



**EIGHTH ARMY**  
PACIFIC VICTORS!

**POSTURE | MODERNIZE | COMPETE**



# FY 2026-2032 Campaign Strategy

Eighth Army G5

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# Vision

Eighth Army is the only standing U.S. Army Force on the Asian continent that persistently deters conflict in Northeast Asia and the broader Indo-Pacific theater. Eighth Army, as the region's Premier Lethal Force, defends the homeland, provides critical support to the Republic of Korea and our allies in the region, and sets conditions to deter and deny adversary objectives in Northeast Asia.

# Mission

Eighth Army, as an element of the Combined Joint Force, **POSTURES** ready forces in a position of advantage, **MODERNIZES** the US-ROK alliance, and **COMPETES** in Northeast Asia to deter and deny adversary objectives, and win.



**EIGHTH ARMY**

# Fight Tonight

The Army is undergoing a period of historic **transformation** to make our force leaner, more lethal, and adapted to fight and win on the modern battlefield. Simultaneously, the **US-ROK Alliance is modernizing** to adapt to challenges stemming from adversary efforts to remake Northeast Asia’s regional order in their favor.



At this critical moment, Eighth Army is called upon to do more for our Nation. Our focus is expanding beyond the Korean Peninsula to enable strategic flexibility in Northeast Asia to deter and deny our adversaries from achieving their objectives. Regardless of the strategic shifts, our core role and responsibility remain the same – **defend the homeland**.

For more than 80 years, Eighth Army has defended the United States and our allies in the Indo-Pacific. From campaigning in World War II, the liberation of the Philippines, the brief post-war occupation in Japan, to repelling communist aggression in the Korean War, Eighth Army has transformed to meet our Nation’s challenges and never left the First Island Chain. Today, Eighth Army’s enduring presence in Korea as an anchor of the US-ROK Alliance is more important than ever to preserving peace and stability in the region.

Our operational approach will continue to ensure that Eighth Army is ready to Fight Tonight in a joint, multi-domain operational environment. We **POSTURE** our forces and equipment to expand options for the Joint Force Commander, **MODERNIZE** the US-ROK Alliance and our Army forces on the peninsula, and **COMPETE** to build positional advantage in Northeast Asia.

Ultimately, nothing in this Campaign Strategy is possible without our Soldiers, their families, our allies, and our civilian teammates. Together, we will set conditions for **peace through strength** and safeguard the security, freedom, and prosperity of the United States, the Republic of Korea, and the Indo-Pacific region.



## EIGHTH ARMY

PACIFIC VICTORS!

Lieutenant General  
**Joseph E. Hilbert**

Commanding General  
Eighth Army

Command Sergeant Major  
**Jeffery D. Weaver**

Command Sergeant Major  
Eighth Army



# Northeast Asia Security Environment

Northeast Asia is the central theater in a new era of great power competition to determine the future regional order in the Indo-Pacific. China is a rising power that seeks to displace the American-led security architecture in the Indo-Pacific with an authoritarian system dominated by Chinese interests. Northeast Asia, once primarily characterized by the immediate threat of North Korea's nuclear program, is now the stage for a broader geopolitical contest driven by China's ascendance.

China no longer veils its long-term ambitions, which are increasingly evident in its aggressive military demonstrations and behavior in the region. General Secretary Xi Jinping used the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the end of World War II to debut advanced military equipment, including hypersonic missiles and stealth fighters, while standing shoulder to shoulder with the leaders of Russia and North Korea. However, this is not a pursuit of outright Chinese military domination in the region. It is instead a long-term strategy to diminish American power and undermine the credibility of U.S. security commitments to vital allies in the First Island Chain like South Korea, Japan, and the Philippines.

At the heart of China's strategy lies a sustained and targeted modernization of its military, focusing on capabilities designed to negate American military advantages. This anti-access and area denial (A2/AD) strategy involved fielding advanced missile systems, sophisticated air defenses, electronic warfare capabilities, and a rapidly growing navy – all intended to make any potential U.S. military intervention in a regional crisis inside the First Island Chain prohibitively costly.

China and Russia will heavily influence the future security dynamics of the Korean peninsula. President Xi's stated commitment to reunification with Taiwan, potentially by force, introduces a profoundly destabilizing element.

