



“UNsung HEROES” NEWSLETTER Founding of ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command

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.

Issue 20 - 7 November 2020



OCTOBER NEWS HEADLINES

Sep. 30: “RobertAbrams@DogFaceSoldier, Commander of UNC, USFK and CFC Great to host the new ROK CJCS at the CFC HQ for the first time since he assumed duties last week. We reaffirmed our commitment to maintaining a strong combined defense posture and the ROK- US Alliance.”

Oct.5: “RobertAbrams@DogFaceSoldier (USFK CDR) Great to have the @ROK_MND Mindef Suh visit the JSA Panmunjom and show him the great work of our UNC Security Battalion as they secure this important site for dialogue 24/7. Special SOT ROK Forestry Department-the peace tree looks great! #wegotogether #katchikapsida”

“Harry Harris@USAmbROK (U.S. Ambassador to the ROK) Great Army day today in Pyeongtaek where LTG Mike Bills turned over mighty @EighthArmyKorea to LTG Bill Burleson in a superb ceremony hosted by @DogFaceSoldier Gen. Abrams. LTG Bills also retired. End of an era. Fair winds & following seas Gen. & Mrs. Bills! @USForcesKorea”

Oct. 14: The 45th Military Committee Meeting between U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Mark Milley and his ROK counterpart Gen. Won In-choul noted the U.S. has reaffirmed its commitment to South Korea's security, including providing extended deterrence.

Oct. 15: The annual Security Consultative Meeting between ROK Defense Minister Suh Wook and U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper at the Pentagon covered these important Alliance topics: (1) combined defense commitment to the U.S.-ROK Alliance, (2) combined training, (3) denuclearization of North Korea, (4) Conditions- based Operational Control Transition Plan (COTP), and (5) Special Measures Agreement.

Oct. 16: “EAP Bureau @USAsiaPacific DAS Marc Knapper and #ROK DG Ko Yun-ju met on 10/15 to discuss cooperation, including Indo-Pacific coordination and countering the malign influence of the PRC.”

Oct 23: U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden said in the final presidential debate that he would meet with Kim Jong-un only on condition that the North Korean leader would agree to draw down his country's nuclear capacity.

LOOKING AHEAD:

KDVA will conduct a webinar about CFC in mid-Nov., and we will remember Gen. Paik Sun-yup on his 100th Birthday with a webinar featuring his daughter, Ms. Namhi Park, on Nov. 23. Please visit KDVA.vet for details.

Please submit articles for our Journal by Dec. 11 to kdva.journal@gmail.com.

The ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC) is the embodiment of the American and Korean commitment to defending South Korea and protecting U.S. interests in Korea. I am very honored to lead this Association that is so respected and counted on to support our Veterans and the ROK-U.S. Alliance. As we recognize the founding of CFC on November 7, 1978, I would like to thank all the former and current leaders, service members, civilians, and families who are a part of CFC's vital history of bringing the ROK and U.S. together for our mission that we must continue to meet together. And I sincerely thank KDVA members and donors for allowing the Association to collectively fulfill the legacy of Korean War and Defense Veterans -- defending South Korea. What you ... we all ... do is truly irreplaceable because nothing could replace our commitment and passion for the ROK-U.S. Alliance and our Veterans. ~ Gen. (Ret.) Vincent Brooks, KDVA Chairman and President

ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC) has been the warfighting command in Korea since 1978. During the Korean War from 1950 to 1953, the United Nations Command (UNC) directed combat operations. Following the signing of the Armistice Agreement in July 1953, UNC continued to lead the defense of South Korea against North Korean threats. This defense structure in Korea evolved as the professional growth and development of the ROK armed forces demonstrated that what worked in the war could be significantly improved by increasing ROK participation.



On November 7, 1978, the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command was formed to be the warfighting headquarters. Its role is to deter, or defeat if necessary, outside aggression against South Korea. Hostilities today are deterred by this bi-national defense team that evolved from the multi-national UNC.



To accomplish that mission, the CFC has operational control over more than 600,000 active-duty military personnel of all services, of both countries in Korea. In wartime, augmentation could include some 3.5 million ROK reservists as well as additional U.S. forces from outside Korea. If North Korea attacked, the CFC would provide a coordinated defense through its Air, Ground, Naval and Combined Marine Forces Component Commands, and the Combined Unconventional Warfare Task Force.

The CFC is commanded by a four-star U.S. general, with a four-star ROK Army general as deputy commander. Throughout the command structure, bi-national manning is readily apparent: if the chief of a staff section is Korean, the deputy is American and vice versa. All CFC components are tactically integrated through continuous combined and joint planning, training, and exercises. For more information, please visit usfk.mil.

From KDVA's “Did You Know?” social media posts:

“Did you know that the Republic of Korea and the United States signed their Mutual Defense Treaty on October 1, 1953? This treaty codified the special commitment that the United States and South Korea made to each other 67 years ago, and continues to be the backbone of this Alliance which has become irreplaceable. We are very fortunate that the relationship between these two great allies and friends has developed into all facets of our shared economic, diplomatic, cultural, and military lives...”

October 1, 2020 was the 72nd ROK Armed Forces Day. The ROK Ministry of National Defense released this short video about the “Reliable, Trustworthy, Proud!” ROK military! [https:// www.facebook.com/uskoreanembassy/videos/785284568699949](https://www.facebook.com/uskoreanembassy/videos/785284568699949)



This year's Chuseok, the Korean autumn harvest celebration and one of Korea's biggest holidays, was celebrated from Sep. 30 to Oct. 4. From the Dongmyeong unit in Lebanon to the Hanbit unit in South Sudan and the Akh unit in the United Arab Emirates, troops enjoyed traditional games together. Soldiers of the Cheonghae unit, which is in Oman for logistics, also held various events while preparing for the upcoming departure. The unit operates in waters off Somalia to tackle piracy.



About 1,000 ROK troops are operating on missions across the globe for international peace and defense cooperation.



From Facebook posting:

“U.S. Navy Korea, October 13 at 6:30 AM. Today marks the U.S. Navy's 245th birthday. At CNFK, in Busan, we had the honor of celebrating with our Republic of Korea partners and friends. At our satellite office in Pyeongtaek, CNFK Sailors celebrated with a traditional cake cutting where the youngest Sailor - ITSN Elijah Lombardo born in Dec 1999 and joined the Navy in 2019 - cut the cake with the oldest Sailor - LT Bermel R. Paz born in Sep 1961 and joined the Navy in 1995.