

ROK STEADY 2014



CELEBRATING
70 YEARS OF SERVICE



THE WARFIGHTER'S PREMIER ASSIGNMENT

Eighth Army Commander
Lt. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux

Eighth Army Public Affairs Officer
Col. Shawn A. Stroud

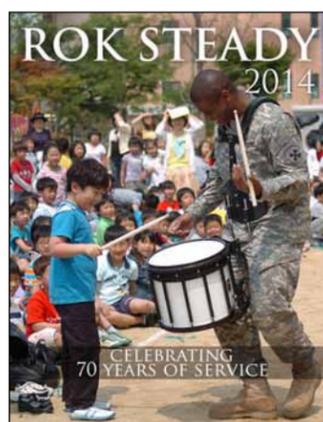
Eighth Army Public Affairs SGM
Sgt. Maj. Shaun J. Herron

ROK STEADY Staff

Editors
Maj. Gabriella McKinney
Chong Chu-un
Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Kosterman

Designers
Cpl. Lee Ho-su
Cpl. Suh Dong-kwon
Pfc. Park Gee-sung
Pfc. Shim Woo-yul
Pfc. Lee Dong-kyu

ROK STEADY is authorized under AR 360-1, published for the members of Eighth Army and their dependents. Editorial content is prepared, edited, and provided by the Eighth Army Public Affairs Office.



Cover page
An Eighth Army Band percussionist plays for Korean civilians at an elementary school. Eighth Army Band, founded on 1916, has entertained audiences in Korea since it was reorganized and assigned here in 1950.

CONTENTS

3 Commander's Letter

4 Command Sergeant Major's Letter



5 Eighth Army Celebrates its 70th Anniversary

The top U.S. Army formation in South Korea, Eighth Army celebrated its 70th anniversary on June 10, 2014.

7 70th Anniversary History Collage

9 Odierno thanks U.S. troops, praises South Korean allies



11 Eighth Army Celebrates its 70th Anniversary

The 64th Memorial Ceremony in honor of Task Force Smith was held at the United Nations Forces First Battle Memorial, Osan, South Korea, July 3.



19 27 6-17th Cavalry Regiment deploys to South Korea

29 Groundbreaking for new 'downtown' area conducted at Humphreys

33 Soldiers participate in Eighth Army Best Medic Competition 2014

35 Yongsan dining facility improvements focuses on health and convenience

Eighth Army wins 7th place in 2014 Army Ten-Miler

The Eighth Army Ten-Miler Team capped a 7th place finish out of 52 teams at the 2014 Army Ten-Miler race in D.C.

21 Soldiers re-enact Nakdong River Battle, honor six decades of partnership

Soldiers and leaders commemorated one of the fiercest battles of the Korean War with historical re-enactments and ceremonies Sept. 24-26 in Waegwan, South Korea.

13 U.S. Army leaders outline way ahead in South Korea

15 Area II wants you to 'Speak Up!' to prevent sexual assault

17 American troops honored at Korean Cultural Night

21 Teach Thy Neighbor: Middle School Students Learn English from Soldiers



37 Eighth Army participates in South Korea's Ground Forces Festival

Eighth Army Soldiers and equipment were on display at the South Korea's Ground Forces Festival 2014 held at South Korean Military Headquarters, Gyeryong, South Korea Oct. 1-5.

41 South Korea's President awards Eighth Army with the Presidential Unit Citation

BERNARD S. CHAMPOUX

LETTER FROM THE EIGHTH ARMY COMMANDING GENERAL



Pacific Victors,

Each of you are part of an enduring legacy established through the courage and sacrifice of men and women who fought to defend peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region for the last 70 years.

From our roots as a liberating force during World War II, to orchestrating one of the greatest counter-offensive maneuvers in combat history during the Korean War by holding the defensive perimeter at Pusan, Eighth Army has left an indelible mark on the pages of history.

Today, the honor, pride and reputation of this storied combat force rest on each of our shoulders. To meet that challenge, we stand together with our Korean allies, fortified by our common values and the mutual respect of our two nations.

The unbreakable bond and trust we hold with our partners is what made Eighth Army strong in the past and will continue to make us strong in the future.

As stewards of our profession, we are charged to protect that sacred bond with a steadfast determination and an unrelenting perseverance. We owe nothing less to our fellow Soldiers, our ROK Allies, and to the men and women who have sacrificed their lives in defense of the Alliance.

Take great pride in who we are as individuals, as an organization, and as a profession. Captured throughout the pages of this year's ROK Steady, you will find countless examples of the courage, character, and commitment that each of you exhibit throughout the year to uphold our cherished legacy.

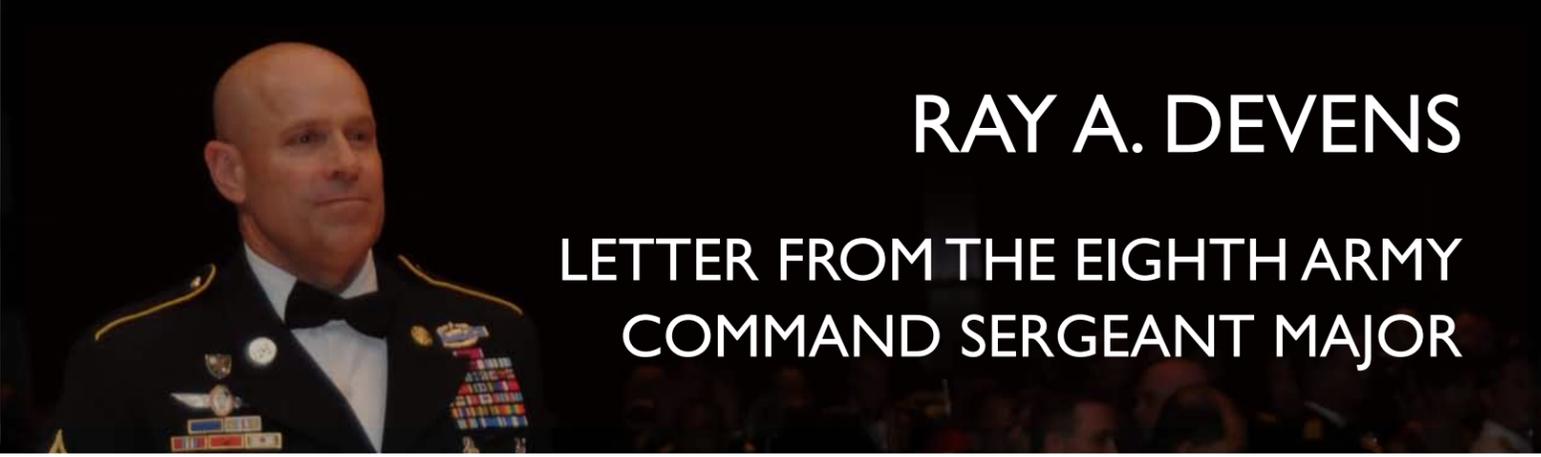
We are strong and getting stronger because of your hard work and dedication to the mission and as we continue to meet our nation's commitment to ensure peace, stability and security in this very important corner of the world, one thing remains true..... Eighth Army is the Army Warfighter's premier assignment of choice.

