



KOREA DEFENSE VETERANS ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY

ROK-U.S. ALLIANCE

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KDVA's Senior Enlisted Advisors meet with UNC/CFC/USFK CSM Jack Love and his team during KDVA's new "CFC Senior Enlisted Advisors Forum," November 2023

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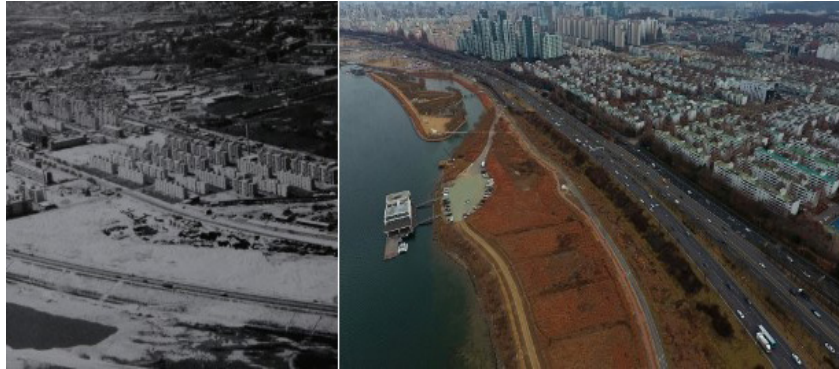
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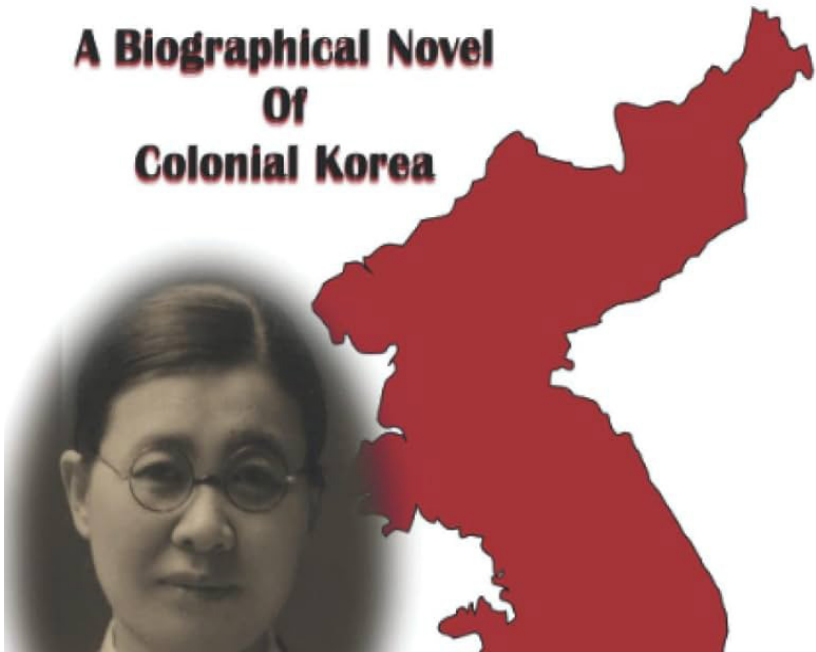
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A Biographical Novel Of Colonial Korea



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INTRODUCTION

KDVA Members and Supporters,

Thank you so much for your support of the Korea Defense Veterans Association and our work to enhance the ROK-U.S. Alliance and support our Veterans. Through our combined efforts in 2023, KDVA had another record year of growth and outreach – we surpassed our 1st 10,000 members and topped 80,000 social media followers!

I have received feedback that people appreciate KDVA activities and programs at the local chapter level in Korea, Hawaii, and Georgia as well as KDVA-wide for the Korea Revisit Program, annual KDVA Reunion, Honors Banquet, KDVA Internship Program, webinars, and social media posts about the Alliance and our members. At the heart of all KDVA activities are our members who helped build this great ROK-U.S. Alliance ... and this Alliance has helped Americans and Koreans live a better life.

How KDVA members and supporters helped create this Alliance resides in each of our stories. Our stories tell how the Alliance was built, fought for, defended, and brought together during the good and bad times. I am very proud and thankful that KDVA members and supporters have taken the time and effort to share their stories and thoughts in this KDVA Journal.

Please dive into each article and see what our members and supporters are thinking and have experienced. I hope their example inspires you to share your story as well.

In 2024, KDVA is already on another record pace for growth and outreach, so please be a part of this tremendous effort – all free due to the hard and vital work of our fundraising partner, the Korea-US Alliance Foundation (KUSAF)!

I am truly honored to be working with you “Together for the ROK-U.S. Alliance”!

Curtis M. Scaparrotti
General, U.S. Army (Retired)
Chairman and President

KDVA MEMBERS



BENEFITS FOR OUR MEMBERS

- Part of a premier professional organization.
- Help strengthen the important ROK-U.S. Alliance ... that you helped build and continue to serve.
- Honor and remember those who have served in Korea.
- Participate in Korea Revisit Program and KDVA Reunion.
- Networking and access to experts and experiences found nowhere else.
- Mentor and mentee opportunities.
- Staying in touch with those who served with you in Korea.
- Opportunities to participate in forums and events.
- Opportunities to volunteer in leadership positions.
- Opportunities for internships.
- Opportunities to be published.
- Opportunities for community service.

REGULAR MEMBERS:

- Former and current U.S. military & DOD personnel of U.S. Forces Korea ("USFK"), Combined Forces Command ("CFC"), or the U.S. Embassy in Seoul.
- U.S. military & DOD personnel who meet the requirements for the Korea Service Medal ("KSM") or the Korea Defense Service Medal ("KDSM").
- Korean Augmentation to United States Army ("KATUSA") Veterans.
- Retired ROK Military personnel who have served in or been assigned to one of the following for at least three consecutive months.
 - United Nations Command ("UNC").
 - CFC Headquarters and its components.
 - ROK Embassy in the United States.
 - Other ROK-U.S. Combined Commands.
 - MND, JCS, and/or Service HQs.
- Former and current ROK government civilians of CFC and USFK, if ROK law or regulations do not prohibit.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

- Adult supporters of the ROK-U.S. Alliance.
- College students who are interested in the U.S.-ROK Alliance.

HONORARY MEMBERS:

- ROK & U.S. distinguished personnel who are dedicated to enhancing ROK-U.S. Alliance.
- Former and current U.S. and ROK government interagency personnel who directly worked or work on ROK-U.S. Alliance topics.

No need to reach for your wallet to pay membership fees ... just click [here](#) for free membership!

www.kdva.vet/join-kdva

The Glory of the Family

By: Hubert Huh



My wife and two boys with GEN Bell, then USFK Commander. My son in the middle is now serving in the US army.

There is a Korean expression that says 'the glory of the family'. This is what you say when you receive a very special award or when you are recognized by others for doing a good job. If my writing is published in the KDVA quarterly journal, it is definitely an honor for my family. It is definitely an honor for my family because my writing has never been read by so many diverse readers - freedom and peace-loving readers living in Korea and the United States.

Although it is early April today as I write, it is snowing heavily in Utah, where I live. At the same time, great memories are coming back in

my mind. I was born in Korea, fulfilled my national defense duty, came to the United States, became a US soldier, and I'm writing about my experience working in Korea for the safety and peace of my fatherland, so the time of the past 40 years goes back like a movie. My life in the US military is summarized in seven encounters.

1. First meeting with the US Army soldier: I met an American for the first time in Dalseong Park on a school trip from the countryside to Daegu when I was in the 6th grade of elementary school. He was a soldier. However, I didn't know a word of English and he didn't know Korean



either, so we couldn't exchange a word and broke up sadly, laughing and waving each other.

2. Second meeting with the US Army soldier: I transferred to Daegu as a middle school student. One day, I went to the university hospital where my older brother was working part-time, and the US Army ambulance came. I was fascinated by the American soldiers I saw again, and I really wanted to talk to them this time. It was a very valuable opportunity to use the English I learned at school. "Hello, can I help you?" Although the meeting with the soldier was short, the aftermath was long. At that time, there were no cell phones or e-mails, so it was regrettable that we broke up without contacting each other.

