



August 1, 2019

Welcome to the Korea Defense Veterans Association! Recently, KDVA has made significant changes to better support the ROK-U.S. Alliance. We are still a 501C(3) non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Virginia. During our mid-year review, we found that there is a continuing need for better awareness and understanding of the ROK-U.S. Alliance.

To better meet this need, we updated our mission: “KDVA’s mission is to enhance the ROK-U.S. Alliance by advocating for the Alliance and supporting the people who built and serve the Alliance.”

We developed four priorities that will guide our efforts in supporting our mission:

- Enhance, advocate for, and educate about the ROK-U.S. Alliance which is an essential part of each nation’s security and prosperity, through forums, social media, newsletters, research, and events
- Recognize and support service members, government civilians, and their families who have or are serving in the ROK-U.S. Alliance
- Serve its members with professional networking, mentoring, volunteering, and researching opportunities.
- Honor and support the veterans who defended South Korea during the Korean War.

We will accomplish all of this to fulfill our vision of helping the U.S.-ROK Alliance provide a peaceful and secure life for Americans and Koreans. And, we have adopted a new motto that captures the spirit of KDVA: “Together for the ROK-U.S. Alliance.”

So that more people will be eligible to join us in enhancing the Alliance, we have expanded our membership criteria. In the next few months, we will implement a mentorship program, internship programs, and a quarterly journal to allow our members to voice their views and support for the Alliance. We will seek partnerships with professional military and veterans’ groups, think tanks, and academic institutions who share a common desire to help our people help the Alliance. KDVA will conduct conferences and forums to bring together the right people to discuss the right topics at the right time.

We will continue posting news about the U.S.-ROK Alliance on our website and Facebook, and we will increase our social media efforts, to include developing a digital library so that our members and followers on social media will be able to learn more about Korea, the U.S., and the Alliance. KDVA will do all this because only by working together can we continue to deter North Korean aggression and strengthen stability in Northeast Asia.

**Please be on the lookout for these exciting programs and activities ... and follow us on Facebook and, coming soon, Twitter!**

As we look toward next year’s 70th commemoration of the start of the Korean War, I would like to ask that we remember the veterans of that war and the families who supported them. Without the sacrifices of the Korean War Veterans and those who have served the Alliance since then, South Korea could not have developed into the country it is today -- a strong democracy with freedom, human rights, and a world leader in education and technology.

Since the Armistice was signed in 1953, there have been over 2.8 million U.S. Service Members who have served in Korea side-by-side with the strong South Korean military. The real-world mission, training opportunities, and the Korean people’s warmth, generosity, and support of U.S. Service Members make an assignment in Korea very rewarding – truly an “Assignment of Choice.”

Thank you sincerely for your support of KDVA and our veterans. I look forward to working “Together for the ROK-U.S. Alliance.”

Walter L. Sharp  
General, U.S. Army (Retired)  
President & Chairman, KDVA