**At the heart of China's strategy lies a sustained and targeted modernization of its military, focusing on capabilities designed to negate American military advantages.**

*China debuts stealth fighters and hypersonic missiles during the 80th anniversary military parade on September 3, 2025.*



Any Chinese military action against Taiwan could trigger a wider Indo-Pacific conflict, potentially preceded by North Korean actions on the Korean peninsula. Concurrently, Russian president, Vladimir Putin, has pledged continued support to North Korea even in the event of renewed conflict.

Compounding this threat is North Korea's demonstrated unwavering commitment to its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs. North Korea has been developing these asymmetric capabilities as a cost-effective means of achieving its strategic objectives. This includes accumulating approximately 800 theater ballistic missiles capable of reaching the continental United States. Furthermore, North Korea continues to pursue the development of weapons of mass destruction, increasing its investment in stockpiles, delivery systems, and production capabilities to enhance its military posture.

The intertwined actions of China, Russia, and North Korea significantly complicate the operational environment in the Indo-Pacific, placing the Korean peninsula at the nexus of great power competition and potential future conflict.



Chairman Xi is joined by Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un at the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WWII celebration on Sep. 3, 2025.

# First Island Chain

## Joint Force Positional Advantage



Placing the east orientation at the top reveals hidden geographic relationships and illuminates why current force positioning may be more advantageous than traditionally understood.  
**Gen. Xavier Brunson in "The East-Up Map," November 16, 2025**



# Positional Advantage

Eighth Army is the U.S. Army’s only permanently deployed formation inside the first island chain. As a result, the Korean Peninsula is key terrain that enables us to project landpower across Northeast Asia to deter regional aggression.

Our unique posture in the heart of Northeast Asia seeks to dissuade our adversaries from committing aggression by changing their decision calculus. We are focused on preventing conflict before it begins, but if deterrence fails, we must be “Fight Tonight” ready to respond in crisis and fight and win in conflict.

We will continue to transform and maintain our forces, modernize and strengthen our regional alliances, and operationally prepare the theater to compete, deter, and win if necessary.



**EIGHTH ARMY**

# Power Projection & Competition

“Existing force positioning, particularly on the Korean Peninsula, may offer greater strategic advantages than currently recognized. Rather than viewing these deployments as vulnerable forward positions requiring reinforcement, planners might consider them as advantageously positioned assets already inside the defensive perimeter, capable of immediate cost-imposition against multiple adversaries.”

General Xavier Brunson,

*The East-Up Map: Revealing Hidden Strategic Advantages in the Indo Pacific*

November 16, 2025



“Korea’s strategic location, advanced infrastructure, and commitment to collective defense make it an indispensable part of USARPAC’s mission to maintain peace and strengthen interoperability in the Indo-Pacific.”

USARPAC FY26 Glossy



# Strategic Framework




**National Security Strategy**  
*of the United States of America*

November 2025



“Preventing conflict requires a vigilant posture in the Indo-Pacific, a renewed defense industrial base, greater military investment from ourselves and from allies and partners and winning the economic and technological competition over the long term.”

*National Security Strategy, November 2025*



**2026 NDS**  
NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY

“Our goal is simple: To prevent anyone, including China, from being able to dominate us or our allies—in essence, to set the military conditions required to achieve the NSS goal of a balance of power in the Indo-Pacific that allows all of us to enjoy a decent peace. To that end, as the NSS directs, we will erect a strong denial defense along the First Island Chain. We will also urge and enable key regional allies and partners to do more for our collective defense.”

