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The following monthly update for May 2018 is submitted by the Executive Director of the Korean War Veterans Association of the United States of America.

***Take time this Memorial Day 218 to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our Country***



**Memorial Day Weekend Activities in Washington:** Visitors to our nation's capital have a host of Memorial Day weekend events and activities to consider attending, May 25-28. Up first is a VFW-supported and USAA-sponsored Poppy Wall display to be set up by the Korean War Veterans Memorial, May 25-27. Saturday at 8 p.m. will be the dress rehearsal for Sunday's National Memorial Day Concert on the west lawn of the Capitol. Many consider this the time to go because of smaller crowds and closer lawn seating. Rolling Thunder XXXI begins at noon on Sunday and will travel from the Pentagon past the National Mall to West Potomac Park. The National Memorial Day Concert begins Sunday evening at 8 p.m. and will air on PBS stations nationwide. National Memorial Day ceremonies on Monday begin at the National War II Memorial at 9 a.m., at Arlington National Cemetery at 11 a.m., the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at 1 p.m., and the Korean War Veterans Memorial at 5 p.m.

Also on Monday is the National Memorial Day Parade, which begins at 2 p.m. along Constitution Avenue.

• **A Message from the Under Secretary of Memorial Affairs**

General John A. Logan first led the call for the creation of a national holiday to honor the dead from the Civil War in early May 1868. Originally known as Decoration Day, he ultimately chose May 30 as the day when Americans should visit national cemeteries, burial plots, and Civil War battlefields to place flowers on the graves of the fallen. The outpouring of grief was a way for the nation to heal.

Over time, Memorial Day was changed to the last Monday in May, but the meaning remained the same-to honor all the men and women who “gave their last full measure of devotion,” and who never had the chance to return home to live full and meaningful lives.

I'd like us to focus our thoughts and actions on the true meaning of Memorial Day - because it matters.

All of us who have served in the military, especially those who served in wartime, have comrades and friends who did not return home that we think of everyday.



We must never forget the self-sacrifice that a select group of Americans made from the founding of our country through the Global War on Terrorism. Nothing is more painful than the loss of a comrade, father, mother, son or daughter. We owe a great debt to these men and women that we can never repay, but we must try, and we invite our friends, neighbors and co-workers to do the same.

I want to ensure no one forgets the true meaning of Memorial Day and no one forgets that behind every name is the legacy of someone who gave their life so we might live in freedom in our great nation.

Join in this national commemoration by committing to some purposeful act of remembrance. For some, this will mean a commitment to service such as placing flags at a VA national, state, tribal or private cemetery or attending a local Memorial Day service. For others, it may mean pausing for a prayer or moment of silence at a family picnic.

As we honor those who did not return, we must also keep thoughts of the Gold Star families in our hearts and minds. It is the families left behind who bear the cost and suffer the stark reality of the price of freedom. Children of these brave men and women grow up only knowing their mother or father from the stories others tell.

So this year let's all pause, honor, remember and memorialize the fallen, ensuring their legacies never die and truly make Memorial Day matter.

Randy Reeves

Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs

- **MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT REPORT:** Submitted by Mr. John “Sonny” Edwards – AS OF 5-21-2018

NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH 36

NEW MEMBERS TYTD 188

ACTIVE MEMBERS LYTD 12,926

ACTIVE MEMBERS TYTD 11,939

DECREASE 987

DECEASED COMRADES REPORTED TYTD 502 AVG 100/MO

Departments & Chapters with 4 plus new members this Month

AZ-5. CA-5. FL-4

- **HOW TO REPORT THE DEATH OF A RETIRED SOLDIER:** Contact the Department of the Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center anytime by calling (800) 626-3317. You will be immediately referred to a local Casualty Assistance Center, who will report the death to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to stop retired pay and initiate the survivor benefits process. When reporting the death, please provide as much of the information below as you have:

- Full name
- Next of kin information
- Social security number and/or service number
- Circumstances surrounding the death
- Retirement date
- Copy of the death certificate
- Retired rank
- Copy of the Statement of Service (Last DD Form 214)



• **WHAT THE KOREAN LEADERS AGREED IN THE PANMUNJOM DECLARATION ~ APR 27, 2018**

WHAT THE KOREAN LEADERS AGREED IN THE PANMUNJOM DECLARATION TODAY AFTER THEIR SUMMIT:

- 1) TWO KOREAS AGREE TO DECLARE THE END OF THE KOREAN WAR THAT HAS BEEN SUSPENDED SINCE AN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT IN 1953.
- 2) TWO KOREAS AGREE TO SET DENUCLEARIZATION AS A COMMON GOAL AND WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE THE KOREAN PENINSULA NUCLEAR FREE.
- 3) SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT MOON JAE IN WILL VISIT PYONGYANG IN AUTUMN.
- 4) TWO KOREAS AGREE TO STOP A RANGE OF HOSTILE ACTS ON THE GROUND, IN THE AIR AND ON THE OCEAN.
- 5) STARTING MAY 1, THE TWO KOREAS WILL STOP BROADCASTING PROPAGANDA ON THE INTER-KOREAN BORDER.
- 6) TWO KOREAS WILL SET UP A JOINTLY OPERATED LIAISON OFFICE IN GAESEONG, NORTH KOREA.
- 7) ON AUGUST 15, THE TWO KOREAS WILL HOST REUNIONS OF FAMILIES SEPARATED BY THE 1950-53 KOREAN WAR.
- 8) TWO KOREAS AGREED TO RECONNECT AN INTER-KOREAN RAILROAD ON THE EAST COAST.
- 9) TWO KOREAS WILL JOINTLY PARTICIPATE IN THE 2018 ASIAN GAMES.

- **Wilkie Nominated to be New VA Secretary:** *The president today announced his intention to nominate Robert Wilkie to become the new Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The son of an Army artillery officer, Wilkie has served in both the legislative and executive branches of government, and is a former Naval Reserve intelligence officer. He is currently an Air Force Reserve officer, as well as the under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. He has been serving as the Acting VA Secretary since March 28. The VFW wishes him well through the confirmation process, and looks forward to working with him for the betterment of our nation's wounded, ill and injured veterans and their families. The Honorable Robert Wilkie was named by President Trump to serve as the Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs on March 28, 2018.*



Robert Wilkie is the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. Mr. Wilkie is the principal advisor to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense for Total Force Management as it relates to readiness; National Guard and Reserve component affairs; health affairs; training; and personnel requirements and management, including equal opportunity, morale, welfare, recreation, and the quality of life for military families.

The son of an Army artillery commander he spent his youth at Fort Bragg. He has more than 20 years of experience at the national and international level. During the George W. Bush Administration, Mr. Wilkie served both Robert Gates and Donald Rumsfeld as Assistant Secretary of Defense from 2005-2009, and was the youngest senior leader in the Department. Prior to his first Pentagon tour, he was Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and a senior director of the National Security Council under Dr. Condoleezza Rice. Mr. Wilkie also has extensive experience in the United States Congress including recent service as Senior Advisor to Senator Thom Tillis as well as being Counsel and Advisor on International Security Affairs to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Honorable Trent Lott.

He had a five-year tour as Vice President for Strategic Programs for CH2M HILL one of the world's largest engineering and program management firms, where at various times he had program management and advisory assignments as diverse as the London 2012 and the reform and reorganization of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defense Supply and Logistics System (DE&S).

Mr. Wilkie is a reserve officer in the United States Air Force Reserve assigned to the Office of the Chief of Staff. Prior to joining the Air Force, he served in the United States Navy Reserve with the Joint Forces Intelligence Command, Naval Special Warfare Group Two and the Office of Naval Intelligence.

