

The Pacific Focus of the National Security Strategy in Action

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The 2012 U.S. defense strategy reaffirmed the nation's commitment to Asia and the Pacific. This reaffirmation was welcomed by the more than 28,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and Department of Defense civilians serving in Korea. Every day, the warriors serving in the United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea maintain readiness to deter aggression, to defend the Republic of Korea (ROK) and to contribute to the stability of the region.

The U.S.-ROK alliance maintains peace and stabil-

ity in the strategic terrain of Northeast Asia, a region of global importance. This region generates more than one trillion dollars a year in global trade. U.S. trade with the region amounts to more than \$750 billion a year, with an additional





U.S. Navy

Above, delegates to the Korean War armistice negotiations in July 1951 included then-Maj. Gen. Paik Sun-yup (third from left) of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Army, and GEN Matthew B. Ridgeway (center), commander of U.N. Command. Right, GEN James D. Thurman and retired Gen. Paik Sun-yup discuss the Korean War in 2011.



\$250 billion in direct U.S. economic investment. In addition to economic power, the countries of this region possess significant military capabilities with some of the largest militaries in the world calling the region home. Some of these countries possess nuclear capabilities.

In stark contrast, North Korea is an exception to the success of the other nations in this region. North Korea is economically backwards and operates in an unpredictable man-



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ner outside accepted international norms. The recent leadership transition and the failed long-range missile test raised uncertainty on the peninsula. North Korea does maintain a large military capability, however, like other nations in the region. In addition to having ample conventional capabilities, it continues to pursue asymmetric capabilities in the areas of ballistic missile development, cyber warfare and weapons of mass destruction, including a nuclear weapons program. The regime's unpredictable nature coupled with its significant military capabilities make North Korea a dangerous threat, which this command closely monitors.

The U.S.-ROK alliance and the members of United Nations Command

stand ready to face any challenges presented by North Korea. Born of blood and shared sacrifice on the battlefields of the Korean War, the U.S.-ROK alliance has successfully deterred aggression and become the strongest alliance in the world. The enduring U.S. military presence in the Republic of Korea deters aggression, demonstrates our commitment to a stalwart ally and enables regional stability.

The forward-stationed U.S. military and the 16 sending-state members of the United Nations Command maintain the armistice and assist in providing stability. The participation of the sending states in the Republic of Korea and their investigation of alleged armistice violations demonstrate the commitment of the international community to peace and stability on the Korean peninsula. Their commitment also enables regional and global prosperity.

The Republic of Korea demonstrates the prosperity and political growth that U.S. and U.N. sending-state presence has enabled. The republic is a free and open democracy

and the 13th largest economy in the world. It is a significant U.S. trading partner, with whom we recently ratified a free trade agreement. The ROK military is a professional, modern, well-trained and well-led force that has grown over the years from one focused solely on the security challenges on the Korean peninsula to meeting the challenges that we all face around the world, from the Horn of Africa to Afghanistan to U.N. peacekeeping operations in Haiti and the Middle East.

The United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea mission is critical to the continued stability in Northeast Asia. This stability enabled many countries in the region, including the Republic of Korea, to grow and develop into constructive members of the global economic, political and security community. My four command priorities—Deter and Defend, Sustain and Strengthen the Alliance, Transform and Operational Control (OPCON) Transition, and Teamwork and *Katchi Kapshida*—direct this command in the accomplishment of its mission.

Deter and Defend

Our ability to deter aggression and defend the Republic of Korea depends on maintaining the very best readiness. Our servicemembers in Korea execute tough, realistic training across the entire spectrum of operations, which requires well-equipped and well-manned formations. The command possesses state-of-the-art simulation facilities that enable our warriors to train on tasks from individual to high-level unit collective training. Our servicemembers also enjoy high-quality, live-fire ranges and training areas that enable them to train their wartime tasks in a variety of terrain and environments. The Army has equipped our sol-

diers with the most modern equipment in the inventory. This past fiscal year, the 2nd Infantry Division completed its transition from UH-60A to UH-60L Black Hawk helicopters and fielded the M1A2 Abrams System Enhancement Package and M2A3/M3A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles. Recent Army manning decisions regarding the 2nd Infantry Division and 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade further increase our readiness. Our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines are ready to fight tonight.

Sustain and Strengthen the Alliance

United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea, along with ROK and multinational forces, execute two major theater-combined exercises every year: Key Resolve and Ulchi Freedom Guardian. In addition, subordinate units execute combined training at all levels from platoon to battalion with their ROK partners. These exercises increase our interoperability and continue to build the mutual trust that makes our alliance the strongest in the world. They also provide the opportunity to validate the alliance's war plans and identify areas for further refinement. Furthermore, the command utilizes our exercise program to further develop whole-of-government approaches to meeting current and future security challenges. Leaders at all levels conduct frequent engagements with their ROK counterparts. The long history and great strength of this alliance enable U.S. and ROK leaders to have open, frank discussions about issues pertaining to our respective nations and the alliance. These leader actions coupled with our robust exercise program provide the opportunity for our alliance to continue being best prepared to meet the security challenges of the future.