*National Defense Strategy, January 2026*



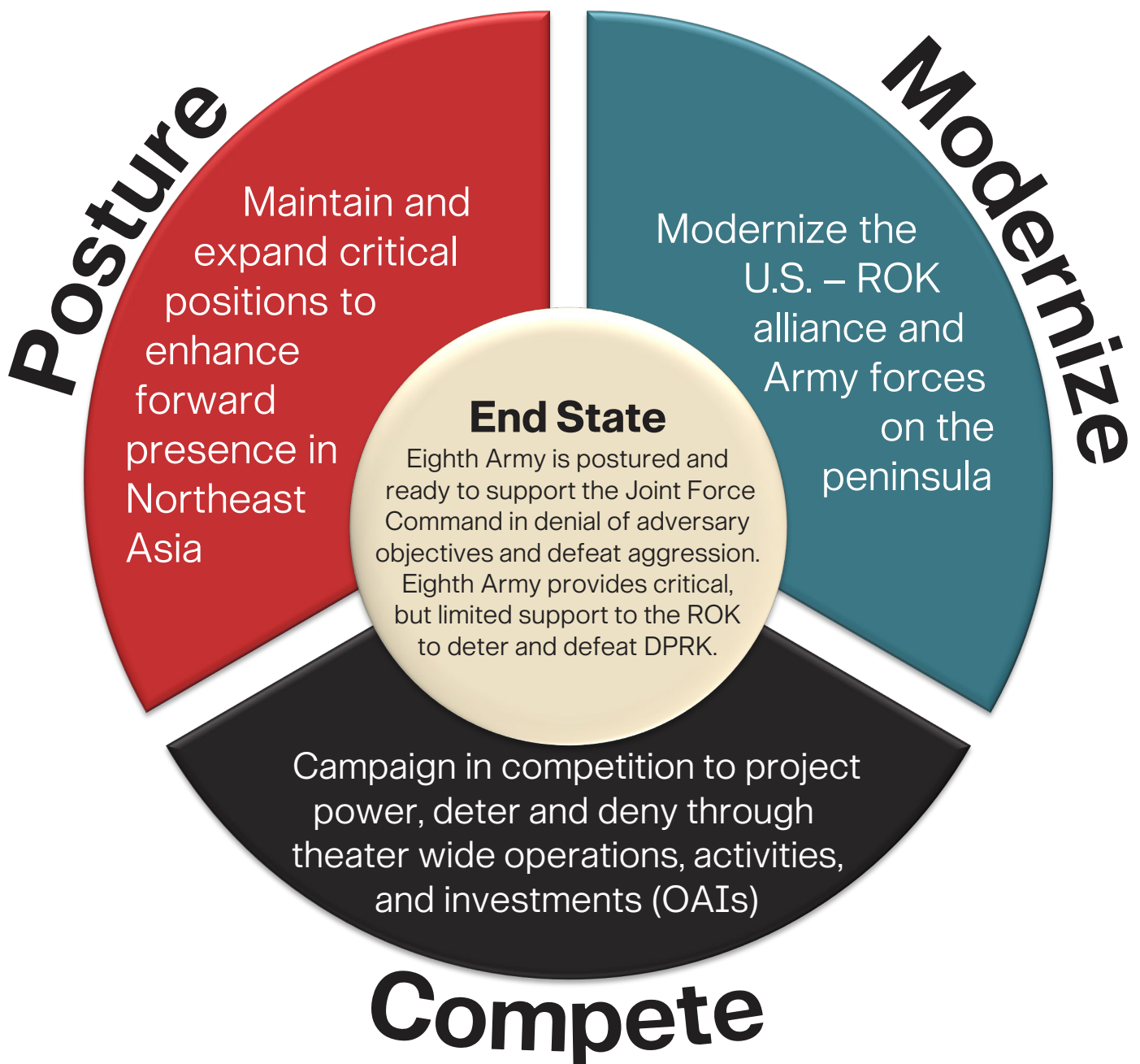
**U.S. INDO-PACIFIC COMMAND**

“The Republic of Korea remains an unwavering ally with global impacts. The United States continues to demonstrate the full scale of security commitments to the ROK through training, exercises, and operations.”

**Admiral Samuel Paparo**  
*Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, April 2025*

# How We Fight

Eighth Army maintains a U.S. position of advantage in Northeast Asia by securing key terrain against strategic adversaries. Eighth Army synchronizes and integrates multidomain operations to **POSTURE**, **MODERNIZE**, and **COMPETE** in the Indo-Pacific to impose strategic dilemmas and deny adversary objectives.



# Operational Approach



Eighth Army implements its Warfighting Concept – **POSTURE, MODERNIZE, COMPETE** – as it expands its regional focus to Northeast Asia.

This approach is guided by four Lines of Effort (LOEs):

- Enhance Readiness
- Modernize the Alliance
- Shape the Theater
- People



LOE

1

## Enhance Readiness

Eighth Army is “Fight Tonight” ready and retains operational flexibility in a contested environment in Northeast Asia. Its Soldiers are masters of their core warfighting functions through persistent validations and exercises at the Combined and Joint Levels.

LOE

2

## Modernize the Alliance

Through its combined relationship with the Republic of Korea Army, Eighth Army provides critical, but limited support to its longstanding ally while simultaneously expanding interoperability and innovation to address mutual security challenges in the region.