3. Third meeting with the US Army soldier: The third meeting is quite a long story. After meeting the US Army soldier for the first time when I was 13 years old, I made up my mind to study English hard. And I studied English really hard. Scores in other subjects were below average, but English always received top marks not only in the class but also throughout the school. A friend I went to high school with told me this when I went to Korea last year. "You studied English in math class too. And you said English is sweeter than candy." It was true. When I was in high school, I read an English newspaper every day. English was really fun and delicious. Then one day, as I was riding the bus home, there was a scene

that caught my eye. It was on the side of the road after a US Army vehicle and a Korean taxi collided. Thinking that I should help the American soldier, I begged the bus driver to drop me off near the accident scene. It is dangerous to drop off passengers at non-designated stops, so it is still prohibited by law in Korea. However, the driver stopped the bus right away and dropped me off, as if I was proud of my earnest request and my willingness to help the US military involved in the accident. I ran quickly to the scene. The English of the police officer dispatched to the scene was not good enough, and I had the good fortune to fully demonstrate my proficient (?) English skills. That American soldier was a helicopter pilot working at Camp Walker in Daegu, and I got to know him and went to the US military base for the first time in my life. As soon as I graduated from high school, I took the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and admitted to the Korean branch of the University of Maryland in Camp Henry. Of course, admission to this school was largely credited to the pilot and his wife, who was working at the Education Center at the time. I thought of them like my American father and mother, and they treat me like a Korean son. I wouldn't be what I'm today without the kindness and love of the two of them. Since I came to the United States, I have tried my best to find them, but there is no good news yet. At that time, as a helicopter pilot, my 'father', who belonged to the 377th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) 2nd Platoon, was CW4 James Thurman.



My AIT graduation at Ft Jackson, SC



4. Fourth Encounter with the US Army soldier: As a young Korean, I studied at the Education Center at Camp Henry before starting my military service. At this time, I met a Korean American soldier from Los Angeles. I thought it was very strange for me to find Korean American soldiers were in the US Army. I followed him eagerly, calling him Hyung (old brother). He bought me a lot of delicious things. When I first met him, his rank was Spec 4 and his name was Seongji Kim. He's missed a lot.

5. Fifth Encounter with the US Army soldier: One summer day in 1990, I met a Korean American military recruiter in the library of my university in Queens, New York City. I was fascinated by the sergeant's love and pride for the US Army and its benefits. However, what guided me to the US Army was the motto of the US Army at the time, 'Be all you can be.' From that day on, I always wore a bag with that motto attached to it when I went to school or went out until I enlisted in the active duty in 1992 through the delayed entry program. That motto is still like magic that lifts me up when I'm feeling down or having a hard time even after 30 years. And I even enjoy sharing this motto with younger people around me today.

6. Sixth Meeting with the US Army soldier: This is a meeting with myself. In 1972, I met the US Army for the first time and couldn't speak



1992 34th Support Group - with my NCO SSG Hodge

a word because I didn't know English. Twenty years later, in the spring of 1992, I started working in Seoul, Korea, my home country, wearing a rank insignia as a private in the US Army. The meeting with myself was the most special meeting with the US Army. Eight years after I was discharged from the ROK Army, my time serving as a member of the U.S. Army, Korea's strongest ally, was filled with joy and predicament every day.



1993 Yongsan, Seoul, Korea

7. Seventh meeting with the US Army soldier: I would like to point out the lucky seventh meeting with all the soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers I met in Korea and the U.S. during my 23 years of active service and reserve service. They were my friends and great teachers. I grew up learning a lot from them. The US Army has given me many blessings and gifts. That experience became a strong supporter in my life after discharge, especially when I ran for city council in Utah, where I live now. Be all you can be! We go together.

WOMEN IN THE KOREAN WAR



This photo was taken in 2013 during the U.S. Army's 60th anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee event. The five women are Korean War veterans.

By: Kaylie Welch

During WWII, changes occurred in American society as the wartime effort affected many people and businesses. One significant change that occurred in 1948 was that President Harry S. Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act into law. This act officially allowed women to serve as permanent members in all branches of the armed forces.

The Korean War broke out only two years after this law was set in place. President Truman ordered US forces into Korea in 1950, with nearly 22,000 of those who were women. Of these 22,000 women, 7,000 were healthcare professionals and the rest held various assignments throughout the different branches of the armed forces.

As the Korean War went on from 1950 until 1953, more units were brought into Korea, including more active-duty women. By the end of the war, there would be 120,000 active-duty women serving in the war. Although they could not serve in combat, they helped in other ways. Women in the Korean War took on new roles not only as medical personnel but also as military police officers and engineers.

The closest that women were allowed near active combat was as medical personnel and were a vital component of the war. It was during the Korean War that Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals (MASH) were introduced. These hospital units and the medical personnel were credited with reducing battle wounds by nearly 50% compared to a few years prior during World War II.

Although only 120,000 women served in the Korean War on active duty, women helped in other ways back home. From holding down their households or taking the places of men in the workforce, women played a significant role in the Korean War. Sixty years later, at a Korean War anniversary event, service women from the Korean War discussed their experiences.

These service women served in the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force and they each shared a memory from their war experience. First, Cathy

Drake, was in the Army Women's Nursing Corps starting in 1949. By 1950, after completing basic training and commissioning, she was an operating room nurse for the 8055 MASH. During the panel, she talked about being close to a combat zone and how the living quarters were only tents, even the shower room, in the middle of winter. Next was an Army veteran, Eleanor Porter, who joined the physical training program and was stationed in Texas. While she was stationed in Texas, she met her husband and now inspires servicemen and women as an active member of the Amputee Coalition of America. Daisy Losack joined the Marine Corps after seeing a female recruit on a Marine Corps poster. After entering the Marines, she became a Marine Corps sergeant and a supply clerk during the war. For her, her fondest memory was learning so much from other women around her and working hard to serve her country.

Like many others, these women wanted to serve their country and help in any way they could during the Korean War. Their efforts, within the military and outside the military, helped make significant changes in the United States that have positively affected the present.

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This photo was taken during the Korean War in 1951. It includes the medical personnel and army nurses of the 8225th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital.

JAMES PIERCE, DIPLOMAT



By: Ara Rosenhyslop

I met James Pierce, Jim, on my way to a seminar for a group of Lutheran College students that were studying in DC for the semester. I was excited to meet the retired diplomat and learn more about his over 20-year long career in East Asia. The seminar started with a group discussion of current world events before diving into Jim's presentation about the history of Korea; from the Three Kingdoms period through the end of the Cold War. He then went into connecting the historical context to his time as a diplomat in Japan, Korea, and his missions into North Korea. I got a chance to speak with him again to get a better understanding of what his role was and the perspective of an American diplomat working in one of the most interesting places in the world at the end of the Cold War.

Jim first arrived in South Korea in 1969 when he was selected to bolster US military intelligence in response to North Korea's attacks earlier that year. His primary duty was to clear people for high level security clearances so that they could work on US bases. It was mostly routine investigations of talking to people and making

sure candidates passed qualifications. In one of his cases, Jim was investigating a South Korean national employee who was applying for a security clearance to work for the battalion. Jim was doing a routine background check when it became known that the candidate had a brother in North Korea. This prompted an investigation and Jim met his friends and family. Jim quickly learned that it was commonly known amongst his peers that the brother was real, living in North Korea, and that they were still in contact. This resulted in a polygraph test to confirm the story and the candidate was promptly fired from working on the base.

Because of his excellent work, Jim was given a lot of freedom, and so long as he got his work done, his superior officers did not bother him too much. This gave him the chance to help teach English in a high school in the afternoon and learn a lot about the people and country in a way most other military personnel would not have been able to do.

In another incident, while Jim was relaxing during some time off, a Japanese Airline was hijacked by members of the Japanese Red Army in March 1970. The Hijackers directed the pilots to land in Pyongyang.



Unfortunately for the hijackers, the pilots tricked them and landed the plane in Seoul instead. They quickly realized they had been tricked when they saw English letters under the Korean characters, and a standoff ensued. Jim and some other soldiers were ordered out to the airport to get eyes and ears on the situation. They took a jeep and arrived around 9:00 at night. They set up about 100 yards from the plane and called in hourly reports all night. This was an incredibly rare experience that Jim considered himself lucky to have been involved in. When he finally rotated back to the United States, he knew that he wanted to continue doing work in East Asia.

