



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.

MAY NEWS HEADLINES

May 1: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un made his first public appearance in 20 days, ending an absence that sparked global speculation about his health.

May 3: North Korea fired four rounds towards a South Korean guard post in the DMZ. ROK military responded 32 minutes later with two volleys of gunfire and two broadcast warnings toward North Korea. It was the first DMZ incident after the two Koreas signed a military agreement on Sep 2018.

May 8: Calling joint Navy-Air Force drills in the West Sea “regular” and “defensive,” ROK Ministry of National Defense rejected North Korea’s criticism of the exercises as violations of their inter- Korean agreement for reducing military tension.

May 11: Regarding defense cost-sharing, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, R. Clarke Cooper, said “At the end of the day, nobody President Moon (Jaemin), President Trump nobody wants to see the alliance erode.”

May 13: During the 12th Defense Trilateral Talks (DTT) between South Korea, the U.S., and Japan, representatives discussed North Korea’s nuclear and missile threats, response to the coronavirus, and ways to enhance security cooperation among the three countries.

May 18: ROK decided to postpone until June a major maritime fire drill due to bad weather. Postponements like this are not unusual. Several ROK media outlets criticized that the delay was to avoid protests from North Korea.

May 20: Japan referred to ROK as an “important ally” in its 2020 diplomatic policy paper for the first time in three years, but still claimed sovereignty over ROK’s islets of Dokdo.

May 21: USFK lifted most of its anti-coronavirus restrictions. Media reported that life slowly began to return to a “new normal” and quoted Gen. Abrams’ “3 key tenets: protect yourself, protect your bubble, protect others.”

May 24: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un presided over a Central Military Commission meeting and called for increased nuclear capabilities and putting the armed forces on “high alert.”

A LOOK AHEAD

Jun 12: Article submission deadline has been extended for KDVA’s Quarterly “ROK-U.S. Alliance Journal.” Please send articles by Jun 12 to kdva.journal@gmail.com. Journal will be published in early July. Please visit kdva.vet for details.

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



With COVID-19 restrictions in your area being relaxed and you look to do more outdoor activities, as the Chairman of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, I would like to encourage you to visit the Korean War Memorial in Washington, DC or any of the memorials dedicated to millions of Korean War Veterans (www.koreanwar.org/html/korean_war_memorials.html). Memorials are living memories and our commitment to always remember and honor those who served before us... this is especially important during the 70th commemoration of the start of the Korean War on June 25, 2020. The Foundation will schedule an appropriate 70th commemoration event, once restrictions are lifted. Consider what this KDVA Facebook follower said: “To see this at night fall is just beyond words.” ~ Gen. John Tilelli, U.S Army, Vice Chairman of KDVA and former Commander-in-Chief of UNC/CFC/USFK



KDVA Korea Chapter President, ROK Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Lee, Seo Young, and ROK Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Jung recently visited Eighth Army at Camp Humphreys to deliver food and beverages to support 8A’s COVID-19 response. 8A Dep. Cdr., BG Hur; G-7, COL Lynch; Dep. G-7, LTC Thayer, and other 8A Soldiers met with the KDVA Team to receive hundreds of boxes of apples and oranges, ramyon and choco pies, and orange juice and sodas. They appreciated KDVA’s support of 8A’s operations of the USFK quarantine area in Humphreys.



May 14, 2020 marked 39 years since the 36th Fighter Squadron arrived at Osan Air Base with the F-4 Phantom. The Fiends flew the F-4 from 1967 to 1989, where they then transitioned into flying the F-16 Fighting Falcon. The green camouflaged USAF F-4 seen above has a red star painted on the side, symbolizing a MiG that it shot down during the Vietnam War.



KOREA DEFENSE VETERANS ASSOCIATION
ROK-U.S. Leadership During Crisis Webinar Series
Topic: “Combined Forces Command Leadership During Crisis”
Tuesday, June 2, 2020
8:30 a.m. EDT | 9:30 p.m. KST
Livestream via Zoom



Register at www.kdva.vet/upcomingevents
The webinar is free, but you must register in-advance.



Gen. (Ret.) Walter Sharp Gen. (Ret.) Jung Seung Jo

KDVA’s 70th Commemoration of the Korean War: “I Know A Korean War Veteran Campaign”

Submitted by Ms. Nicole Ruiz, KDVA Intern



Gen. (Ret.) Walter Sharp was the Commander of UNC/CFC/USFK (2008 - 2011) and is currently the KDVA President and Chairman.

2nd Lt. Earl “Bill” Sharp joined the 40th Infantry Division during the Korean War in 1952. In 1953, Lt. Sharp returned home to his wife and son, Walter “Skip” Sharp, who had been born while he was fighting in Korea. Bill Sharp retired as a Cavalry Colonel and also inspired his son to follow in his footsteps.

When General Sharp was first stationed in Korea (1996-1998), his father returned to Korea for the first time since the Korean War. General Sharp said, “He really was amazed and pleased to see how much Korea had progressed and said several times ‘The sacrifices of the Korean War were worth it.’” Unfortunately, Colonel Sharp passed away in 2006 before he could see his son earn his fourth star and return to Korea for his dream job as the Commander of UNC/CFC/USFK.

After his father passed away, General Sharp reflected, “I wish I had a better understanding on how things went and how he was able to prepare, lead, and fight in a war at such a young age.” He also “vowed that I was going to continue to do everything I could... to strengthen the ROK-U.S. Alliance and honor those who had served in Korea.” One of the ways that he did this was by helping to form KDVA and serving as its first chairman and president.

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