Pacific Victors!
Katchi Kapsida!


BERNARD S. CHAMPOUX
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

RAY A. DEVENS

LETTER FROM THE EIGHTH ARMY COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR



Pacific Victors,

I am truly honored to work with the incredible team of Soldiers, civilians and families who serve with great pride and distinction here on Freedom's Frontier.

Eighth Army is an organization that excels in a fast-paced, demanding environment close to the world's most heavily defended border. Together, with our Republic of Korea partners we continue to strengthen an alliance of shared commitment and values.

Throughout this issue, that partnership – one of the strongest Alliances in modern history - is illustrated.

Eighth Army is also an organization of disciplined, engaged leaders committed to the Army Profession and Ethic. This commitment shows throughout this issue with examples of how we honor those who served before us, how we execute transformation, and how we pursue physical and holistic fitness to ensure we can continue to deter aggression, and should deterrence fail, fight and win!

Fitness is the foundation. Mental and physical toughness are keys to success in life, both on and off the battlefield. However, our focus on fitness is a larger commitment that includes moral, emotional, social and spiritual fitness to ensure Eighth Army Soldiers are resilient and ready. As representatives of our nation's warrior class, our dedicated, responsible and fit Athlete Warriors inspire motivation every day.

This holistic approach to fitness, to a ready and resilient force, recognizes the great contribution our Army Families make and our dedication to provide predictability to our Soldiers and their Families can also be seen in this issue.

At Eighth Army, our strength starts with you – the engaged, disciplined, committed leader, and we are working together every day to build an even more ready and resilient team. Eighth Army is Strong and Getting Stronger!

RLTW! Pacific Victors!
Katchi Kapsida!


RAY A. DEVENS
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major



Eighth Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux thanks a Korean War veteran during the Nakdong River Battle ceremony in Waegwan, South Korea Sept. 13, 2013 (U.S. Army photo).

Eighth Army celebrates 70th anniversary

*By Walter T. Ham IV
Eighth Army Public Affairs*

The top U.S. Army formation in South Korea, Eighth Army celebrated its 70th anniversary on June 10, 2014.

Activated during World War II, Eighth Army has served with distinction in the Asia Pacific region since then.

Called the Pacific Victors, Eighth Army troops conducted more than 60 amphibious “island hopping” assaults during World War II, and earned the nickname the “Amphibious Eighth.” Eighth Army then served as the occupation force in Japan following the war.

In July 1950, Eighth Army was dispatched to defend South Korea against invading North Korean forces. Commanding United Nations ground forces, the storied combat formation held the last defensive line in Korea against long odds during the early days of the Korean War and enabled the amphibious landing at Incheon that changed the momentum of the war in the UN’s favor.

Deterring aggression against South Korea and maintaining stability in the Asia Pacific region, the Pacific Victors have served on the Korean Peninsula since a ceasefire agreement brought active hostilities to an end, in 1953.

Today, Eighth Army is the only operational-level combat formation in the U.S. Army that serves and trains within enemy artillery range.

Eighth Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux said American Soldiers in Korea uphold their nation’s proud legacy of defending freedom on the Korean Peninsula side-by-side with their South Korean allies.

“Eighth Army is a battle-tested formation with an incredible legacy of leadership and service on the Korean Peninsula and in the Asia Pacific region,” said Champoux, a native of Pittsfield, Mass., who has commanded the legendary fighting formation since June 2013. “Eighth Army represents our nation’s enduring commitment to peace, stability and security in this important corner of the world and I couldn’t be more proud of the men and women who are serving in Eighth Army today.” ■

South Korean and U.S. Soldiers conduct a foot march during the Korean War Commemoration Rucksack March at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, South Korea (U.S. Army photo).





A truck loaded with troopers from the 1st Cavalry Division roars past cheering South Koreans north of Seoul on their way to the 38th parallel (Department of Defense photo).



Sgt. Bill Redifer of Pennsylvania comforts fellow Soldier Private Vincent Nozzolillo of Massachusetts after a battle on Aug. 18, 1950 (Photo courtesy DoD).



A KATUSA Soldier (left) participates in the 2013 Best Warriors Competition (U.S. Army photo).



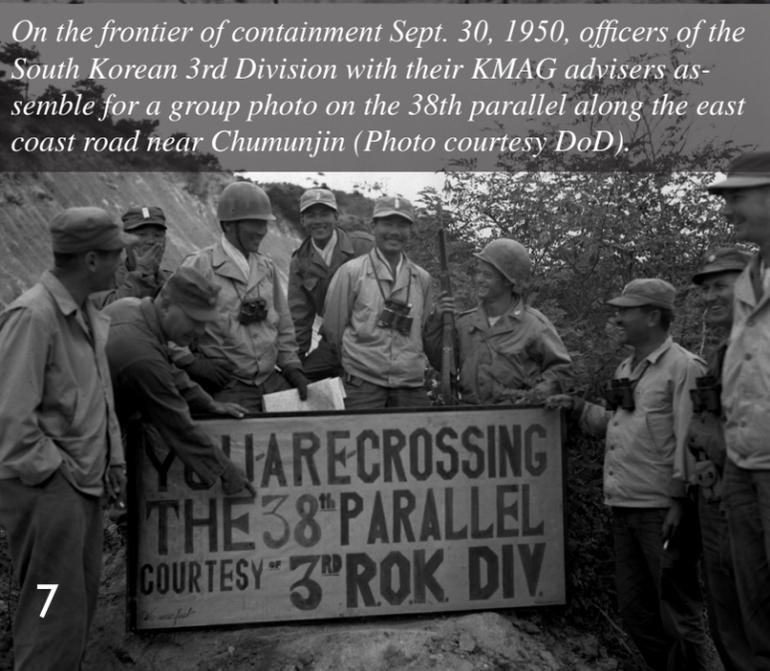
South Korean Army and U.S. Army Soldiers discuss strategy during the Combined Joint Live Fire Exercise April 20, 2014 in Cheorweon, South Korea (U.S. Army photo).



Chaplain Emil J. Kapaun (right) helps another Soldier carry an exhausted trooper off the battlefield in the early weeks of the Korean War. (Photo courtesy DoD).



Members of the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division and the South Korean 6th Engineer Brigade embark on a joint river-crossing exercise (U.S. Army photo).