A graduate of the College of Naval Command and Staff, Air Command and Staff College, the United States Army War College, and the Joint Forces Staff College, Mr. Wilkie has published articles in the Naval War College Review, Parameters, Armed Forces Journal International, The Air and Space Power Journal and Proceedings. He holds personal and unit decorations as well as the Defense Distinguished Public Service Medal, the highest civilian award of the Department.

Mr. Wilkie also shepherded the Senate confirmation process for James Mattis, Robert Gates, Admiral Mike Mullen (CJCS) and was responsible for the preparation of General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Croker for their multiple appearances before the Congress in defense of the Iraqi Surge.

Mr. Wilkie holds an Honors degree from Wake Forest University; Juris Doctor from Loyola University College of Law in New Orleans; Master of Laws in International and Comparative Law from Georgetown University and a Masters in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College.

- **NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA AGREE TO PURSUE SIGNING A PEACE TREATY**

Business Insider

By: Tara Francis Chan

North and South Korea agreed to pursue signing a peace treaty and work towards "complete" denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

The two countries will hold talks with the US and China, and South Korean President Moon Jae-In will visit Pyongyang later this year.

The two countries also agreed to begin holding joint holiday celebrations, resume family reunions, and end propaganda broadcasts.

The agreement isn't too surprising, and the success of the summit will come down to what the two Koreas are able to achieve next.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in have agreed to seek an end to the armistice agreement and sign a peace treaty, as well as achieve "complete" denuclearization.

The announcement was made at the end of a historic day. Though it was the third Korean summit — the last occurred in 2007 — it marked the first time any leader of North Korea has set foot in South Korea.

Standing in front of South Korea's Peace House, the two leaders announced their intention for there to be "no more war" and to completely denuclearize the Korean Peninsula in a "phased manner." They agreed to cease all hostile acts and will hold military talks next month.

"We would like to settle a permanent peace... Using one language, one culture, one history, North and South Korea will be joined as one nation," Kim said, alluding to an eventual reunification of the two countries.

Kim and Moon also announced a number of other actions, including: ending all propaganda broadcasts and leaflet drops along the border, the creation of a joint liaison office for the two countries, and to hold four-way talks with the US and China.

The two countries will also resume family reunions on August 15 and hold joint holiday celebrations moving forwards. The Demilitarized Zone will also be "transformed" into a "peace zone."

Moon will also travel to Pyongyang during autumn this year.

While an agreement to work towards peace and denuclearization are not necessarily surprising, experts have warned that North Korea has shown on numerous occasions that the country is unable to keep its word.

But Kim tried to head that criticism off earlier in the day, saying he doesn't want history to repeat itself with summits ending back up at "square one" without results.

Regardless, the over-arching announcements aren't too dissimilar to those made at the last two summits, which, in the end, achieved little.

Yet Moon and Kim seemed incredibly friendly after signing the Panmunjom Declaration, the two not only shook hands but even hugged.

They will now need to convince the remaining parties of the 1953 armistice agreement — China and the US-led UN Command — to be able to formally end the Korean War and establish peace.

But the US may be displeased with the agreement made today, in particular the focus on "phased" denuclearization and the "gradual" reduction of arms. The Trump administration has maintained their position is North Korea must fully and immediately end its nuclear weapons program.

During Friday the two leaders held a number of talks in South Korea's Peace House, which was completely renovated for the occasion, and also in the gardens of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).



- **KOREAS DECLARE 'NEW ERA OF PEACE' — BUT OFFER NO SPECIFICS**

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un speaks alongside South Korean President Moon Jae-in during a meeting at the GOYANG, South Korea — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in declared “a new era of peace” and vowed to rid the peninsula of nuclear weapons Friday after a historic summit. But the leaders fell short of agreeing to specific steps toward denuclearization, setting the stage for more difficult negotiations and raising the stakes for the first-ever U.S.-North Korean summit, which is expected to be held in coming weeks.

President Donald Trump enthusiastically welcomed the results in a pair of tweets.

“Good things are happening, but only time will tell!” he said. “KOREAN WAR TO END! The United States, and all of its GREAT people, should be very proud of what is now taking place in Korea!”



He didn't elaborate but appeared to be referring to an agreement by the two Koreas to “actively cooperate to establish a permanent and solid peace regime” to replace the armistice that ended their 1950-53 war.

The final declaration signed by Kim and Moon was vague on most points, but many North Korea watchers said the meeting was a positive first step toward resolving the crisis over the communist state's nuclear weapons.

“The two leaders solemnly declared before 80 million Korean people and the whole world that there will be no more war on the Korean Peninsula and thus a new era of

peace has begun,” the statement said.

It added that the two sides “agreed to carry out disarmament in a phased manner, as military tension is alleviated and substantial progress is made in military confidence-building.”

“South and North Korea confirmed the common goal of realizing, through complete denuclearization, a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula,” the statement said.

They also agreed to hold high-level military talks next month, to cease all hostile acts against each other in “land, sea and air,” and to turn the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone that divides the peninsula into a “peace zone in a genuine sense.”

The carefully choreographed inter-Korean summit capped a whirlwind of extraordinary diplomacy that has eased tensions after months of saber-rattling and threats between the North and the United States that raised fears of a nuclear war.

While Kim and Moon failed to reach a breakthrough on the nuclear issue, they made progress in efforts to improve relations between the countries.

In one of the most concrete results, the two Koreas also agreed to resume on Aug. 15 reunions for families that were torn apart by the war.

Moon, a 65-year-old former human rights lawyer, and the 34-year-old Kim also appeared to foster a warm relationship, even holding a 30-minute private chat full of smiles on a nearby footbridge.

The director of the China-based think tank, the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center, said the final agreement “did little to pave the way for denuclearization” as it contained no tangible or verifiable commitments from the North.

“This puts greater onus for such commitments to be made by a Trump-Kim meeting or potential quadrilateral meeting with two Koreas, US, and China,” Paul Haenle said in a statement.

**Historic handshake**

The day began when Kim, wearing a black, Mao-style suit and surrounded by an entourage, walked down the stairs of a North Korean building to meet Moon, stepping across the concrete slab marking the line that officially divides the peninsula.

Kim — the third leader in a family dynasty that has ruled North Korea since it was founded in 1948 — said he felt a wave of emotion as he walked the short distance.

"I feel like I'm firing a flare at the starting line of ... writing a new history in North-South relations, peace and prosperity," he said in opening remarks before formal talks began. "Let's get everything off our minds here and get good results."

Standing between the blue conference buildings that straddle the border, Kim took Moon's hand and led him briefly across to the North before the men walked on a red carpet into South Korea — making Kim the first North Korean leader to do so since the war ended.

It was also only the second time the reclusive leader is known to have left his country since he took power in 2011 after his father died of a heart attack. The first was a recent train trip to Beijing to meet with President Xi Jinping, reaffirming China's influence over its fellow communist state.

Two fifth-grade students from Taesong-dong Elementary School — the only South Korean school within the DMZ — welcomed the leaders, who inspected an honor guard before entering the so-called Peace House to begin the formal meeting.

After morning talks ended, Kim was ushered into a waiting black Mercedes that carried him back to North Korea for a lunch break, with 12 bodyguards wearing suits running alongside the vehicle.

The leaders met again for an afternoon full of symbolism. They shoveled soil from mountains in both countries on a pine tree planted on the border.

Moon and Kim then strolled together to a footbridge, where they engaged in a 30-minute private chat with only the sound of birds and bugs on a live video feed.

The meeting culminated with a lavish banquet, which was attended by the leaders' wives and included Swiss dishes inspired by the fact that the North Korean leader was educated in Switzerland.

North Korea also brought "naengmyeon," or cold buckwheat noodles — a beloved dish in both countries.

