



THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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The following monthly update for September 2018 is submitted by the Executive Director of the Korean War Veterans Association of the United States of America.

• **MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT REPORT:** Submitted by Mr. John “Sonny” Edwards

As of 09/24/2018

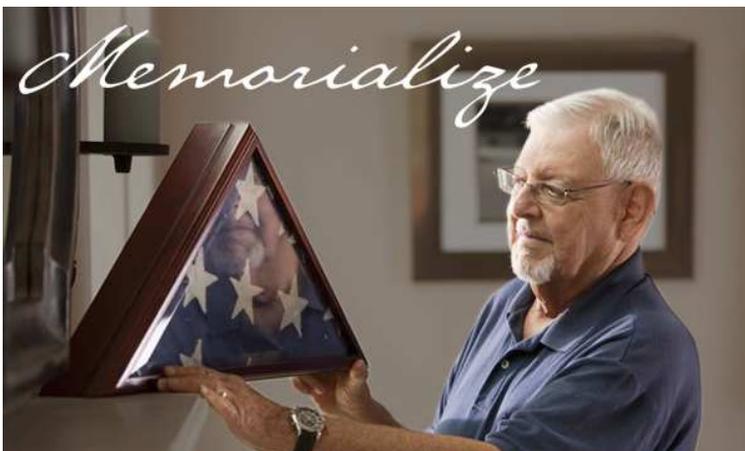
- NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH 24
- NEW MEMBERS TYTD 379
- ACTIVE MEMBERS LYTD 12703
- ACTIVE MEMBERS TYTD 11,829
- DECREASE 874

- DECEASED COMRADES TYTD 1083 AVG/MO 120
- DEPARTMENTS & CHAPTERS WITH 3 PLUS NEW MEMBERS
- CA-5 FL-3 MO-3 TX-3

• **VA-ENROLLED VETERANS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE FLU SHOT:** Now through March 31, 2019, all VA-enrolled veterans are eligible for free annual flu shots at their local Walgreens or Duane Reade pharmacy. While this immunization program is limited to VA patients, Walgreens offers flu shots to most VFW members and their families through other coverage programs, such as TRICARE, Medicare, and many health care plans. [Locate your closest Walgreens or Duane Reade.](#)

• **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)



We are the National Cemetery Administration.

You may already know the [National Cemetery Administration](#) (NCA) cares for 136 VA national cemeteries across the nation, but our work extends beyond that. We lead the way in providing a variety of world class burial and memorial benefits and memorialize our nation’s Veterans in perpetuity. We work to accomplish this in a variety of ways, and all of them involve Veterans, families

and partners like you. Learn how you can help commemorate and share the stories of Veterans to ensure their legacy never dies.

To learn more about burial and memorial benefits

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

- **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
 - 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
 - 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
- **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/>
- **Defense Health Agency Transition:** Beginning on Oct. 1, 2018, the Defense Health Agency will assume responsibility for the administration and management of health care at all military treatment facilities operating under DOD. This consolidation aims to provide a more integrated, efficient, and effective system of readiness to better support the lethality of the force by eliminating many of the redundancies that have historically plagued the military health system (MHS). The transition hopes to significantly increase our nation's ability to provide world class medical support to warfighters, their dependents, and our military retirees.
- **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.](#)
- **MILITARY RETIREES - Retired and annuitant pay**

To help you plan for 2019, below is a list of the days you should expect to receive your retired or annuitant pay. Retired and annuitant pay is due on the first of the month. However, if the first falls on a weekend or holiday, retirees get paid on last business day of the prior month and annuitants get paid on the first business day of month. For example, payment to retirees for

December 2018 will be paid on December 31, 2018. However, annuitants will be paid on January 2, 2019. Please see the chart for each month in 2019.

Entitlement Month	Retired Pay Date	Annuitant Pay Date
September 2018	October 1, 2018	October 1, 2018
October 2018	November 1, 2018	November 1, 2018
November 2018	November 30, 2018	December 3, 2018
December 2018	December 31, 2018	January 2, 2019
January 2019	February 1, 2019	February 1, 2019
February 2019	March 1, 2019	March 1, 2019
March 2019	April 1, 2019	April 1, 2019
April 2019	May 1, 2019	May 1, 2019
May 2019	May 31, 2019	June 3, 2019
June 2019	July 1, 2019	July 1, 2019
July 2019	August 1, 2019	August 1, 2019
August 2019	August 30, 2019	September 3, 2019
September 2019	October 1, 2019	October 1, 2019
October 2019	November 1, 2019	November 1, 2019
November 2019	November 29, 2019	December 2, 2019
December 2019	December 31, 2019	January 2, 2020

KOREAN WAR VET HONORED FOR 75 YEARS OF SERVICE TO BOY SCOUTS



Willis "Buddy" Clark Jr., 87, poses with members of Boy Scout Troop 485 in Angeles City, Philippines, Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018.

By SETH ROBSON | STARS AND STRIPES Published: September 25, 2018

CLARK AIR BASE, Philippines — It's been 75 years since Willis "Buddy" Clark Jr. joined the Boy Scouts of America, but the former Marine is still roughing it with kids young enough to be his great grandsons.

On Saturday, the 87-year-old Korean War veteran was given a medal celebrating his three quarters of a century with the Scouts by Veterans of

Foreign Wars Post 2485 in Angeles City, Philippines.