Jim went to American University for graduate school because it was one of three schools on the East coast with a Japanese language program. American had the added benefit of being in D.C. where Jim could work for the State Department in the morning and take classes in the afternoon. The State Department gave him the opportunity to return to East Asia with his first assignment to the embassy in Japan in 1979 covering internal political affairs until 1985. He helped coordinate presidential visits, and even initiated the plan for Regan to be the first foreign official to speak in the Japanese parliament. He rotated back to D.C. and got ready for a new rotation to South Korea.

Jim's assignment in Seoul was between 1990 and 1994, where he was Deputy Political Counselor. He served as the principal liaison officer between the embassy and the U.S. military, the Defense Ministry, and security sections of the ROK Foreign Ministry. His experience as part of the 8th Army made him very effective at bridging all of the different organizations involved. The main focus of his work was coordinating the US and ROK positions on the North Korean nuclear weapons which would take him on several trips into the North.

Jim observed many close calls between the North and South that almost resulted in open war; one time was so close that they had already moved around material to support combat operations. In the summer of 1994 tensions had gotten so bad that former president Carter traveled to North Korea to conduct some unofficial diplomacy to reduce the tensions that he thought would lead to war otherwise. At this point Jim already had a personal relationship with President Carter from his frequent visits to Japan raising money for his presidential library. Jim was assigned to support Carter's mission into North Korea to try and secure a long-term agreement.

Carter met with Kim, Il-Sung and was able to negotiate an agreement to turn off their nuclear reactors in return for material aid from the US and its allies. Jim and his colleagues were tasked with working out the specifics of the agreed upon framework. He met with North Korean officials to negotiate on specifics including planning a future consulate for the US in Pyongyang. During this trip, Jim was able to travel across North Korea on a train and had a front view of the North Korean famine that had started earlier that year. When Carter was preparing to leave the country, he asked Kim, Il-Sung if it was alright if instead of traveling home via China, he could go straight to Seoul across the DMZ. This was granted and in an unprecedented experience, Jim traveled with the President across the DMZ. After this assignment, Jim rotated back to Washington and began working with the Assistant Secretary of State for Political and Military

Affairs, Bob Gallucci, on nonproliferation. Jim was a crucial member of the team as he was the only one with experience working in South Korea. This team, in conjunction with the negotiations going on in Korea, resulted in a solid agreement where North Korea agreed to not create nuclear weapons in exchange for material assistance from the United States and South Korea.

I asked Jim about what he thought was optimistic about the agreement he had worked on. In 1995, he saw the agreement working, despite the fact that the US never opened an office in Pyongyang, which he thought was a mistake. There was an issue early on when North Korea cheated on the first shipment of fuel oil, where it was diverted to a factory instead of what was agreed upon. This was sorted out when North Korea agreed to install monitoring equipment on the facilities. For eight years, the agreement was maintained, until it was revealed that North Korea had pursued highly enriched uranium instead of plutonium and was on the path to producing nuclear weapons. Jim retired from the Foreign Service in 2003 but was called back for a special assignment to help with a Presidential visit in 2010.

Jim shared his views, both current and when he was working on any potential unification. Jim talked about the cost of German unification and how there is not the same level of interest in South Korea to make that investment. He asked his wife, who he met on his first assignment in Seoul, and her family if they were interested in contributing substantially to unification, but there was little enthusiasm. This is reflected in the wider public and as the economic and cultural divide between the North and South increases, younger generations seem to be less and less interested in unification. Jim was concerned about increased militarization especially involving nuclear proliferation and was worried that if South Korea sought nuclear weapons, many other countries in the region would follow and create a potentially very tense and dangerous situation in East Asia.

To end, Jim spoke about how he got involved with KDVA. He was referred to the organization by a friend, but only became more involved when the organization became more active with the leadership of retired Colonel, Steve Lee. Jim began attending meetings and seminars at universities around DC and heard about the Lutheran College seminar a few weeks before. He reached out to KDVA to extend the invitation for his seminar at Lutheran College for the KDVA Internship Program. The talk he gave to the group was one he had been sharing with people in Up State New York, that focused on North Korea.

A KOREAN WAR DIARY

The following is a book review by an old Korean War veteran from United Kingdom



By a history professor, Kim Sungchil

Having served as an infantry man with the British Army in Korea during the War there, I have had a lifelong appreciation of the hardships and sufferings of the Korean people. Of all the books that I have read on the Korean War this is the first I have read about the ordinary non-military people and their sufferings during those dreadful years. These are the words of a kindly caring man, not written to be published but as a record of what one man witnessed during a most savage time. His words today are as important to all nations as when they were first put down on paper some 72 years ago. This is a sad story, a story of terror, a story of betrayal, a story of friends fighting friends, brother fighting brother. But it is also a story of love and hope, of one man's dream to see his beloved country at peace and re-united. A wonderful book, not all war heroes are in the front-line fighting and not all war heroes receive medals. I can only say GAM SA HAM NIDA (Thank you) to the author Kim Sungchil for your thoughts and kind words.

- Brian Hough (ex 1st Kings Regiment Korea 1952/53)

The following was translated from an article by the US Seoul National University Alumni Association Newsletter, Jan 2023. It is slightly modified for general readers.

"A Korean War Diary", by a history professor, Kim Sungchil

It may be hard to believe that a diary written 70 years ago is still a steady seller. Not to mention that it is about the old 'forgotten' Korean War. Counted as a pinnacle of a recording literature, the diary was first published in 1993 in Korean. It became an instant national best seller in Korea. The author was a professor of history at the Seoul National University. His son, Kibong Kim, translated it into English and published it in 2021 at Amazon.

The author honestly described and expressed what he saw and felt, viewed from his neutral position between the North Korea and the South Korea. It is quite moving to see his loneliness felt among the people who went through chaotic and/or traitorous actions during the war, and his unwavering sense of duty as a recorder amidst all that is happening.

A diary, which describes the tragedy of the nation and one individual's experience during its tumultuous time, may be inadequate to describe the war comprehensively. However, sometimes a diary serves as a window to observe significant events more vividly. For example,



through 'Anne Frank's Diary', one can vividly see the madness of the Nazis who massacred Jews.

Above all, the greatest virtue of this book is that the author, as a historian, objectively recorded history without leaning to either side. Nothing is sloppily recorded, making the events seem as if they were happening right in front of one's eyes. The author's outstanding writing skills might have contributed, but once a reader picks up this diary, there is a force that draws him/her into that era.

Who was the author, Kim Sungchil? His first book, 'Korean History,' published in 1946 within five months of liberation from Japan, had sold over 200,000 copies, which was highly unusual at the time, and made him a 'mega-seller'. He was a dedicated teacher in educating Koreans about Korea.

Although the author felt uneasy about the People's Army's invasion, he stayed in his house in Seoul with his family instead of evacuating to the south. Under the North Korean Army's control, he experienced the dark side of ideological conflicts. "We became citizens of another country overnight, it is not South Korea anymore. People who waved red flags and shouted 'Manse!' (Hooray) appear on the streets of Seoul. Among them were people who had worn uniforms of the South Korea Youth Corps until yesterday." The diary entry dated July 3 depicts a sad-funny scene. "We also drew the North Korean national flag with red and blue ink and hung it at the front door. As we made the flag, my wife and I laughed helplessly.

The author wrote relatively favorably about the first impression of the People's Army. The diary entry dated June 28th: "Although they spoke with a strong Northwestern dialect, they appeared to be our brethren who share the same language, customs, and bloodline, and I couldn't help but feel that they weren't enemies. It felt like a long-lost brother who had gone far away had returned home. I wanted to drop down on the ground, beat it with my fists, and cry until my tears ran dry: 'Brother, my dear brother, why do we fight?'"

There actually was a close combat fight later by two kin brothers: An October diary entry says a story by a South Korean soldier who was moving north: "At the front, the two sides got into hand-to-hand combat. When I was just about to thrust a knife into an enemy soldier, I realized he was my second elder brother! As I called out, 'Brother!' and threw away my knife, I started howling."