**Ambitious agenda**

South Korea had an ambitious agenda for the third inter-Korean summit and the first in more than a decade. Moon's liberal predecessors the late Kim Dae-jung and Roh Moo-hyun met with Kim's father in 2000 and 2007, respectively. But expectations for a breakthrough were low, as skeptics noted that agreements reached with Kim's father in previous decades had collapsed due to distrust and cheating on terms.

Experts also have raised doubts about Kim's motives for his about-face after more than a year of rising tensions and nuclear activity.

The diplomatic surge began when the third-generation leader agreed to join the Winter Olympics that were held in the South after declaring his nuclear force had been completed.

Trump has said he believes his "maximum pressure" campaign of economic sanctions and diplomatic isolation forced Kim to the table. Others believe Kim feels confident his deterrent capabilities are strong enough that he can be negotiate to be accepted as a nuclear power.

The world is watching for signs that Kim is willing to give up his nuclear weapons after the North demonstrated rapid progress by test-firing three intercontinental ballistic missiles and conducting its sixth and most powerful nuclear test last year.

Kim has announced a moratorium on ICBM tests and said the North will close its northeastern nuclear testing site. But critics noted that Kim could resume missile tests at any time. A group of Chinese scientists also has said it believes the mountain covering the nuclear testing site has collapsed.

Trump has insisted the overtures from the North are concessions and has softened his tone in a sharp reversal after he mocked Kim as "little rocket man" and threatened to "totally destroy North Korea" if forced to defend the U.S. and its allies last year.

The U.S. and South Korean militaries, meanwhile, suspended joint war games Friday in a nod to the North, which considers the military exercises a rehearsal for an invasion.

That followed an agreement to postpone the start of the annual drills as Moon lobbied the North to join the Winter Olympics, putting the diplomatic process in motion.

A summit with Trump also would be a major gain for Kim, as a meeting with a sitting U.S. president has been a longtime goal for the regime. No date or venue has been announced, but Trump has said it will be in May or early June.

The U.S. has some 28,500 servicemembers stationed in South Korea.

• **2 KOREAS DISMANTLE PROPAGANDA LOUDSPEAKERS AT TENSE BORDER**



*South Korean soldiers move loudspeakers that were set up for propaganda broadcasts near the Demilitarized Zone separating the two Koreas in Paju, South Korea, Tuesday, May 1, 2018. The leaders of the rival Koreas agreed at a historic summit last week on a set of reconciliation steps, including the suspension of propaganda broadcasts and other hostile acts along their tense border. (Kim Hong-Ji/Pool Photo via AP)*

SEOUL, South Korea — The rival Koreas dismantled huge loudspeakers used to blare Cold War-style propaganda across their tense border on Tuesday, as South Korea's president asked the United Nations to observe the North's planned closing of its nuclear test site.

The dismantling of dozens of loudspeakers was in line with an agreement on reconciliation by the leaders of the Koreas at their historic summit last Friday. It is still unclear if such measures can bring permanent peace because no major breakthrough in the North Korean nuclear standoff was produced at the summit.

Road to North Korea's denuclearization is littered with failure

While Seoul and Washington welcomed Pyongyang's declaration on Saturday to suspend further intercontinental ballistic missile tests and shut down its nuclear test site, the past is littered with failure.

By: Kim Tong-Hyung, The Associated Press

South Korean soldiers disassembled loudspeakers in multiple front-line areas in the presence of journalists before pulling them away from the border, the Defense Ministry said.

A South Korea military officer said later Tuesday that North Korea had also begun taking down its propaganda loudspeakers earlier in the day. He requested anonymity, citing department rules.

Both Koreas had turned off the propaganda broadcasts along the 248-kilometer (154-mile) -long border last week before the summit.

They had restarted their propaganda warfare in early 2016 when tensions rose sharply after North Korea's fourth nuclear test. South Korea broadcast K-pop songs as well as criticism of the North's abysmal human rights conditions, world news and weather forecasts. The North broadcast anti-South messages and praises of its own political system.



*South Korean soldiers dismantle loudspeakers that were set up for propaganda broadcasts near the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas in Paju, South Korea, Tuesday, May 1, 2018. (Kim Hong-Ji/Pool Photo via AP)*



North Korea is extremely sensitive to any outside criticism of its system, and most of its 24 million people are not allowed access to foreign TV and radio programs. In 2014, North Korean soldiers opened fire after South Korean activists sent anti-North leaflets over the border with large balloons, prompting South Korea to return fire. There were no reports of casualties.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has suspended nuclear and missile tests and placed his nuclear program up for negotiation, but skepticism lingers about how serious his offer is and what disarmament steps he would eventually take. Some experts say Kim's sincerity will be tested during his planned meeting in several weeks with U.S. President Donald Trump, in what would be the first North Korea-U.S. summit talks since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Trump said Monday he likes the idea of going to the southern side of Panmunjom, the location of the Korean summit, to meet Kim, though he said Singapore was also under consideration.

Ahead of that meeting, the leaders of South Korea, Japan and China are to meet next Wednesday in Tokyo for a regular trilateral summit that is expected to focus on North Korea's nuclear program and other regional issues.

During their meeting last Friday, Kim told South Korean President Moon Jae-in that he would shut down his country's only known nuclear test site and allow outside experts and journalists to watch the process. He also said he would be willing to give up his nuclear programs if the United States commits to a formal end to the Korean War and pledges not to attack the North, according to South Korea's presidential office.

During a telephone call with U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday, Moon said he wants the U.N. to observe the closure of the Punggy-ri test site. Moon also asked the U.N. to formally declare its support for his summit declaration with Kim. Guterres responded that he will try to contribute to the establishment of peace on the Korean Peninsula, according to Moon's office.

Some experts downplayed the closure of the Punggy-ri site, saying the six underground nuclear explosions that have been conducted there may have made it too unstable for more testing. Kim denied such views, saying the site has two additional underground tunnels that could be used for new tests.

A major source of outside suspicion about Kim's sincerity is his use of the term, "the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" instead of "the denuclearization of North Korea." North Korea has long used the first term, and has argued it can disarm only when the United States withdraws its 28,500 troops from South Korea and removes its so-called "nuclear umbrella" security commitment to South Korea and Japan.

A joint summit statement issued by Kim and Moon said they will work together to achieve "a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula through complete denuclearization."

It was the first time that Kim has proposed negotiating away his nuclear weapons, and some analysts say he could reveal more substantial disarmament measures in his meeting with Trump, including the possible scrapping of his long-range missile program that has posed a direct threat to the United States.

Prospects for the Kim-Trump talks remain unclear because Kim prefers a gradual, step-by-step disarmament process in return for corresponding rewards, while the United States wants complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization.

On Monday, Moon shook off a suggestion that he receive the Nobel Peace Prize for reducing tensions with North Korea, saying Trump "can take the Nobel prize" as long as the Koreans receive peace in return.

- **MATTIS REAFFIRMS AMERICA'S 'IRONCLAD COMMITMENT' TO DEFEND SOUTH KOREA**



Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis arrives for a hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on April 12, 2018. Mattis spoke with South Korean counterparts on Saturday, April 28, after a historic meeting between leaders of North and South Korea and reaffirmed "the ironclad U.S. commitment" to defend its ally. WASHINGTON — U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis spoke Saturday with South Korean counterparts after an historic meeting between leaders of North and South Korea, and President Donald Trump said "things are going very well" as he prepares for an expected summit with the North's Kim Jong Un.

Mattis and Defense Minister Song Young-moo said they were committed to "a diplomatic resolution that achieves complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization" of the North, according to the Pentagon's chief spokeswoman, Dana W. White. Mattis also reaffirmed "the ironclad U.S. commitment" to defend its ally "using the full spectrum of U.S. capabilities."