Since he moved to the Philippines from California a few years ago, the father of five has had a big impact on VFW-sponsored Troop 485, which is mostly composed of children of U.S. veterans and local moms living near what was America's largest overseas military base before U.S. forces left in 1991.

"Most Scouts stop when they turn Eagle," said David Luay, 15, a member of the Angeles City troop. "It's kind of cool to see Mr. Buddy be here with us. If Mr. Buddy can stay in Scouts that long, so can we."

Another Scout, Denis Metherell, 15, said he's impressed by Clark's strength.

"He can walk a long way," he said. "One time he looked like he was having trouble getting up and I tried to help him, but he didn't want help." The old Marine still jumps into the pool to teach swimming and recently climbed the 1,787-foot Mount Samat on the Bataan Peninsula with the boys.



Willis "Buddy" Clark Jr. shows off the medal he received for 75 years of service to the Boy Scouts in Angeles City, Philippines, Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018.

SETH ROBSON/STARS AND STRIPES

Ask about the small scar on his neck and Clark — who said he became a Boy Scout at age 12 and a Marine while still in high school — will tell you about his days as a machine-gunner during the Korean War.

Clark recalled being atop a mountain in 3 feet of snow during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, in which 30,000 United Nations troops fought for 17 days to survive an

onslaught by 120,000 Chinese.

"A sergeant said, 'Do you want to live forever? Fight.' I felt like I was in a John Wayne movie. How do I get out of this thing?"

The weather was so bad that orange flags marking the Marines' position got buried in snow, Clark said. A Marine beside him was strafed by a U.S. plane that mistook him for the enemy.

Clark said he was struck by shrapnel from a Chinese grenade and wounded so bad that other Marines put him in a body bag and loaded him into a helicopter.

"I'm not afraid to die, but I've got things I want to do," he said he prayed during the flight.

Clark said it was only after he managed to poke a finger out of the bag that someone realized he was alive.

"I was drowning in my own blood but I managed to get my finger out and move it," he recalled. "The priest said, 'We've got a live one here' and I went to surgery."

Clark said the tracheotomy that saved his life left him mute for three years, but these days he talks a lot and even belts out tunes on his harmonica from time to time.

When he's not helping the Boy Scouts, Clark is active at a local church where he's a chaplain and looking forward to a visit from his daughter, a former USO show performer who plans to play piano for the congregation, he said.

Modern-day Scouts might spend more time playing with cellphones than hammering in tent pegs but they've earned the old timer's respect.

"This is the finest troop that I've ever been involved with," Clark said of the Angeles City youngsters.

Veterans Identification Card Fact Sheet

On July 20, 2015, the President signed into law the Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015, Public Law (PL) 114-31 which amended Chapter 57 of title 38, United States Code to require that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) issue an identification card to Veterans that request a card and present a DD-214 or other document that validates service in the military, naval or air service in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Veterans can use the VIC with participating vendors in lieu of their DD-214. Implementation of the VIC closes the gap for individuals that do not have an identification card that designates them as a Veteran. Moreover, it allows the VA to ensure Veterans are able to take advantage of the benefits and discounted services available to them without compromising Personal Identifiable Information (PII) that is visible on the DD-214. The VIC does not replace the or serve as an alternate means of identification in place of the Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC) or retirement card issued by the Department of Defense, or other state or federal identification highlighting their Veteran status. Veterans who have served honorably will be able to apply for a VIC online using [Vets.gov](https://www.vets.gov) or [AccessVA](https://www.accessva.gov).

Key Facts:

- On November 29, 2017, VA launched the Veterans Identification Card (VIC) Program.
- Veterans can submit an electronic application for the VIC using [Vets.gov](https://www.vets.gov) or [AccessVA](https://www.accessva.gov). To sign in, they can use their ID.me account or the same log-in that they use for their eBenefits account (DS Logon).
- Individuals that have a character of discharge type of Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) are eligible for a VIC.
- Individuals with a Dishonorable, Other than Honorable conditions or Bad Conduct discharge are not eligible for a VIC.
- The VIC can be presented to Vendors for discounted goods and services without compromising Personal Identifiable Information (PII) that is visible on the DD-214. Vendor's acceptance of the VIC is voluntary and does not constitute an endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the VA.
- The VIC does not reflect entitlement to any benefits administered by the VA, DoD, or any other federal department or agency.
- The VIC will serve as proof of service for Veterans who do not have a form of identification that designates them as a Veteran.
- The VIC is not meant to duplicate Veteran identification cards currently issued by the VA, DoD, or state department or agency.

How to Apply for a VIC

- Veterans can apply for a VIC using [Vets.gov](https://www.vets.gov) or [AccessVA](https://www.accessva.gov)

Explanation of Initiative

- The VIC can be used in lieu a DD-214 and will provide Veterans who served a minimum obligated time in service, but did not meet the retirement or medical discharge threshold with a more portable and secure alternative for proof of service.

VIC FAQ's

Q. What is the Veteran Affairs identification card (VIC)?

A. On July 20, 2015, the President signed into law the "Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015". This Act allows eligible Veterans to be issued an identification card directly from VA.

Q. How can the VIC card be used?

A. The VIC can be presented to Vendors for discounted goods and services without compromising Personal Identifiable Information (PII) that is visible on the DD-214. Vendor's acceptance of the VIC is voluntary and does not constitute an endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the VA.