The author's relatively friendly thoughts toward North Koreans were shattered very quickly. This was when people witnessed a 'People's Trial'. "Several youths were brought before the crowd by some North Korean soldiers, and they asked whether the youths were reactionary elements. Everyone was terrified to speak, but when one or two in the crowd yelled that was true, the youths were shot there and then. The crowd never knew what their crime was."

The book narrates many horror stories; forced recruitments of high school students into the Red Army, random persecutions of people, betrayals of close friends, famine, etc. An example is shown in a September entry: "American planes visit Seoul's night sky with no worry of anti-aircraft guns these days. As a consequence, the control of lights on the ground at night has become very strict. If there are any small lights that leak out,

volunteer soldiers rush over and threaten to shoot the offenders. But the Yoo family next door deliberately turn their lights on and do not turn them off regardless of who comes to the house. They say, 'Shoot if you will. Rather than enduring the agony of dying in this way of hunger, it would be better to die of a gunshot. If a bomb comes down and kill us all, it would be far better.'"

With the Incheon Landing Operation and the recapture of Seoul in September, the situation faced a new phase. Those who had evacuated to the south referred to themselves as 'Southward Patriots', and those who couldn't evacuate were treated as communists or traitors. The author's evaluation of the South Korean army was mixed, with many descriptions indicating drunkenness. He was also quite disappointed by the corruption of the South Korean government.

As the Chinese army intervened into the war, tension returned to Seoul. The author, who had already experienced life under the control of the North Korean Army, fled to Busan with his family.

He narrated tragedies encountered during evacuation. A December entry says: "A woman gave birth to a baby on top of a train while others held up blankets to shield them from the wind. But how fiercely cold must it have been on top of a running train in this cold winter! The new mother picked up the baby and threw it under the train before she crumpled and lost consciousness."

After witnessing such tragedies and hardships, the author despaired, stating "Our nation is now less than insects." But then, he also noted that countless young, exhausted men marched to enlist in the army, and a new sense of vigor was seen in their eyes. He wrote, "I see hope for our nation."

A March 1951 entry says: "Although Korean people now live in the most underdeveloped country in the world and possess many inferior characteristics, it is also true they have superb and hidden potential capabilities. Excellence in physical strength and outstanding intellectual strength have been amply demonstrated. Even if our current situation is dire and seemingly hopeless, we should not therefore lose our national hope. I say with emphasis: 'However unbearable our current situation is, we can project an unbounded hope to our future.'"

This is roughly where the diary ends. In 1951, at the age of 38, the author was killed by a thug.

Kim Hogi, a professor at Yonsei University, stated, "War forces an ideological dichotomy upon us, stirring up latent hostility and ultimately destroying both our thoughts and our lives. The sociological message conveyed by this book's memories is **an aspiration for peace beyond the horror of war.**"

The book is available in hardcover and in Kindle form on Amazon. It also has a website, <https://www.koreanwardiary.com>

The translator, Kibong Kim, lives in Vienna, VA and can be contacted at kkim.aer@gmail.com.

Korean Veterans & ROK-U.S. Alliance

By: Kim hui sok



I graduated from the ROK Airforce Academy as a valedictorian and have since served in the Korean Airforce for more than 20 years. When I was on active duty, I served in the CFC twice, once as a captain and once as a major. Building from these combined service experiences, I am currently working in the Korea Service Corps, U.S. Forces Korea, as a Korean employee after retiring from

the military. It is truly an honor for me to be able to serve the ROK-US alliance both as an active military servicemember and as a civilian. The Korean peninsula is located in a crucial geopolitical position for the peace of Northeast Asia and the ROK-US alliance serves as a linchpin in maintaining peace in the Korean peninsula.

The Korea Service Corps(KSC) was created by President Syngman Rhee's executive order at the request of Lieutenant General Walton H. Walker during the Korean War in 1953. At that time, it was called the Civilian Transportation Corps or the Civilian Labor Corps and was mainly tasked with supporting the US Army during the War. Members of the unit used A-Frames to provide logistical support, such as supplying food and ammunition, to the troops in the frontline and were hence called the 'A-Frame Army'. Able, young Koreans were called for duty and carried US supplies on 'A-Frames' through the chaos of the War. From my perspective, this organization that I am currently affiliated to serves as a symbol of the ROK-US alliance.

The KSC are unsung Heroes of the Korean War. The KSC is affiliated under the Army Material Support Command – Korea, 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, US 8th Army, and is tasked with providing combat support and combat duty support to the USFK. During peacetime, the KSC consists of 18 companies with 2000 civilians which will be augmented to 20,000 personnel in times of war.

Most of the members have great English skills and have put in a lot of effort in language studies when they were in school. Perhaps that is why most of the people I meet in the USFK are diligent and well-mannered. It has a labor union, which I have joined since I have returned from my 'unpaid leave' a couple of years ago. When working in the USFK, you have to go through several English interviews. Back in 2016, when I first joined the USFK, the last step in my hiring process was an English interview which was after the general interview. After retiring from the military, I studied English intensively at an English academy in Yeouido with the advice of my wife. Thanks to those studies, my English score rose by 50 points, which I think served as a decisive factor in getting a position in the USFK. I prepared for the English interviews intensively through English academies and personal tuition.

Even after joining the USFK, I had to go through several English interviews to undertake different positions. Once when I applied for a position that was tasked with introducing Korean culture to US servicemembers, I had to make a demonstration of a lecture on Korean culture in English. Interviews are difficult and uncomfortable in nature, and having to go through them in English is truly a challenge. But now, after going through numerous English interviews, they do not feel as challenging as before. Of course, that does not mean that I can now speak in posh English. All my English studies were conducted indigenously in Korea and my English skills can never go on par with those who have studied abroad in English-speaking countries.

My first assignment within the USFK was in Camp Casey, a US military base in Dongducheon. As it was my first assignment after retiring from the Korean military, the work and social experiences I had there are invaluable to me. Those times enabled me to crawl out of the narrow well I used to stay in working in the Korean military and broaden my horizon on people and society.

I always ponder on things such as the situation of the US forces stationing in the Korean peninsula for the ROK-US alliance, its very existence, and its potentials to improve. As a member of the USFK, I would like to delve deeper into such questions. To realize my new objectives, I have applied and have been accepted to the best university in Korea that provides nighttime master's courses on public administration. In the program, I am currently undertaking policymaking courses to deepen my understanding of the ROK-US alliance. I hope I can further my studies on matters related to the development of the USFK, the ROK-US alliance, North Korean matters, and the reunification of Korea.

I would like to contribute to the ROK-US alliance through research and publications on the ROK-US alliance and Korean peninsula matters. The ROK-US alliance is essential to the security of the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia. Until the day, and even after, the two Koreas become one again, I believe the USFK will serve as a linchpin for the peace of Northeast Asia.



82nd Airborne in Korea, 1969



Daniel McPharlin eating a C-ration meal while on the field exercise.

By: Daniel McPharlin

January 4, 1969 our convoy returned from a six month DMZ tour to Camp Casey the main base of the 7th Infantry Division in Korea. We settled down to the routine of daily camp life until early March when we participated in the Focus Retina field exercise for a week. During this exercise 700 troops of the 82nd Airborne Division were flown 8,500 miles from Ft. Bragg, N.C. to parachute drop zones near Seoul, but heavy snow storms delayed the drop by a day.

I remember the 82nd men had only summer field jackets while we had OG wool fatigues, winter hooded jackets, insulated gloves and boots. At dusk we saw quite a few small fires with 82nd Airborne men huddled around them trying to keep warm that night. We had the insulated mummy style sleeping bags and slept on the ground.

In the morning when I unzipped my sleeping bag there was ice on the outside where I was breathing inside it. When the airborne drop was made our c-rations were included in the supplies and they ended up in water

somehow and had to be fished out which caused a delay in our getting them. The morning after the drop we waited for our day's c-ration allotment which did not come. About 10 am a jeep came by with a large coffee urn and we got out tin cups for some coffee at least and the jeep driver did not know when our c-rations would be delivered. It was approaching dusk when a deuce and a half stopped to throw breakfast, lunch, and dinner in wet c-ration boxes to us and we devoured them in a short time.