LOE

3

## Shape the Theater

Eighth Army shapes the theater by prioritizing resourcing and infrastructure – including the Joint Theater Distribution Center-Korea as a regional sustainment node – while simultaneously maintaining core missions to develop Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, and Integration (RSOI) capacity and set conditions for Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO).

LOE

4

## People

Eighth Army builds cohesive, highly trained, and disciplined teams grounded in physical fitness and mental resiliency. Simultaneously, championing the talent within its ranks by providing opportunities for professional growth and development.

# LOE 1 Enhance Readiness

As the only standing Field Army in the U.S. Army, Eighth Army maintains a wartime armistice mission on the Korean peninsula while simultaneously deterring regional aggression in Northeast Asia. Eighth Army's imperative is to ensure readiness in its formation and retain operational flexibility in a contested environment.

Eighth Army masters its core warfighting functions through persistent validations and exercises at the Combined and Joint levels.

Simultaneously, Eighth Army expands operations, activities, and investments (OAI) in support of Indo-Pacific Command competition OAI and U.S. Army Pacific Operation Pathways exercises beyond the Korean peninsula.



# LOE 2 Modernize the Alliance

By seizing new opportunities for combined innovation on the Korean Peninsula, Eighth Army leverages its partnership with the Republic of Korea Army (ROKA) and the ROKA Defense Industrial Base (DIB) to drive innovation and validate future capabilities.

Guided by the principle of “Fight Tonight,” and rooted in its historic alliance with ROKA, Eighth Army demonstrates wartime readiness in the Korean theater and across the region through extensive combined training exercises that foster seamless U.S.–ROK interoperability during armistice. Through this partnership, Eighth Army provides critical—though limited—support to key warfighting functions, including Command and Control (C2), Intelligence (both combined and shared), Protection, and Sustainment.



“Our alliance with the ROK Army is historic, but it must also be future-focused. Industrial cooperation is how we make sure ‘Fight Tonight’ is more than a slogan – it’s a capability.”

Dan Driscoll  
Secretary of the Army  
October 1, 2025



# LOE 3 Shape the Theater

The Korean Peninsula is key terrain within the First Island Chain, positioning Eighth Army at a relative advantage to project power during a transition from competition to crisis or conflict in Northeast Asia. To proactively influence the regional security environment and fulfill its Army Forces Korea responsibilities, Eighth Army shapes the theater by prioritizing resourcing and infrastructure while sustaining core missions that build Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, and Integration (RSOI) capacity and establish conditions for Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO).

Leveraging the Joint Theater Distribution Center – Korea as a regional sustainment node, Eighth Army pre-positions critical supplies and exquisite capabilities to enable rapid power projection and maintain a competitive advantage.



# LOE 4 People

Eighth Army's enduring strength resides in its Soldiers, Civilians, Families, and Korean partners and employees. Eighth Army prioritizes building cohesive, highly trained, and disciplined teams grounded in physical fitness and mental resiliency. By providing opportunities for professional growth and development, it simultaneously cultivates talent within its ranks.

Recognizing that complete readiness requires balance across all aspects of life, Eighth Army promotes holistic health and fitness (H2F) by integrating physical training, mental resilience, sound nutrition, quality sleep, and spiritual fitness as essential components of overall well-being. This comprehensive approach ensures that Soldiers and Families are prepared not only to meet the demands of combat but also to thrive in daily life.



“The strength of our alliance is not just measured in weapons or technology, but in the people who serve together and the shared resolve that binds us. That is what makes us strong.”

Pete Hegseth  
Secretary of War  
Nov. 4, 2025



## A Legacy within the First Island Chain

# Pacific Victors

Eighth Army was activated on June 10, 1944, in Memphis, Tennessee, and quickly deployed to the Southwest Pacific under Lieut. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger. It eliminated enemy resistance in New Guinea and New Britain before leading the reconquest of the Philippines from December 1944 to August 1945. Through five “Victor” operations, Eighth Army liberated two-thirds of the archipelago, conducted 14 major amphibious assaults, and earned the nickname “Amphibious Eighth.” Following Japan’s surrender, its mission shifted to occupation duties, including disarmament, demilitarization, and democratization in Japan.