Q. Is there eligibility criteria in order to qualify for the VIC?

A. Yes, any Veteran who served in the Armed Forces (includes: active Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines as well as Reserve Component, National Guard, or Coast Guard) and have a character of discharge type of Honorable, General (Under Honorable Conditions) may request the VIC. Veterans Affairs will review eligibility to ensure a Department of Defense form DD-214 or other official document of discharge is present and a character of discharge type is annotated describing the service of the Veteran.

Q. Are individuals that served in the Reserves, National Guard, or Coast Guard eligible for a VIC?

A. Individuals that served in the Army Reserve, the Navy Reserve, the Marine Corps Reserve, the Air Force Reserve, the Coast Guard Reserve, the Army National Guard of the United States, or the Air National Guard of the United States qualify for a VIC if they received a DD-214 or other approved document of discharge and completed their obligated time in service.

Q. Are individuals that have an Unknown or Uncharacterized discharge status eligible for a VIC?

A. Individuals with an uncharacterized or unknown discharge status may be eligible. They will have to submit a copy of their DD-214 so that we can verify the nature of discharge and determine eligibility.

Q. I served in Army from 5/11/2005 - 5/10/2009 and Navy from 5/11/2009 - 3/18/2011. However, when I was discharged from the Navy in 2009, I received a dishonorable discharge. Am I still eligible for a VIC?

A. No, if you have multiple segments of service that are not all honorable or general (under honorable conditions) you are not eligible for a VIC.

Q. Are all individuals that have VA benefits automatically eligible for a VIC?

A. No, the two are not the same. VA can render a Character of Discharge Determination on discharges that are not Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) and can assign limited benefits to an individual. VA cannot change the discharge of record on the actual DD-214 and that is the discharge field that determines VIC eligibility.

Q. Will the Veteran be required to be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) in order to verify eligibility for VIC?

A. No, not all Veterans retain their DEERS account after they are discharged. All active duty and retirees are automatically kept enrolled in DEERS. A VIC applicant does not necessarily need to have a DEERS account or be eligible for a DEERS account. It is required if they need to use a DS Logon. However, ID.me does not require that same system verification and individuals can access the application from there. If the Veteran has a DEERS account, they need to ensure it is updated with current information before they try to use their DS Logon to access Vets.gov or AccessVA.

Applicants can update their DEERS information using the information below:

- Visit your personnel office or contact the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office at 800-538-9552. You can find your nearest personnel office at: <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/>.
- Visit the DEERS website at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/bwe/indexAction.do>.
- Go online to TRICARE to update your information: <http://www.tricare.mil/DEERS>.

Q. Will the VIC give a Veteran access to any other benefits, goods, or services that they don't already get with their Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC); DoD retired identification card or state-issued identification with a Veteran designation?

A. No, the VIC does not reflect entitlement to any benefits administered by the VA, DoD, or any other federal department or agency. The VIC will serve as proof of service for Veterans who do not have a form of identification that designates them as a Veteran. The VIC is not meant to duplicate Veteran identification cards currently issued by the VA, DoD, or other federal or state department or agency. If a Veteran already has a VHIC, retirement card issued by DoD, or state issued identification with a Veteran designation they do not need to apply for a VIC. The VIC does not qualify individuals for additional benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and does not serve as proof for any benefits to which they may be entitled

Q. How can Veterans submit a request for a VIC?

A. Veterans can submit requests for a VIC on [Vets.gov](https://www.vets.gov) or [AccessVA](https://www.accessva.gov)

Q. How do I sign in to Vets.gov?

A. You can sign in with your DS Logon account (used to access eBenefits or MilConnect)—and we'll connect your account to Vets.gov through ID.me. ID.me is our trusted technology partner in helping to keep your personal information safe. If you have a basic or advanced (non-premium) account, you'll need to verify your identity through ID.me. We can also help you use ID.me to add an extra layer of security to your account (called 2-factor authentication). If you don't have a DS Logon account, you can create an account for Vets.gov through ID.me.

Q. What if the Veteran does not have an ID.me account, can they still apply for the VIC?

A. Yes, the same log-in used for eBenefits or DS Logon, can be used to log into their Vets.gov or AccessVA account.

Q. For Veterans without the ability to submit an electronic application, is there another way to submit a VIC request?

A. We encourage all Veterans interested in applying for the Veteran ID card to visit Vets.gov or AccessVA. At this time those are the only methods available for applying for the card.

Q. Will the VIC allow me to access military post or installations?

A. No, the VIC will not grant you access to military installations.

Q. Will the VA charge a fee to issue the VIC?

A. Veterans will not be asked to pay for the Veteran ID card. To ensure security of Veteran information, the application process is managed within the VA and the printing and shipping costs for the card are covered through a public-private partnership agreement.

Q. Is the list of vendors that offer discounts to Veterans available online?

A. Promotional discounts and services offered to Veterans may vary by location. Check with your local retailer to verify if they offer discounted goods or services to Veterans.



VIC Application Process

Before You Start

Make sure you have a valid copy of your state or federal issued ID, a personal photo to appear on your card, and a copy of your last/final DD-214 or other official military discharge document that reflects an Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) character of discharge.