Some of the 82nd men were held in Korea for six months and had to write letters home explaining that to their family. All this was done as a show of force to North Korea to discourage their commando incursions into South Korea.

7th Infantry Division 1st Battalion 31st Regiment HHC Recon platoon

My Assignment to the JUSMAG-K



By: Jae-sung Chung

I served in the Joint United States Military Assistance (Affairs) Group-Korea (JUSMAG-K). I was assigned as a ROKA liaison officer (1LT) in July 1972 to the FROKA LAT, JUSMAG-K, CP Long, Wonju, South Korea. The primary mission of the FROKA LAT was to maintain close coordination with ROK's First Army Command (FROKA) including its subordinate units through periodical visits and surveys. The survey was conducted by the logistical team consisting of the US field grade officers and ROK liaison officers to check and provide the ROKA units with operational guidance in connection with the military

aid equipment and supplies. Each survey usually took 3-5 days depending on the number of units to visit.

The JUSMAG-K officers carried out their duties with a dedication which played a great role in establishing ROK's military modernization. As a Korean, I'd like to salute those who served together five decades ago.

(Links: facebook Jae-sung Chung or www.rokfv.com)



KF-21 flight testing at Korea Aerospace Industries Headquarters in Sacheon, South Gyeongsang Province. Photo courtesy of the Korea Herald and Yonhap News Agency.

The KF-21 Boramae: A Winning Solution to Help the U.S. Maintain Air Superiority Against Emerging Threats from China and North Korea.

By: James (Jay) Di Napoli

The Republic of Korea's new KF-21 'Boramae' (Hawk) fighter jet represents a superb development for its defense industry, which has flourished over the past two decades. More importantly, it is a fighter jet that the United States should strongly consider acquiring to replace its aging fleet of conventional fighter jets.

The Boramae represents an advanced fighter jet that is an absolute bargain. For example, Canada recently placed an order for 88 F-35 stealth fighter jets estimated to cost \$85 million per aircraft.¹ In contrast, the KF-21 Boramae has an assured production of 120 units for the Republic of Korea Air Force (ROKAF) at an estimated cost of USD 60 million per unit.² While the KF-21 is not a stealth fighter per se, it has many of the features of fifth-generation fighters without the high costs often found in stealth fighter jet development and production. In taking this approach, Seoul has cleverly found a way to avoid the enormous costs and lengthy processes inherent in developing a true fifth-generation fighter from scratch.³ This innovative approach to fighter jet development will enable South Korea and other users of the Boramae to get on a mission much faster than with current Western fifth-generation fighter jets.

Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI), General Electric, and Lockheed Martin collaborated to develop the KF-21.⁴ South Korea also received technical support from Israeli defense contractors Elbit and Elta. Elbit has provided terrain avoidance and terrain tracking experience to ensure safety during low-altitude flights, while Elta helped develop the KF-21's radar system.⁵ The KF-21 has BAE Systems' Meteor air-to-air missile (the world's first anti-air weapon powered by ramjets).⁶ The Boramae is also equipped with an M61 20-millimeter Gatling gun supplied by General Dynamics.⁷ The Boramae can carry U.S. missiles such as the AIM-120 AMRAAM and AIM-9X Sidewinder.⁸ The Boramae would provide the United States with a superb option to replace its aging fleet of F-15, F-16, and F/A-18 fighter jets which are approximately 40 years old. The KF-21 would enable the U.S. to hold its own in future conflicts with China or North Korea.

The U.S. should use the KF-21 Boramae in the air defense role to replace its F-15 and F-16 fighter jets. For example, the Boramae would provide the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM) with an aircraft capable of responding to incursions to U.S. airspace from Chinese or Russian aircraft. The KF-21 would also enable the U.S. to permanently replace its aging F-15 fighter jets being pulled from Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. South Korea will possess a mix of F-35s for strike operations and KF-21s for air defense, which experts

believe would better use the F-35's superior stealth capabilities and the ability to penetrate the enemy's air defense radars.⁹ Likewise, the United States should possess a mix of F-35s for strike operations and F-22 and KF-21 aircraft for air defense.

The KF-21 would also be a tremendous U.S. Navy and Marine Corps fighter jet. In September 2022, KAI unveiled the KF-21N, a carrier-based version of their new fighter jet. The carrier variant includes arresting hooks under its body and a wing-folding system that allows more manageable and efficient accommodation in the limited space of an aircraft carrier's flight deck or hangar.¹⁰ The maritime Boramae fighters could be adapted to operate from a conventional U.S. aircraft carrier like the USS Gerald R. Ford or an amphibious carrier like the USS America. The KF-21 would nicely complement the Navy and Marine Corps fleet of F-35 stealth fighters.

In conclusion, the Biden Administration and the U.S. Congress should proactively work to acquire the KF-21 fighter jet from South Korea. Purchasing the KF-21 Boramae would be an easy and practical way for the U.S. to strengthen its military ties with South Korea and receive a quality frontline fighter jet ready to go on day one. The plane has advanced features that will resonate with U.S. fighter pilots without the development headaches often associated with modern fifth-generation fighters.

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The Wagner Group and North Korean Weapon Sales



By: Lauren Davidson

The Russian conflict with Ukraine continues and there remains the lingering question of how much involvement occasionally friendly countries are going to have with Russia. In the last few weeks, not fully confirmed reports have said that North Korea has given some rockets and missiles to the Wagner Group, a private military company with ties to the Russian government. Fighters of the Wagner Group are more like mercenaries than soldiers, and they are estimated to have 50,000 fighters currently in Ukraine. Of these fighters, around 40,000 of them are thought to be convicts, according to White House National Security Council spokesperson, John Kirby. It seemed that Russia planned to have North Korea as an option for aid during the conflict, as they joined China in opposing new sanctions against North Korea in November 2022. The uncertainty of whether North Korea is violating United Nations mandates to help Russia creates a looming threat for the region, and there is hope that supplying the Wagner Group is as far as they will go with their involvement. Kirby first brought this into light in the American media, and the possibility of North Korean involvement is a worry for people globally, especially South Koreans.

The Wagner Group was founded by Yevgeny Prigozhin, who has close ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Prigozhin earned the nickname "Putin's chef" after the millions he had earned from catering contracts for military and state institutions. The Wagner Group's mercenaries have been involved in fighting in Bakhmut, a city in Ukraine, and around 1,000 fighters have been killed in recent weeks. The Biden Administration through the Department of Commerce has designated the Wagner Group as a "military

end user," which effectively restricts its access to technology or equipment modeled by or based on the United States. This was done as a means to further add onto the sanctions on Russia's economy, said Kirby.

Any military assistance from North Korea would be a violation of the U.N. resolutions that have been passed both before and after the Russian invasion. Any transport of 'heavy weapons' like tanks, artillery, and missiles are in direct violation of U.N. Resolution 1718, which was passed in 2006. Resolution 1718 directly prohibits North Korean weaponry transfer and requires U.N. member states to prevent their transfer.

In the final weeks of 2022, it was discovered that Pyongyang had been covertly supplying artillery shells to the Russian government, and North Korea attempted to obscure their destination by funneling them through the Middle East and North Africa. As of December 2022, the White House assessed that there was an initial arms delivery to the Wagner Group and the equipment was paid for. Of the materials delivered that are currently known to the public, there is doubt that this equipment will be affecting the battlefield dynamics as they currently are in Ukraine; however, the administration is concerned that there will be additional deliveries.

After the White House's announcement, British Foreign Secretary, James Cleverly, supported the United States' claim about North Korean supplies being given to the Wagner Group, and added that this would be in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions in response to the invasion. Cleverly also hinted at the possibility that Russia is becoming desperate to continue their involvement in Ukraine if they are turning to North Korea.



North Korea and Russia have not always had a great diplomatic relationship since the collapse of the Soviet Union, but as the Ukrainian invasion has not gone in the desired direction, Russia is becoming increasingly desperate for allies and friends. The North Korean government has used Moscow and Beijing to balance each other out, and those countries have in turn supported United Nations sanctions against them in response to nuclear tests.

