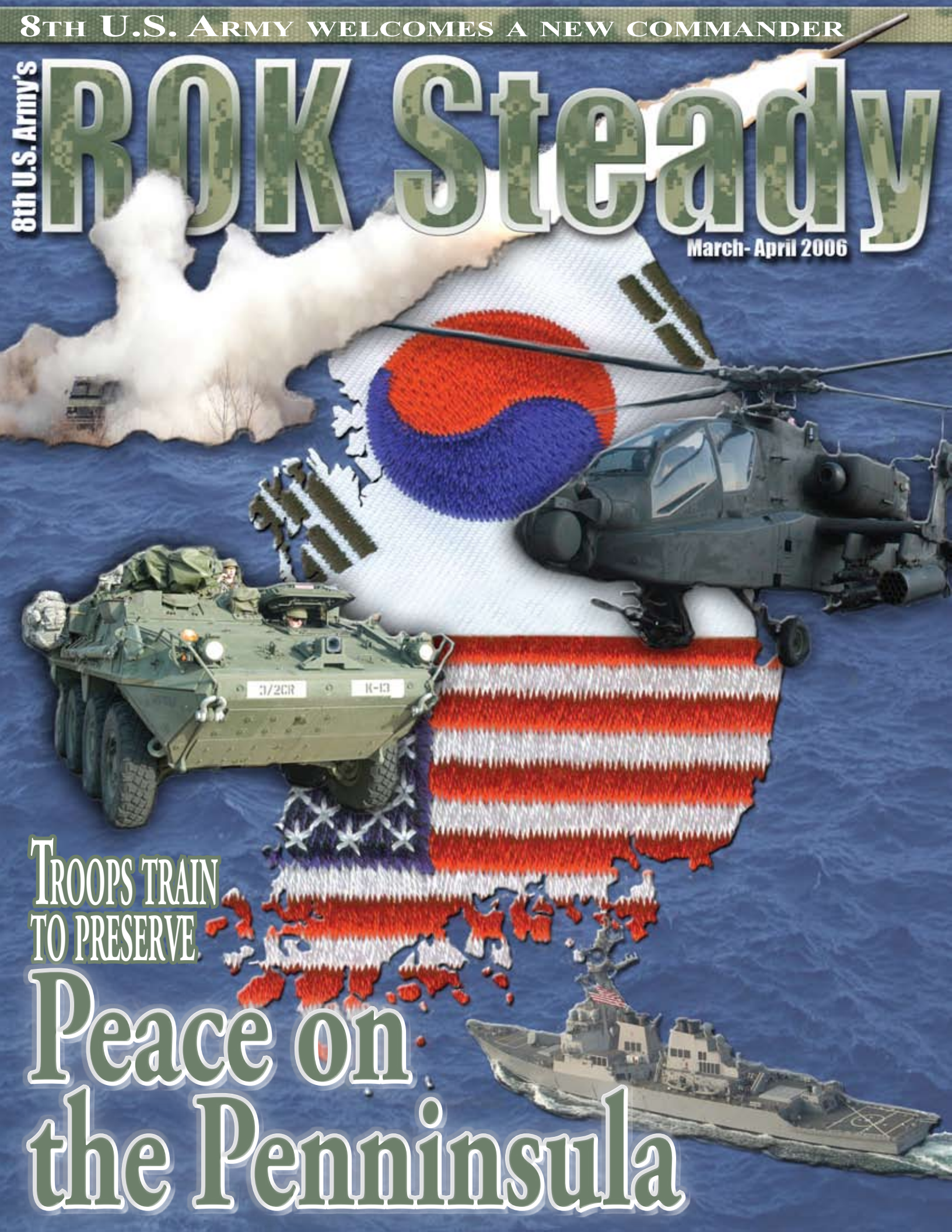
8TH U.S. ARMY WELCOMES A NEW COMMANDER

8th U.S. Army's

ROK Steady

March- April 2006



TROOPS TRAIN TO PRESERVE

Peace on the Penninsula

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March-April 2006

Vol. 4, No. 2

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Deadline: 45 days prior to date of publication

ROK Steady is an authorized command information publication, published monthly for the members of 8th U.S. Army and their dependents. Distribution is 9,500 copies Peninsula-wide. Contents of ROK Steady are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, USFK or 8th U.S. Army. ROK Steady is an unofficial publication authorized under AR 360-1. Editorial content is prepared, edited, and provided by the Command Information Division of the 8th U.S. Army Public Affairs Office.

JOINT FORCES EXERCISE 26

New commander looking forward to leading 8th U.S. Army

By Lt. Gen. David P. Valcourt
Commander, 8th U.S. Army

I am honored to be your commanding general and part of a winning team. The change of command ceremony was second to none and a credit to the great tradition of passing the responsibility of command and reminding us of the one constant in our world – change. My wife, Diane, and I truly felt the warm welcome and look forward to living and working with the Eighth U.S. Army family.

Returning to Korea was an eye-opener for me as I'm sure it is for all newcomers. Contemplating the wake of the Korean War and the rebuilding that began in earnest in the early 1960's, it is breathtaking to appreciate the opportunities and achievements possible when peace and stability are assured. Today Seoul is a robust, bustling city and now known as the "miracle on the Hahn River." The prosperity and pride is evident everywhere in this world class nation. It's a great opportunity to live and work in the Republic of Korea.

While Soldiers past and present can take pride in securing the Korean Peninsula and upholding the ROK-US Alliance, much respect and debt is owed to generations of courageous, hard working and determined Korean citizens who today form the heart of this great land. Many work among us and foster the bonds that carry the accomplishments of the past into a common future – our future. My respect for the people of Korea was reenergized upon my return and I encourage you all to share this respect with me in your day to day activities. We have and we will continue to go together. Katchi Kapshida!

The Eighth U.S. Army is an example of readiness and everyone from private to general has a role to play in keeping the "Ready to Fight Tonight!" fighting spirit alive. I participated with the senior military leaders during our Reception, Staging, Onward movement and Integration and Foal Eagle exercises in March. I was impressed by how ready we are to first, deter, and if necessary, defend the Republic of Korea as part of a multi-service, multi-national team. While the ROK Army clearly shoulders the burden in defending their country, it is our combined ROK-US capabilities that form the credible deterrent supporting the core of our mission.

Exercise RSO&I/Foal Eagle proved our ability and our resolve, if necessary, to receive forces from off the Korean Peninsula and assemble them in the right place and time to fight and win. Exercise RSO&I/Foal Eagle is a complex multi-phase exercise conducted annually. It's tailored to train, test, and demonstrate the United States' and the Republic of Korea's force projection and deployment capabilities. I observed during the exercise that the Eighth U.S. Army, in its role of deciding how to integrate forces into the operation, were up to the task and performed magnificently.

> "8th U.S. Army continues to change and transform in order to best meet future trends and guarantee peace and STABILITY."

Training and readiness, as you may expect, is our top priority and this summer's transition period will demand our full attention as we experience personnel turnover while gearing up for exercise Ulchi Focus Lens, our next major annual exercise, in the fall.

The summer transition is an important event for us all to stop and think about. All of us, at one level or another, are Soldiers and leaders. As Soldiers, we have an obligation to keep our leaders informed and as leaders we are obligated to prepare Soldiers in our charge for success.

First, in our obligation to keep leaders informed, I challenge you all to be alert and to actively contribute advice, perception, warning and ideas as the Eighth U.S. Army transitions nearly a third of its force this summer. Even if the guns are silent, and in some ways more so that they are, we can not hesitate to keep our leaders informed. Thoughtful, active communication creates a complete situational awareness and enables sound decision making. So, be engaged.

