



**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.

In 2019, KDVA had a very good year of growth with 21% increase in membership, 20% increase in donations/funding, and 41% increase in Facebook followers (nearly 22,000).

In 2020, KDVA is postured for further growth to help our members and the ROK-U.S. Alliance ... so join us for free at [kdva.vet](http://kdva.vet).

**JANUARY NEWS HEADLINES**

**Jan 1:** North Korea opened 2020 by issuing a "Report on the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers," in which Kim Jong Un stated he was no longer bound by his pledge to halt major missile tests and would soon debut a "new strategic weapon." North Korean state television may have given a hint of this "new path" by showing clips of missiles from mobile launchers and a rocket lifting off from what appeared to be an underwater platform in a video of the meeting.

**Jan 21:** ROK Ministry of National Defense (MND) provided its 2020 mission brief to President Moon at Gye-ryong-dae (tri-service HQ). This was Moon's first visit to Gye-ryong-dae. Key topics were: early transition of wartime OPCON, inter-Korean military confidence building, force enhancements, military restructuring, and improving barracks life. President Moon stated, "Make constant and thorough preparations for regaining the wartime OPCON of the nation's troops from the U.S. by bolstering our own combat power on the basis of the rock-solid ROK-U.S. Alliance."

**Jan 22:** ROK announced its decision to independently deploy troops to the Strait of Hormuz. MND stated that "we are ready to carry out operations under all possible circumstances." The U.S. welcomed this deployment which will support U.S.-led security operations in the strategic waterway.

**A LOOK AHEAD**

**Feb 4:** U.S. State of the Union Address

**Feb 8:** 72nd KPA Founding Anniversary

**Feb 16:** Deceased Kim Jong-il's 78th Birthday Observance in North Korea

**Feb 28:** KDVA Meet & Greet is open to members and their friends -- location and details will be announced shortly

KDVA's Quarterly "ROK-U.S. Alliance Journal": Send articles by Mar 2 to [kdva.journal@gmail.com](mailto:kdva.journal@gmail.com). Journal will be published in early Apr. Visit [kdva.vet](http://kdva.vet) for details.

**WELCOME FROM KDVA PRESIDENT**

In 2020 during a time of challenges in the ROK-U.S. Alliance, KDVA is needed even more to advocate for and support the Alliance. Therefore, KDVA has planned events and programs in 2020 to significantly advance its mission to support the ROK-U.S. Alliance. We welcome your thoughts and contributions for an exciting and meaningful 2020! Thank you. "Together for the ROK-U.S. Alliance," **General (Ret.) Walter Sharp**

**RECENT EVENTS & ACTIVITIES**

**Rear Admiral Michael Donnelly, Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Korea (CNFK), ushered in the new year during a sunrise cruise aboard ROKS Dokdo (LPH-6111).**

"Here's to another year working with our close friends and partners in the Korean Navy!"



**U.S. President Donald Trump and ROK Ambassador to the U.S. Lee Soo-hyuck at a White House credentialing ceremony on Jan 6, 2020.** Lee is a great supporter of KDVA, our people, and the Alliance. KDVA will partner with the ROK Embassy in 2020 for several activities.



**Members of the U.S. Air Force's 8th Fighter Wing "Wolfpack" were recognized as 2019 4th quarter award recipients in Kunsan Air Base, ROK on Jan 10, 2020.** The legendary 8th Fighter Wing is made up of 2,700 Airmen and two squadrons of F-16 Fighting Falcons.



**ROK Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Suh, Wook, visited the U.S. Army National Museum in Fort Belvoir, VA on Jan 14, 2020.** General Suh was on a counterpart visit to discuss critical Alliance topics with U.S. Army Chief of Staff, Gen. James McConville.



**KDVA's 70th Commemoration of the Korean War: "I Know A Korean War Veteran Campaign"**

For the 70th commemoration of the start of the Korean War on Jun 25, KDVA would like to honor those who served in the war and those who supported them from home. We would like to hear and share the life stories of Korean War veterans, their families, and the lives they have touched.

Submitted by James Pierce  
My favorite Korean War veteran is General Paek Sun Yup, perhaps A Korea's greatest modern military leader. Over the years since the 1970s, with repeated assignments to Korea, I had the opportunity to meet General Paek a number of times. The last time I saw him was about 25 years ago at a reception at the residence of the ROK Ambassador to the U.S. on Korean Armed Forces Day, Oct 1. General Paek as the senior-ranking guest was to give remarks. I reintroduced myself and asked General Paek if he could recall one event during the war that stood out.

He said, "Yes, I remember it very clearly." He related how, on Jun 29, he had been directed to go to Suwon Airfield to meet a "high-ranking U.S. military officer." The officer turned out to be General MacArthur. After going to the south bank of the Han River, MacArthur declared that he would direct U.S. ground troops to come to Korea and enter the war. At that moment, "I knew Korea would be saved."

General Paek was called to deliver his remarks. He took out a page of written remarks. Pausing a moment, he said, "I have these prepared remarks, but I'm not going to use them. Instead, I'm going to tell you about Jun 29, 1950." When he finished, the applause was thunderous.