The idea that North Korea would become involved in the Russian invasion is not an entirely new idea and was first proposed over the summer of 2022. In July, North Korea first showed their support of Russia's invasion by diplomatically recognizing the "separatist movement" in Donetsk and Luhansk regions of the Donbas region in eastern Ukraine. Russian media has made the claim that North Korean troops were highly trained in countering artillery warfare, and they would be willing to assist Russian forces now that there was the deployment of U.S. artillery into Ukraine. Reportedly, Russia would provide energy and grains in return for the dispatch of North Korean soldiers. Again, this would be in violation of a U.N. resolution, specifically Resolution 2397, which specifically prohibits supplying North Korea with an unlimited amount of crude and refined petroleum. Decidedly, if violations of these resolutions are completely proven, then that would necessitate further sanctions against them, Russia, and any other nation's entities involved. Overall, cooperation in this fashion brings interest because Moscow had previously voted in favor of imposing the 11 U.N. resolutions against North Korea which created strict sanctions and trade restrictions on them.

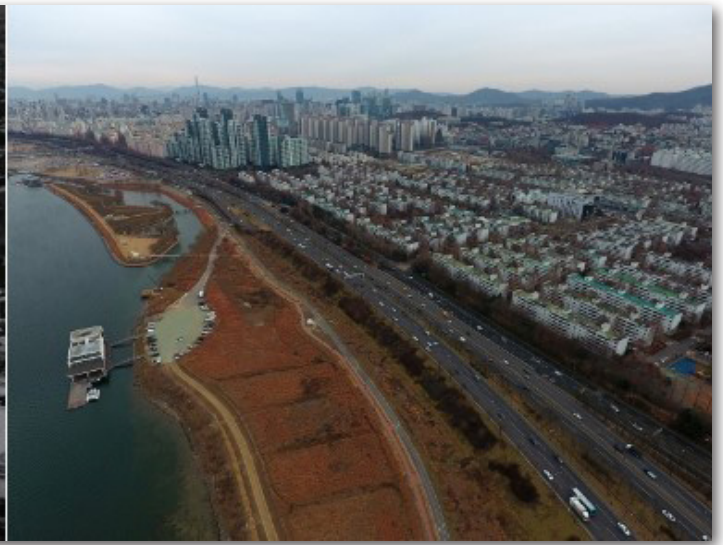
North Korea's involvement with Russia may also have distinct impacts on South Korea's use of Russian oil, which there was decent usage of before the invasion fully began. At one point, it had been proposed to set up a pipeline for Russian oil through North Korea, which is no longer in discussion. South Korea may also reassess their vigilance against North Korea's tactics, possibly changing to mirror Russian ones, especially because Russia has begun using drones to strike civilian targets. South Korea for now does not have a great amount to worry about as long as there is no plan for North Korean soldiers to be sent to aid Russia in any region. As the situation currently stands, there is little sense in cooperating with the Russian government, and the dealings with the Wagner Group are as far as the North Korean government should decide upon. South Koreans are also increasingly distanced from the war because of the previous Government's lack of a hardline stance on the invasion.

For now, there is no clear sense of how the Russian conflict will end. The interaction between North Korea and the Wagner Group is concerning because the Russian fighters are being replenished with weapons, which does not help to end the war overall. Generally speaking, it seems like collaborating with the Wagner Group is basically the same as collaborating with the Russian government because of the strong political connection between Putin and Prigozhin.

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THE MIRACLE ON THE HAN RIVER



Gangnam in the 1970s and today

By: Ara Rosenhyslop

Modern South Korea came about at the end of the Second World War when Japan surrendered, and the US and Soviet Union agreed to split the country along the 38th parallel. A few years later, a civil war devastated the country and left it permanently divided and economically ruined. In 1961, Park, Chung-hee came to power in a military coup and began a program of political and economic reform. This resulted in the rapid economic development of South Korea during the 1960s and 1970s, which catapulted the country from one of the poorest to one of the wealthiest in a few decades. This became known as the 'Miracle on the Han River' and is a reference to the 'Miracle on the Rhine,' which was the rapid rebuilding of West Germany after the Second World War.

After the Korean War, the US was interested in maintaining its foothold in Asia and continued to support the Republic of Korea (ROK) as an anti-communist state in the region. This Cold War context resulted in the ROK being the highest recipient of US foreign aid, and a permanent home for the US 8th army. This lasted for about a decade, but staunch anti-communism was no longer enough to guarantee US aid, and Washington was reconsidering its commitments to the country. The new military government under President Park, Chung-hee wanted to secure US military and economic support and decided to commit ROK forces to the US effort in Vietnam. This tactic worked and resulted in continued US support and a renewed commitment to the alliance between the two countries.

As mentioned, the 'Miracle on the Han River' was a period of unprecedented economic growth in South Korea. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the country began a steady rise starting at about \$4 billion in 1960 and rising to over \$1.7 trillion by 1980 and has continued to grow since then. In macroeconomic terms the steady and significant growth during this period resulted in the exponential growth over the next three decades that has placed South Korea as one of the countries with the highest GDP in the world. This transformed the country's economy from mostly agricultural rural poor to heavily industrialized urban. While this era is hailed for its economic growth, it was also a period of intense political repression and authoritarian rule that has left a controversial legacy.

In 1961, there was a military coup that replaced the short lived democratically elected government with a military dictatorship headed by General, and then President, Park, Chung-hee. The Park administration's economic plans focused on top-down infrastructure development and subsidization of heavy industry. The infrastructure was aimed at connecting rural areas with water, energy, and paved roads. The investment in heavy industry led to a solid foundation for continued industrialization, modernization, and urbanization that drew many rural people to big cities. These efforts were broken up into a series of five-year plans that lasted from 1962-1996 and were initially funded in large part by US foreign aid and military spending.



The three main sources of US money into Korea were direct foreign aid, security subsidization, and wages paid during the Vietnam War. Foreign aid and the money saved from US military support was invested directly in the government's economic plans. The money earned by South Korean soldiers and workers in Vietnam was paid for by the US and amounted to over \$350 million or some 3.5% of GDP by the time of the draw down. This resulted in an explosion in consumer spending and widely dispersed capital that was used to finance the creation of many small businesses during the 1970s.

The combination of top-down investment and bottom-up consumer spending resulted in sustained economic growth. According to the Asian Development Bank Institute, the "average GDP growth rates accelerated to 7.5% in the 1960s, 8.6% in the 1970s, and 9.3% in the 1980s." This is significantly higher than what is considered good economic growth. Most countries, including the US, aim for 3% GDP growth each year making South Korea one of the fastest growing countries in the world at that time, and permanently transforming the landscape of the country. The industrialization and infrastructure developments resulted in sustained growth that compounded on itself and resulted in long term exponential growth in the economy. This growth also allowed South Korea to take advantage of and produce new technologies that were emerging in the 1980s, making high tech industries and modern cities the norm in South Korea.

The political ramifications of this time period and controversy over the legacy of President Park, Chung-hee was another important aspect of this era. During his presidency, the government was committed to economic growth at all costs. While there were technically elections held during the Park era, the authoritarian repression from the government, the new Yushin constitution, and heavy handed policies ensured his presidency until his assassination in 1979. Oddly enough, the Park government's initial support came mostly from the countryside, and the opposition mostly from the cities. This benefited his government at first, but through the urbanization that occurred during this time due to the economic policies support for the government dwindled.

His assassination in 1979 did not immediately end military rule, but by the mid-1980s the economic expansion and political power of private industry eventually led to political liberalization and democratization. Proper democratic reforms did not really take place in the country until 1987 with the beginning of the 6th republic. The economic development during this period led to a shift in power in South Korea where the traditionally strong military was becoming balanced out by the increasingly powerful combination of private industry, organized labor, and a growing middle class. These forces were concentrated primarily in the country's cities that were the main concentrations of growth and industrialization.

Another enduring legacy that is often looked upon less favorably is the corporatization of the economy and the rise of Chaebols. Chaebol's are individual or family owned conglomerates that have consolidated entire industries in South Korea. These companies include American household names such as Hyundai, LG, and Samsung. There was not yet a developed domestic consumer market in South Korea, and the economy was primarily geared towards exporting goods to wealthy consumers in the US and Japan. This is why

many Americans are familiar with these South Korean brands. These companies have generated large profits and brought a lot of money into the economy from their export-focused industries. Unfortunately, they have also made it difficult for smaller companies to compete, and this has persisted to the present day.