On the frontier of containment Sept. 30, 1950, officers of the South Korean 3rd Division with their KMAG advisers assemble for a group photo on the 38th parallel along the east coast road near Chumunjin (Photo courtesy DoD).



A helicopter from Eighth Army's 6th Transportation Helicopter Company, delivers C-rations to the 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, near Panmunjom, May 23, 1953 (Photo courtesy DoD).



South Korean Army and U.S. Army Soldier discuss how they will advance during a Combined Joint Live Fire Exercise April 20, 2014 in Cheorweon, South Korea (U.S. Army photo).



Eighth Army Soldiers from the 1st Signal Brigade pull security after being dropped off by a UH-60 helicopter (U.S. Army photo).



Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Gen. Ray T. Odierno thanks a 2nd Infantry Division Soldier at USAG Humphreys, South Korea (U.S. Army photo).



Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Gen. Ray T. Odierno gives a speech to Soldiers from 2nd Infantry Division at USAG Humphreys in South Korea (U.S. Army photo).

Odierno thanks U.S. troops, praises South Korean allies

By Walter T. Ham IV
Eighth Army Public Affairs

The U.S. Army's top general made his second visit to South Korea, Feb. 23-25, 2014.

As a part of a visit to the Asia Pacific region, U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno met with U.S. and South Korean military leaders and troops on the Korean Peninsula.

The chief of staff also met with troops at Camp Humphreys, the future headquarters post for American forces in Korea.

The former commanding general of Multinational Forces Iraq and Joint Forces Command previously visited Korea for the first time as chief of staff in January 2013.

Odierno came to South Korea a week after releasing his second waypoint document, a follow up to his marching orders. In the document, Odierno outlined his plan for building adaptive leaders, Soldiers who are committed to the profession of arms and a globally responsive, regionally engaged and ready all-volunteer Army.

Odierno said he welcomed the opportunity to meet with American Soldiers, Civilians and Families serving in South Korea.

"This visit gave me a chance to thank the men and women serving on the Korean Peninsula," said Odierno.

"Together with our Republic of Korea allies, American Soldiers remain committed to the critical mission of supporting one of our longest alliances."

"Korea is at the heart of our rebalance to the Asia Pacific region," said Odierno, "and remains one of our greatest allies." ■

Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Gen. Ray T. Odierno (center), Eighth Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux (left), and South Korean Army Chief of Staff Gen. Kwon Oh-sung (right) conduct a meeting at South Korean Army Headquarters in Gyeryong, South Korea (U.S. Army photo).





U.S. Army Service Members pay silent tribute during the Task Force Smith Memorial Ceremony (U.S. Army photo).

South Korea, U.S. honor Task Force Smith

By Cpl. Lee Ho-su
Eighth Army Public Affairs

The 64th Memorial Ceremony in honor of Task Force Smith was held at the United Nations Forces First Battle Memorial, Osan, South Korea, July 3.

Task Force Smith was the first U.S. combat unit to encounter North Korean forces during the Korean War. The task force came from Japan via air and was composed of 540 U.S. Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry, and 52nd Field Artillery Battalion, 24th Infantry Division. It was named after its commander, Lt. Col. Charles B. Smith.

With more than 5,000 North Korean infantrymen and 34 tanks, Task Force Smith was vastly outnumbered during the Battle of Osan, July 5, 1950. The task force fought for several hours and then withdrew to Daejeon. They lost 60 men, 21 were wounded and 82 captured during the Battle of Osan.

“What they were able to accomplish with what they had was quite frankly, miraculous,” Eighth Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux said. Task Force Smith

succeeded in delaying the enemy and preventing a large scale attack, according to Champoux. “Every loss of life was a step toward freedom gained, and each sacrifice that was made laid the path for the prosperity of today,” he said.

Osan mayor Kwak Sang-wook and Gyeonggi Province governor Nam Kyung-pil both expressed gratitude in their memorial address for the sacrifices the U.S. Soldiers made. “As long as the Republic of Korea is on this planet, the members of Task Force Smith and their noble sacrifices will always be remembered in our hearts,” Nam said.

Four members of Task Force Smith attended the ceremony. “I’m just feeling heart-felt appreciation,” said Norman Matthews, Task Force Smith survivor. In this forgotten war it is nice to know that at least here, we have not been forgotten.”

Osan city is planning to make a memorial park at the battle site with 540 trees representing the individual Task Force Smith members. ■



Top Left: Osan mayor Kwak Sang-wook gives a speech;
Top Right: Eighth Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux thanks a Korean Veteran;
Bottom: Army veterans lay wreath on the United Nations Forces First Battle Memorial in Osan, South Korea (U.S. Army photo).

U.S. Army leaders outline way ahead in South Korea

By Walter T. Ham IV
Eighth Army Public Affairs



Eighth Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux talks about the purpose of the Eighth Army On-site, a conference held from Jan. 22-23 at Dragon Hill Lodge, Yongsan Garrison, Seoul, South Korea (U.S. Army photo).



From Top to Bottom: 2nd Infantry Division Commanding General Maj. Gen. Thomas S. Vandal listens to a speech; 21st Regimental Command Sergeant Major Command Sgt. Maj. Carl Ashmead discusses ideas with Master Sgt. Troy A. Orio-Dettling from Eighth Army Civil Affairs; 22nd Chemical Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Andrew L. Miltner leads a discussion during the Eighth Army On-site (U.S. Army photos).

U.S. Army leaders outlined the way ahead for Soldiers, civilians and families in South Korea during a conference at Yongsan Garrison, South Korea Jan. 22-23.

Hosted by Eighth Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux, the conference was held at the Dragon Hill Lodge.

During the conference, Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, the commander of United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea, spoke about his priorities as the top U.S. military commander in South Korea.

Leaders and spouses from the top U.S. Army commands in Korea also addressed many service-wide and peninsula-specific subjects, ranging from the Eighth Army vision to the U.S. Army's Ready and Resilient Campaign.

Established in June 1944, Eighth Army commanded United Nations ground forces during the Korean War and has deterred aggression against South Korea since the armistice was signed more than 60 years ago. The storied U.S. Army combat formation marked its 70th anniversary earlier this year.

Called the "Pacific Victors," Eighth Army Soldiers continue to provide security on the Korean Peninsula and stability in the Asia Pacific region.

Champoux said Eighth Army will not only uphold its legacy of strength, leadership and service but will also become stronger in the years ahead. ■

Area II wants you to ‘Speak Up!’ to prevent sexual assault

By Pfc. Moon Hyung-ju

Installation Management Command

Sexual Assault Awareness Month officially began with a solemn ceremony held at South Post Chapel, Yongsan Garrison, South Korea March 31.

The welcoming speech was given by Master Sgt. Latisha Turner, followed by national anthems, and an invocation speech by Maj. Tim Won.