Second, in our obligation to prepare our fellow Soldiers for success, organizing and executing a solid transition plan will not just happen. Hope is not our method. We must capture the lessons learned and our proven procedures for the new Soldiers who fill our ranks. Ensuring continuity, when done well, thoughtfully and professionally, ensures our readiness remains high. It also instills a professional standard that benefits the entire Army family. While we are a forward deployed force facing the reality of high intensity warfare, the challenges of our Army and the Nation around the world demand that we set and hold our standards high. It's up to us.

Eighth U.S. Army continues to change and transform in order to best meet future trends and guarantee peace and stability. By the end of this year we will have completed nearly 75 percent of the force reductions set by our alliance leaders. Thereafter, we will have the challenge to sustain our "Fight Tonight!" readiness while posturing to move to a new home, south of Seoul, at Camp Humphreys in 2008.

It is an honor for me to be the Commanding General of the Eighth U.S. Army and I salute every Soldier, family member and civilian employee for all you do for our Nation. I am eager to step into our future and ask that you join me as Soldiers and as leaders to keep our chains of command fully informed and accept nothing less than excellence in our common goal of deterring aggression or, if necessary, fighting to win – tonight!

Pacific Victors!

Stay in your lane!

NCO Leaders: Focus on the basics!

By Command Sgt. Maj. Barry Wheeler
Commander Sergeant Major, UNC/CFC/USFK/8th U.S. Army

Everywhere you look in military service affiliated newspapers, the Internet, and other venues, you see non-commissioned officers voicing their concerns and opinions. It appears to be quite the "rage" amongst NCOs these days.

While definitely a healthy venue and most often well placed in their concerns, many others are about subjects neither in the NCO Corps' arena nor ability to solve. Many are the NCOs who would be well served if they would focus back on what they can solve at their level. Sgt. Major of the Army Jack Tilley, when he served as the 12th SMA, asked Army NCO leadership repeatedly to "stay in our lane."

Very good advice from the Army's top enlisted leadership. Often, NCOs get wrapped around the axle with the ills of the Army and what might, should, or could be done about it. The 1-800-WAAH! syndrome; if you will. Instead, they should focus back on what's the most important thing to an NCO: "Accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my Soldiers."

Here in the Korea, that's exactly what the NCO Corps should strive to do.

Due to the uniqueness of the short 12-month tour in Korea, NCOs do not have time to worry about the things that we have no control over. Instead, we worry about being ready to "Fight Tonight!" We worry about those things that we have positive control over: 1) Can my Soldier perform his individual and crew training tasks to standard? 2) Are my troops qualified on their individual weapon and can they hit what they aim at? 3) Does my Soldier know his Code of Conduct and General Orders? 4) Can my Soldier properly perform a preventive maintenance check? The list goes on and on.

What is really important to our units and their NCOs is driven home daily when they consider the ramifications of untrained Soldiers being placed within harms way of a well-trained, 1.2 million-man North Korean Army who is only a few short kilometers away just across the Demilitarized Zone. A North Korean Army that moves closer to the DMZ; which gets better equipped, and bigger, every year. Plainly stated; very sobering thoughts. Thoughts that will narrow an NCO's focus in very quick fashion!

In order to maintain NCO focus on what's important, I'd like to outline a few areas for NCOs to concentrate on. My Top Ten, if you will. While not all inclusive, it does provide NCOs "a lane to stay in." In no particular order of precedence, they are:

1) NCOs ARE KEEPERS OF THE STANDARD. If meeting the standard was easy, we would all be the same rank and receive the same pay. That's why the NCO Corps was established! NCOs are paid to ensure that every task is performed to STANDARD! Whatever the task, individual or crew, there is a published standard which the Soldier must achieve. Our NCO Corp's job is to ensure the standard is achieved. Units that perform tasks to standard automatically find themselves doing less and are a much safer unit to serve in. Bottom line.

2) INDIVIDUAL AND CREW TRAINING WILL ALWAYS BE "HANDS-ON AND PERFORMANCE ORIENTED". NCOs are mandated to ensure that all individual and crew training is trained to the identified standard and performed repetitively. Our goal as NCOs is simple: "Repetitive performance of the task which will produce in our Soldiers an unhesitating response." We research the Task, Condition, and Standard for all training conducted. Once identified, we SHOW the Soldier how to perform the task and then evaluate his ability to do so. If the standard is not achieved, we ensure our NCOs retrain those who do not demonstrate proficiency. We totally understand that this retraining may well take our free time! Once evaluated, it is entered into the Leader's Book for future reference.

3) TROOPS WILL LEAVE IN BETTER SHAPE THAN WHEN THEY ARRIVED. We have our Soldiers for 12 months. A luxury not all stateside units enjoy. The Soldiers and leaders serving here in Korea for the most part do not get into their personally owned vehicles and drive away every day. Because of this "captive audience," we as NCOs would be remiss if our Soldiers did not leave in better shape than when they arrived. I want our NCOs each month during normal performance counseling to set realistic, achievable physical fitness goals for their Soldiers. In writing. Normally troops will not let the leader down if the NCO will just tell them what the expectations are.

4) EVERY DAY STARTS WITH A FORMATION AND THE INSPECTION OF THE SOLDIER. Within our units, NCOs expect our soldiers to present a well-groomed, military appearance. The NCOs fully understand that in order to achieve this, we must inspect what we expect. The old adage, "A unit does well what the boss checks" is never more true than when an NCO considers the appearance standards of his/her Soldiers. If not inspected, it's not important. Today's Soldiers are very smart and they rapidly key in on what their leaders make important. We more senior NCOs make this important to the junior NCO leaders by insisting that daily formations and inspections of our Soldiers are conducted. The 15-20 minutes it takes to do this is money well spent on our training schedule. Additionally, we publish Soldier appearance standards (synopsis of AR 670-1) in our 8th U.S. Army and Warrior Standard and other handbooks and we fully expect our Soldiers to meet those standards. Each Soldier receives one of these handbooks upon assignment to their respective unit. We must INSPECT what we EXPECT!

5) SOLDIERS SHOULD HIT WHAT THEY AIM AT. General George S. Patton once said: "The soldier who cannot hit what he aims at is worthless in combat." Truer words were never spoken. Our goal as NCOs is to ensure our Soldiers are trained to the maximum of their capability. We fully understand that you do well what you practice. If you can't hit the target, you probably just need more practice. Practice in applying the four fundamentals of firing; practice that requires the NCO's patience and time. Good shooting requires a repetitive performance of the task. NCOs understand they must be willing to dedicate that time.

Pre-marksmanship Instruction (PMI) is the key. Money in the bank to the NCO that truly cares. PMI sets the Soldiers up for success so that they don't get discouraged quickly. It enables them to more rapidly start hitting what they aim at. Soldiers want to do well. PMI is the key first step to our NCO's training of the Soldiers to standard. We should ensure it is not overlooked by our units by insisting it be placed on their training schedule. It is a key point our senior leaders (both officer and NCO) should look for when attending quarterly training briefs (QTB) and semi-annual training briefs (SATB).

6) THERE IS "GOODNESS" IN THE MARCHING OF TROOPS. Our armed military services are weird. We like to march. Sound strange? If so, consider this: Every task we undertake is more rapidly accomplished when we ensure the timely arrival of our Soldiers. When moving from Point A to Point B, Soldiers arrive quicker when they are marched than when left to their own volition. Have you ever heard the NCO who asked "Where is so and so?" We all have. The answer is: "You had the Soldier under your control at one point in time, but you told him to meet you at the Motor Pool." Had the NCO given the order of "Right, Face", "Forward, March," he would not be asking where his troopers are.

The guidance to the NCO Corps is simple: Where more than two Soldiers are gathered, so is a formation. No meander march for us; we don't have the time to spare. We must be ready to Fight Tonight!

7) COUNSELING OF SUBORDINATES. Every Soldier, from private to senior NCO, receives monthly counseling. We should use that thought process to drive home the

...continued on page 8

"Our number one weapon is still the individual Soldier ARMED with a rifle he knows how to use."
- Gen. Earle G. Wheeler

"Discipline is the soul of the military. It makes small numbers seem formidable; procures success to the weak and esteem to all. ..."