This time period had a lasting impact on the ROK-US Alliance. The economic ties and continued military cooperation between the two countries strengthened the Alliance. At the beginning of the 1960s, the US was considering reducing its involvement in South Korea; but by the end of the 1970s, South Korea had developed itself as a growing economy and potent military power that the US would not soon give up. The 'Miracle on the Han River' is generally credited to be a result of the policies enacted by the Park, Chung-hee government, but the methods employed by his government left a controversial legacy that has many South Koreans still debating the costs and benefits. Even though economic growth has slowed down in recent decades, the modern South Korean economy had its roots in the 1960s and was set on the macroeconomic track that has resulted in an economy that is near or in the top ten largest in the world.

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Defenses Against North Korea's Nuclear Threats



By: Sujin Hong

North and South Korea's views on possession of nuclear weapons.

NPT, or the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapon, is a multilateral agreement whose dozens of signatories have committed to halting the spread of nuclear weapons and technology and promoting peaceful cooperation on nuclear energy. North Korea signed the treaty in 1985 and announced its withdrawal in January 2003, the only country to do so. This means that North Korea can possess or have thoughts to possess nuclear weapons. Regarding the response to North Korea's nuclear weapon projects, President Yoon,

Suk Yeol said that it is realistic and reasonable for South Korea to respect the NPT system at the moment.¹ The interview conducted on January 20, 2023, was held in Switzerland where the World Economic Forum took place. This interview showed that South Korea and North Korea have different ideas about nuclear weapons. South Korea's government announced to fight back against North Korea's provocation, and South Korea will strengthen solidarity with the international community based on thorough cooperation between Korea and the United States.² The ROK-US Alliance, which marks its 70th anniversary this year, will strengthen and be enhanced in all areas, including security, economy, technology, and human exchanges.³



South Korea's goal of denuclearization.

In 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a New Year's work report where they announced that they will take action to complete the denuclearization of North Korea with the international community.⁴

The most significant difference between North Korea and South Korea comes from whether or not nuclear weapons are available. Nuclear weapons require a lot of money to continue developing, and it was recently revealed that North Korea raises nuclear and missile funds through illegal cyber activities.⁵ The South Korean Ministry said that they would make efforts to block illegal cyber operations from North Korea.⁶ North Korea's cyber attacks on virtual assets target financial institutions, virtual currency companies, and exchanges. To stop these cyber attacks, it is crucial for countries to cooperate because North Korea is crossing borders and attacking countries, especially in developing countries with weak cyber security.

The South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs taking a step to stop illegal cyber activities.

On November 11, 2022, the United States and the Republic of Korea participated in a symposium in Seoul, Korea to discuss steps that partner governments and private sector stakeholders can take to defend against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) malicious cyber operations.⁷ Participants shared examples of North Korea's attacks on cryptocurrency exchanges and exemplary responses to them. In addition, they discussed ways for the public and private sectors to effectively respond to North Korea's hacking of cryptocurrency. More than 200 government officials and officials from cryptocurrency exchanges and blockchain companies from 16 countries attended the symposium where information on North Korea's illegal cyber activities, methods, and malicious software frequently used by North Korea were shared.⁸

"North Korea's illegal cyber activities should not be recognized simply as financial crimes in cyberspace," said Lee Tae-woo, head of the ministry's North Korean nuclear diplomacy planning team. "Response to North Korea's cyber threats is also about peace and stability in the international community."⁹

My thoughts on North Korea's cyber attacks.

North Korea maintains a socialist state system and shows forms and differences of terrorism occurring in the international community. During the Kim, Jong Il era, North Korea's political goal was to build a strong nation. In other words, based on economic success, it was to continue to maintain a two-generation hereditary socialist system under the national goal of strengthening military power, promoting political control, and further unifying the South. However, due to continued economic difficulties, the feasibility became increasingly slim, and the system was on the verge of collapse. In cyberspace, huge strategic profits can be generated without being constrained by huge economic capital and high-tech skills. This seems to be why North

Korea is trying to develop their strength in cyberspace.

What we should keep in mind most is that the scale of the North Korean attack is growing at a tremendous rate. This should be handled more carefully because it threatens not only the stability of the Republic of Korea but also the international community. Cyber security requires global cooperation and should be strengthened beyond military alliances to cyber alliances. For now, it seems important to prepare rational defenses without being swayed by North Korean attacks.

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TEACHING THE JUNIOR ENLISTED TO APPRECIATE KOREAN RELATIONS WHILE STATIONED IN KOREA



By: Matt Durkee MAMP

What do you think of when you get orders that assign you the Land of the Morning Calm? For many of our young enlisted service members, these feelings of going to a country where they may have little or no association with Korean culture can be frightening and even lead to social isolation for the servicemember while stationed in Korea.

A key idea for many commanders is to help alleviate this social isolation and help them appreciate their time in Korea. It is to create a social network where they can learn and move beyond their isolation. Park, Chiriboga & Chung (2022) posit that it is integral for humans to create a social network that provides a protective umbrella for survival, security, and psychological well-being. Creating a social network that helps servicemembers when they are stationed in Korea and are considered a standard network is what Park et al. (2022) suggest as having diverse social ties, family, and friends and restricting perceived norms that are not true of culture. Many Junior servicemembers (JS) may not have their family to help them with emotional and

psychological support while stationed in Korea, which could cause those feelings of isolation phenomena many service members to feel and could lead to hating being in Korea.

So, what can commanders do to help their junior servicemembers overcome, to create resilience, and even enjoy being in Korea? Here are some ideas that could help them, and some of these are already being done.

- Create a mentorship with other Junior enlistees already stationed in Korea.
- When service members arrive, take the first two weeks and provide a tour of Korea and its surrounding area to learn more about the people and culture.
- Food is a gateway to other cultures; having locals provide popular



local food and having the JS (Junior service members) learn and even cook some of these cultural foods can create social bonds that help them connect to the Korean Culture.

- Provide a once-a-month host family mentor or have social ties with either KATUSA or Korean military members with JS in a recreational setting. There are many Korean and American cultural holidays that all can appreciate.

These four steps can create what Lee J. (2019) refers to as alliance cohesion, meaning with all of our differences, we can still make this alliance with work and understanding of each culture, and in so doing, many JS will take that crucial first step of resilience, and leaving that horrible feeling of isolation.