Part I: Sign In/Set up Your Account

1. Visit <https://www.vets.gov/veteran-id-card> and sign into your Vets.gov account.
2. Sign in by selecting one of the following options:



3. After you are logged into your account click  and proceed to Part III.

Part II: Verify Your Identity

1. If you used your DS Logon account to sign into Vets.gov and you have a basic or advanced (non-premium) account, you'll need to verify your identity through ID.me to finish setting up your account.
2. If you used ID.me to sign into your Vets.gov account and the **"Apply for VA ID Card"** link is "grayed out" you must click **"Verify your Identity"** to finish setting up your account.
3. After your identity is verified you will be directed to the VIC site.

Part III: Complete Your VIC Request

1. Verify your personal information.
2. Upload a valid copy of your state or federal issued ID, a personal photo, and a copy of your DD-214 (if needed).
3. Once you have confirmed that your information is accurate and uploaded all required documents, click



Are You Having Issues Submitting a VIC Request? We Want to Help!

If you experienced issues submitting your VIC request using Vets.gov, you can use [AccessVA](#) to submit your application using your DS Logon or ID.me username and password.

Send an email to vic@va.gov if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Press Release

Thursday, September 27, 2018
For Immediate Release

Mark Hinkle, Acting Press Officer
press.office@ssa.gov

Social Security, OIG Expand National Anti-Fraud Program Three New Disability Investigations Units Established

The Social Security Administration and its Office of the Inspector General (OIG) today announced three new Cooperative Disability Investigations (CDI) Units recently opened across the country. As part of the nationwide CDI Program, the new units will identify, investigate, and prevent Social Security disability fraud throughout their respective states. The new CDI units opened in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Honolulu, Hawaii; and Indianapolis, Indiana.

The CDI Program is one of Social Security's most successful anti-fraud initiatives, contributing to the integrity of Federal disability programs. CDI brings together personnel from Social Security, its OIG, State Disability Determination Services (DDS), and local law enforcement agencies to analyze and investigate suspicious or questionable Social Security disability claims, to help resolve questions of potential fraud *before* benefits are ever paid. CDI Unit efforts help disability examiners make informed decisions, ensure payment accuracy, and generate significant taxpayer savings, for both Federal and State programs.

“Social Security is committed to combating fraud and preserving the public’s trust in our programs,” said Nancy A. Berryhill, Acting Commissioner of Social Security. “As we open the three new CDI units, let us remember the important work they do. The CDI program plays a critical role in detecting and preventing fraud, helping to ensure benefits are paid only to the people who are eligible. This collaboration between Social Security, the OIG, and local law enforcement helps save taxpayer money and ensures the integrity of our programs.”

The CDI Program consists of 43 units covering 37 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Social Security and OIG have opened several offices in the last few years as they work together to provide CDI coverage for all 50 states by 2022, as mandated by the *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015*.

“CDI has a long, successful track record of identifying and preventing disability fraud and abuse,” said Acting Inspector General Gale Stallworth Stone. “We’re pleased to partner with Social Security, the DDSs, and local law enforcement agencies across the country, to combat fraud and promote the integrity of Social Security’s disability programs.”

Since 1997, when Social Security and OIG established CDI, its efforts have contributed to \$3.9 billion in projected savings to Social Security’s programs, and \$2.9 billion in projected savings to other Federal and State programs. For more information, please [visit the OIG website](#) and Social Security’s anti-fraud website at www.socialsecurity.gov/antifraudfacts/.

To get more Social Security news, follow the Press Office on Twitter [@SSAPress](#).

- **MEDICAL IMAGES AVAILABLE ON MYHEALTHEVET:** Medical images such as mammograms, CT scans, MRIs and X-rays can now be viewed, downloaded, and printed through MyHealtheVet, under VA Medical Images and Reports. Go to the following site to find out more:

<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/ss20180418-medical-images-available-on-my-healthvet?inheritRedirect=true>

- **TRUMP SIGNS BILL TO FUND VETERANS PROGRAMS:** Today, President Trump signed the first appropriations bill of the year. The \$147.5 billion package includes full year appropriations for VA to start implementation of the KWVA-supported *VA MISSION Act of 2018*, streamline the process for appealing decisions on benefit claims, reduce the rate of suicide among veterans, and modernize its electronic health care record. Full year appropriations for veterans' programs was one of several important issues the KWVA urged members of Congress to finish before the end of the year, during the VFW's Fall Legislative Conference. Read the [Joint Explanatory Statement for H.R. 5895](#).

- **VA SAIL REPORT SCORECARD SHOWS MAJORITY OF VA MEDICAL CENTERS HAVE IMPROVED OVER PAST YEAR IN QUALITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO VETERANS**

WASHINGTON — Using a web-based report scorecard that measures, evaluates and benchmarks quality and efficiency at its medical centers, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently released data that showed significant improvements at the majority of its health care facilities.

Compared with data from the same period a year ago, the July 2018 release of VA's Strategic Analytics for Improvement and Learning (SAIL) report showed 103 (71 percent) VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) have improved in overall quality — with the largest gains seen in areas where there were VA-wide improvement initiatives, such as mortality, length of stay and avoidable adverse events. Seven (5 percent) VAMCs had a small decrease in quality.

“This is a major step in the right direction to improving our quality of services for our Veterans,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “Over the past year, we were able to identify our problems and implement solutions to fixing the issues at 71 percent of our facilities. I'm extremely proud of our employees and the progress they have made to raise VA's performance for our nation's heroes.”

