang-hae hap-shi-da), We sail together!
1. Sailors assigned to Commander U.S. Naval Forces Korea (CNFK), bow their heads in a moment of silence at the Patriots Memorial during the Republic of Korea (ROK) Memorial Day Ceremony in Busan, South Korea on June 6, 2018. The ceremony, first held in 1956, is an annual commemoration for the men and women that have died while in military service during the Korean War and other significant battles. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class William Carlisle)

2. The guided-missile destroyer USS Benfold (DDG 65), guided-missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville (CG 62) and the forward-deployed nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) participate in a pass-in-review led by the Republic of Korea Ship (ROKS) Il Chu Bong (LST 688) during the ROK 2018 International Fleet Review (IFR) off the coast of Jeju Island, South Korea, on Oct. 11, 2018. The IFR is conducted every 10 years and has participants and observers from more than 20 foreign navies. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class William Carlisle)

3. Rear Adm. James W. Kilby, commander, Carrier Strike Group 1 gives a gift to a South Korean child during a gift exchange as part of USS Carl Vinson’s (CVN-70) arrival to ROK Fleet headquarters. The Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group was on a regularly scheduled Western Pacific deployment as part of the U.S. Pacific Fleet-led initiative to extend the command and control functions of U.S. 3rd Fleet. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Jermaine Ralliford)

4. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, former commander, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, United States Forces Korea, right, Gen. Lee Sun-jin, former chairman of the Republic of Korea Joint Chiefs of Staff, left, and Gen. Leem Ho-young, deputy commander, Combined Force, Republic of Korea, center, observe flight operations on the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) flight deck, March 12, 2018. U.S. Navy aircraft carrier strike groups have patrolled the Indo-Asia-Pacific regularly and routinely for more than 70 years. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Sean Castellano)
Special Operations Command Korea

Special Operations Command Korea (SOCKOR) is committed to increasing interoperability with its Republic of Korea Special Operations Forces (ROKSOF) partners and ensuring the Alliance is strengthened in all regards.

SOCKOR is a sub-unified command of United States Indo-Pacific Command under the operational control of United States Forces Korea (USFK). SOCKOR provides the USFK Commander with a Joint Special Operations Headquarters that plans, supports and controls U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF) to build interoperability with ROKSOF, to respond to crisis short of war and, should the Armistice fail, defeat North Korean aggression.

In 2018, SOCKOR began its transition from Seoul to U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys as part of the USFK Transformation and Relocation effort.

SOCKOR is an operationally focused headquarters responsible for planning and conducting special operations in support of USFK. In this capacity, SOCKOR operates in three key areas:

- Mission command of SOF rotational forces,
- Training and interoperability engagements with ROKSOF allies via numerous Korean-based exercises and
- Planning for hostilities in time of crisis.

Since its inception, SOCKOR has been the only theater special operations command in which U.S. and host nation SOF are institutionally organized for combined operations.

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SOCKOR, ROK Army Special Warfare Command (SWC), the ROK Air Force 255th Special Operations Group and ROK Naval Special Warfare Flotilla (NSWF) regularly train in their combined roles, while SOCKOR’s 39th Special Forces Detachment (Airborne) (SFD(A)) works as the full-time liaison between U.S. SOF and ROKSOF.

SOCKOR is stationed in a complex, combined operating environment where it may be called on to fight with only hours notice. Integrated with its ROKSOF partners, SOCKOR is prepared to execute the full spectrum of special operations to maintain stability on the Korean Peninsula. SOCKOR coordinates with host nation SOF, conventional forces and SOF from United Nations Command (UNC) Sending States to develop plans in support of the UNC, Combined Forces Command (CFC), USFK Commander. In the event of hostilities, SOCKOR will partner with ROKSOF and UNC Sending States SOF to form a warfighting combined special operations component.

INTEROPERABILITY
SOCKOR is committed to increasing interoperability with its ROKSOF partners and ensuring the alliance is strengthened in all regards. This enduring relationship spans more than 68 years and is a vital component of the ROK-US Alliance. Since 1958, the 39th SFD(A) has been on-Peninsula working with ROKSOF and currently serves as a full-time liaison between U.S. and ROK SWC. Throughout the year, active and reserve components from U.S. Army, Air Force, Marine and Navy special operations deploy to South Korea to partner with ROKSOF from the ROK Army, ROK Navy and ROK Air Force for training and exercises.

The Joint Special Operations Liaison Element at Osan Air Base coordinates with the U.S. 7th Air Force and ROK Air Force Operations Command to ensure Air Component and Special Operations Component activities are supported and synchronized.

SOCKOR remains committed to its vital roles of maintaining the Armistice and strengthening the Alliance to ensure stability on the Korean Peninsula. SOCKOR also stands ready to fight tonight by leveraging its crisis response and unique combined ROK-U.S. SOF capabilities in order to provide both ROK and U.S. senior leaders with strategic options to deter or defeat North Korean asymmetric threats.