- Gen. George Washington

importance of all Soldiers receiving counseling with their immediate superior. If I am a sergeant who supervises three Soldiers, I should report for my monthly counseling with my staff sergeant with my three soldier's counseling statements for that month. Likewise, the sergeant first class fully expects his or her staff sergeants when reporting for counseling to report with their subordinate NCOs counseling for that month. The process goes up the entire chain of command. A completed loop that should be inspected and expected by leaders at all levels.

8) OUR SOLDIER'S BARRACKS WILL BE BETTER WHEN WE LEAVE KOREA THAN WHEN WE ARRIVED. Korea is a hardship tour. That's why our Soldiers only get assigned for 12 months. All too often, our leadership approaches the Soldier's barracks (home) with that thought being their primary focus. "Well, they only have to put up with the poor living conditions for 12 months. Suck it up and drive on!" The leader who approaches the Soldier's home with that philosophy is committing NCO suicide. I'd like for our NCO Corps to have a rather simple philosophy: NCOs own the barracks and they will be better than what we inherited. Our most senior NCO leadership should strongly encourage unit barracks self-help projects and ensure they receive adequate funds.

Each day, without fail, our Soldiers will receive a visit in their room from their first line leader. Normally, it will be prior to PT or first formation. This visit is accomplished "unobtrusively." By that, I mean, it is not a school-environment style dress, right, dress inspection. NCOs are just checking on the Soldier to ensure several things. They are checking to see: 1) If the room is being maintained to a basic level of cleanliness; 2) If everything in the room still works or whether a work order is required for something broken; 3) How the Soldier is living, etc. The NCO can learn a wealth of information about their Soldiers just by sticking their head in the door. We, want our leadership to know at 5:30 a.m. when the Soldier's air conditioning went out at 2:30 a.m. and we want to know about it now. We want to know if the Soldier is displaying items which might be offensive to his or her roommate. We want to know who the C+ students are that glamorize alcohol by displaying their vast collection of bottles. You will only know these things if you visit the Soldier in his or her living area. It's not about trust, it's about accountability. The bottom line is this: We want our Soldiers to have what we would want for our sons and daughters. It's that simple. This is not an Army of options … No options here, NCOs must do it - everyday.

9) TREAT EVERY SOLDIER WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT. Every Soldier has a sergeant. Within Korea, our NCOs spend more time with their Soldiers than do the average unit's. This is just a simple statement of fact. As such, it's doubly important that the trust our Soldiers place in their leader not be misplaced or abused. We should teach our young NCO leaders by way of NCO professional development and consideration of others training about treating every Soldier with the dignity that every person deserves. We drive home this importance with one simple acronym: "TIPS".

T - Talk to your troops
I - Keep your troops informed
P - Ensure soldier predictability
S - Be sensitive to your troop's needs.

Sound mushy? Maybe to a poor leader. This acronym helps our NCO leadership remember what it was like to be a Soldier; a Soldier who is dependant on his sergeant for everything. This is a trust that we as NCOs must not take lightly. Our Soldiers are someone's son or daughter. We owe their parents this care and concern!

We are unique in Korea in that we are fortunate to have Korean Soldiers assigned to our units. The Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) soldier is a godsend to every unit. These Korean soldiers serve side-by-side with us everyday. They assist us in Korean language difficulties and also in understanding the differences in cultures. We should all adhere to a simple rule: Just like we are great Americans serving our country, so are they. They are great Koreans serving their country! As such, we ensure our Soldiers treat the Korean soldier with the same dignity and respect we expect. We stamp out the cancer that provokes the "Hey, KATUSA!" way of thinking in our Soldiers and in our units. Each of us has a rank and name in the American Army. So do our Korean soldiers. They will be addressed as "Sgt. Jung" not "Hey KATUSA." This is not condoned or allowed in our units.

10) WE WANT LEADERS TO KNOW OUR SOLDIERS DEFICIENCIES BY NAME. Ask any leader what's on his or her deadline report and they can quote it by heart; bumper number by bumper number, tail number by tail number. Within our units, we should take that same level of importance and attach it to our Soldiers. We want to know when our most precious resource, the Soldier, is not operating properly. Simply put, the Soldier is a weapon system that is even more important than the Tank, the Bradley, or the aircraft. Without the Soldier, the tank doesn't shoot nor does the plane fly. It doesn't get any more basic than that. We drive this home to our NCO leadership each month by way of several events: 1) Personnel Readiness Battle Drill (PRBD). 2) Ensuring our Soldiers receive their reassignment orders no later than 60 days in advance. 3) SIDPERS Rodeos. 4) Monthly scrubs of our specialists who are in the primary zone for promotion. 5) Weekly command & staffs meetings where senior NCO leadership should sit down with their first sergeants and conduct a "name tag defilade" scrub of Soldier associated activities (APFT, Weapons, CTT, Awards, NCOERs, etc); and many other events. Each of these would be a separate article unto themselves.

Due to the short 12-month tour here in Korea, we process approximately three times more personnel actions each month than the normal stateside unit. We have to keep the soldier Ready to "Fight Tonight" by making sure these simple transactions are completed in a timely manner. Not to do so results in our Soldiers being out at Rodriguez Range shooting gunnery, but their brain being at Fort Home, USA. Not the kind of environment we want our Soldiers to have to worry about. We must strive as NCOs to know our soldiers as well as we know the deadline report. Our Soldiers deserve no less.

Are we asking for a perfect NCO Corps? No. However, we as NCOs must continually strive towards that perfection. Will we ever get there? Maybe not, but strive we must. Show me a great NCO and I will show you a NCO who focuses down and not up. An NCO who worries about what he can control and not what he cannot. I'll show you an NCO who worries about basic fundamentals and the combat readiness of his Soldiers. Show me a great NCO and I'll show you an NCO who "stays in his lane!" I'll show you a future leader who will rise to the very top of his or her armed service. NCOs: Focus on the Basics!

NCOs are Keepers of the Standard!

"The greatest LEADER in the world could never win a campaign unless he understood the men he had to lead."

- Gen. Omar N. Bradley

BASIC PRINCIPLES

Do what's right legally and morally.

Create an environment where people can be "all they can be."

Treat others as you want them to treat you.

Left: The Soldiers of the salute battery from 2nd Infantry Division fire a cannon during the ceremony. *Photo by Cpl. Wesley Pollet.* **Above: Incoming commander Lt. Gen. David P. Valcourt, the commander of troops for the ceremony, Maj. Gen. James A. Coggin, and the outgoing commander, Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell, salute the colors while inspecting the troops.** *Photo by Cpl. Wesley Pollet.* **Right: Lt. Gen. Valcourt speaks to the troops after taking command of 8th U.S. Army.** *Photo by Spc. Amanda Dyer.*

Lt. Gen. Valcourt takes over 8th U.S. Army

By David McNally
Area II PAO

The command and control of the 8th U.S. Army passed hands in a recent ceremony at Knight Field.

Lt. Gen. David P. Valcourt firmly took the unit colors from Gen. B.B. Bell, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea commander, in a traditional military change of command ceremony.

"We must be comfortable with change," Valcourt said in his remarks. "Eighth Army continues to change and transform in order to best meet future trends and guarantee peace and stability."

Valcourt said one thing that will never change is the "deep goodwill, resolve and commitment between our two nations for the future security of this peninsula and the stability of the region."

Bell said Valcourt is an operational expert.

"We welcome the experience and insight this warrior leader brings to 8th Army, USFK and CFC," Bell said.

Valcourt most recently served as U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army chief of staff in Germany.

As a U.S. Military Academy graduate and a native of Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts, Valcourt entered active duty in 1973.

He is married to the former Diane Lambert of Aldenville, Mass. They have three children: Danielle, David and Michelle.

As the new leader assumed command, the former leader relinquished it.

Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell served as 8th U.S. Army commanding general since November 2002.

Campbell spoke of the inspiration of the Republic of Korea-U.S. alliance.

"We all can take great pride in what has been achieved in partnership over the decades by the world's strongest, most resilient, most enduring and most successful alliance," he said.

Bell joked he would have to change the command assumption date to the next day if he were to highlight all of Campbell's accomplishments.

"When I heard I was coming to Korea, I knew that I would find goodness here, because 'Hondo' Campbell had been here for several years," Bell said.

Bell said from previous assignments, he knew Campbell was making a powerful mark on the Army.

"His seasoning, competence, inspired leadership and mission-focus all fit masterfully in the complex military and political environment here on the Korean peninsula," Bell said.

Campbell, and his wife Dianne, now move on to U.S. Forces Command, Fort McPherson, Ga, where he will serve as deputy commanding general and chief of staff.

Col. Falkner Heard III, 8th Military Police Brigade commander, and other 8th MP Bde. Soldiers welcome former prisoner of war, Shoshana Johnson.

Former prisoner of war speaks at Women's History Month ceremony

Story and photo by Pfc. Tyechia Price
8th Military Police Brigade PAO

Walking through the glass doors to 8th Military Police Brigade with an obvious limp, a smiling Shoshana Johnson was laughing with her escorts, a sharp contrast to her ordeal just three years ago.

Johnson, known for her capture by Iraqi terrorists in 2003 along with Jessica Lynch, still has an injury after sustaining wounds in both ankles.

"I'm just so very happy to be on this earth," said Johnson

Sponsored by 8th MP Bde., Johnson spoke at the Women's Commemoration Ceremony March 28 during Women's History Month.

Her visit began with an office call at 8th MP Bde. with Col. Falkner Heard III, 8th MP Bde. commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Freddie Brock, 8th MP Bde. command sergeant major.

With a down-to-earth spirit, Johnson joked with the leaders as they drank tea. Before leaving, Heard shook Johnson's hand and gave her a coin in appreciation.

"You have become a great inspiration to a lot of people," said Heard.

While on a convoy March 23, 2003 near the city of an-Nasiriyah, Johnson became a captive after coming under enemy fire. She received gunshot wounds to both ankles.

"I felt a burning sensation in my legs. I knew I had been hit," said Johnson.

Johnson became the first female prisoner of war in Operation Iraqi Freedom and the first black female POW in U.S. history.

> "I'm just very happy to be on this earth."
> - Shoshana Johnson

Three weeks later, U.S. Marines rescued Johnson and her fellow Soldiers. Barely able to walk, Johnson safely made it to a vehicle with help from a Marine.

Three days later, Johnson and the others came home to the U.S. to family and friends.

Johnson now tours around America, sharing her experiences with Soldiers and high school and college students.

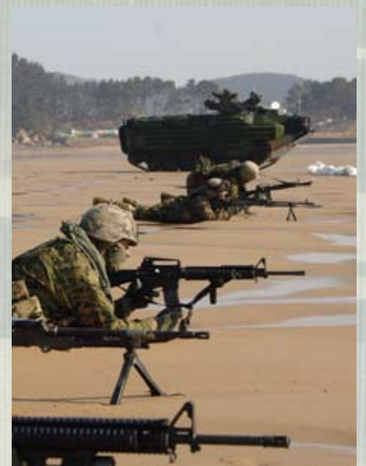
After visiting MPs, she spoke with a local Girl Scout troop before heading to the ceremony to further share her experiences with Soldiers.

"Taking time out of our schedules to honor women and their capabilities is important," said Pfc. Nicole O'Bradovich, 142nd MP Co.

After receiving a standing ovation, Heard gave Johnson a wooden jewelry box and she also received a Girl Scout jersey. Johnson said her experience makes her appreciate life and family even more now, a lesson she wants other to learn.

PRESERVING PEACE ON THE PENINSULA

Each March some 4,000 to 7,000 U.S. military personnel flow to the Korean peninsula in support of exercises designed to demonstrate effective and efficient capabilities of the joint forces of U.S. military combined with the forces of the Republic of Korea. RSOI (Reception, Staging, Onward movement and Integration), conducted by U.S. Forces Korea and conducted with the armed forces of the ROK focuses on the defense of the peninsula and enhances the combat readiness of ROK and U.S. Forces through combined and joint training. Also held during RSOI is Foal Eagle, a series of joint/combined field training exercises. Though generally not linked with the RSOI, these exercises are designed to build cohesiveness between the various components of the U.S. military. "The readiness we achieve through tough training improves our deterrence capability, ensuring peace and stability throughout the region," said Gen. B. B. Bell, the commanding general of USFK, United Nations Command and the Combined Forces Command..



Team 19 leads transformation of new logistics command

By Sgt. Jimmy Norris
19th Sustainment Command PAO

Those who participated in the recent Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration may have noticed a few changes including new faces in their work areas, new procedures and new terminology.

The changes are the result of the Joint Forces Support Component Command, a new initiative headed by the 19th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

"The Joint Forces Support Component Command is a joint logistics command ultimately intended to improve warfighting capability for the joint forces commander," said Maj. Lance Curtis, JFFSC plans officer. "This is done by improving logistical efficiency and giving the commander of U.S. Forces Korea a single 'belly button,' to access for logistical joint capabilities, planning, coordination, integration and synchronization of theater logistical functions, processes and assets."

Brig. Gen. Timothy P. McHale, 19th ESC and JFSCC commander elaborated on the subject.

"JFSCC is a transformational initiative that is long overdue. It is a multidimensional process which involves changing and adapting doctrine, organizations, training, leader development, and material solutions to improve Warfighting capabilities," McHale said.

Simply put, Curtis explained, representatives from each service within the U.S. Military are co-located, putting planners in a better position to coordinate their efforts and anticipate problems.

"The fact that we have joint planners from each service means we can forecast logistical problems before they become problems," Curtis said. "If we had a change of mission, we had all the planners there. From my foxhole it looked like the planning process was accelerated."

While JFSCC has substantial benefits, Soldiers involved in working through upcoming exercises can expect additional challenges, Curtis said.

"JFSCC will give Soldiers the opportunity to learn joint logistics, but they may find themselves more challenged than they have been in the past because the [Army forces] tasks have not gone away," Curtis said. "19th ESC Soldiers will exponentially improve their logistics awareness and understanding as they hone their joint logistics skills and will actually have an advantage over their peers from other units in the Army."

Another challenge was the sheer size of JFSCC.

While operations similar to JFSCC have been used in the past in other theaters of operation, such as Afghanistan, Curtis said nothing has ever been attempted on as large a scale as the one here in Korea.

"It's never been done for a whole theater and getting this many servicemembers integrated has never been done before," explained Curtis, who said the hub at Camp Henry alone hosted 175 service members. "There were a lot of people coming from off-peninsula or who worked in other areas who had to come to Camp Henry. Any time a lot of people come together who have not worked together, you have to work on the communications process."

Despite the challenges, participants said the experience was worthwhile.

"It's always a challenging time in coming over here for an exercise, but the work is worthwhile, and I'm glad to have the opportunity to represent my service" said Navy Cdr. Steve Barclift, Commander, Naval Logistics Forces Korea. Barclift Served as Navy liaison officer during JRSOI. "It's a great opportunity to work with the other services' liaison officers as well as the Army in testing this concept. I learned a tremendous amount from being part of this JFSCC, and I can see the value of collaboration with the rest of the logisticians on the peninsula."

Curtis said problems in coordinating the large numbers of people and assets were mitigated by holding several pre-exercise training events, to get participants in synch with each other and teach them to use the newest communications tools and software.

RSOI 06 was the first of four exercises during which JFSCC will be tested and evaluated. Subsequent iterations are scheduled to take place during upcoming Ulchi Focus Lens and JRSOI exercises.