The opening remarks, given by Maj. Gen. Mark Dillon, Deputy Chief of Staff for the United Nations Command, highlighted this year’s theme.

“Sexual Assault Awareness Month reaffirms our commitment to ending sexual assault within our ranks,” said Dillon. “Stopping sexual assault requires all of us to ‘Speak Up!’ which is the theme of this year’s Sexual Assault Awareness Month. To prevent sexual assault, we must intervene if we see something. It all starts with speaking up!”

The history of SAAM, which began in the late 70s, was presented by Master Sgt. Gwendolyn Beauford, from Eighth Army G-4.

“In 1976, ‘Take Back the Night’ marches occurred to protest fear and violence that women had to face at night,” said Beauford. “It soon expanded into Europe and throughout the United States. In the early 80s, there were increased interests in coordinating activities to raise awareness of violence against women. After a while, the National Coalition Against

Sexual Assault took a census to determine the date for a national Sexual Assault Awareness Week and a week in April was selected.”

SAAM is observed in April every year. Its priority is to raise people’s awareness about the possibility of any kind of sexual assault and teach how they can prevent sexual violence. This year, SAAM aims attention at healthy sexuality and young people.

Guest speaker Capt. Cindy Williams, SHARP program SARC for 501st Military Intelligence Brigade, shared her personal experience and offered words of wisdom to the audience.

“Respect is the most important value in preventing the sexual violence,” Williams said. “Without respect for others, people cross boundaries. That is when the lines are blurred between the right and wrong.”

For more information, contact Area II Lead Sexual Assault Resource Center at DSN 724-4070. ■



From left to right: guest speaker Capt. Cindy L. Williams, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for 501st Military Intelligence Brigade, gives a speech; Soldiers and civilians listening to Capt. Cindy L. Williams talk about how to prevent sexual assault at South Post Chapel, Yongsan Garrison, Seoul, South Korea; Deputy Chief of Staff for the United Nations Command Maj. Gen. Mark C. Dillon (left) and Eighth Army Command Sergeant Major Command Sgt. Major Ray A. Devens (center), and Eighth Army Deputy Commanding General (Operations) Maj. Gen. Brian J. McKiernan listens to Capt. Cindy L. Williams (U.S. Army photos).

American troops honored at Korean Cultural Night

By Walter T. Ham IV
Eighth Army Public Affairs

Senior South Korean officials and U.S. military leaders honored American troops at the Korean Cultural Night dinner Seoul, South Korea May 6, 2014.

Sponsored by the Kumgok Academico-Cultural Foundation, the cultural night was held for U.S. troops, civilians and family members, in South Korea.

Among the leaders in attendance were Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, commander of United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea; Eighth Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux; and 7th Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Jan-Marc Jouas.

The event was held at the Sheraton Walker Hill, a posh hotel on the hill named after former Eighth Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Walton H. Walker. Walker was the legendary commander who held the line at the Pusan Perimeter during the early

days of the Korean War. The dinner featured traditional Korean dancers and singers. Champoux introduced Scholar Ha Yeon-soon, the head of Kumgok Academico-Cultural Foundation and the host of the 5th annual Korean Cultural Night.

As a young boy during the Korean War, Scholar Ha first met American Soldiers inside the Pusan Perimeter when they saved him a long walk by giving him a ride in their jeep. One of the preeminent Confucian scholars in the world today, Scholar Ha has been a staunch supporter of the South Korea-U.S. Alliance ever since and he donates cars to Morale, Welfare and Recreation to allow MWR to hold a drawing for the benefit of American troops.

This year, Pfc. Ashley Davis and Sgt. Luis Alvarado won Hyundai Sonatas at the event.

Eighth Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux said Scholar Ha and his foundation have been

Traditional Korean dancers performing at the 5th Korean Culture Night at Sheraton Walker Hill, Seoul, South Korea (U.S. Army photo).



stalwart supporters of the Republic of Korea-U.S. Alliance.

“Leaders like Scholar Ha make our alliance the strongest in the world today,” said Champoux. “Scholar Ha and his foundation demonstrate the unwavering support of our South Korean allies and their steadfast commitment to defending liberty on Freedom’s Frontier.”

“I salute him for his many years of extraordinary support to Eighth Army, U.S. Forces Korea and the Republic of Korea-U.S. Alliance,” said Champoux. ■

Below: Officials from the U.S. and South Korean militaries pose with the host, Scholar Ha Yeon-soon, after the Korean Culture night (U.S. Army photo).



U.S. Soldiers from 501st Sustainment Brigade, 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and 201st Commando Brigade, 2nd Operational Command and other leaders commemorated one of the fiercest battles of the Korean War with historical re-enactments and ceremonies Sept. 24-26 in Waegwan, South Korea (U.S. Army photo).



Soldiers re-enact Nakdong River Battle, honor six decades of partnership

*By Staff Sgt. Cashmere Jefferson
19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command Public Affairs Office*

As North Korean forces advanced south in the fall of 1950, waging a vicious war, the nation of South Korea and United Nations forces were pushed to a small southeastern area on the tip of the Korean peninsula, known as the Pusan perimeter, where they would stand to defend the suddenly prominent Nakdong River, later to be known as the “pivot” of the Korean War.

“Either protect the Nakdong line or die trying...” were the words made famous by Gen. Walton Walker, first commanding general of the U.S. Eighth Army, during the Nakdong

River Battle Sept. 29, 2014 Waegwan, South Korea.

U.S. Soldiers from the 501st Sustainment Brigade, 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC), the 201st Commando Brigade, 2nd Operational Command and other leaders commemorated one of the fiercest battles of the Korean War with historical re-enactments and ceremonies Sept. 24-26 in Waegwan, South Korea.

The Nakdong River formed a natural border that U.N. and Republic of Korea forces used to



The re-enactment included hand-to-hand combat, similar to the actual battle of the Nakdong River, adding to the realism (U.S. Army photo).

secure the perimeter and in an effort to prevent the North Korean forces from advancing on Daegu, the bridge over the river was blown, putting a stop to North Korea’s furthest advance, and marking the first defining moment of the 64-year victory.

Before an audience of more than 1,500 Korean War veterans, and nearly 20,000 service members, government officials, civilians, families, and students the field was scattered with fighting positions, self propelled artillery, tanks, howitzers, and other tactical vehicles.

The re-enactment portrayed the intentional demolition of the Waegwan railway bridge, ground battles between North Korean forces against South Korean, United Nations and U.S. forces, gun battles, hand-to-hand combat, air strikes, field artillery fire, casualty evacuations, resupply operations, and lastly the victory for the stronghold of the Nakdong River.

Sgt. 1st Class Richard O. Stanley, civil affairs non-commissioned officer in charge, 19th ESC, said he was humbled to be in the pres-



A U.S. Army Soldier portrays a 1st Cavalry Division Soldier during the battle’s re-enactment (U.S. Army photo).

ence of veterans of the Korean War stressing that it was a moment he will never forget.