Additionally, of the 15 medical centers placed under the Strategic Action for Transformation program (StAT), an initiative that monitors high-risk medical centers and mobilizes resources to assist the facilities, 33 percent (five medical centers) are no longer considered high-risk and 73 percent (11 medical centers) show meaningful improvements since being placed under StAT in January 2018.

The quarterly SAIL report, which has been released publicly since 2015, assesses 25 quality metrics and two efficiency and productivity metrics in areas such as death rate, complications and patient satisfaction, as well as overall efficiency and physician capacity at 146 VAMCs. It is used as an internal learning tool for VA leaders and personnel to pinpoint and study VAMCs with high quality and efficiency scores, both within specific measured areas and overall. The data is also used to identify best practices and develop strategies to help troubled facilities improve.

- **VA ACHIEVES HISTORIC GOAL BY DELIVERING 81,000 APPEALS DECISIONS TO VETERANS IN FISCAL 2018** WASHINGTON — On Sept. 14, two weeks ahead of schedule, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) exceeded its goal to deliver 81,000 appeals decisions of disability benefits and services to Veterans in fiscal year 2018 — 28,000 more decisions than the previous year.

In doing so, VA's [Board of Veterans' Appeals](#) provided thousands of Veterans with critical, life-changing decisions. “The Board's historic achievement delivering results to Veterans and their families reflects VA's hard work and commitment to getting it right for our Veterans under the leadership of President Trump,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “Together, we have achieved significant results for our nation's Veterans, as each of the more than 81,000 decisions produced by the Board can make a real difference in their lives and for their families.”

The achievements come amid focused Board efforts to prepare for the full implementation of the [Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017](#), which is transforming a historically complex appeals process into a simple, timely and transparent process providing Veterans with increased choice and control. Veterans who disagree with the initial claim decision have [three options](#) under the Act:

1. Higher Level Review at the office of original jurisdiction
2. Supplemental Claim with the office of original jurisdiction
3. Appeal to the Board

Once a Veteran appeals to the Board, he or she remains in control of the process by choosing one of [three dockets](#) best suited to the appeal:

1. Direct Review Docket
2. Evidence Docket
3. Hearing Docket

To support the various organizations preparing to help Veterans navigate the new appeals process, the chairman of the Board and her staff led numerous training sessions and panels held by national, state and local Veteran Service Organizations and private legal organizations.

To maintain its momentum, the Board hired 186 new attorneys this fiscal year, and plans to add 30 more to the team by Sept. 30. Additionally, the Board is joining the [Military Spouse Employment Partnership](#) in October.

• **NORTH KOREAN LEADER AGREES TO DISMANTLE MAIN NUCLEAR SITE IF US TAKES SIMILAR ACTION**

By: Eric Talmadge, *The Associated Press* and Foster Klug, *The Associated Press*



Command post facilities of North Korea's nuclear test site are exploded in Punggye-ri, North Korea, on May 24, 2018. This week's inter-Korean summit talks ended with a set of sweeping agreements on denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, reducing a military standoff and other reconciliation issues. (Korea Pool/Yonhap via AP, File)

PYONGYANG, North Korea — The leaders of North and South Korea announced a wide range of agreements Wednesday which they said were a major step toward peace on the Korean Peninsula, but with a big condition for denuclearization. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un stated he would permanently dismantle his main nuclear complex only if the United States takes corresponding measures.

Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in agreed in their second day of meetings to an ambitious program meant to tackle soaring tensions last year that had many fearing war as the North tested a string of increasingly powerful weapons.

Their agreements include more buffer zones to reduce tensions, and a no-fly zone above the military demarcation line that bisects the two Koreas.

Kim promised to accept international inspectors to monitor the closing of a key missile test site and launch pad and to visit Seoul soon.

But while containing several tantalizing offers, their joint statement appeared to fall short of the major steps many in Washington have been looking for — such as a commitment by Kim to provide a list of

North Korea's nuclear facilities, a solid step-by-step timeline for closing them down, or an agreement to allow international inspectors to assess progress or discover violations.

The question is whether it will be enough for U.S. President Donald Trump to pick up where Moon has left off.

- **US READY TO RESTART TALKS WITH NORTH KOREA IMMEDIATELY, DENUCLEARISATION TO BE COMPLETED BY EARLY 2021: POMPEO**

The United States is ready to restart negotiations with North Korea "immediately", US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Wednesday (Sept 19), with the aim of completing North Korea's denuclearisation by January 2021.

Mr Pompeo said he had invited North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho to meet in New York next week, where they are both due to attend the United Nations gathering of world leaders.

The US has also invited North Korean representatives to meet the US Special Representative for North Korea in Vienna at the "earliest opportunity", Mr Pompeo said.

He cited North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's decision to "complete the previously announced dismantlement of the Tongchang-ri site in the presence of US and international inspectors as a step towards the final fully verified denuclearisation of North Korea".

"On the basis of these important commitments, the United States is prepared to engage immediately in negotiations to transform US-DPRK relations," Mr Pompeo said in a statement, referring to the North's official name Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

North Korea's pledge at a summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in Pyongyang drew an enthusiastic response from US President Donald Trump, even though some US officials and experts fear a ploy to weaken Washington's resolve and its alliance with Seoul.

