



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.

FEBRUARY NEWS HEADLINES

Feb 8: North Korea did not mark the 72nd anniversary of the establishment of the North's Korean People's Army with any major activities amid the country's ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus. This date is often an occasion for Pyongyang to show off its military prowess. For the 71st anniversary, North Korean leader Kim, Jong-un did not hold a military parade amid ongoing denuclearization negotiations with the United States.

Feb 11: The deputy nuclear envoys of South Korea and the United States held consultations in Seoul amid joint efforts to resume stalled nuclear talks with North Korea. Lee Moon-hee, director general at the ROK foreign ministry's North Korean nuclear affairs bureau, met U.S. Deputy Special Representative for North Korea Alex Wong.

The meeting came a day after Wong held a "working group" session with Rhee Dong-yeol, director general at the ministry's Korean Peninsula peace regime bureau, to coordinate policy on Pyongyang. Wong and Rhee discussed Seoul's push for individual trips to the North as part of efforts to help the resumption of nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang.

Feb 24: U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper hosted ROK Defense Minister Jeong, Kyeong-doo at the Pentagon. The two leaders discussed a range of issues including the regional security environment, policy toward North Korea, transition of wartime operational control, and the special measures agreement between the United States and South Korea. As the 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War approaches, Esper said the U.S. alliance with the Republic of Korea remains strong.

Feb 24: ROK Centers for Disease Control and Prevention informed USFK that a USFK dependent living in Daegu tested positive for COVID-19, making this the first time a USFK-related individual has tested positive for the coronavirus. USFK has raised the risk level to "high" for USFK peninsula-wide as a prudent measure to protect the force.

A LOOK AHEAD

Mar 9: Deadline for articles for KDVA's Quarterly "ROK-U.S. Alliance Journal." Send articles by Mar 9 to kdva.journal@gmail.com. Journal will be published in early Apr. Visit kdva.vet for details.

TBD: KDVA On-Post Membership Drive (Humphreys)

INTRODUCTION FROM KDVA PRESIDENT

KDVA is very thankful that Gen. (Ret.) Mike Scaparrotti and Gen. (Ret.) Vince Brooks have joined our Board of Directors to volunteer their time and efforts to support the ROK-U.S. Alliance. They join KDVA members who selflessly continue to serve this important Alliance so that we can all work and live better ... together. Thank you, KDVA members and supporters, for everything you do each day. ~ Gen. (Ret.) Walter Sharp

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

INDOPACOM Dep. Commander Lt. Gen. Mike Minihan (Former CFC/USFK Chief of Staff) hosted senior leaders from KDVA and our partners at the Korea-U.S. Alliance Foundation (KUSAF), Feb. 4, 2020. They discussed ROK-U.S. Alliance topics including NK denuclearization, readiness, Indo-Pacific Strategy, and Trilateral security cooperation.



ROK Minister of National Defense Jeong, Kyeong-doo and KDVA senior leaders discussed upcoming events for the 70th Commemoration of the Korean War in Seoul and Washington, DC, Feb. 23, 2020. Minister Jeong appreciated KDVA's efforts in supporting veterans of the Korean War who fought together with South Korea and defense veterans who have continued to defend South Korea and support the ROK-U.S. Alliance for nearly seven decades.



After raising their right hands and saying a few words, more than 50 #USArmy Soldiers and civilians became U.S. citizens in a naturalization ceremony at U.S. Forces Korea headquarters on #USAGHumphreys on Feb. 13, 2020. Congratulations to all of the new Americans!!!



Building the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance (artist depiction is shown around the U.S. flag).

The projected cost to build the Wall of Remembrance is \$31 million and financial support is dependent upon private donations from individual donors and major corporations. For more information or to make a donation for the Wall of Remembrance, please visit www.koreanwarvetmemorial.org.

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 Kim, MinShik



April 19, 2020 is the 11th anniversary of my grandfather's death. He was laid to rest at Daejeon National Cemetery. My grandfather, Captain Sung Gon Kim, was a ROK infantry officer during the Korean War. CPT Kim took part in the war for 2 years and 6 months, from January 1, 1951 to July 1, 1953.

When the war broke on June 25th, 1950, new recruits received initial entry training at Moseulpo in Jeju Island, where my grandfather was assigned to train soldiers. Most of the graduates were placed in the front lines.

Later, he fought bravely at 351 front line battle near Wolbi Mountain which is remembered as one of the most intense battles during the Korean War. He was wounded from that battle and honorably discharged.

He truly sacrificed himself to protect and defend our people and nation. Thank you for your service; we will remember you.