“I was sitting next to veterans who participated in the war and watched their reaction as the event played out, and seeing their expressions meant so much to me,” said Stanley. “When I saw the waving of the U.S., Korean and U.N. flags at the end of the re-enactment being held by all nationalities of people in victory; it made me very emotional because I know that this story will never die here and that the Soldiers lost on Hill 303 will never be forgotten.”

On Aug. 17, 1950, at Hill 303, a hill above Waegwan, South Korea, 41 U.S. Army prisoners of war assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, were executed by North Korean troops during a retreat.

Service members paid respect to the fallen Soldiers during the anniversary of the Nakdong River Battle at the memorials built on Hill 303 by troops at Camp Carroll, honoring their lives. ■

U.S. service members are visitors to the Republic of Korea...

and it is important to foster positive relations with our host nation. U. S. Forces Korea, peninsula wide operates the Good Neighbor Program to assist the U.S. military in making and keeping positive, friendly relations, and maintaining a strong Alliance.

As ambassadors to the U.S., it is important to visit the local community, showing a friendly presence. Soldiers from 602nd Aviation Support Battalion, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, create that presence with their own English camp.

Each company rotates to Dunpo Middle School in Asan, South Korea, a school the battalion has adopted and regularly visits.

In their most recent visit to the school, Capt. Benjamin H. Jung, the battalion chaplain and native of New York City, escorted nine Soldiers to the school to help 7th and 8th graders learn English. Many of the Soldiers that participated during the day were new to Korea and it was their first time visiting the Korean school.

“I was nervous at first, but I had to overcome it, because the kids looked up to me as an adult,” said Pfc. Gabriel Ramirez, from Phoenix, Ariz., an electronic missile equipment repairer assigned to Company B “I broke the ice by asking their names and we kept conversing from there. Even though we come from different backgrounds, we still managed to have a good time together.”

The Soldiers were broken down into groups of four students. Many Soldiers began their conversation the task for the day of learning about the students they were helping teach English.

Teach Thy Neighbor: Middle School Students Learn English from Soldiers

By Sgt. Nicole Hall, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs



Soldiers from 602nd Aviation Support Battalion, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, introduce themselves to the class during a visit to Dunpo Middle School, May 20, in Asan, South Korea. The Soldiers helped 7th and 8th graders learn English, as a part of the battalion's Good Neighbor Program. (U.S. Army photo).



Soldiers from 602nd Aviation Support Battalion, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, get to know three Korean students during a visit to Dunpo Middle School (U.S. Army photo).

Many of the children knew minimal to conversational English already, and they were able to assist Soldiers and their classmates to communicate. Korean Augmentees to the United States Army were also present to assist with translating.

The classroom was relatively quiet as the class began. By the end of the class, giggles and laughs could be heard throughout the room. Handshakes between Soldiers and students were exchanged when it was time to leave for the day.

“It was a great experience going to the school,” said Ramirez. “We all learn from each other, no matter the age, gender, race, etc. I definitely plan to go back and volunteer with the English class.”

The principle of Asan Middle School, Jung, Dae-soo greeted and thanked Soldiers for the work with his students.

602nd ASB Soldiers are regulars to the school and will continue to teach students English. The battalion also volunteers at a Pyeongtaek Child Care Center and an after school program for at risk youth. Soldiers who volunteer to be a part of these amazing opportunities, can also use the hours to earn a Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

“The Good Neighbor Program provides a positive opportunity for our Soldiers to interact with Korean citizens,” said Jung. “Just from interaction with the students, Soldiers discover how similar school life is in America, giving Soldiers a practical perception of Korean culture. The GNP also displays to Korean citizens the Army’s genuine kindness and enthusiasm in supporting their nation.” ■

Eighth Army wins 7th place in 2014 Army Ten-Miler

By Cpl. Suh Dong-kwon
Eighth Army Public Affairs

Two members of the Eighth Army Ten-Miler Team approach the finish line Oct. 12 in the U.S. Army Ten-Miler in Washington D.C. (U.S. Army photo).





Eighth Army Command Sgt. Maj. Ray Devens (left) celebrates with Eighth Army Ten-Miler Team runners Capt. Benjamin Joslin (center) and Capt. Robert Anderson (right) after the race at the U.S. Army Ten-Miler, Washington D.C., U.S. Oct. 12 (U.S. Army photo).

The Eighth Army Ten-Miler Team capped a 7th place finish out of 52 teams at the 2014 Army Ten-Miler race in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 12.

After months of preparation and a 13-hour flight, the team arrived in Washington D.C. on Oct. 10.

“Our schedule was fairly relaxed. We all wanted to quickly overcome our jet lag and keep our legs fresh for the race,” Capt. Allyson Peetz, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (OSJA) Claims Chief and Legal Assistance Attorney said.

The race began at 8 a.m. with more than 26,000 participants at the Pentagon in Arlington, VA, and ran through the National Mall in D.C.



Eighth Army Ten-Miler Team poses with Eighth Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux (Left) and Eighth Army Command Sgt. Maj. Ray Devens (Right) Oct. 2 in Yongsan Garrison, Seoul, South Korea (U.S. Army photo).

Peetz is proud that the team became a cohesive unit.

“Considering our team did not train together, and a few of us battled with injuries over the summer, I am incredibly proud of finishing 7th,” Peetz said. “I personally would not have reached my goal of breaking 70 minutes, without the advice of the team members,” Peetz said.

This year’s team featured a historical first - a member of South Korean’s Army.

Eighth Army chose a KATUSA Soldier Pfc. Pahng Seong-ho as one of the representatives in the race.

KATUSA stands for Korean Augmentation to the United States Army. They are qualified Korean draftees who demonstrate a high level of English fluency and aptitude via a standardized written exam. By assigning South Korean Soldiers within an U.S. Army garrison, the program allows greater military functionality and maneuverability throughout the Korean peninsula.

“We finally have both U.S. Soldiers and a KATUSA Soldier that are representing all of us in the race...and



Eighth Army Ten-Miler Team prepares for filming by American Forces Network Korea in Yongsan Garrison, Seoul, South Korea, Oct. 2 (U.S. Army photo).

it really strengthens our partnership and the alliance,” said Eighth Army Command Sgt. Maj. Ray Devens. Lavon Washburn, one of the organizers of the event, decided to send Pahng to D.C. as a member of Eighth Army Ten-Miler Team.

“It is a good news story for everyone involved,” Washburn said.

“We had to jump over a few hurdles to get him approved to go, but KATUSAs serve along with U.S. Soldiers, so why would we not allow them to compete along side of U.S. Soldiers?”

Pahng passed the finishing line with his personal record of 56 minutes.