Since its inception, SOCKOR has been the only theater special operations command in which U.S. and host nation Special Operations Forces are institutionally organized for combined operations.
1. A soldier with the 39th Special Forces Detachment (Airborne) checks conditions prior to a combined airborne operation, April 16, 2018. (Photo by Maj. Gabriella McKinney)


3. A USAF CV-22 Osprey loaded with ROK Special Forces soldiers lands at Icheon, South Korea, during a training exercise May 8, 2018. (Photo by Maj. Gabriella McKinney)


SOCKOR Leadership

Brig. Gen. Otto K. Liller
COMMANDER, SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND KOREA

Command Master Chief Petty Officer Stephen D. White
SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER, SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND KOREA
Command Master Chief White works daily with his South Korean and United Nations Sending State partners to enhance combined and multinational Special Operations capability, interoperability and networks.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND KOREA
In 2018, SOCKOR made significant strides in increasing its lethality and ability to immediately employ SOF capabilities if required to fight tonight. In 2019, SOCKOR is maintaining laser focus on several key areas:

- Enhancing U.S. and ROK SOF training, interoperability and planning to ensure the Alliance is at its highest state of readiness;
- Increasing opportunities for multinational partners to train, plan and increase their interoperability with U.S.-ROK SOF;
- Synchronizing U.S. SOF to ensure unity of effort and enhance SOF support to and interoperability with conventional force partners;
- Ensuring readiness for a seamless transition to crisis footing should deterrence fail; and
- Concluding the relocation to U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys and continuing Transformation and Relocation planning to collocate the command with our ROK partners.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Far East District

As the premier engineering, design and construction agent for all U.S. Department of Defense agencies in South Korea, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Far East District (FED) contributes significantly to the peace and security in the Pacific region through the execution of a multi-billion dollar construction program for U.S. Forces in the ROK.

Worldwide, USACE FED is the largest construction program managed by the U.S. Army. The Far East District’s area of responsibility stretches across South Korea, from Busan and Chinhae in the south to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in the north. More than 40 United States Forces Korea (USFK) military installations are supported by the District.

USACE FED has diligently worked alongside its South Korean partners in support of one of the largest transformation, re-stationing and construction projects in U.S. Department of Defense history. The Yongsan Relocation Plan and Land Partnership Plan adopted in 2004 formally designated a new footprint for the U.S. military in the ROK, with the main hubs located at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys (US-AG-H) and U.S. Army Garrison Daegu.

Col. Garrett Cottrell, USACE FED deputy commanding officer transformation, U.S. Design and Construction Agent (USDCA) has worked meticulously over the past two years alongside Col. Jeong Seo-ok, Republic of Korea Design and Construction agent (ROK DCA), Ministry of National Defense–USFK Base Relocation Office (MURO), Col. Park, Jeong Yeon, and other ROK officials to ensure completion of construct-

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Cottrell contributes the success of the development of USAG-H to a few factors. “History and longevity are key components of the relationship,” said Cottrell. “More importantly the commitment by both parties to be aligned and the commitment by the ROK.” For Cottrell, his passion for working alongside the ROK has come full circle, “My grandfather fought in the Korean war in 1952. That’s another aspect which, for me personally, reinforces and intensifies the Alliance in what we’re trying to do here today.”

Cottrell stated that in construction there are always friction points in projects and when all the stakeholders from a project come together, to include the two nations, it can sometimes be difficult.

“But because of the strong partnership and commitment from the U.S. and the Republic of Korea, it allows us to get to where we are today,” said Cottrell.

Looking forward, Cottrell stated that USACE FED must continue to work toward established goals.

**IMPROVED EFFICIENCY**

The Far East District geotechnical and environmental engineering branch has acquired new equipment and space due to the district’s recent headquarters relocation to USAG-H. The Geotech Branch moved out of the old district headquarters in Seoul with the rest of the FED to a new headquarters in the fall of 2018.

The Geotech Branch is one of only eight in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers across the globe, performing in-house quality assurance testing in design and construction. The branch also provides training, inspects equipment and validates the capabilities of ROK contracting firms, as well as supporting U.S. military engineers in training and knowledge-sharing.
USACE FED Leadership

Col. Teresa A. Schlosser
COMMANDER, FAR EAST DISTRICT
Col. Schlosser is responsible for the planning, engineering, design and construction management services across the full spectrum of operations from Armistice to contingency in support of the U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Forces in South Korea, leading a workforce of more than 500 military, U.S. and Korean National employees.

Lt. Col. Dennis J. McGee
DEPUTY COMMANDER, FAR EAST DISTRICT
Lt. Col. Dennis J. McGee was born in Staten Island, New York and received an ROTC commission in the Ordnance Corps after completing a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering Technology from the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York.

Richard Byrd
DEPUTY DISTRICT ENGINEER, FAR EAST DISTRICT
Rich Byrd previously served as the Far East District Program and Project Management Division Branch Chief for the Army, Navy and Marine Branch. Other assignments include Deputy Chief of the Missile Defense Branch for Europe District, Chief of Contract Administration, Administrative Contracting Officer and Project Engineer in the Seattle District.

