



**2025 KDVA & KUSAF Honorees
Honors Category: U.S. Veteran
Col. (Ret.) Jeff Wiltse**

PURPOSE: KDVA & KUSAF Honors recognize outstanding members for their contributions to the ROK-U.S. Alliance and to inspire making a difference for the Alliance's future.

CRITERIA:

Accomplishments or support for the ROK-U.S. Alliance:

For the past ten years, Mr. Wiltse has served as the CFC/UNC/USFK Commander's Liaison Officer at the Pentagon Liaison Office; Washington, D.C. Supported dozens of trips for the CDR to support various engagements in the National Capital Region for engagements. Sustained and enhanced the ROK-US alliance. Increased interaction of US Forces and capabilities in partnership with standing ROK and US Component Commands.

Volunteer efforts:

Mr. Wiltse regularly liaised with Korean Embassy, Washington, D.C. staff in support of various functions to include awards ceremonies, event anniversaries, and others.

Short biography:

A native of Seattle, Washington, Mr. Wiltse was commissioned into the United States Army as a Second Lieutenant, Armor, in June 1983, as the Distinguished Military Graduate of the University of Washington Reserve Officer Training Program. Mr. Wiltse served in the United States Army for over 30 years, retiring at the rank of Colonel in March 2015. His past assignments included Tank Platoon and Company Executive Officer, Company B, Battalion, 72nd Armor, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Casey, Korea (1985-1986); Assistant S-3 and Troop E Commander, 2nd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Bamberg, Germany (1990-1991); Assistant S-3 and Troop C Commander, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 3rd Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany (1991-1994); Liaison Officer / Instructor from the Combined Arms Command, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas with duty at the Japan Ground Self-Defense Forces Staff College, Tokyo (Meguro), Japan (2000-2002); Assistant Army Attaché, United States Defense Attaché Office, Tokyo, Japan (2003-2006); Senior US Army Foreign Student at Japan's National Institute for Defense Studies, in Tokyo Japan (2007-2008); and Director for Plans and Policy, J5, US Forces, Japan at Yokota Air Base, Tokyo Japan (2008-2011). His last active-duty assignment was as the Chief of Staff in the office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, East Asia, the Pentagon, Washington DC (2011-2014).



His military education includes Combined Arms Service Staff School, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (Japanese), Japan Command and General Staff College, Joint Military Attaché School, and Japan National Institute for Defense Studies. Mr. Wiltse's personal awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal, 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster; Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Saudi Arabia/Kuwait Liberation Medal and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge. His civilian education includes a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Washington, and a Master of Arts in National Security Affairs, Asian Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey California.

Mr. Wiltse is married and resides in Oak Hill, Virginia with his wife Heidi and their three children.

Statement from the nominator about the nominee's qualities: selfless service, passion for the Alliance and Veterans, and how the nominee might use this Honor to contribute further to the Alliance:

Mr. Wiltse's dedication to the ROK-US alliance for the past ten years has allowed for the two nation's militaries to coordinate in so many regards. He represented the CDR of UNC/CFC/USFK and his staff on key matters of significance to Korea, OSD, the Joint Staff, Department of State, and other Washington organizations and agencies. He facilitated communication between these organizations and the appropriate level of the Command in Korea. Mr. Wiltse is the consummate professional and his unwavering dedication to the alliance is evident every day at his position in the Pentagon. He represents the alliance with dignity, respect, and poise that it deserves. He represents not only the CDR, but the importance of the alliance every day in all of his interactions with key stakeholders in the NCR. He embodies "Gatchi Kapshida" in his actions, his words and the relationships he has built over the years. Mr Wiltse is well known and respected in the ROK-US community and his position provides the continuity and attention that the alliance deserves and requires. I feel Mr. Wiltse will continue to serve the community and the alliance to his fullest and that is why I recommend him as a phenomenal candidate for the U.S. Veteran honoree.