Trump tweeted Saturday that he had "a long and very good talk" with President Moon Jae-in. He also said he updated Japan's prime minister, Shinzo Abe, about "the ongoing negotiations" for an anticipated summit with Kim, tentatively scheduled for May or early June.

Moon and Kim have pledged to seek a formal end to the Korean War, fought from 1950 to 1953, by year's end and to rid the Korean Peninsula of nuclear weapons. Trump has said he's looking forward to the meeting with Kim and that it "should be quite something."

"Things are going very well, time and location of meeting with North Korea is being set," Trump tweeted.

Trump is claiming credit for the Korean summit, but now faces a burden in helping turn the Korean leaders' bold but vague vision for peace into reality after more than six decades of hostility.

Trump must contend with suspicions about his own suitability to conduct that kind of war-and-peace negotiation and succeed where his predecessors have failed, and whether Kim really is willing to give up the nuclear weapons his nation took decades acquiring. "It is still unclear whether North Korea still believes that it can have its cake and eat it too," said Victor Cha, who until January had been in the running to become Trump's choice for ambassador to South Korea. "And if I can't do it, it'll be a very tough time for a lot of countries, and a lot of people. It's certainly something that I hope I can do for the world," he said.

Moon and Kim have not specified what steps would be taken to formally end the war or eliminate nuclear weapons. Now the pressure to deliver results, at least on the allies' side, has shifted to Trump.

The president pushed back against critics who say he's being manipulated by Kim, who has abruptly shifted to diplomacy after last year's full-scale push to become a nuclear power that could threaten the U.S. mainland.

"I don't think he's ever had this enthusiasm for somebody, for them wanting to make a deal," Trump said in the Oval Office. "We're not going to be played, OK. We're going to hopefully make a deal. The United States in the past has been played like a fiddle."

New Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who as CIA director met Kim four weeks ago in North Korea, told reporters in Brussels that he got the impression that Kim was "serious" about negotiating on denuclearization because of the Trump-led economic pressure campaign.

But Pompeo added a word of caution: "I am always careful. There is a lot of history here. Promises have been made, hopes have been raised and then dashed."

North Korea has already called a halt to nuclear and long-range missile tests, which has helped dial down tensions significantly. North Korea was hit with unprecedented economic restrictions during 2017, when the U.S. and North Korean leaders traded threats while Kim pushed his nation to the verge of being able to fire a nuclear-tipped missile at the U.S. mainland. The diplomatic climate has changed dramatically this year, as Kim has ended his international seclusion, reaching out to South Korea, the U.S., and China.

Mattis has said the U.S. is "optimistic right now that there's opportunity here that we have never enjoyed since 1950" and any progress will be up to the diplomats. He was referring to the year the Korean War broke out.

The fighting, which also involved China, cost hundreds of thousands of lives and ended with the declaration of an armistice, not a peace treaty. That has left the peninsula in a technical state of war for decades.

## • **WILL WE STAY OR WILL WE GO? A LOOK AT REMOVING US TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA**

By: Todd South

*The removal of U.S. troops from South Korea has been a condition of past negotiations and officials are mixed on whether it is an option for upcoming talks. (Cpl. Charles Morrison/Army)*



Mixed signals from top political leaders ahead of a summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un have some questioning what is the future for the 28,500 U.S. military members and their families stationed in South Korea.

The New York Times reported Friday that Trump has ordered the Pentagon to draw up plans for reducing troop numbers ahead of the

talks. Sources did not indicate if those plans included a total removal of forces.

Kim has paused his nuclear and missile tests, also placing his nuclear program up for negotiation in recent talks with South Korea. But North Korea has had a mixed history of at times making the removal of U.S. forces a precondition for any denuclearization and at other times saying it is willing to talk without troops leaving the peninsula.

And it's not as though there hasn't been rumbling about this from the U.S. commander in chief.

New reports indicate that Trump was talked down from removing the troops ahead of the winter Olympics. Trump said in March that he would consider removing troops to get a better trade deal with South Korea.

And Defense Secretary James Mattis responded to media questions about force levels last week with a somewhat vague response, interpreted by some as opening the door for a reduction in forces.

"That's part of the issues that we'll be discussing in negotiations with our allies first, and of course with North Korea," he said in response to a question about potential troop reductions.

"I think for right now we just have to go along with the process, have the negotiations and not try to make preconditions or presumptions about how it's going to go," he said.

One expert said troop removal would be "devastating" both to South Korea and across the globe for U.S. allies.

Another sees the troops there, at best a single combat brigade for a conventional fight, as being purely "symbolic" and not needed.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in said this week that the U.S. forces stationed in his country are not there solely for a North Korea deterrent.

"U.S. troops in South Korea are a matter of the South Korea-U.S. alliance. It has nothing to do with signing a peace treaty," Moon said.

But one of his advisers previously said it would be "difficult to justify" the continuing U.S. presence if a peace treaty were signed.

Bruce Klingner, is a senior research fellow at The Heritage Foundation who served as a Central Intelligence Agency deputy division chief for Korea.

"I think having U.S. military on the peninsula is the most tangible signal of U.S. resolve and commitment to our allies as possible," Klingner said.

US forces in Korea aren't packing up just yet. Here's why.

Any peace deal with North Korea is unlikely to have an immediate impact on the 23,000 U.S. troops deployed on the peninsula.

By: Kyle Rempfer

Even if a treaty were signed there would have to be lengthy verification processes of the North's denuclearization followed by discussions between the United States and South Korea, examining their security and any potential threat from an expansionist China, he said.

If there were a major reduction in U.S. forces before significant changes by North Korea it would have a "devastating impact on the security situation on the peninsula," Klingner said.

But retired Army Lt. Col. Daniel Davis, a senior fellow and military expert with Defense Priorities, disagreed, calling the presence of U.S. forces in South Korea currently unnecessary and "purely symbolic."

"I think we should redeploy them to the United States," Davis said. "It's no actual combat power."

Davis blamed the Washington foreign policy establishment, once called the "Blob" by then-President Barack Obama, for continued thinking that troops can't be removed.

"If we send troops anywhere, they tend to never leave," Davis said.

He said U.S. forces in South Korea over previous decades made sense when the Republic of Korea's military was poorly trained, manned and equipped.

"That's no longer the strategic environment that exists at all," Davis said. "South Korea is very capable and modern with updated military technology. They're making their own tanks. They have a state-of-the-art air force and anti-aircraft systems."



*A Taurus long-range air-to-surface missile is fired from a South Korean Air Force F-15K fighter jet during an exercise on Sept. 12, 2017, in Taean-gun, South Korea. (South Korean Defense Ministry via Getty Images)*

But, Klingner noted that South Koreans have been reluctant not only to reduce or remove U.S. troops overall but have even been concerned about the composition of forces.

The majority of U.S. service members in South Korea are Army personnel. Klingner said there were rumors in the early 2000s that those soldiers might be replaced by Marines.

That rumor caused a stir among South Koreans, who were aware that Marines tend to be expeditionary and rotate, such as in Okinawa, while soldiers tend to get into place and stay a while.

With the Marines' deployment cycle, "it's very easy for one unit to leave and the replacement not show up," he said. It's also not as though moving nearly 30,000 troops, their families and belongings off the peninsula would happen overnight.

When serving in Germany, Davis had to close large Army installations and move those units. He estimated it would take at least a year or more to relocate the current personnel.

- **TRUMP ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERS ADM. HARRIS FOR SEOUL AMBASSADORSHIP**

SEOUL—The Trump administration is considering sending Adm. Harry Harris to South Korea as its new ambassador, according to two people familiar with the matter, turning to a military man to fill a diplomatic vacancy at a pivotal moment on the Korean Peninsula.