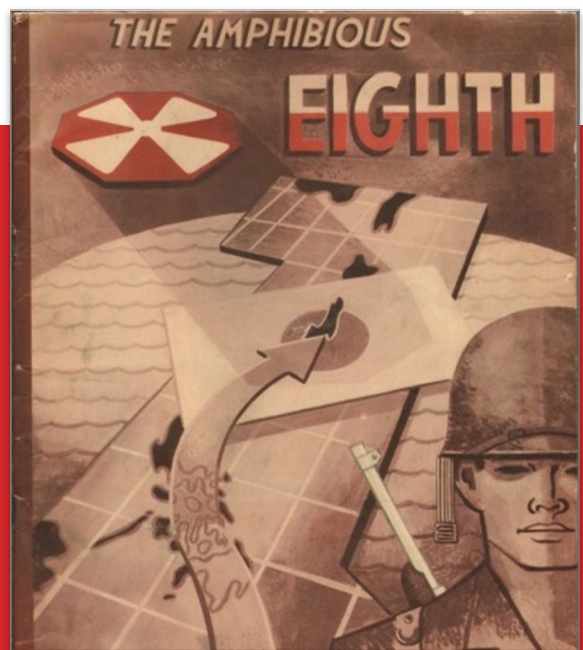
With the outbreak of the Korean War on June 25, 1950, Eighth Army deployed to Korea, where it has remained ever since. It helped defend the Pusan Perimeter, enabled the Incheon landing, and supported the UN offensive into North Korea. Despite early successes, Chinese intervention forced the Army into a defensive posture. By early 1951, Eighth Army launched counterattacks, recaptured Seoul, and advanced to the 38th parallel. The war settled into stalemate after Chinese offensives failed to capture Seoul, leading to the armistice signed July 27, 1953, which suspended hostilities and remains in effect today.

Eighth Army’s structure in Korea evolved to meet national security challenges. Today, Eighth Army remains the only forward-based Field Army on the Asian mainland and the largest Army formation inside the First Island Chain. With a legacy of adaptability from World War II through Korea and beyond, the Eighth Army continues to safeguard freedom and prosperity in Northeast Asia.



“The American flag never flew over a prouder, tougher, more spirited and more competent fighting force, than was the Eighth Army as it drove north beyond the Parallel.”

Lieut. Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway  
*Eighth Army Commander*  
1950-1951



# Eighth Army Units



2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division (ROK-US Combined Division)



3<sup>rd</sup> Battlefield Coordination Detachment



19<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Sustainment Command



UNC Security Battalion-Joint Security Area



1<sup>st</sup> Signal Brigade



Korea Field Office



35<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery Brigade



Eighth Army Non-Commissioned Officers Academy



65<sup>th</sup> Medical Brigade



Eighth Army Band



501<sup>st</sup> Military Intelligence Brigade

## By the Numbers

### Our Strength

**~42K**

Soldiers, Civilians,, and Families



**~ 20.5K**  
Soldiers



**~ 17.5K**  
Civilians



**~ 3K**  
Families

### Our Posture in Korea



**6**  
Training Areas



**7,000**  
Facilities



**13**  
Camps



**15,000**  
Acres of real property



#### Camp Humphreys

Home to Eighth Army, is the largest OCONUS base in the world



#### Army Prepositioned Stock-4

The largest stock of ground combat power in the Indo-Pacific.



#### Humphreys Army Airfield

The Army's most active OCONUS airfield is located at Camp Humphreys

# Fight Tonight

The Eighth United States Army's distinctive insignia has a rich history that reflects the unit's origins and heritage. The insignia, featuring a red octagon with a white cross pattee, was originally designed for Lieutenant General William Hood Simpson's army, which was formed in 1944. The design represents the unit's connection to the Fourth Army, from which the cadre of General Simpson's army was drawn. The octagonal shape symbolizes the army's numerical designation, while the cross pattee is an evolution of the four-leaf clover symbol of the Fourth Army.

The insignia's colors, red and white, are the distinguishing colors of the Army's standard, and the white cross pattee divides the octagon into eight areas, further emphasizing the army's numerical designation. Today, the Eighth Army insignia is a proud symbol of the unit's history and heritage, worn by soldiers serving in the unit. It serves as a reminder of the unit's enduring legacy and its commitment to defending freedom and upholding the values of the United States Army.



Instagram  
**@eightharmy**

Facebook  
**Eighth Army-Korea**



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