“Looking back, I think it was the roaring crowds alongside the finishing stretch that did the trick” Pahng said. “After all, it is the support from our families, friends, and countries that empowers us to Soldier on,”

Through this opportunity, Eighth Army continues to solidify the partnership between U.S. and South Korean military and continues to grow stronger due to the hard work and successes of our Soldiers and units. ■

6-17th Cavalry Regiment deploys to South Korea

By Eighth Army Public Affairs

The Department of the Army approved the rotational deployment of the 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment from Fort Wainwright, Alaska, to Camp Humphreys, South Korea within the month of June.

The 6-17th Cavalry is the third U.S. Army rotational unit to deploy to South Korea for a nine-month tour.

The regiment brings approximately 360 Soldiers to replace the 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment upon completion of its rotation.

The 4-6th Cavalry Regiment is scheduled to return to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., over the next couple of months.

A trained and combat ready force, the 6-17th Cavalry Regiment will provide crews and support for 30 OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters at Camp Humphrey near Pyongtaek, South Korea. The squadron will return to Fort Wainwright, Alaska, upon completion of its nine-month rotation.

U.S. Army Pacific routinely schedules and deploys forces on a rotational basis to South Korea. These routine deployments support the U.S. security commitment to South Korea as specified by our mutual defense treaty and presidential agreements. They are also designed to meet the U.S. National Security Strategy imperative to support our strong and capable partners in the Asia-Pacific region.



Lt. Col. Matthew F. Ketchum, 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment commander, unfurls his squadron's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on June 25, 2014. The 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment transferred its authority to the 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment to complete its nine-month rotation on the Korean peninsula. (U.S. Army photo).

The South Korea-U.S. Alliance remains committed to peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The U.S. will maintain the same level of commitment now and in the future on the Korean Peninsula, in order to deter aggression and defend against external threats. ■

Bottom Left: An OH-58D Kiowa on display during a transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on June 25, 2014. Thirty Kiowas were transferred from the 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment to the 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment (Stars and Stripes photo).

Bottom Right: Senior leaders of the 2nd Infantry Division greet members of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment as they arrive at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 29, 2014 (U.S. Air Force photo).



Soldiers from The 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment arrive in Osan Air Base for 1-12 CAV'S nine-month tour with the 2nd Infantry Division (U.S. Army photo).



An artist's rendering of the new downtown area of U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Humphreys, South Korea, shows family-friendly services and amenities (Courtesy photo).



Groundbreaking for new 'downtown' area conducted at Humphreys

By Steven Hoover

U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Public Affairs

Ground was broken for the new "downtown" area, featuring a new Exchange, commissary and bowling center among other facilities at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Aug. 12, 2014.

The project will also see the construction of an auditorium, chapel, chapel family life center, an arts & crafts center, recreation center, plaza and parking.

When completed, these facilities will provide retail shopping, groceries, entertainment, recreation and religious services.

The project, awarded to POSCO Engineering & Construction, Ltd., will cost an estimated \$146.7 million, and is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2016. The theme of "partnership" rang throughout during the groundbreaking.

"Today is a celebration of a partnership between two nations and many agencies, all working together to provide our service members [with] facilities that provide a taste of home," said Steve Pena, general manager, Humphreys and Osan Exchange.

"One of the core values at the Exchange is 'family serving family,'" added Pena. "We are 'family,' and the Exchange is proud to be a part of the Humphreys family."

Pena said that the new Exchange will feature an expanded lineup of the many services and eateries that are already available here, except that when the new facility opens, there are also plans to have an Arby's.

In addition to breaking ground on a new Exchange and several Soldier and family support structures, the future downtown plaza will eventually be home to the largest commissary in the Pacific.

"I'm proud to say that you have a lot to look forward to when these stores are built," said Wayne Walk, Korea and Guam zone manager, Defense Commissary Agency. "It's our goal in the Defense Commissary Agency to make your shopping experience something to look forward to. It's not enough to have a new facility and low prices. Our goal is to provide great customer service on every visit. We're here now to take care of you during the Korea transformation, and we'll be here to serve you and your families when transformation is completed."

According to Defense Commissary Agency officials, the new Camp Humphreys Commissary will be a large, modern 90,000-square-foot store with 23 checkout lanes. The store will also feature extensive produce, meat, grocery, dairy, delicatessen, bakery and frozen foods sections. For comparison, the current commissary is 19,188 square feet with five checkouts.

Although breaking ground on the new facilities is exciting, Col. Darin S. Conkright, commander, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys and Area III, took this opportunity to thank the Humphreys Military Community for bearing with all of



Ground was broken for the new “downtown” area, featuring a new Exchange, commissary and bowling center among other facilities, at USAG Humphreys, South Korea, Aug. 11, 2014 (U.S. Army photo).

the growing pains, whether it is road closures, building moves or traffic bottlenecks.

“Trust me, I know it can be difficult to deal with so much going on in one place,” Conkright said. “And yet, it never ceases to amaze me how resilient, flexible and understanding our community remains through these challenging times, as we build today for a better tomorrow.”



Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Ray T. Odierno (right) oversees a construction site at USAG Humphreys during his visit to South Korea on Feb. 24, 2014 (U.S. Army photo).

Other guest speakers at the event were: Republic of Korea Army Brig. Gen. Kang Chang-koo, director general of program management in the Ministry of National Defense USFK Base Relocation Office; Kim Jong-woo, director, USFK Base Relocation Project Management Office, Korea Land and Housing Corporation; Lee, Yong-byung, senior vice president, POSCO Engineering & Construction, Ltd.

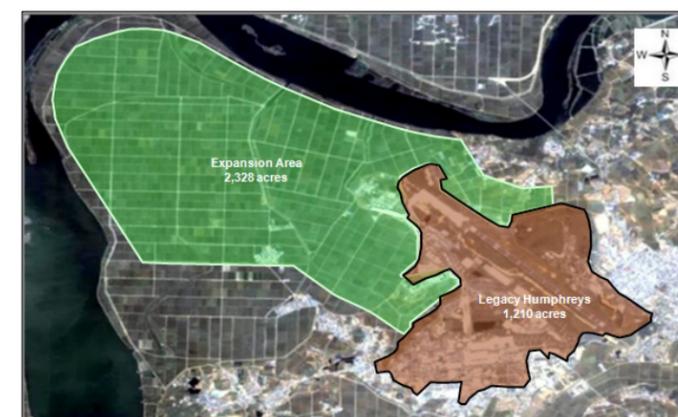


South Korean, U.S. service members and civilians participating in the cake cutting after the ground breaking ceremony at USAG Humphreys (U.S. Army photo).