Adm. Harris, currently the head of U.S. Pacific Command, had been tapped as the next ambassador to Australia and would need to go through a fresh vetting process and confirmation hearing before taking up the post in Seoul.

The plans were first reported by the Washington Post.

The idea to move Adm. Harris from Canberra to Seoul, one of these people said, was made by Central Intelligence Agency Director Mike Pompeo, who has been nominated by President Donald Trump to serve as secretary of state.

It is unclear if the president has signed off on the idea, but sending Adm. Harris to South Korea would reassure an ally at a time when close coordination is needed between Washington and Seoul. The post has been vacant since Mr. Trump was sworn in as president in January last year. Marc Knapper, a State Department veteran who has served multiple stints in Seoul and speaks Korean, has served as the acting ambassador for the past 15 months.

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said the U.S. had informed her of the shift.

"While we would have welcomed Admiral Harris here as ambassador to Australia, we understand that there are significant challenges for the United States on the Korean Peninsula," Ms. Bishop said.



The consideration of Adm. Harris comes as Mr. Trump prepares for with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Friday at the inter-Korean demilitarized zone.

The question of who would fill the U.S. ambassador's post in Seoul has been a source of drama. The Trump administration, a Georgetown University professor who served in the George W. Bush White House, late last year. But by late January, Mr. Cha was taken out of consideration for reasons that remain unclear. On the day that, Mr. Cha published in which he outlined his differences with the Trump administration over how to handle North Korea. Adm. Harris, who has served as commander of Pacific Command since 2015, was set to retire before agreeing to take the post in Canberra. His confirmation hearing for that post had been scheduled for Tuesday but was postponed. Sending a high-ranking military officer to South Korea could be perceived as a strong signal by Pyongyang, which has used its state mouthpiece to lash out at Adm. Harris several times in recent years.

When Adm. Harris was appointed to the head of Pacific Command, Pyongyang published a statement calling him "a brass hat with a negative view on the DPRK," using the acronym for the country's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

His appointment, the North said at the time, "indicate[s] that the U.S. hostile policy toward the DPRK will get all the more vicious."

In his more recent public statements, Adm. Harris has stressed the importance of diplomacy, that his goal was to "bring Kim Jong Un to his senses, not to his knees." He added: "I do think the State Department has a key role."

"Someone who is that high up in the military, who has a good understanding of the broader strategic context, is probably a good thing," said Jeffrey Robertson, an expert on diplomacy at Yonsei University in Seoul.

In some ways, Mr. Robertson said, Pyongyang may perceive Adm. Harris as less of a threat than other potential candidates, such as a political appointee with close ties to Mr. Trump.

"With a military man, you have someone who is well experienced and more predictable and easy to deal with," he said.

- **LOCATIONS OF VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CENTERS:**

If you are looking for a VA Hospital or Medical Center near you, please click on to the attached site and each hospital and medical center is located under the state you line on.

<https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/allstate.asp>

- **VA ON-LINE INFORMATION SITES:**

- The digital 2017 Benefits Book is here: [https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book.asp](https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp)

- The Benefits Assistance Service (BAS) has a BAS also has a summary of VA benefits available here:

- [https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/benefits\\_summary\\_materials.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/benefits_summary_materials.asp)

- Veteran Data Pocket Card: Attached and at the following link:

- <https://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/pocketcards/fy2018q1.pdf>

- VA Cemetery Factsheet on Weekend Burial:

- [https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/docs/factsheets/NCA\\_Weekend\\_Burial\\_Program.pdf](https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/docs/factsheets/NCA_Weekend_Burial_Program.pdf)

- **Preserving the Past**

If you are looking for military records or honors/awards for yourself or a loved one, this article from Military Times has detailed information on how to obtain what you need:

<https://www.militarytimes.com/veterans/salute-veterans/2017/11/14/preserving-the-past-9-tips-on-obtaining-military-records-medals-for-you-or-a-loved-one/>

- **VA RESUMES APPLICATIONS FOR NEW VETERANS ID CARD:** After temporarily suspending applications for the recently created veterans identification (ID) cards due to high demand, VA is once again accepting applications. The new veterans ID card was created by the *Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015* so veterans who do not have a Veterans Health Identification Card are able to prove their veteran status without having to carry their DD-214. The cards are valid only for proving military service and cannot be used for VA or military benefits. [Apply for a new veterans ID card.](#)

- **Protecting Veterans Against Fraud:** The U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the AARP Fraud Watch Network recently launched Operation Protect Veterans — a nationwide campaign to warn our military and veterans about scams and fraud schemes that target them. A recent survey conducted by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago showed that 16 percent of U.S. veterans have lost money to fraudsters, compared to 8 percent of nonveterans. More worrisome is 80 percent of respondents reported being targeted by scams directly related to their military service or the veterans’ benefits they receive. A major component of the Operation Protect Veterans campaign includes distributing printed brochures at more than 37,000 post offices to warn veterans about the scams. KWVA Chapters that would like additional brochures to distribute to their members can order quantities of 150 or more by sending requests directly to [protectveterans@aarp.org](mailto:protectveterans@aarp.org) Please include the quantity you need and a valid mailing address. Shipping is free.

□ **Personalized Plan Puts Veterans in Control of their Health Care**

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs released the names of 18 facilities designated VA Whole Health Flagship sites, which are spread around the country within the VA health-care system and are focused on empowering and equipping Veterans to take charge of their health and well-being.

As VA shifts from a health-care system focused primarily on treating disease to one guided by a personalized health plan that considers the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and environmental needs of Veterans, the Whole Health System acknowledges that health care involves more than the physical human body.

“VA’s Whole Health approach helps Veterans live their lives to the fullest,” said VA Acting Secretary Robert Wilkie. “By developing a personal health plan that integrates many areas of their lives, Veterans can truly take charge of their well-being and improve their health all around. I’m pleased to recognize these VA facilities that are helping our Veterans do just that.”

The following facilities have been designated Whole Health Flagship Sites:

- VA Boston Health Care System (Massachusetts)
- VA New Jersey Health Care System (East Orange)
- Erie VA Medical Center (Pennsylvania)
- Beckley VAMC (West Virginia)
- W. G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center (Salisbury, North Carolina)
- Atlanta VA Health Care System (Georgia)
- James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital (Tampa, Florida)
- Tennessee Valley Health Care System (Nashville and Murfreesboro)
- Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center (Saginaw, Michigan)
- Tomah VA Medical Center (Wisconsin)
- St. Louis VA Health Care System (Missouri)
- Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System (Little Rock)
- South Texas Veterans Health Care System (San Antonio)
- Salt Lake City VA Medical Center (Utah)
- VA Portland Health Care System (Oregon)
- Tucson VA Medical Center (Arizona)
- VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System (Omaha, Nebraska)
- Palo Alto VA Medical Center (Livermore, California)

In addition to the naming of the flagship facilities, VA also announced new sites that will serve as Whole Health Design Sites beginning in 2018 as well as the VA facilities designated as Whole Health Design Sites in 2016 and 2017.

The VA Whole Health Design Sites listed are focused on implementing specific elements of the Whole Health System and/or expanding their existing efforts to implement a more comprehensive Whole Health capability.

Additionally, every VAMC now offers an Introduction to Whole Health learning opportunity for transitioning service members, family members and currently enrolled Veterans. For information about the Whole Health System, flagship facilities or design sites, visit <https://www.va.gov/patientcenteredcare>.

## **KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL OF REMEMBRANCE:**

Are you aware that the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation (a non-profit Foundation chartered in the District of Columbia is seeking funding to place the names of the 36,574 fallen veterans on a Wall of Remembrance (WOR) to be added to the National Korean War Veterans Memorial in our Nation's Capital, so as to honor all who gave their all during that War? That Wall of Remembrance will finally give credence to the Memorial's theme that "Freedom is not Free." Just as Huntsville honors its veterans from every war, so will the Foundation honor our nation's veterans fallen in battle during the Korean War.