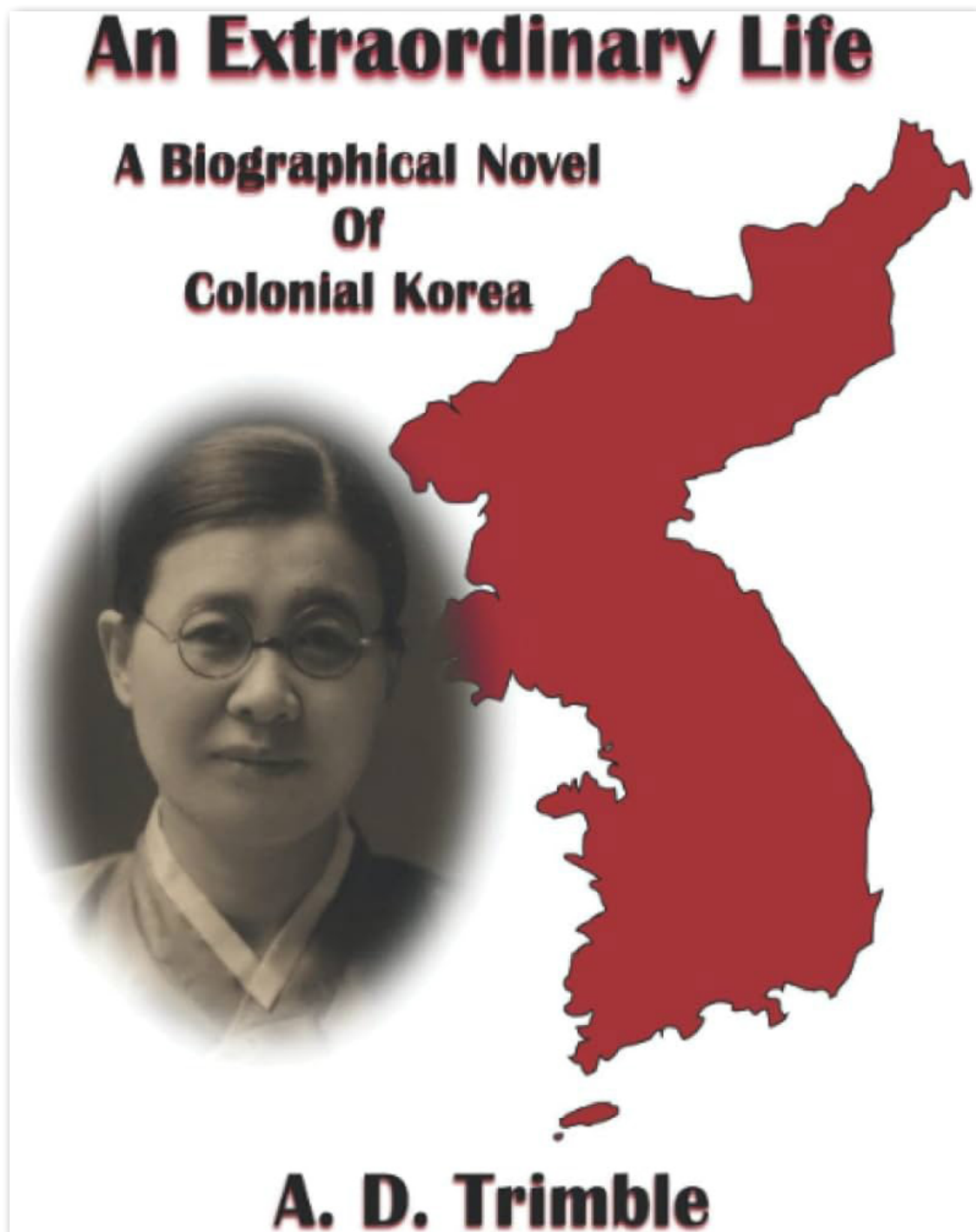
By creating a community of togetherness and an appreciation for both cultures, the hope would be that JS can learn to grow, break the isolation, and genuinely understand the relationship skills that help us see beyond our idea of other cultures.

Moreover, in Korean culture, the term Han is defined by Boman (2020) as understanding rancor or grief due to asymmetric power relations or the inability to solve suffering correctly. However, to curtail the feeling of Han in American and Korean JS, the creation of commonality and community will help reduce the isolation and help decrease Han. I hope my rambling will support JS's learning from my time stationed in Korea.

Thank you.
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By: A. D. Trimble
(Self-published, 2022, available on Amazon-Kindle)

In 1989, my wife received word that her grandmother, Ko Su-seon, had passed away on Jeju-do. It was then that I first learned about this interesting woman. She had been in the resistance during the Japanese occupation of Korea and later would become one of the

country's first female physicians. I thought then that her life would make an interesting story.

Born in 1898 on the tiny fishing island of Gapa-do, Ko Su-seon exhibited intelligence and uncommon curiosity. As a six-year-old she was already learning how to read and write Chinese characters by peeking in the window of a local boys' school. She had an unusually strong desire to attend school and wanted to become a physician, but



at the time Korea was a Confucian society and girls were expected to become good wives, raise children and take care of the home. It would be the Japanese who would give her the opportunity to achieve her dreams.

The Japanese Empire had long desired the country of Korea as it would offer them direct access to China. In the late 1800s, their efforts to tighten control over Korea were being impeded by the strong-willed Queen Myeongseong and in 1895 she was assassinated in a plot conceived by the Japanese Ambassador. This event marked the beginning of the complete conquest of Korea. With Japanese Imperial military forces already occupying large portions of the country, Japan officially annexed Korea in 1910.

Recognizing the need to control their newly subjugated people, the Japanese determined to fully assimilate them into their society. To accomplish this, they developed educational policies that would allow them to indoctrinate and transform Korean children into loyal Japanese subjects. To succeed in this process, however, they also needed to educate girls. Before Japan had fully implemented their policies, Su-seon attended school on Jeju-do where she learned the true history of Korea and became fervently patriotic. Continuing to excel academically, she went to Seoul to advance her education, but soon bridled at the Japanese policies intended to erase Korean culture and rewrite its history. Outspoken and confrontational with her Japanese teachers and administrators she quickly gained a reputation as a troublemaker.

In 1917, Su-seon joined the country's fledgling resistance movement determined to help rid her country of its oppressors. While attending an all women college she established a secret anti-Japanese group of Korean female students. Korean resistance leaders planned to announce Korea's Declaration of Independence from Japan on 1 March 1919 and which would be followed by peaceful celebratory demonstrations. Su-seon's school learned their Korean students planned to participate and locked their doors to keep them from leaving. Su-seon, however, along with several other students broke down a dormitory door then rushed out to hear the declaration being publicly read. The young Korean women then joined the massive peaceful demonstrations taking place throughout Seoul. The Japanese responded by massacring thousands in the streets, then arresting, torturing, and imprisoning many more.

After graduating from college, Su-seon taught elementary school but also secretly collected funds for the Provisional Government of Korea in Shanghai, which was considered a national security crime by the Japanese. Anyone caught collecting funds was subject to imprisonment and even execution. It was not long before the Japanese learned of her activities, and she fled on a small fishing boat to Shanghai while carrying a large amount of money for the government. Even in China, however, the Japanese continued to stalk her as a wanted criminal. Fearful for her life the Provisional Government sent her to Tokyo to help the Korean student independence movement there while she attended Tokyo Women's Medical school.

In 1923, the Great Kanto earthquake struck Japan, killing over 140,000 people, and leaving 2,000,000 homeless. With Tokyo engulfed in a sea of flames, Su-seon fled on foot, avoiding vigilante gangs that were searching for and killing Koreans. Nearly 6,000 Koreans in Japan were murdered. Surviving a long and harrowing trip, she finally made it back to Korea exhausted, malnourished, and severely depressed from all the horrors she had experienced. While being treated at a hospital in Seoul, the Japanese finally captured and brutally tortured her for over a month. She was eventually released but would carry the physical scars from the experience for the rest of her life.

Despite her recent treatment, Su-seon was determined to finish her medical studies. The Seoul Imperial Medical School refused to accept her as a student not only because she was a woman, but for also having been a wanted criminal who was recently detained by the Japanese. Unrelenting in her effort, however, she eventually coerced school officials into reluctantly admitting her as a student.

As a female medical student, she was not allowed to interact with the other male students and was ignored by her professors. Refusing to accept this treatment and demanding a quality education, she aggressively sought opportunities to display her intellect, medical knowledge, and skills until finally the professors and even classmates accepted her. Su-seon graduated in 1926, one of Korea's earliest female physicians, and the first from Jeju-do.

Returning to Jeju-do, Su-seon married her first schoolteacher, also a physician and together they ran non-profit medical clinics. They struggled to provide adequate medical care for the Korean people during the shortages of World War II and survived the horror and destruction of the Korean war.

In her later years Su-seon became an outspoken activist for the rights of Jeju-do women, children, orphans, and senior citizens. From her home, she ran schools and orphanages, established daycares centers for babies and took care of senior citizens. She continued to advocate for the people of Jeju-do until her death on 11 August 1989.

In 1990, the Republic of Korea posthumously awarded her the Order of Merit Medal for National Foundation and the Patriotic Order of Merit Medal. In 2005, Ko Su-seon and her husband's remains were buried in the Daejeon National Cemetery For Heroes.

The author has a BA in Music Theory/Composition and a MA in Asian Studies. As a U.S. Air Force officer, he served overseas with 13th Air Force in the Philippines, the Combined Forces Command/U.S. Forces Korea, and later the United Nations Command/Military Armistice Commission. His last military assignment was as Chief of the Korea Division of the Defense Intelligence Agency until he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. He continued to serve with the federal government completing multiple overseas tours in Asia and the Caribbean before retiring in 2018.



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