Camp Humphreys is currently undergoing one of the largest transformations in Department of Defense history. The vast majority of forces located in the Greater Seoul Metropolitan Area and north of the Han River will move here in the coming years, in accordance with the U.S. and Republic of Korea bilateral agreements. ■



Single Soldier Quarters under construction at USAG Humphreys (U.S. Army photo).



USAG Humphreys’ original area in brown and the projected expansion area in green (USFK J5).



From left: Kim Yong-rae, Director General, South Korea-U.S. Cooperation Bureau, Pyeongtaek City, Brig. Gen. Kang Chang-koo, Director General of Program Management, MURO, Lt. Gen. (retired) Kim Ki-soo, Chief Director, Ministry of National Defense, USFK Base Relocation Office, Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall, Deputy Chief of Staff, Transformation & Restoration, USFK, Lee Kee-wook, Vice President, Daelim Industrial Co., Ltd, Col. Bryan S. Green, Commander and District Engineer, Far East District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Col. Darin S. Conkright, Commander, USAG Humphreys take part in a groundbreaking ceremony for the new KORCOM Operations Center, located on Camp Humphreys, July 18, 2014 (U.S. Army Photo).

The Groundbreaking Ceremony of



Medics simulate treatment of various injuries during the Eighth Army Best Medic Competition at Camp Casey and Rodriguez Live Fire Range, June 23-26 (U.S. Army photo).

Soldiers participate in Eighth Army Best Medic Competition 2014

By Sgt. Park Jewel
Eighth Army Public Affairs

Soldiers from around the peninsula took part in the 2014 Eighth Army Best Medic Competition, June 23-26.

The winners of this year's Best Medic Competition are Staff Sgt. Raymond Hernandez and Sgt. Justin Russell from 168th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, 65th Medical Brigade.

The competition, organized by 121st Combat Support Hospital, 65th Medical Brigade, was

held to find out who the best medic team is in Eighth Army. The winning team will represent Eighth Army at the Army-wide Best Medic Competition in San Antonio in November.

Only the holders of the Combat Medical Badge or the Expert Field Medical Badge, which are highly distinguished qualifications, can participate; a total of 10 two-man teams participated, two teams of officers and 8 enlisted Soldier teams.

The medics had to complete various tasks, such as chemical decontamination, night combat medical care, and M4/M16 live fire over 72-hours.

"It's very arduous, physically demanding, and mentally challenging for the best medic teams," said Capt. Jae Chung, the assistant operations officer at 121st Combat Support Hospital and the lead organizer of the competition. "Candidates have to walk several miles between each station, and are getting probably two hours of sleep a day."

In contrast to last year's competition, which was held in July, Eighth Army's Best Medic Competition was held in June to avoid the monsoon season and thereby secure the safety of the participants.

"Safety is our number one concern," said Chung. "We have lane OICs and NCOICs, and we conduct sensitive items inventories and we're constantly monitoring the candidates for a safe event."

Sgt. Eric Porterfield, the battalion senior medic for 138th Field Artillery, emphasized another

important aspect of the event - teamwork.

"Everything is accomplished by working together," said Porterfield. "That is just the nature of being in the United States Army. Without each other, we can't move a casualty. We can't shoot back and suppress enemy fire. You have to work together to accomplish the mission."

The competition was also an opportunity for the medics to learn about themselves.

"You really get to know yourself and push yourself past your comfort zone," said Porterfield. "I've learned that I can push through a lot more pain than I thought." ■



From Top Right clockwise: Participants strap a Soldier to a litter during the 2014 Eighth Army Best Medic Competition; a participant treats and evacuates a dummy; a KATUSA medic (left) and U.S. medics lift a stretcher (U.S. Army photos).

Yongsan dining facility improvements focuses on health and convenience

By Cpl. Lee Ho-su
Eighth Army Public Affairs



A service member receives a “Grab and Go” bag at the Honors Café Mobile Grab and Go Breakfast station at Camp Coiner, South Korea Aug. 1, 2014 (U.S. Army photo).

Honors Café, dining facility on Yongsan Garrison, South Korea, is creating wider accessibility and a healthier menu for its “Grab and Go” station as well as improving the overall quality of the main dining facility.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Arnetra Hughes, 1st Signal Brigade food advisor, says Soldiers often walk a long distance from where they conduct Physical Readiness Training (PRT) in the morning to the dining facility. In order to save time, her team at Honors Café started a mobile “Grab and Go” station at Camp Coiner May 22.



Fresh fruit, like grapefruit seen here, is part of the expanded nutritional offerings at the Honors Café Dining Facility (U.S. Army photo).



A KATUSA Soldier receives a newly improved meal plate during lunch at the Honors Café Dining Facility (U.S. Army photo).



Cpl. Edward J. Shramek from 501st Military Intelligence Brigade serves Soldiers “Grab and Go” bags at the Honors Café Grab and Go window (U.S. Army photo).

“It guarantees that Soldiers are refueling at the right time after they work out,” says Hughes.

Everything in the “Grab and Go” station is meant to be healthy as well, with whole grain breads, boiled eggs, yogurt, and fruits just a few steps away from the normal breakfast fare.

Complex carbohydrates and protein-based meals will enhance the Soldiers’ performance because while the fried stuff is okay sometimes, eating it all the time is not healthy, says Hughes.

The “Grab and Go” is part of the dining facility’s efforts to support the Performance Triad and maintain readiness of Eighth Army Soldiers.

The new satellite station at Camp Coiner has been very successful, averaging about 150 people per meal, says Hughes. She adds that a lot of positive feedback has been received from Soldiers.

“The CG (Eighth Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux) is looking to open up more satellite dining facilities ... throughout Korea,” Hughes said.

Honor’s Café has also increased its staff, added a sandwich bar, and opened up both sides of the dining facility in order to improve service and reduce lines. It is also planning themed food bars as well, such as Mongolian bar, potato bar, and taco bar.

Honors Café dining facility holds a meeting at 10 a.m. the last Tuesday of every month so that Soldiers can make suggestions to improve the facility. ■

Eighth Army participates in South Korea's Ground Forces Festival

By Sgt. 1st Class Kevin P. Bell
Eighth Army Public Affairs

Eighth Army Soldiers and equipment were on display at the South Korea's Ground Forces Festival 2014 held at the South Korean Military Headquarters, Gyeryong, South Korea Oct. 1-5.

It is one of the largest military festivals in the world and this year more than one million people attended the five-day event.

Dozens of air and ground combat vehicles, along with South Korea's military history and current technology were on display, in near-Smithsonian quality presentations, at the sprawling festival site held on an Army Airfield a short distance from the South Korean military headquarters.

U.S. and South Korean Special Forces conducted several demonstrations, including a free-fall "hostage rescue" and rappelling into the festival to the loud applause of the large crowd gathered to watch the spectacle.

Even the South Korea's Air Force got involved, with a "Black Eagles" demonstration team wowing the crowd with precision air acrobatics in T-50B "Golden Eagle" jets.