- **VA NATIONAL CEMETERIES WELCOME NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS PROVIDING TREE-AND LANDSCAPE-CARE SERVICES**

WASHINGTON — Today the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced that its [National Cemetery Administration](#) is partnering with more than 2,000 green-industry professionals across the country Sept. 19 to host "[Saluting Branches: Arborists United for Veteran Remembrance](#)," an opportunity for tree-care professionals to help maintain and beautify VA cemeteries.

"The work and volunteerism of Saluting Branches shows everyone has unique skills and abilities that can contribute to recognizing and honoring the sacrifice of America's Veterans," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "We partner with communities and organizations across the nation to help build the national profile and importance of honoring Veterans through memorialization."

The volunteers will donate a full day's work, including pruning and trimming, to 53 Veterans cemeteries around the country as a way of honoring Veterans and their families. Of the 53 cemeteries hosting volunteers, 36 are VA national cemeteries. Last year, volunteers donated an estimated \$4 million in services.

"We developed Saluting Branches as a green-industry project to honor Veterans and improve the environment through the science of tree care," said Deb Peterson, Saluting Branches coordinator. "This is an important event for the arborist community and allows us to give back to those who have served us."

Rainbow Treecare, located in Minnetonka, Minnesota, created the Saluting Branches Day of Service at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

VA operates 136 national cemeteries and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites in 40 states and Puerto Rico. More than 4 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict, are buried in VA's national cemeteries. VA also provides funding to establish, expand, improve and maintain 111 Veterans cemeteries in 48 states and territories including tribal trust lands, Guam, and Saipan.

For Veterans not buried in a VA national cemetery, VA provides headstones, markers or medallions to commemorate their service. In 2017, VA honored more than 361,892 Veterans and their loved ones with memorial benefits in national, state, tribal and private cemeteries.

KIM JONG UN, MOON JAE-IN SIGN 'PEACE' AGREEMENT AT KOREAN SUMMIT; KIM PROMISES TO VISIT SEOUL

South Korean President Moon Jae-in arrived in North Korea on Tuesday for his third and possibly most challenging summit yet with leader Kim Jong Un. Moon hopes to break an impasse in talks with the U.S. over the North's denuclearization. (Sept. 18) AP



(Photo: Korea Broadcasting System via AP)

SEOUL — South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un signed a broad agreement on Wednesday morning in Pyongyang that both said would usher in a new era of peace on the Korean Peninsula.

At a news conference held in Pyongyang's state guesthouse Paekhwawon, President Moon said that North Korea will permanently dismantle its Donchang-ri missile engine test site and launch pad and would allow international inspectors to observe. He added that the North would take the further step of closing its Yongbyon nuclear facility if the United States responded with further concessions. "The South and the North also discussed denuclearization steps for the first time," Moon said of his talks with Kim in a joint press conference held at the North's state guesthouse Paekhwawon. In a late-night tweet, President Donald Trump lauded Kim's diplomacy. "Kim Jong Un has agreed to allow Nuclear inspections, subject to final negotiations, and to permanently dismantle a test site and launch pad in the presence of international experts," Trump said. "In the meantime there will be no Rocket or Nuclear testing."

ARMY FORCES COMMAND BOSS TAPPED TO BE HEAD OF US TROOPS IN SOUTH KOREA

Gen. Robert Abrams will submit to questioning from the Senate Armed Service Committee in late September, according to the committee's hearing schedule, on his nomination to command U.S. Forces-Korea.

The Senate received Abrams' nomination in June, which includes the titles of United Nations Command and Combined Forces Command in Korea, as well. If confirmed, Abrams would succeed Gen. Vincent Brooks, who has led USFK since 2016.

Abrams would take command as the U.S. continues denuclearization talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, an ongoing effort after the historic summit earlier this year between President Donald Trump and Kim.



Gen. Robert Abrams, commanding general of Army Forces Command, speaks during the Association of the U.S. Army meeting. (Mike Morones for Army Times)

annual

Also scheduled to appear before the Senate Armed Services Committee is Navy Vice Adm. Craig Faller, who is being nominated to lead U.S. Southern Command.

Rumors first began swirling about Abrams' move earlier this year. A local [newspaper in South Korea](#) reported in May that Abrams was being considered for the post.

Abrams has led Army Forces Command, which is in charge of preparing units based in the contiguous United States to deploy abroad, since August 2015.

The career armor officer graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1982 and has commanded units in the now-inactive 3rd Armored Division, the 1st Cavalry Division and the 3rd Infantry Division.

GEN. ABRAMS: JOINT US-SOUTH KOREA MILITARY EXERCISES A TOP PRIORITY

WASHINGTON — Gen. Robert B. Abrams, nominated to become commander of U.S. Forces Korea, told a panel of senators on Tuesday that the pause in U.S.-South Korea military exercises could eventually hurt troop readiness and would be a top priority under his watch.

Abrams, who could also be selected to lead United Nations Command and Combined Forces Command in Korea if confirmed, made the comments during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing to vet him for these jobs. The joint exercises were stopped following the June summit in Singapore between President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un, a move that drew criticism that the lack of training would hurt military readiness on the peninsula.

“That’s hard to judge, and to be honest, if confirmed, this will be one of my top priorities when I get on the ground... to do my own personal assessment,” Abrams, who now leads U.S. Army Forces Command, told the committee. “I know from my 36-plus years of service about what a shelf life is of readiness of our forces, to be able to conduct certain activities. But I need to apply that judgement based on what I assess when I get on the ground.”