After all four iterations, the decision will be made regarding whether or not JFSCC will become the model for logistical operations in Korea.

"The lessons we learn through JFSCC will inform the Department of Defense at large and make the Warfighter more capable, lethal and effective," said McHale.

"Succinctly, the Soldiers of the 19th ESC are being challenged to exercise both Army and joint logistics over the next couple of years," said Curtis. "Our Soldiers have the privilege of testing something that is brand new for the U.S. military and will have the opportunity to exercise logistical capability that has never existed previously on such a large scale. If the JFSCC becomes a reality, they will be able to say they were there in the beginning."

Cavalry Soldiers bring mobile firepower to RSOI

NEW STRYKER UNIT HEADS NORTH

Soldiers of K Troop, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Ft. Lewis, Wash. offload from a C-5 aircraft in support of RSOI/Foal Eagle at Daegu Air Base. *Photo by Pfc. Daniel Love*

By Pfc. Daniel Love
8th U.S. Army PAO

The 'R' in RSOI stands for Reception. In this phase, units from around the globe arrive on Peninsula to bolster existing manpower and prepare for the next phases: staging, onward movement, and integration.

As the sun rose above the Daegu mountains, the Fort Lewis-based Soldiers of 3rd Platoon, K Troop, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, rolled out of an Air Force C-5 Galaxy at K-2 Air Base, South Korea.

The newly formed unit brought with them two of the Army's Stryker fighting vehicles for deployment practice and live-fire training in the Republic of Korea.

While the unit has been preparing for RSOI prior to deployment, the actual execution phase went relatively quickly. Members of the unit predicted from this experience that it would be possible for them to pack up, fly over and be ready to fight in around 14 hours.

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Far left: A Soldier of K Troop, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Ft. Lewis, Wash. offloads a Stryker Command Vehicle from a C-5 aircraft in support of the Reception, Staging, Onward movement, and Intergration exercise at Daegu Air Base. *Photo by Pfc. Daniel Love.* **Above: A C-5 aircraft landing at Daegu Air Base (K-2) with soldiers of Kilo troop, 3/2 Cav., Ft. Lewis, Wash. in support of RSOI.** *Photo by Sgt. Albert Eaddy.* **Left: A Soldier drives his Stryker accross the tarmac at Daegu Air Base.** *Photo by Sgt. Albert Eaddy.*

"This is a great opportunity to practice all of the aspects of deploying on a combat mission," said Capt. Daniel Rowell, commander of K troop. "Most of these Soldiers came brand new out of basic training. This was their first deployment, so they're getting the opportunity to see a different part of the world and do the things they joined the Army to do. When we roll off that plane, we can be ready to shoot rounds downrange at a moments notice."

Currently, there are no units based in Korea that operate with Stryker vehicles, but members of the unit said that the vehicle would be a perfect fit for the country's rough terrain.

"It can go up and down hills the same way a tank can, but a lot faster," said Spc. Robert Merrell, a member of the Stryker platoon. "It doesn't make as much noise as a tank or other tracked vehicle, so you can post it on a hill and cover a large area with the zooming weapons system. In the older Bradley fighting vehicle, you could only put a team (six men) in the back, but in the Stryker you can quickly transport 11 fully equipped Soldiers."

Stryker vehicles have a top speed of around 65mph, but that doesn't matter if the vehicle can't get into a theater of operations. One of the aspects of the Stryker that makes it ideal for overseas operations is its mobility inside an aircraft.

"The Stryker is very easy to load onto the plane," said Merrell. "All we have to do is lower the suspension and strap it down, and we're out. It only takes about 10 minutes to get ready for flight."

RSOI 2006 wasn't the Stryker's debut in Korea, nor was it the encore. During the vehicle's fourth appearance on Peninsula, old tracks will be eight-wheeled over again as the unit conducts live-fire training at Rodriguez range.

"We're excited to be here displaying the capabilities of our weapons system and our ability to deploy in a short time period," said Rowell. "The Soldiers are always ready to show our support to the Republic of Korea and our resolve to support our alliance."

Korean troops guide tanks onto railcars

Exercise marks a first for ROK, U.S. Forces alliance

By Pvt. Brandon Moreno
8th U.S. Army PAO

For the first time, the Republic of Korea Army used Camp Casey's railhead for a tank training exercise that started March 24.

ROK soldiers from the 26th Division, 57th Cavalry Battalion eagerly waited as K-1 tanks pulled around to concrete docks for load-up onto a train at the end of the Camp Casey railhead.

The K-1 was the first tank to be manufactured and designed from Koreans using Korean materials and technology.

The tanks were manufactured and distributed to the ROK Army in 1988, said ROK Army Lt. Col. Yun Ho Kang, the commanding officer for the training exercise.

The tanks were being loaded onto a train as means of transporting them to Camp Long.

The exercise is being conducted at Camp Long rather than at Camp Casey to give the ROK soldiers a different terrain to practice war tactics, said Kang.

During the exercise, the 5th and 6th ROK Corps will be working with each other in order to acquire the knowledge and training of working with different corps in a war environment, said Kang.

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Elements of the 26th Division, 57th Cavalery Battalion, Republic of Korea Army, load K-1 tanks onto rail cars at Camp Casey, Korea in preparation for a field training exercise. *Photo by Sgt. Christopher Kaufmann*

The exercise is set up to simulate a "real-world" environment. The only difference is that they will use 1.5mm blanks, opposed to live rounds, in order to keep the participating civilians out of harms way during the exercise, said Kang.

Safety was a prime factor in maneuvering the tanks onto the train, said Mr. To-Hun An, S-3 for the 25th Transportation Company at Camp Casey.

The tanks encountered maneuvering restrictions when they were trying to load them on the trains. The width of the train was about the same width of the tank, said An.

In order to maneuver the tank safely onto the train they had a ROK soldier on the train guiding them by giving hand signals to the driver of the tank. The driver carefully watched the hand signals through the hatch from where he operated the tank.

The driver gave orders to the other three ROK soldiers who were operating the tank using an internal radio, explained Maj. Karl S. Ivey, the 2nd Infantry Division Public Affairs Officer.

After the ROK soldiers had the tanks in place, they secured them tying them down with steel ropes. After securing the steel ropes, they placed wood beams between the tanks wheel tracks and nailed the beams down to the train to ensure the tanks would not shake or move during the transport, said An.

During the operation, all the ROK and U.S. Soldiers stayed actively engaged and worked fast during the day in order to complete the mission before the sun went down.

There were strict time requirements and the ROK soldiers were not familiar with the post.

To combat these obstacles, the ROK Army had U.S. Soldiers assist them, said Ivey.

The primary mission for the American Soldiers was providing safety oversight for the railhead, access to the post, and coordination to make sure the operation went smoothly, said Chief Warrant Officer Chris Duvall, of 2nd Infantry Division.

U.S. Soldiers also provided security for the tanks until the train left early the next morning and helped unload the tanks when they arrived at Camp Long, said Duvall.

"It's a great opportunity for the ROK Army and U.S. Army to work together," said Duvall.

Bottom: A ROK Army soldier measures how far off the tank is on the railhead. Below: A soldier is handed steel wire that will be used to tie down the tank. Right: A soldier uses hand signals to direct the oncoming tank.
Photos by Sgt. Christopher Kaufmann

Above: A medevac Blackhawk helicopter flies over the yellow sea. Right: A medevac helicopter prepares to land on the deck of the USS Curtis Wilbur. Below: A Blackhawk lifts off the deck of the USS Curtis Wilbur. *Photos by Sgt. Christopher Kaufmann*

Army pilots qualify at sea

By Pvt. Brandon Moreno
8th U.S. Army PAO

Chief Warrant Officer Adam Kohl, from Alpha Company 2nd battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, struggled to stand still as the wind from the rotating blades of the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter he was about to pilot began to turn in preparation for departure.