The whirl of helicopter blades and roar of jets were nearly constant as was the sound of gunfire at a small firing range where people could fire a real rifle, albeit with blanks, at a target with the Korean military version of laser based Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) gear.

Thousands walk through the military exhibition area at the annual South Korea's Ground Forces Festival, Gyeryong, South Korea Oct. 1 (U.S. Army photo).

Any Korean festival wouldn't be complete without at least one K-Pop group making an appearance. This year there were several including the group "Girls Day." Musical performances by military marching bands and traditional Korean groups were a constant fixture at the main stadium and a number of small stages spread throughout the grounds.

Mixed in with the Korean main battle tanks and a large number of different types of helicopters were several pieces of U.S. military equipment, including a Patriot Missile system, an Avenger Missile system, an NBC variant of a Stryker vehicle, an AH-64E Apache (Longbow) attack helicopter and even a few Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) robots that spent majority of their time chasing around giggling children. All the U.S. equipment was manned by Soldiers and Korean Augmentees to the U.S. Army or commonly referred to as KATUSAs.

KATUSAs helped bridge the language barrier with their presence, wearing the Korean flag on their shoulder, and providing a visible representation of the U.S.-South Korean alliance.

”This is a great opportunity for Korean civilians to see what the South Korean Army and other services have, something they cannot normally see up close,” said Korean Augmentee to the U.S. Army Cpl. Lee Jin-kil. Lee spent a lot of his time assisting civilians don the U.S. style body armor and other personal protective gear for photos at the Eight Army booth.

The small American contingent of about 30 Soldiers were kept busy providing information on U.S. military equipment and being “rock-stars,” posing for photos with Korean civilians, many of whom had never met a U.S. Soldier.

“This is unbelievable, never seen or been a part of anything like this,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mike Wagner 4th Aerial Reconnaissance Bn., 2nd Aviation Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, as he held a baby and looked out at the long line of Koreans waiting to get a photo with him in front of his Apache attack helicopter.

“The people are very friendly and they really seem to love us, and they are very interested in our equipment and how it helps protect their country,” said Spc. Kevin Delaney, D Co. 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade who was manning a Patriot Missile System.

“We should do this more often, they really love us here and we [U.S. Soldiers] feel really appreciated, this makes me feel that my job here in Korea is important,” said Pfc. Dylan Carrardelle, E Co., 6th Bn. 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade.

The bond between the South Korean and U.S. militaries also extends to the relationship between the Korean and American people.

“We have strong military ties from the Korean War to Vietnam to current operations and any time we get to work together it helps strengthen the deep bond between our militaries and our countries,” said Lt. Col. Park Hyung-gukwan, the South Korean Army officer in charge of organizing and running the festival.

“It is an honor to be a part of this year’s Ground Forces Festival which highlights the accomplishments of the Republic of Korea’s military and also showcases the South Korean-U.S. partnership and commitment to the defense of the Korean Peninsula,” said Col. Jeffrey A. Bryan, Assistant Chief of Staff, Eighth Army Civil Affairs, who was responsible for coordinating U.S. participation. ■



South Korean children take a photo with 2nd Infantry Division Soldiers at the South Korea’s Ground Forces Festival, Gyeryong, South Korea Oct. 1 (U.S. Army photo).



South Korean civilian poses wearing the U.S. Army’s Advanced Combat Helmet (ACH), Improved Outer Tactical Vest (IOTV), and a replica of M16A2 Rifle at the Eighth Army booth during the South Korea’s Ground Forces Festival, Gyeryong, South Korea Oct. 1 (U.S. Army photo).



South Korean President Park Geun-hye (right) presents the Republic of Korea Unit Citation award to Eighth Army Commander Lt. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux during the opening ceremony of the South Korea's Ground Forces Festival at South Korean Army Headquarters, Gyeryong, South Korea Oct. 1 (South Korea's Ministry of National Defense photo).



South Korean President Park Geun-hye (center) speaks at the opening ceremony of the South Korea's Ground Forces Festival at South Korean Army Headquarters, Gyeryong, South Korea Oct. 1 (South Korea's Ministry of National Defense photo).

South Korea's President awards Eighth Army with the Presidential Unit Citation

By Eighth Army Public Affairs

The U.S. Army's Eighth Army was awarded the Republic of Korean Presidential Unit Citation Oct. 1, for outstanding performance in defense of South Korea during the past year.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye presented the award to Eighth Army Commander Lt. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux during the opening ceremony of the South Korea's Ground Forces Festival at South Korean Army Headquarters in the city of Gyeryong.

"I am truly honored to have accepted this award on behalf of all Soldiers and Civilians in Eighth Army," said Champoux. "We are grateful to maintain the legacy of the generations of men and women who have served side-by-side with our [Korean] partners in the common defense of the Republic of Korea."

The award recognizes organizations that make a substantial contribution to the national security and defense of South Korea. Park recognized Eighth Army due to a number of accomplishments that have enhanced the readiness of both South Korean and U.S. units.

These accomplishments include the 2nd Infantry Division's integration of South Korean Army units, including more than 200 South Korean Army Soldiers, into rotations at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. in June 2014. This was the first-ever deployment of South Korean forces to a U.S. combat training center.

During the ceremony, Park underscored the importance of the selfless service and sacrifice the men and women who serve in the alliance make every day in defense South Korea.

"For the past 66 years, the armed forces have fulfilled their duties of safeguarding lives and defending the nation," said Park.

"Though founded under awful conditions with a meager arsenal of weapons, our armed forces have protected the nation by surmounting countless crises and challenges, including the Korean War, and have prevailed with an indomitable spirit."

The award was issued to the 2nd Infantry Division in 2011, and the 7th Air Force in 2013, for their respective efforts in support of the common defense of the Korean peninsula.

Through annual training exercises like Key Resolve (KR), Foal Eagle, Ulchi Freedom Guardian, South Korean and U.S. forces worked to increase their interoperability and strengthen the alliance.

During KR 2014, an annual joint-combined exercise, Eighth Army spearheaded efforts to develop, establish and maintain the operational readiness of three distinct command posts to solidify a combined, effective mission command structure with the South Korea's Mission Command.

As Eighth Army continues to work with its South Korean allies to enhance its defense posture, the 'Trinity of Mission Command,' will form the foundation of the command structure on the Korean peninsula and improve synchronization between South Korean and U.S. units. A new initiative known as the "combined division" will integrate Korean and U.S. military personnel into one organization in 2015.

Other accomplishments leading to this recognition include the establishment of a rotational Aerial Reconnaissance Squadron of helicopters and a Combined Arms Brigade in Korea, as well as increased integration of South Korean and U.S. Army intelligence units and greatly improved interoperability of tactical communications networks. ■