A combined team of ROK and U.S. Army soldiers and Korean Augmentees to the U.S. Army compete during an event at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex near Pocheon, South Korea.



Transform and OPCON Transition

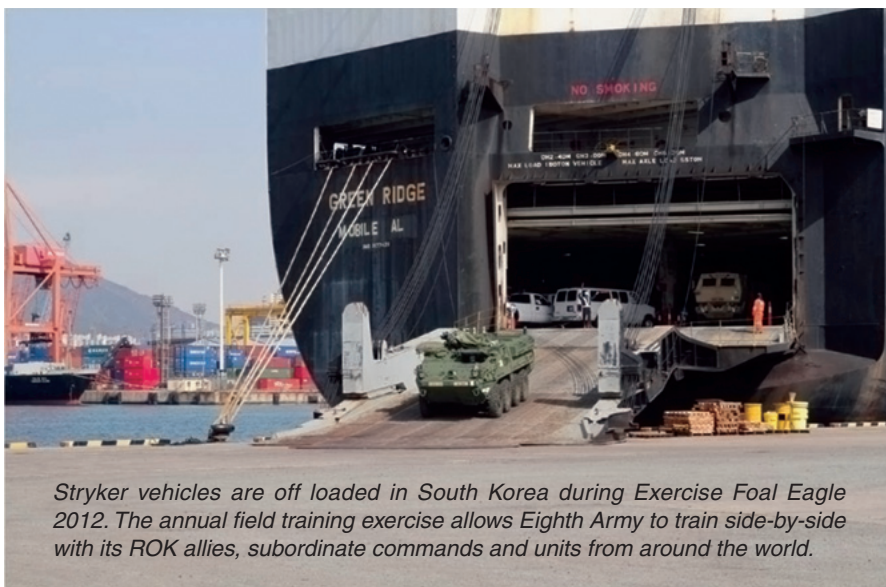
The U.S.-ROK alliance is transforming to meet the security challenges of today and tomorrow. An important initiative is assisting with ROK defense reform and modernization. This initiative incorporates a joint focus to improving command and control and eventually certifying the transition in 2015 to an ROK-led defense. We use our exercise program to help validate our milestones and ensure that we will have appropriate interoperability to execute our wartime mission.

Concurrently, U.S. Forces Korea continues to transform its posture on the peninsula. We are refining our relocation initiatives: the Land Partnership Plan, which relocates the 2nd Infantry

Division from north of Seoul to a consolidated footprint at Camp Humphries, and the Yongsan Relocation Plan, which moves U.S. forces out of Seoul to ensure that they are operationally focused. Our forces will be consolidated in two enduring base clusters around Daegu and Pyeongtaek. Our warriors will live in modern facilities similar to what they enjoy at continental United States installations, improving their quality of life. Furthermore, these initiatives provide our units with modern command and maintenance facilities that better enable them to accomplish their wartime mission. This will enhance our flexibility and better position our forces to meet future security challenges. Our force posture transformation also enables U.S. Forces Korea to better support the combatant commander throughout the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility.

Teamwork and *Katchi Kapshida*

Katchi Kapshida, our alliance motto, means “we go together.” We practice coalition operations daily and are combined in everything we do. Coalitions succeed be-



Stryker vehicles are off loaded in South Korea during Exercise Foal Eagle 2012. The annual field training exercise allows Eighth Army to train side-by-side with its ROK allies, subordinate commands and units from around the world.

cause of well-trained and well-disciplined forces working together as a team. There is tremendous teamwork between the ROK and U.S. militaries. Programs like the Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army, which dates back to the Korean War, place more than 3,300 ROK soldiers in U.S. units and enable the outstanding soldiers from our two nations to learn from one another by working side-by-side every day. Similar programs enable our servicemembers to learn about Korea and its people in a peer-to-peer relationship and to serve as excellent ambassadors for America and its citizens. Our servicemembers volunteer to support charitable causes in their local areas, enabling the Korean people to continue to learn about our country and its people, and enabling people from both cultures to better treat each other with dignity and respect. Our servicemembers are proud to serve in Korea. They strive to be the best representatives of the United States and its people on and off duty.

The Republic of Korea is a great place to soldier. The threat posed by North Korea requires United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea to be well trained, well equipped and ready. The U.S.-ROK alliance is the strongest bilateral alliance in the world. Serving in Korea provides soldiers an opportunity to be part of this great alliance, to be well trained on their wartime tasks across the full spectrum of conflict, and to learn about the Korean people and their culture. I look forward to seeing you over here. ★



As part of Foal Eagle 2012, U.S. and ROK SEALs fast-rope off an MH-47 Chinook helicopter and perform a visit, board, search and seizure drill.