Before the helicopter could take off all the passengers were given inflatable safety harnesses and briefed on what to do in case of an emergency - a safety precaution pilots have their passengers take when flying over water.

Kohl, along with other pilots from A Co. and C Co. 2-52, were preparing to head out to the Yellow Sea to conduct deck landing qualifications on the USS Curtis Wilbur, DDG 54, as part of the Foal Eagle training exercise.

In conjunction with Foal Eagle, the deck-landing qualification was the Navy's contribution to the Army's Reception, Staging, Onward movement and Integration training.

"The Foal Eagle operation is a very comprehensive joint training exercise that includes the Navy, Army, Air Force and Republic of Korea Army," explained Navy Capt. Bob Girrier, the commodore of Destroyer Squadron 15.

While the deck landing qualifications being conducted on Curtis Wilbur are routine for Navy pilots they, are anything but that for most Army pilots, according to Cpl. Erin Bailey, a flight instructor and crew chief with C Co.

"The training was special to the Army because this was the first time these Army pilots would be conducting a deck landing onto a moving ship," Bailey said.

Before the pilots could conduct their deck landing they had to first successfully land on a safe haven pad five times. The safe haven landing was set up to resemble that of an actual ship deck landing but unlike the deck of a ship, it wasn't moving. Although the safe haven pad was not in motion it still provided some useful practice for the pilots.

Part of Bailey's job was to know exactly how much clearing space the Blackhawk had and where to land on the deck. As soon as he gives the command "clear left" or "clear right," the pilot had to land with no delay since the variables of a moving ship can easily change when trying to land on its deck, explained Bailey.

As the pilots attempted to settle their helicopter on the deck of the Curtis Wilber, Navy Cmdr. Brian O'Donnell, commanding officer for the guided missile destroyer, ensured the ship maintained a certain course and speed. He also made certain the ship headed into the wind in order to create a "wind envelope."

"A wind envelope provides sufficient lift during a helicopters take off," said O'Donnell.

Once the Blackhawk has touched down on the ship there are still tasks to be completed. As part of the helicopter training, the Navy had personnel conducting what is called chock and chain, a procedure of securing a helicopter to a deck.

"This makes sure that it will not move around," said Seaman Jeremy Jefferson, a chock and chain man on the USS Curtis Wilbur.

Upon the completion of the deck landing qualifications both Navy and Army personnel felt a renewed appreciation for these joint service training exercises.

"This training has been a great opportunity to learn about joint operations and has provided me with a new perspective on how the Navy lives and works," said Capt. Michael Cushwa, a liaison officer from the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade.

O'Donnell said joint operations make the Navy ready to fight and execute in a joint environment.

"I think joint operations are the way of the military's future," said Girrier.

1-38 HAS FIELD DAY FIRING ROCKETS

SPRING 2006 PRESENTS

Story and photo by Spc. Christopher Stephens
2nd Infantry Division PAO

Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery Regiment, transformed a serene saddle hidden among tall and jagged mountains into a "thunder alley" as rockets screamed overhead.

The annual field exercise, held every six months at the lone rocket firing range in theater, certified crew members and launchers while validating the effectiveness of the Fires Brigade unit in case of any hostile aggression.

"Our goal is to suppress enemy artillery with an area of fire within a 600 x 600 meter zone," said Lt. Col. Keith Bean, battalion commander.

Although this is the solitary range for the unit to train in a war situation, 1-38 FA has sectors of fire and designated firing areas in times of war. They would move the battalion to those points of fire.

"The training that we do is how we would react in a war situation in Korea," said Sgt. 1st Class Roberto Valencia.

The M270 A-1 launchers fired ripper rockets at pre-determined impact zones.

Although these were practice rockets they had the same effect to fire as normal rockets. However, unlike rockets used in actual combat, the ripper rockets did not create explosions. The firing at the impact point was evaluated by radar and observers while three batteries competed against each other. The terrain also posed an obstacle to overcome for the communications teams.

"The biggest challenge is to keep our communications operational because of all the mountains interrupting the digital frequencies," Valencia said.

The week and a half long exercise consisted of 18 crew members and 19 launchers, according to Valencia. He said that the entire battalion was able to fire in a single day for the first time instead of a battery per day.

"We're doing excellent. Everything is going the way we planned it," Valencia said.

There were Korean Augmentees to the U.S. Army attached to the unit available to interpret between Korean nationals living in the area and with the ROK soldiers who also fired at the range.

"There is a good relationship between the U.S. and ROK Soldiers because we are all working toward one goal. The neighbors are very understanding and are used to the training," said Pvt. Kim, K.H.

There were a lot of noncommissioned officers participating in the exercise with younger Soldiers who enjoyed the display of rockets flying overhead.

However, as always, safety played an important part in the training.

"The most important part of the training is the safety, to make sure that we shoot the rockets safely without injuring anyone and the rockets hit the correct impact area," Valencia said.

For many of the younger Soldiers, this was the first opportunity to let the rippers fly in a field environment and determine how accurate they fire.

"This is the first time putting rounds down range and it's a rush. It's one thing digital but things change putting rounds in a launcher," said Spc. Martin Rischer.

"I feel a lot more prepared to do my job during live missions because of the things that can happen out here that are not in simulations like fires and all kinds of contingencies," said Pvt. Josh Thomas.

"The best part is watching the Soldiers' eyes light up when they're firing and seeing them take pride in what they do," said Staff Sgt. Samuel Duncan.

Trained and Ready...

ROKA forces, civilians conduct decontamination drill

Far left: ROK soldiers of 53rd Infantry Division help each other don their masks for the Combined Rear Area Decontamination Training.
Left: KSC personnel of 6th KSC Company, decontaminate the area with their new equipment, FALCON III FSDS.
Bottom: A ship from 3rd Fleet Command, ROK Navy, decontaminates the area from the sea side of the port.

Story and photos by
Pfc. Oh, Kyo Dae
19th Sustainment Command PAO

A nuclear, biological or chemical attack is one of the worst-case scenarios any Soldier faces. That's what makes NBC training so critical.

In the spirit of cooperative training, 14 Korea Service Corps personnel from Area IV got together with Soldiers from the ROKA Nuclear, Biological and Chemical 24th Special Forces and the 53rd Infantry Division at Pier 8, Busan, for Combined Rear Area Decontamination Training, March 29. In addition, the Third Fleet Command, ROK Navy, decontaminated Pier 8 with their ship from the sea.

The main focus of the training was a decontamination mission at Pier 8, with additional NBC training conducted inside Port Command, ROKA, said Sgt. Maj. Noriel Y. Deleon, NBC sergeant major for the 19th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

This CRA Decontamination Training was requested by the ROKA, said Choe, Chun Yong, Falcon Headquarters, KSC, who was a team leader at the training.

"This training is to support ROKA and local government agencies with the appropriate FALCON III Fixed Site Decontamination System and personnel from the 6th KSC Company to train and develop tactics, techniques and procedures with the ROKA in order to sustain proficiency and confidence," said Deleon.

The bottom line is that the combined training allowed the KSC personnel to show ROKA soldiers the capabilities of the new FALCON system, he said.

The FALCON III FSDS is a newer system than the M12 Power-Driven Decontamination Apparatus used by the ROKA. "The new FALCON III is much easier and quicker to prepare and operate," said Deleon.

Deleon said the 19th ESC was involved in the training to provide oversight, assistance and feedback to help ensure the successful accomplishment of decontamination training, he said.

Deleon and Choe said they were confident about the capabilities of the people who participated in the training.

"All the participants are highly motivated and dedicated. In my belief, if a chemical attack was to occur, these Soldiers and KSC personnel would be able to execute

First to fire: Air defenders protect the skies over the Yellow Sea

Soldiers from Echo 1/43 fire a Stinger missile from an Avenger at an aerial target flying over the sea at Chulmae Range. Twelve Avenger teams fired live missiles during the sea strike exercise.