Abrams, who has commanded U.S. Army Forces Command since August 2015, was nominated this year to command U.S. Forces Korea, replacing Gen. Vincent Brooks, who is departing the post after two years.

Abrams has been vocal that a pause in the joint exercises on the Korean peninsula could eventually hurt readiness. “I think that there was certainly degradation to the readiness of the force for the combined forces. That’s a key exercise to maintain continuity and to continue to practice our interoperability,” Abrams said of the pause. “And so there was a slight deviation, but I have great confidence” in the mitigation plan until the next series of exercises are planned. Abrams said he has seen some of the mitigation plan, which includes participation at smaller training exercises, but not at the same scope of the large-scale ones.

Following the June 12 summit in Singapore, Trump stunned U.S. lawmakers, allies and Pentagon officials with an announcement halting military exercises with U.S. ally South Korea.

The United States and South Korea conduct two major sets of military exercises each year — Foal Eagle and Key Resolve in the spring and Ulchi Freedom Guardian, which was slated for August. They also hold smaller training exercises throughout the year.

“While tensions on the Korean peninsula has been reduced since the Singapore summit, the situation remains precarious and dangerous,” Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., ranking Democrat for the Senate Armed Services Committee, told Abrams. “Despite President Trump’s assertions to the contrary, there remains a significant military threat to the United States and its allies.”

Sen. Gary Peters, D-Mich., questioned Abrams on how long it could take for the lack of training to have an impact on troop readiness.

“I’m sure you realize a large-scale exercise is really necessary in order to fully rehearse these plans,” Peters said. But “how long and how many cycles of exercises can be skipped before you really start seeing a significant decline in readiness?” Abrams, a 1982 West Point graduate who was commissioned as an armor officer and has commanded troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, referred Peters to his response that he needed to be on the ground to know. He also lauded the pause, for now.

“I think the suspension of the exercise this past August and September, I would say was a prudent risk if we’re willing to make the effort to change the relationship with [North Korea],” Abrams said earlier in the hearing. “Something has to adjust in my view to be able to start to build trust and confidence as we move forward in the relationship.”

Abrams has led Army Forces Command, the largest organization in the service, since August 2015 and in that role is responsible for ensuring combat soldiers are trained and prepared to deploy.

Abrams’ other previous assignments included serving as the senior military adviser to then-Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel. He commanded the Army’s 3rd Infantry Division, including a deployment to Afghanistan. Before that, he commanded the Army’s National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

“General Abrams, you have been nominated to lead our forces in Korea at a time of critical importance to our national security when it comes to North Korea,” said Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., who was leading his first official hearing Tuesday as chairman of the Armed Services Committee, following Sen. John McCain, the Arizona Republican who died in August following a 13-month battle with brain cancer.

Abrams is the third member of his immediate family to become a four-star Army general. His father was Creighton Abrams Jr., who commanded all American forces in Vietnam and later served as the Army's chief of staff. His brother John Abrams, who died in August, commanded the Army's Training and Doctrine Command before retiring in 2002. Another of Abrams' brothers, Creighton Abrams III, attained the rank of brigadier general in the Army. Recently, Abrams made headlines for his role in serving as the convening authority over then-Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's court-martial in the fall on desertion and misbehavior charges. In June, Abrams approved Bergdahl's sentence handed down in November of a dishonorable discharge, reduction in rank to private, and forfeiture of \$10,000 in pay after the soldier pleaded guilty, admitting he left his post in Afghanistan in 2009 before being captured by the Taliban. Abrams is well known in the Army for his use of Twitter to interact with soldiers on a range of issues.

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U.S. President Donald Trump shakes hands with South Korean leader Moon Jae-in as they hold a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Monday. | REUTERS
[ASIA PACIFIC / POLITICS](#)

• **TRUMP SAYS SECOND KIM MEETING A GO AS MOON CALLS U.S. PRESIDENT ‘ONLY PERSON’ WHO CAN RID NORTH KOREA OF NUKES**

U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday that a second meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on denuclearization would happen “in the not-too-distant future,” as the South’s leader heaped praise on the American president, calling him “the only person who can solve this problem.”

Speaking during a televised meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in New York, Trump said there had been “tremendous progress” on the nuclear issue, and that a second summit will be held under a “similar format” as his landmark June meeting with Kim in Singapore, but likely in a different location.

“We’ll be having a second summit with Chairman Kim in the not too distant future,” Trump said. “I think a lot of progress is being made. I see tremendous enthusiasm on behalf of Chairman Kim for making a deal.”

Washington’s denuclearization talks with Pyongyang had hit a snag in the more than three months since the Singapore summit, but plans for a second meeting, as well as a series of tantalizing proposals by Kim at last week’s inter-Korean summit with Moon, have injected fresh momentum into the negotiations.

During their meeting Monday, Moon also highlighted what he said was the indispensable role Trump has played in the nuclear talks.

“Thanks to your bold decision and new approach, we are in the process of solving a problem that no one has been able to solve in the decades past,” Moon said of Trump.

“Chairman Kim also repeatedly conveyed his unwavering trust and expectations for you, while expressing his hope to meet you soon to swiftly conclude the denuclearization process with you, because you are, indeed, the only person who can solve this problem.”

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Monday that a Kim-Trump summit was needed considering that U.S. had “been at this the other way an awfully long time and failed

“We tried to do details. We tried to do step for step. We tried to do trade for trade. Each of those failed,” he said. “We’re bringing the two senior leaders, the individuals who can actually make the decisions that will move this process forward,” in hopes they can make a breakthrough.