Someone once said that "our nation owes a debt to its fallen heroes that we can never fully repay, but we can honor their sacrifice" and that the Foundation seeks to do. It was just last November when the Foundation's efforts to shepherd legislation through numerous Congresses finally succeeded in having the legislation signed into law (Public Law 114-230) to build that Wall - using solely private, tax-deductible, funding. If you are interested in writing another or follow up story on particularly the Korean War Veterans to let your community know of the Foundation's efforts, please get back in touch with me.

## **KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL OF REMEMBRANCE**

Help us commemorate those who served and sacrificed.

**To make a contribution, please visit:**



**[WWW.KOREANWARVETSMEMORIAL.ORG](http://WWW.KOREANWARVETSMEMORIAL.ORG)**

The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit, tax exempt foundation chartered in the District of Columbia as a 501 C3 Foundation.

Donations made to the Foundation are justified as a tax deduction by the donor

# Bridging Past And Present

## June 24-27, 2018

### Charleston, South Carolina

*Hosted by The Korean War Legacy Foundation, Inc.*

#### DATES

- Check in: June 24th
- Conference: June 25th to 26th
- Check out: June 27th

#### ELIGIBILITY

The conference is open to educators who are willing to either:

- Complete 1 interview of a veteran
- Complete 1 transcript of a veteran interview in the archive.
- Educators who exceed expectations will be considered for a research trip to South Korea.

#### LOCATION

Patriots Point Maritime Naval Museum (Quality Inn)

#### COST

Thanks to the generous support of the KWLF, there is **NO COST** for double occupancy room, meals and conference speakers. Attendees only pay a \$55 registration fee.

- New attendees are eligible for a \$450 airfare scholarship.

## **REGISTER TODAY**

[www.kwdhproject.org/teacher-conference](http://www.kwdhproject.org/teacher-conference)





March 27, 2018

**Special Invitation to Join Korean Government's 70<sup>th</sup> Korean War Anniversary Project**

My name is Jongwoo Han—I am the President of the Korean War Legacy Foundation (KWLF), which is supported by the ROK's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (MPVA). I am writing to request your participation in a special project executed by the KWLF and MPVA.

As you may know, 2020 is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the breakout of the Korean War. To commemorate this special occasion, we are launching a special website that will hold interviews of Korean War Veterans from the 21 countries that participated in the war. These interviews will be conducted in veterans' mother tongues and then translated into Korean.

The KWLF, incorporated as a non-for-profit in New York, has accumulated more than 1,000 in- depth interviews and 6,000 historical memorabilia of KWVs, available at [www.kwvdm.org](http://www.kwvdm.org).

Based on this KWV digital archive, we have created lesson plans, history book chapters, the Korean War Memory Bank (a database of interviews and artifacts), and a special documentary film for teachers and students. All of this will be completed by the end of 2018 and can be, currently, viewed at [www.koreanwarlegacy.org](http://www.koreanwarlegacy.org).

In addition to this 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary project, we would also like to invite History, Social Studies, and other relevant teachers to our annual Teachers Conference, upon your recommendation. The annual conference is about the Korean War and its legacy of Korea's advanced economy and democracy. The foundation will extend invitations, with consideration of full financial support, to those who are interested in this conference. This year, the conference will be held in Charleston, South Carolina, from June 24-27, 2018.

Those who successfully attend this conference can also be considered to join our annual "Teachers Korea Visit Program."

I sincerely hope you help your veterans participate in this special 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary project. Please let me know if you have any questions, and I hope to hear from you soon.

With respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jongwoo Han", written in a cursive style.

Jongwoo Han, Ph.D.  
(315) 480-9427  
jonghan@syr.edu

The Korean War Legacy Foundation presents

# BEYOND THE BRIDGE OF NO RETURN

LEGACY OF A KOREAN WAR VETERAN

*"The best video depicting the legacy I have ever seen. I had to hold the team back many times while viewing it."*

*Tom Stevett, President, Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.*

## DOCUMENTARY PREMIERE SCREENING

Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018

4:30 pm – 7:30 pm

## JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup> SCHEDULE

4:30 PM Doors Open

5:00 PM Introduction

5:20 PM Screening

6:00 PM Panel Discussion

6:30 PM Reception

## DOCUMENTARY SUMMARY

Over the past year, the Korean War Legacy Foundation has been producing a classroom friendly documentary on the legacy of the Korean War. The 40 minute documentary follows Arden Rowley, a Korean War veteran, and his great grandson, Cayden Sherwood, as they travel back to South Korea to remember his wartime experiences while discovering the unique history and miraculous progress the Korean people have achieved over the past 65 years.

## TICKETS

Register for free tickets & more information with Eventbrite

<https://bit.ly/2riePkp>

SPONSORED  
BY:



## DESCRIPTION

Join the Korean War Legacy Foundation for the premiere of its educational documentary on the legacy of the Korean War. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion and reception.

## LOCATION

5757 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite M101  
Los Angeles, California 90036



• **MIA UPDATE:**

--**Army Cpl. Terrell J. Fuller**, captured and killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on April 13, 2018.<http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1507887/soldier-captured-and-killed-during-the-korean-war-accounted-for-fuller-t/>



In February 1951, Fuller was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, supporting Republic of Korea Army attacks against units of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in an area known as the Central Corridor in South Korea. After enduring sustained enemy attacks, the American units withdrew to Wonju, South Korea. It was during this withdrawal that Fuller was reported missing, as of Feb. 12, 1951. Interment services are pending; more details will be released 7-10 day prior to scheduled funeral services. Fuller's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

--**Army Sgt. 1st Class Rufus L. Ketchum**, missing from the Korean War, was accounted for on April 23, 2018. <http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1506969/soldier-missing-from-the-korean-war-accounted-for-ketchum-r/>

In late November 1950, Ketchum was a member of Medical Detachment, 57<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, 31st Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division. Approximately 2,500 U.S. and 700 South Korean soldiers assembled into the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), which was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, when it was attacked by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces. As the Chinese attacks continued, American forces withdrew south. The U.S. Army evacuated approximately 1,500 service members; the remaining soldiers had been either captured, killed or missing in enemy territory. McKinney was reported missing in action on Dec. 6, 1950, after he was last seen in the vicinity of Hagaru-ri. Interment services are pending; more details will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services.

Ketchum's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing in Honolulu, along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

-- **Army Cpl. Albert E. Quintero**, 23, of Los Angeles, whose identification was previously announced, will be buried May 14 in Long Beach, Calif. Quintero was a member of Battery D, 15th Anti-aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Self-propelled Battalion, 7th Infantry Division. In late November 1950, his unit was assembled with South Korean soldiers in the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT) on the east side of the Chosin River, North Korea, when his unit was attacked by Chinese forces. Quintero was among more than 1,000 members of the RCT killed or captured in enemy territory and was declared missing on Dec. 2, 1950.

-- **Navy Hospital Corpsman 1st Class William G. Payne**, 41, of Springfield, Mo., whose identification was previously announced, will be buried May 11 in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. Payne was a medical specialist assigned to the 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. In late November 1950, Payne's unit was fighting against repeat attacks by Chinese forces in the area surrounding Yudam-ni, North Korea. Payne was killed during the fighting on Dec. 1, 1950, and was reportedly buried in a temporary cemetery at Yudam-ni.