Story and photos by Pvt. Dustin Roberts
35th Air Defense Artillery PAO

Dynamite, dynamite, dynamite! The echoing command from the tower at Chulmae Sea Range qued Soldiers on their Avengers to fire live Stinger missiles at aerial targets flying over the Yellow Sea.

Echo Battery of 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 35th ADA Brigade, qualify with the .50 caliber machine gun and stinger missile twice a year at the range, making sure the Soldiers are mission ready.

The recent sea-strike qualification was the final battle of a competitive contest amongst the Avenger Battery, called the "Top Gun."

Twenty-four Avenger teams competed in the contest which included Avenger crew drills, an Army physical fitness test and a six-mile ruck march one week prior to their five day stay at Chulmae.

Their ultimate goal was to earn the distinction of the "Top Gun" Avenger on the entire Korean Peninsula. Additionally, the top 12 teams that scored the most points in the challenges were awarded the opportunity to fire one live missile at the range, an opportunity that doesn't come often for Avenger crews.

"The whole battery was motivated to fire the missiles," said Staff Sgt. Jason R. Denen, the team chief of team Echo-44, winner of the event. "We just had to push ourselves even harder to win."

Avenger teams consist of a gunner, who fires the missiles, and a team chief, who helps visually identify aerial targets and is ultimately responsible for the entire Avenger system.

During the first three days all 24 teams qualified with the .50 caliber machine gun, firing at both targets afloat on the water and aerial targets.

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SPRING 2009 PRESERVING PEACE

Left: Sgt. Marcus Sanchez of Echo 1/43, looks out into the water at Chulmae Range before firing the .50 caliber machine gun. Below: Civilian electrical engineer, Ken Sharp prepares a one-fifth scale aerial target for takeoff. Bottom: Pfc. Kevin L. Riley of Echo, 1/43, loads .50 caliber ammo onto an Avenger's 250 round ammo can.

The aerial targets, created specifically for ADA live fire by Griffon Aerospace, are flown at speeds over 90 miles per hour by remote control.

"Their 13-and-a-half foot wingspan provides smooth flying and serve as successful targets for ADA," said Larry M. Bartlebaugh, an expert on the targets.

The training is done bi-annually to ensure the readiness of the battery, said Pfc. Chris T. Knight, gunner of team Echo-44.

"With everything from loading the vehicles and pre-combat checks to firing the missiles, we are quick and efficient and know exactly what we are doing," said Knight.

This exercise is not something that just comes together in five days.

Echo Battery has continually trained on and maintained its equipment in the months leading up to the seastrike to ensure that they are ready in a moments notice.

This preparation included constant rehearsing of crew drills and conducting pre-combat checks and pre-combat inspections before all training events.

This training, preparing and maintaining all comes together to provide a successful live fire training event.

Live fire exercises like these foster confidence within Soldiers on their weapon systems and are the closest training to real war-time missions.

Knight emphasized how important it was to be prepared for combat with minimum or even no notice.

"You never know when you're going to get the call," he said. "We just have to be ready at all times."

Strykers roll onto range

Cavalry troops demonstrate lethality, agility, quick-stike capability

Pfc. Jeremy Mcintire from the U.S. Army's 3rd Platoon, K Troop, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment departs a Stryker assault vehicle during an exercises at Rodriguez Range. *Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lee Harshman*

By Spc. Timothy Dinneen
2nd Infantry Division PAO

Rolling down the narrow dirt road, the new hybrid vehicle quickly and quietly decreases the distance from the objective.

It moves like a light-infantry unit; however, the menacing green metallic shell on six wheels encasing the Soldiers resembles a heavy brigade team.

As the sun retreats behind mountain curves revealing a sky filled by green and red smoke providing cover for the dismounted Soldiers who spray 5.56mm rounds suppressing any resistance.

Soldiers move along the left flank cutting through barbed-wire and clear buildings searching for enemy presence.

As quickly as the smoke dissipates, Stryker Brigade Soldiers from Fort Lewis, Wash., complete the training mission.

Soldiers arrived for week-long training participating in the Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration exercise.

The training consisted of platoon

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daytime live fires and squad day and night live fires.

The Army's Stryker vehicle allows infantry units to move with stealth and speed.

It provides maximum maneuverability with the protection of a tank saddled with a .50 caliber machine-gun and Mark 19.

It holds 11 personnel giving Soldiers a clear view of the battlefield from a large screen displaying enemy movement in the cab.

"The vehicle itself is unique because they developed the vehicle to bridge the gap between the actual light and heavy concept," said Sgt. 1st Class William Linaris. "A lot more maneuverable than most tracked vehicles, the Stryker can go to places the Bradley or other tracked vehicles can't get to."

"The purpose of the mission is to show that we can deploy a highly lethal, agile, combat and quick-strike force to support the alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States," said Maj. Mike Katona, unit operations officer.

"This kind of training is important at all kinds of levels. At our level, we're standing up Stryker Brigade team number four. We formed about a year ago and we've gone through new equipment training and fielding. We've gone from individual level, squad level and now we're at platoon and company level," Katona said.

The relatively new unit used the exercise to get more familiar with themselves and their new vehicles.

"This is a new unit so we're developing the vehicles to work well with the infantry units. I get to develop a new crew that hasn't been together and with the new life cycle I'll see the team's improvement over a three year life cycle," said Linaris.

Soldiers new to the Army took advantage of the training to polish old skills learned in Advanced Individual Training and sharpened the new skills necessary to succeed with their first unit.

"The best part of the training is getting muddy," said Pfc. Stephen Horn. "I like the wheeled vehicle. It's not a tank. It's meant for us."

The relatively smooth training could be attributed to the motivation of the individual Soldiers making up the platoons.

"We have true professionals, these guys want to be here and do the right things. They are working extremely hard to make sure everything comes together," Katona said.

There was still a lot of work to be done in the unit as it is expected to continue to grow and go through transformations.

"We're going to continue to ramp up, reflag as the 4th Brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division June 1," Katona said. "We'll continue with company level training to battalion level training and then brigade. We're in a glide path to success."

"We've been supported by the Republic of Korea and the Air Force," said 1st Lt. Joshua Wiles. "It's been an enjoyable experience."

Left: 2nd Cavalry Regiment troops practice combat training exercises at Rodriguez Range. Above: Sgt. Armando Martinez remotely fires his vehicle's automatic grenade launcher. Right: 1st Lt. Joshua Wiles from the US Army's 3rd Platoon, K Troop, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment programs an on-board computer during combat training exercises at Rodriguez Range. *Photos by Tech. Sgt. Lee Harshman*

Far left: Apaches prepare to depart Sokcho. *Photo by Pfc. Daniel Love* **Left: A Soldier of 602nd Aviation Support Battalion refuels an AH-64D (apache helicopter) after a flight during RSOI/Foal Eagle in Sokcho, Korea.** *Photo by Sgt. Albert Eaddy* **Above: An Apache sits on the flightline.** *Photo by Pfc. Daniel Love*

Apaches serve as shoreline sentinels

By Pfc. Daniel Love
8th U.S. Army PAO

The North Korean military is said to have trained approximately 120,000 members for its special forces program. Some of these train to infiltrate their southern neighbor in a time of war by crossing the demilitarized zone, but it is expected that many would try to get in by water routes.

One of the methods South Korean and U.S. forces have developed to counter this threat is using Navy supported, fast-moving attack helicopters of 3rd Squad, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. During the Foal Eagle exercise in March, the Camp Humphreys-based unit borrowed space on Republic of Korea-owned helipads and practiced defending the shores.

"We're preventing the opening of a second front in the event of warfare on this peninsula," said Capt. Mike LaBroad, a B Troop, 3/6 Cavalry Commander and Apache pilot. "We divide our squad into two, with half on the east coast and half on the west coast. The navy helps us identify the location of vessels, and then we launch from our coastal base to intercept and destroy the enemy vessels before they make landfall."