USACE FAR EAST DISTRICT
Headquartered at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, located in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District is one of four districts of the Pacific Ocean Division, providing vital public engineering services in peace and war to strengthen U.S. security, energize the economy and reduce risks from disasters.

1. Col. Teresa Schlosser (right), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Far East District (FED) commander, and Master Sgt. David Montes, USACE FED district operation noncommissioned officer, prepare to raise the unit colors during an uncasing ceremony held at the district's headquarters, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, Nov. 14, 2018. (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District photo by Antwaun Parrish)


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<td>Air Defense Artillery (ADA)</td>
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*Left: Korean War veterans pay respects after an honorable carry ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Aug. 1, 2018. The United Nations Command recently repatriated 55 transfer cases from North Korea to the U.S. that contain what are believed to be the remains of American service members lost in the Korean War. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Apryl Hall)*
Left: Leaders from the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division uncase battalion colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Oct. 22, while the ABCT mascot, Pvt. Tank Chester, stands proud. 3rd ABCT will serve as the rotational brigade under the 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-US Combined Division. This marks the first time that 1AD Soldiers have deployed to South Korea. (U.S. Army Photo by Pak Chin-u, 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-US Combined Division Public Affairs)

Operation Force (MC-SOF)
MD5-The National Security Accelerator (MD5)
Medium-Range Ballistic Missile (MRBM)
Military Committee Meeting (MCM)
Ministry of National Defense–USFK Base Relocation Office (MURO)
Mission Essential Tasks (METS)
Navy Region Korea (CNRK)
Non-combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO)
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
Office of Naval Research (ONR)
Operational Control (OPCON)
Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA)
Rapid Capabilities Cell (RCC)
Rapid Reaction Technology Office (RRTO)
Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration (ROSI)
Republic of Korea (ROK); also, South Korea
Republic of Korea Air Force (ROKAF)
Republic of Korea Army (ROKA)
Republic of Korea Design and Construction Agent (ROK DCA)
Republic of Korea Marine Corps (ROKMC)
Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN)
Republic of Korea Ship (ROKS)
Republic of Korea-United States Alliance (ROK-US Alliance)
Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC)
Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC)
2018 Innovation Fair
Second (2nd) Infantry Division (2ID)
Second (2nd) Operational Command (2OC)
Security Consultative Meeting (SCM)
Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM)
Special Measures Agreement (SMA)
Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA)
Strategic Capabilities Office (SCO)
Sustainment Brigade (SBDE)
Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THADD)
Training Support Activity Korea (TSAK)
Training Support System (TSS)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Far East District (FED)
U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM)
U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys (USAG-H)
U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC)
U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM)
United States (U.S.)
U.S. Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC)
U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
U.S. Design and Construction Agent (USDCA)
United States Forces Korea (USFK)
U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM)
U.S. Marine Corps (USMC)
U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific (MARFORPAC)
U.S.-ROK Security Consultative Meeting (SCM)
United Nations Command (UNC)
United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea (UNMCK)
United States Ship (USS)
Yongsan Relocation Plan (YRP) and Land Partnership Plan (LPP)
Credits

PHOTOS
Page iv-v Table of Contents, clockwise, from left:
CFC: United States Forces Korea Commander Gen. Vincent K. Brooks and Deputy Commander, Combined Forces Command, Gen. Leem Ho-young attend the Republic of Korea Military Joint Commissioning Ceremony to celebrate more than 5,000 new ROK officers as they receive their commissions, March 8, 2017. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sean K. Harp)
UNC: The first session of a trilateral consultation body between South and North Korea and the United Nations Command (UNC) opens at the truce village of Panmunjom Oct. 16, 2018, to discuss ways to disarm the Joint Security Area (JSA). (Photo by Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense)

A Bond Across Cultures: Sailors assigned to Commander, Fleet Activities Chinhae (CFAC), and Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea (CNFK) participate in the Jinhae Military Parade Festival, also known as the Jinhae Cherry Blossom Festival, in Changwon. In commemoration of famed ROK naval hero Admiral Yi Sun-shin, the ten-day festival coincides with the annual spring bloom of the cherry blossom trees that attract more than 2 million visitors. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class William Carlisle)

Repatriations: Multinational armed forces and families, attend the repatriation ceremony at Osan Air Base, South Korea, Aug. 1, 2018. The United Nations Command repatriated 55 cases of remains returned by North Korea believed to be those of U.S. Service Members who have been unaccounted for since the Korean War. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joseph E. Cannon)

DATA

ILLUSTRATIONS
Page 40: Proposed Yongsan Land Use, exclusive of illustration, Seoul city map tiles by Stamen Design, under CC BY 3.0. Data by OpenStreetMap, under ODbL.

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Inside Cover/Right: The annual Seoul International Aerospace and Defense Exhibition opened to the public with a colorful display of cultural history, combined with regimented military drill. Combining the past and the present in an intricate dance of tradition and strength, the people of the South Korea showcased their honored legacies to the delight of the gathered crowds. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Amber Grimm)
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U.S. Military Forces on the Korean Peninsula
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