- **TELL AMERICA PROGRAM:** The Map Poster of the Korean War continues to be requested. The map is available to those participating in the Tell America Program. If you would like maps for your presentations, please contact:  
Chairman, Alves J. Key, Jr.,  
Tell America Program  
5506 Emerald Park Blvd.  
Arlington, TX 79912  
817-472-7743



**Helpful Services: Phone Numbers and Web Sites**

**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

VA Regional Office (Benefits)	800.827.1000	VA.gov
Office of the Secretary	202.273.4800	VA.gov
Office of the Inspector General	202.461.4702	<a href="https://www.va.gov/oig">https://www.va.gov/oig</a>
Office of the National Cemetery System	202.461.6240	<a href="http://www.cem.va.gov">www.cem.va.gov</a>
Arlington National Cemetery	703.607.8585	<a href="http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil">www.arlingtoncemetery.mil</a>
Board of Veterans Appeals	202.565.5436	<a href="http://www.bva.va.gov">www.bva.va.gov</a>
Central Office (Main Switchboard)	202.273.5400	
Funeral Arrangements & Eligibility	703.607.8585	<a href="http://www.cem.va.gov">www.cem.va.gov</a>
Government Life Insurance	800.669.8477	<a href="http://www.insurance.va.gov">www.insurance.va.gov</a>
Personal Locator	202.273.4950	

**Other Veteran Government Agencies**

Department of Defense	703.545.6700	<a href="https://www.defense.gov">https://www.defense.gov</a>
Veterans Employment & Training Office	202.693.4700	<a href="https://www.dol.gov/vets">https://www.dol.gov/vets</a>
Small Business Administration (VA)	202.205.6600	<a href="https://www.sba.gov">https://www.sba.gov</a>

**Congressional Committees**

Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs	202.224.9126	<a href="http://www.veterans.senate.gov">www.veterans.senate.gov</a>
House Committee on Veterans Affairs	202.225.3527	<a href="https://veterans.house.gov">https://veterans.house.gov</a>
Congressional Rural Health Care Coalition	202.225.6600	<a href="http://www.ruralhealthinfo.org">www.ruralhealthinfo.org</a>

**Other Veteran Related Offices and Agencies**

U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims	202.418.3453	<a href="http://uscourts.cavc.gov">uscourts.cavc.gov</a>
Questions on specific Cases	202.501.5970	
National Organization for Vets Advocates (Attorneys)	877.483.8238	<a href="https://vetadvocates.org">https://vetadvocates.org</a>
USO	888.484.3876	<a href="https://www.uso.org">https://www.uso.org</a>

**POW/MIA**

Department of Defense, POW/MIA Affairs	703.699.1169	<a href="http://www.dpaa.mil/">http://www.dpaa.mil/</a>
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**Incarcerated Veteran**

Federal Bureau of Prisons	202.307.3198	<a href="https://www.bop.gov">https://www.bop.gov</a>
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**PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)**

VA Readjustment Counseling Service	202.273.8967	<a href="http://www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/317">www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/317</a>
VA PTSD Information	802.296.6300	<a href="http://www.ptsd.va.gov">www.ptsd.va.gov</a>
VA PTSD Help – In Crisis – Suicide Prevention	800.273.8255	<a href="http://www.veteranscrisisline.net">www.veteranscrisisline.net</a>
National Center for PTSD – Behavioral Science Division	857.364.4172	<a href="http://www.ptsd.va.gov/PTSD/about/divisions">www.ptsd.va.gov/PTSD/about/divisions</a>

**Locator and Reunion Services**

Army Worldwide Locator	866.771.6357	<a href="http://hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/per_locator.htm">hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/per_locator.htm</a>
Navy Times Locator Services	901.874.3388	<a href="https://www.navytimes.com">https://www.navytimes.com</a>
Personnel Locator	800.333.4636	

**Archives**

Air Force Support Office	202.404.2264	<a href="http://www.afhistory.af.mil">www.afhistory.af.mil</a>
Marine Corps Historical Office	703.432.4877	<a href="http://guides.grc.usmcu.edu/archives">guides.grc.usmcu.edu/archives</a>
National Archives – Military Records	866.272.6272	<a href="http://www.archives.gov/research/military">www.archives.gov/research/military</a>
Naval Historical Center (Operations Archives)	202.433.3170	<a href="http://www.history.navy.mil">www.history.navy.mil</a>
United States Army Center of Military History	866.272.6272	<a href="http://www.history.army.mil">www.history.army.mil</a>

**Women Veterans**

Women in Military Service-America Memorial Foundation	703.533.1155	<a href="http://www.womensmemorial.org">www.womensmemorial.org</a>
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# US ARMY DIRECTORY