The AH-64D helicopters were supported by two fully-functional mini-bases. Since they were on ROK airfields, Soldiers from the unit assisted the ROK guards in keeping tight security and worked together to keep operations flowing smoothly.

"They're interested in each other's weapons, uniforms and equipment," said 1st Sgt. Drury Puckett, B Troop, 3rd Squad, 6th Cavalry first sergeant. "They talk back and forth trying to find out what it's like being on the other side of the fence. This benefits the ROK US alliance because starting at that level, people are seeing U.S. Soldiers aren't bad. They're quiet, clean, and respectful so those ROK Soldiers who have never had contact with Americans get to see what we're all about."

March in Korea is a month of unpredictable weather, and March 2006 was no exception. The Soldiers on the east coast base saw snow, rain, and 60 mph winds. In the spirit of teamwork, the locally stationed ranking ROK commander helped them deal with the elements.

"The cooperation has been tremendous," said Maj. Jay Klaus, the 3rd Squad, 6th Cavalry S-3. "Any issue we've had, he is the first to help. We had extremely high winds so he mobilized his unit to provide trucks for us to block the aircraft and the tents very quickly. The weather did not degrade our capabilities at all; we just reinforced our area and let the weather system pass."

Any aircraft that flies successfully is backed up by a group of skilled maintenance personnel who work together and with the aircraft pilots to prevent problems with their equipment. During an exercise, just like anyone else in the Army, they balance dealing with the rigors of field life and keeping their equipment maintained to standard.

"It's generally more of a team effort when we have to be able to perform the same maintenance as we usually do and pull together to maintain proper living conditions," said Spc. Carlos Bravo-Angel, a 3-6 Cavalry Apache aircraft crew chief. "The number one thing we gain from this is team spirit. When you work in a strenuous environment for long hours, you have to work as a team to accomplish your mission or you might as well be twiddling your thumbs and gathering dust."

The 6th Cavalry is one of the only Camp Humphreys based 2nd Infantry Division units, but it provides much of the attack helicopter support on the Peninsula. The unit worked to keep teams of two helicopters in continuous operation during the exercise for maximum coastal coverage.

"6th Cav has what we call 'heavy cav standards'," said Klaus. "It all starts with our squadron commander. He makes sure we are well trained, well disciplined, and trained to fight. The unit goes into the field quite a bit, we work on our skillcraft, and we make sure our Soldiers know the right thing to do and do the right thing."

Senior enlisted leaders gather, discuss critical information

Sergeants Major and other senior noncommissioned officers listen to a class.

Story and photos by
Cpl. Park, Myung Joon
19th Sustainment Command PAO

Proving that training is a never-ending process, no matter what rank you are, 30 command sergeants major, sergeants major and senior noncommissioned officers from the 19th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) met at Camp Stanley April 2-3 for an information-sharing forum, hosted by the 501st Corps Support Group.

"The purpose of this information-sharing forum is to bring the senior NCO leadership together to formulate and validate processes within the 19th ESC). I wanted to bring these NCOs to one place to start the collaboration process face to face, so we could pass out critical information," said 19th ESC Command Sgt. Maj. George D. Duncan.

On the first day, the senior NCOs came together for an ice breaker, which was a great opportunity for them to get to know the other senior leadership throughout the 19th ESC. The next day, several sergeants major and senior NCOs gave presentations on topics relevant to the peninsula, such as changes to command sponsorship, military academies and access to the computer network systems.

"The meeting went very well, and I do plan to have another one. Anytime you can bring the senior-level NCOs together to discuss issues pertaining to the enlisted force of a unit, it is a good thing," said Duncan.

In the end, the information received during the forum not only benefited the senior leaders, but also the Soldiers that they lead.

"My expectation is simple," said Duncan. "I expect the senior NCOs to go back and share by coaching, teaching and mentoring leaders.

"The effect on Soldiers is a streamlined process of support for them. They will not be able to notice any direct benefit that is tangible, rather they will be supported in a much more efficient manner," he said.

The senior NCOs who attended felt the information-sharing forum was critical to understanding their role in the 19th ESC's transformation.

"As the 19th ESC transforms, it is imperative that all senior leadership understand the processes that are taking place throughout the command and Korea," said Sgt. Maj. Louis J. Velez, 19th ESC.

"This was a very successful conference that allowed the participants to discuss, in an open forum, the issues surrounding the future of the command," he said.

Velez said that as with any type of training, there are pros and cons.

"However, the only con that I can think of is the lack of time to complete the required subjects," he said. "I recommend that the next forum take place over a three-day period; therefore, all subjects can be briefed and discussed in detail."

At the information-sharing forum, Sgt. Maj. Louis J. Velez gives a class about the changes that each unit has to make regarding computer access.

19th ESC hosts rehearsal of concept drill

Story and photos by
Sgt. Jimmy Norris
19th Sustainment Command PAO

More than 130 leaders from throughout Korea recently gathered at various locations around the peninsula to participate in a Rehearsal of Concept Drill.

Hosted by the 19th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), the event provided leaders an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the processes involved in moving incoming Soldiers, units and equipment to necessary locations in the event of a contingency, explained Edward Little, deputy chief of Future Operations, 19th ESC.

"What we're doing here is going through the major support requirements that the [Reception Staging Onward Movement and Integration] process involves," he said. Little went on to explain that the ROC drill is one of several preparatory events leading up to the Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration Exercise 2006.

The first day of the event took place in Yongsan. There, participants received an overview briefing on the United Nations Command. According to Little, this briefing was a first for the annual event, and heralded a larger amount of participation by the UNC during this and future ROC Drills.

On the second day of the ROC Drill, participants made their way to Busan, where they toured several of the facilities that would play a role not only in the ROC drill, but in the upcoming JRSOI exercise.

The third day of the event took place at Camp Carroll, where attendees participated in a series of operational vignettes – scenarios typically encountered in JRSOI – during which they discussed the actions and decisions they would need to make in order to mitigate problems, said Little.

"The operational vignettes get everybody thinking about how to solve issues not only within your own lane, but to understand how to coordinate outside your lane to solve problems in a joint environment," said ROC Drill attendee Col. Falkner Heard, Commander, 8th Military Police Brigade.

On the fourth day of the ROC Drill, participants received a look into the future of operations in Korea.

"Although the majority of the ROC Drill was based upon the way we do business today, on the last day we discussed future operations and the way ahead in this theater," said Little.

In addition to participation from U.S. and Republic of Korea leadership, the event also hosted representatives from eight countries within the United Nations Command including the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia, Columbia, the Philippines, Canada, Thailand and France.

Little said the presence of additional allies in this year's ROC Drill added new dimensions to the training.

"It always makes it more valuable when you can get not only ROK and U.S. involvement, but members of the coalition that could potentially be here in the event of a contingency," Little said.

The presence of participants from so many countries underscored the importance of mutual cooperation between the ROK and the U.S., which, Little said, is always a major theme of the ROK Drill.

"One thing the ROK Drill always highlights is how co-dependent the ROK and U.S. are – how much we rely on each other for different types of support," Little said. "The ROK Army is a strong force for logistical and force protection support."

Participants in the event said the training was very worth-while.

"It's a great opportunity to everybody on the same sheet of music as far as CJRSOI, said Heard. "It gets everybody in a mindset to anticipate and solve problems. It's about building a team that can solve any issues that arise within JRSOI."

Members of military forces from around the world await a series of operational vignettes, which will test their ability to coordinate their efforts.

Night-Fire

Troops from the U.S. Army's 3rd Platoon, K Troop, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment conduct live fire training at Rodriguez Range during a night exercise, March 28 in support of Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration exercise. RSOI is a joint exercise between Republic of Korea and the United States Armed Forces designed to conduct annual training that would provide war fighting skills in the event North Korea were to attack.

Photo byTech. Sgt. Lee Harshman