



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.

APRIL NEWS HEADLINES

Apr 14: North Korea fired several projectiles presumed to be short-range cruise missiles into the East Sea. A South Korean defense official said several military aircraft were also involved. The firings came on the eve of the 108th birthday of Kim Il-sung, the late grandfather of Kim Jong-un, and South Korea's parliamentary elections.

Apr 15: Gen. Mark Milley, U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said North Korea's missile tests overnight were not "particularly provocative or threatening" to the United States. Gen. Milley said it may be tied to celebrations inside North Korea as opposed to a deliberate provocation against the U.S.

Apr 15: North Korea celebrated Kim Il-sung's birthday, but Kim Jong-un was not observed. This started media reporting and speculation that KJU was very ill or even dead. There has been no confirmation of Kim's health.

Apr 15: South Korea became the first major country to hold nationwide elections since the coronavirus pandemic. Despite the pandemic, South Koreans had the biggest voter turnout (66.2%) since 1992. Voters used masks, disposable gloves, and social distancing at the polls. Moon's Democratic Party and its partner, the Together Citizens' Party, won a landslide victory taking 180 of 300 seats (60%).

Starting in mid-Apr: Media began reporting on the UN annual 1718 report on North Korea's sanction violations. While NK discontinued development on ICBMs and halted nuclear testing, they have continued to develop shorter range missiles as well as maintaining and building nuclear facilities.

Apr 20-24: ROK-U.S. combined air exercises resumed after the cancellation of annual large-scale exercises for the past two years. These were conducted after North Korea's latest missile provocations. A South Korean Air Force official called these drills "annual, typical combined exercises" designed to improve execution of joint operations.

Apr 22: The 17th Korea-U.S. Integrated Defense Dialogue(KIDD) was held by video conference to discuss the Special Measures Agreement on burden sharing, North Korean issues, and joint efforts to cope with the coronavirus pandemic.

A LOOK AHEAD

Jun 5: Deadline for articles for KDVA's Quarterly "ROK-U.S. Alliance Journal." Send articles by Jun 5 to kdva.journal@gmail.com. Journal will be published in early July. Visit kdva.vet for details.

INTRODUCTION FROM KDVA PRESIDENT

Since KDVA was founded in April 2017, we have been very fortunate in bringing together people who care deeply about the ROK- U.S. Alliance. With 1,500 members and 22,000 Facebook followers, KDVA has held prominent conferences and events to educate and advocate for the millions of people who built this strong Alliance and continue to serve it. We post daily news articles and publish our monthly Newsletter, our quarterly "ROK-U.S. Alliance Journal," and activities of members to include our "I Know A Korean War Veteran Campaign" in honor of this year's 70th commemoration of the Korean War. One of the best ways to honor our Korean War veterans and our Korean Defense veterans is by carrying on the immeasurable work they have done ... it is up to us to continue building the Alliance.

~ Gen. (Ret.) Walter Sharp, KDVA Chairman and President

KDVA AND ITS SUPPORT OF THE ROK-U.S. ALLIANCE

The ROK-U.S. Alliance has stood the tests of time for seven decades and developed into an "Alliance for the Ages." We have stood together in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, and other global missions. The ROK-U.S. Alliance continues to work together to deter North Korea, and we work with regional and global partners for peace and security. The successful transition of wartime operational control is truly an Alliance endeavor. When a ROK four-star general eventually leads the combined defense of South Korea, the Combined Forces Command will continue to report to and receive guidance from the U.S. and ROK National Command Authorities. This strong combined command in conjunction with strong ROK defensive capabilities that is interoperable with U.S. systems will deter North Korea and, if needed, will rapidly defeat North Korean aggression.

KDVA is confident both the United States and the Republic of Korea will conclude a Special Measures Agreement that takes into account all that each country does for each other and peace and stability in the world. This is what great and important alliances need to do. This is what the irreplaceable ROK- U.S. Alliance, with so many shared battlefields, values, and mutually supportive economic and security interests, must do.

KDVA is excited about our programs and events as we work "Together for the ROK-U.S. Alliance" with KUSAF, veterans organizations like the Korea Veterans Association, Association of the U.S. Army, think tanks, and other professional organizations. We continue to educate and advocate for our Alliance with our new website and social media platforms. We are looking forward to our marque "KDVA and KUSAF Honors Night" at the end of the year to recognize the great contributions by our members to the ROK-U.S. Alliance.

KDVA and KUSAF are very thankful to our many sponsors and donors who share our vision for ensuring that this Alliance continues to be a leading example of what two countries can do together for regional and global security. KDVA will work hard to meet this calling, so please join us and become members or donors!

Expanded Regular Membership Criteria!

KDVA has expanded its regular membership to include "Retired ROK military personnel who served in MND, JCS, and/or Service HQs for at least three continuous months."

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

Submitted by Ms. Nicole Ruiz, KDVA Intern



Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Bernard Champoux was the Eighth Army Commander in 2013-2016 and is currently Senior Vice President of Hanwha Defense International.

Korea was an important part of the Champoux family. Pieces of Korean culture and memories of the Korean War were displayed around the house. General Champoux was the only one of eight siblings to follow his father's footsteps into the Army.

Lt. Col.(Ret.) Francis Champoux occasionally talked about Korea without mentioning the war. It wasn't until after General Champoux also became a Soldier that his father broached this topic. As a Captain in the 65th Infantry Division during the Korean War, he learned a valuable lesson about earning the respect of his troops when he made it clear he would share the dangers of combat with his men.

Colonel Champoux was very proud of his son's decision to serve. Unfortunately, he passed away at the age of 65, before seeing his son become a general.

During a deployment to Iraq, General Champoux received news he would be assigned to Korea. The plane ride to Korea was the start of an emotional stay in Korea. "To get the chance to serve where he had served, where he had fought, was really, really precious to me. I'm so grateful that I had that opportunity ... I felt that much closer to him."

~ The complete article will be posted at kdva.vet.