<p><b>Arlington National Cemetery:</b> (877) 907-8585 <a href="http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil">http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil</a></p> <p><b>Armed Forces Retirement Home:</b> (800) 422-9988; <a href="http://www.afrh.gov">http://www.afrh.gov</a></p> <p><b>Army &amp; Air Force Exchange Service:</b> <a href="http://www.shopmyexchange.com">www.shopmyexchange.com</a> <b>Army</b></p> <p><b>Echoes:</b> <a href="http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes">http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes</a> Editor's e-mail address: <a href="mailto:ArmyEchoes@mail.mil">ArmyEchoes@mail.mil</a></p> <p><b>Army Echoes Blog:</b> <a href="http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/blog">http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/blog</a></p> <p><b>Army Emergency Relief:</b> (866) 878-6378; <a href="http://www.aerhq.org">http://www.aerhq.org</a></p> <p><b>Army Facebook:</b> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/USArmy">https://www.facebook.com/USArmy</a></p> <p><b>Army Flickr:</b> <a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/soldiersmediacenter/">http://www.flickr.com/photos/soldiersmediacenter/</a></p> <p><b>Army Homepage:</b> <a href="http://www.army.mil">http://www.army.mil</a></p> <p><b>Army Live Blog:</b> <a href="http://armylive.dodlive.mil/">http://armylive.dodlive.mil/</a></p> <p><b>Army mobile phone apps:</b> <a href="http://www.army.mil/mobile/">http://www.army.mil/mobile/</a></p> <p><b>Army Retirement Services:</b> <a href="http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement">http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement</a></p> <p><b>Army Stand To!:</b> <a href="http://www.army.mil/standto/">http://www.army.mil/standto/</a></p> <p><b>Army Lodging Program:</b> (877) 711-8326; <a href="http://www.pal.army.mil">http://www.pal.army.mil</a> Reservations: <a href="http://www.ihgarmyhotels.com">http://www.ihgarmyhotels.com</a></p> <p><b>Army Twitter:</b> <a href="https://twitter.com/USArmy/">https://twitter.com/USArmy/</a></p> <p><b>Army YouTube:</b> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/usarmy">http://www.youtube.com/usarmy</a></p> <p><b>Casualty Assistance Checklist for Retired Soldiers:</b> <a href="http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/docs/Post/CasualtyAssistanceChecklist.pdf">http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/docs/Post/CasualtyAssistanceChecklist.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Chief of Staff, Army Retired Soldier Council:</b> <a href="http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/RetireeCouncil">http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/RetireeCouncil</a></p> <p><b>Combat-Related Special Compensation:</b> (866) 281-3254 opt.4; <a href="https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/CRSC">https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/CRSC</a></p> <p><b>Commissary:</b> <a href="http://www.commissaries.com">http://www.commissaries.com</a></p> <p><b>Concurrent Retired &amp; Disability Pay:</b> (800) 321-1080, <a href="http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crdp.html">http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crdp.html</a></p> <p><b>Consumer Financial Protection Bureau:</b> (855) 411-2372 <a href="http://www.consumerfinance.gov/">http://www.consumerfinance.gov/</a></p> <p><b>Death — Report a Retired Soldier's Death:</b> Call HQDA Casualty Operations Center, (800) 626-3317; from overseas, call (502) 613-3317 collect. <a href="https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reporting%20A%20Death">https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reporting%20A%20Death</a></p> <p><b>DS Logon:</b> <a href="https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/">https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/</a></p> <p><b>Funeral Honors (Military):</b> Army Coordinator: (502) 613-8218 <a href="https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh/">https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh/</a></p> <p><b>ID Card Facilities:</b> (800) 538-9552; Nearest facility: <a href="http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rs/">www.dmdc.osd.mil/rs/</a></p> <p><b>Legal Assistance Locator (Military):</b> <a href="http://legalassistance.law.af.mil/content/locator.php">http://legalassistance.law.af.mil/content/locator.php</a></p> <p><b>Long Term Care Insurance:</b> (800) 582-3337 <a href="http://www.ltcfeds.com/">http://www.ltcfeds.com/</a></p> <p><b>MyArmyBenefits:</b> <a href="http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/">http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/</a> Help Desk: (888) 721-2769 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday - Friday);</p> <p><b>Survivor Outreach Services:</b> (855) 707-2769, <a href="https://www.sos.army.mil/">https://www.sos.army.mil/</a></p>	<p><b>Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act:</b> <a href="http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/usfspa">http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/usfspa</a></p> <p><b>U. S. Army Retired Lapel Button and Badge:</b> Type "Soldier for Life" into the search box at <a href="https://www.shopmyexchange.com">https://www.shopmyexchange.com</a></p> <p><b>Veterans Service Records</b> — Replace DD Form 214, awards: Retired 4/1/1996 or later: Visit <a href="http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/">http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/</a>, Click on "Army White Pages" at the bottom, then log in. Next click on "Click Here to Access Your Army Record." Retired 3/31/1996 or earlier: Call Human Resources Command at (888) 276-9472 or visit <a href="http://vetrecs.archives.gov">http://vetrecs.archives.gov</a> National Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records); 1 Archive Drive. St. Louis, MO 63138-1002</p> <p><b>DFAS</b> (800) 321-1080 (M-F, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST) <a href="http://www.dfas.mil/">http://www.dfas.mil/</a> myPay (888) 332-7411; <a href="https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx">https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx</a> Retiree/Annuitant web page <a href="http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html">http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html</a></p> <p><b>Social Security</b> (800) 772-1213 <a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/">http://www.socialsecurity.gov/</a>; If overseas, contact the American Embassy/consulate, or visit <a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/foreign/phones.html">http://www.socialsecurity.gov/foreign/phones.html</a>.</p> <p><b>Medicare</b> (800) 633-4227 <a href="http://www.medicare.gov">http://www.medicare.gov</a></p> <p><b>TRICARE</b> <a href="http://www.tricare.mil">http://www.tricare.mil</a></p> <p><b>Health Beneficiary Counseling Assistance Coordinator:</b> <a href="http://www.tricare.mil/bcacdcao">http://www.tricare.mil/bcacdcao</a>, or nearest military treatment facility</p> <p><b>TRICARE North:</b> (877) 874-2273; <a href="http://www.hnfs.com">http://www.hnfs.com</a>; CT, DC, DE, IL, IN, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, VA, WI, WV, some ZIPs in IA, MO, TN</p> <p><b>TRICARE South:</b> (800) 444-5445; <a href="http://www.humana-military.com/">http://www.humana-military.com/</a> AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, OK, SC, TN (except 35 TN ZIP codes near Ft Campbell), and TX (except the extreme SW El Paso area)</p> <p><b>TRICARE West:</b> (877) 988-9378; <a href="https://www.uhcmilitarywest.com/">https://www.uhcmilitarywest.com/</a>; AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, IA (except 82 Iowa ZIP codes near Rock Island, IL) KS, MO (except the St. Louis area), MN, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OR, SD, SW TX, UT, WA, WY</p> <p><b>TRICARE Overseas:</b> (888) 777-8343; <a href="http://www.tricare-overseas.com">http://www.tricare-overseas.com</a></p> <p><b>TRICARE for Life:</b> (866) 773-0404; TDD (866) 773-0405 <a href="http://tricare.mil/Plans/HealthPlans/TFL.aspx">http://tricare.mil/Plans/HealthPlans/TFL.aspx</a></p> <p><b>TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery:</b> (877) 363-1296; <a href="http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery/">http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery/</a></p> <p><b>TRICARE Network Pharmacy:</b> (877) 363-1303; <a href="http://www.express-scripts.com">http://www.express-scripts.com</a></p> <p><b>TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan:</b> (888) 838-8737; <a href="http://www.TRDP.org">http://www.TRDP.org</a></p> <p><b>US Family Health Plan:</b> <a href="http://www.usfhp.com/">http://www.usfhp.com/</a></p> <p><b>Armed Forces Recreation Centers</b> <a href="http://www.armymwr.com">http://www.armymwr.com</a></p> <p><b>Hale Koa Hotel, Hawaii:</b> (800) 367-6027; <a href="http://halekoa.com">http://halekoa.com</a></p> <p><b>Edelweiss Resort, Bavaria:</b> 011-49-8821-9440 <a href="http://www.edelweisslodgeandresort.com">http://www.edelweisslodgeandresort.com</a></p> <p><b>Shades of Green, Florida:</b> (888) 593-2242; (407) 824-3665 <a href="http://www.shadesofgreen.org/reservations.htm">http://www.shadesofgreen.org/reservations.htm</a></p> <p><b>Dragon Hill, Korea:</b> 011-822-790-0016 <a href="http://www.dragonhilllodge.com">http://www.dragonhilllodge.com</a></p>
<p><b>Reserve Component Retirements</b> (888) 276-9472 <a href="https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reserve%20Component%20Retirements">https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reserve%20Component%20Retirements</a></p> <p><b>RC Application for Retired Pay:</b> Human Resources Command; ATTN: AHRC-PDR-RCR; 1600 Spearhead Division Ave.; Dept 482; Ft Knox, KY 40122-5402; (888) 276-9472; download the application from: <a href="https://www.hrc.army.mil/Default.aspx?ID=13664">https://www.hrc.army.mil/Default.aspx?ID=13664</a></p> <p><b>Soldiers Magazine:</b> <a href="http://soldiers.dodlive.mil/">http://soldiers.dodlive.mil/</a></p> <p><b>Space-Available Travel:</b> <a href="http://www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site">http://www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site</a></p> <p><b>Soldier for Life on Facebook:</b> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/CSASoldierForLife">www.facebook.com/CSASoldierForLife</a></p>	<p><b>Veterans Affairs (VA) Information</b> <a href="http://www.va.gov">http://www.va.gov</a></p> <p><b>Burial &amp; Memorial Benefits:</b> <a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/">http://www.cem.va.gov/</a> (877) 907-8199</p> <p><b>Benefits and Services:</b> (800) 827-1000 (Retired Soldiers overseas should contact the American Embassy/consulate); TDD (800) 829-4833 <a href="http://benefits.va.gov/benefits/">http://benefits.va.gov/benefits/</a></p> <p><b>GI Bill:</b> (888) 442-4551; <a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/">http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/</a></p> <p><b>Health Care Benefits:</b> (877) 222-8387; <a href="http://www.va.gov/health">http://www.va.gov/health</a></p> <p><b>Insurance:</b> SGLI/VGLI: (800) 419-1473; All other insurance: (800) 669-8477</p>

**Sister Service Publications for Retired Service Members**

**Air Force Afterburner:** <http://www.Retirees.af.mil/afterburner/>

**Coast Guard Evening Colors:** <http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/retnews/>

**Marine Corps Semper Fi:** <https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/> then click Career/Retired Marines, then Semper Fidelis Newsletter

**Navy Shift Colors:** <http://www.navy.mil/> then click Links/Shift Colors

Respectfully submitted,

*James R. Fisher*

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Korean War Veterans Association, USA