Frank Aum, a former senior Pentagon adviser on North Korea now with the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, lauded Moon’s approach and said it had “made a big difference.”

“I think it’s preferable to try to appeal to President Trump’s singular negotiation skills rather than making another option, such as a military measure, more salient,” Aum said.

“Flattery is probably preferable to mockery in diplomacy. I think Moon is correct to point that President Trump’s unconventional approach — meeting with Kim directly more so than ‘maximum pressure’ — has made a big difference

in relations with North Korea,” he added, referring to the U.S. policy of heaping economic and diplomatic pressure on Pyongyang.

Last week’s inter-Korean summit, the third this year between Kim and Moon, was also widely seen as an attempt by the two Koreas to bring the U.S. back to the negotiating table.

During those talks, the North reportedly agreed to “permanently” decommission a key missile facility under the watch of “experts from relevant countries” and said it is willing to close its main Nyongbyon nuclear complex if the United States takes “reciprocal measures.”

Asked about the prospect of a second Trump-Kim summit meeting, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said in Tokyo that Japan will seize on talks between Trump and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe slated for Thursday to “thoroughly discuss” North Korea policies.

“What’s important is that North Korea’s commitment to complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, as well as an agreement between Washington and Pyongyang, will be implemented thoroughly and swiftly,” Suga said.

The top government spokesman also said Abe, upon talking one-one-one with Trump over dinner Sunday, relayed to the president messages from families of Japanese citizens abducted by North Korean agents in 1970s and ’80s. Trump, according to Suga, listened to Abe with “great enthusiasm.”

Meanwhile, in an apparent attempt to underscore Kim’s seriousness about relinquishing his country’s nuclear weapons, Moon on Monday spotlighted the inter-Korean summit last week as evidence of the North Korean leader’s support for this process.

“In particular, it’s hugely significant that Chairman Kim personally expressed his commitment to denuclearization in front of the world media, and that I highlighted once again the denuclearization agreement reached with Chairman Kim in front of 150,000 citizens of Pyongyang,” Moon said, referring a speech last Wednesday in the North Korean capital after watching a mass games performance with Kim.

That emotional address — the first-ever speech in the North by a president from the South — touched on reunification and even mentioned “a nuclear weapon-free and nuclear threat-free” Korean Peninsula — a reference to April’s historic Panmunjom Declaration.

“Now, North Korea’s decision to relinquish its nuclear program has been officialized to a degree that not even those within North Korea can reverse,” he added.

Pyongyang has in the past made similar commitments to giving up its nuclear program, including in a September 2005 joint statement released during the six-party talks in which the North vowed to work toward “verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner.”

But however enticing the inter-Korean summit proposals appeared, details were scant and it was unclear what commensurate actions Pyongyang might be expecting from Washington.

A spokesman for South Korea’s presidential Blue House said later Monday that Moon and Trump had discussed possible ways to reward North Korea for denuclearization measures, apparently in response to its self-imposed missile- and nuclear-test moratorium and the dismantling of its sole known nuclear test site earlier this year.

“The leaders agreed to continue communicating closely about corresponding measures,” South Korea’s Yonhap news agency quoted spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom as saying.

In a hint at a possible three-way summit involving Moon, the spokesman also said the two leaders had held in-depth discussions on the date and location of the second Trump-Kim meeting.

Moon had earlier insisted that a declaration formally ending the Korean War, a step ahead of a formal peace treaty, would be one possible reciprocal measure for the North, saying it may provide some measure of a security assurance to the Kim regime. Fighting in the 1950-53 war was halted by an armistice, which has governed the conflict ever since. The North has in recent weeks urged the U.S. to issue such a declaration, calling one “a prerequisite for peace.”

Pyongyang has also been seeking relief from crippling U.S. and international sanctions, though Washington has said it remains too early in the process for such a move.

“Now is not the time to ease pressure,” Pompeo said Monday.

Still, both Trump and Kim — who have touted their personal relationship — have voiced support for a second meeting, where those issues will likely be taken up.

“Chairman Kim has been really very open and terrific, frankly,” Trump said. “And I think he wants to see something happen.”

The U.S. leader said Pompeo was working on putting together a summit, and the top American diplomat himself said Monday that he would likely be traveling to Pyongyang “before the end of the year,” to continue discussions with his North Korean counterparts.

Pompeo said that while he’s optimistic the North will make good on its pledge to denuclearize, it would be “foolish” to set a certain date for how long the U.S. will leave the door open for talks.

“Make no mistake, the conversations are important, they’re putting the opportunity to complete the denuclearization in place. We’ll continue at every level to have those conversations,” he said, adding that there remains work to be done in the region and that it will be “some time” before complete denuclearization takes place.

The top U.S. diplomat had said in a statement last week welcoming the results of the inter-Korean summit that U.S. talks with the North over efforts to end its nuclear weapons program will be completed by January 2021, before Trump’s first term ends.



- **MIA UPDATE:**

ARMY 1ST LT. HERMAN L. FALK. Falk, 22, of New York, New York, was accounted for on August 14.

In February 1951, Falk was a member of Company B, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, supporting Republic of Korea Army attacks against units of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in the vicinity of Changbong-ni, South Korea. Falk, and half of his platoon, were reported missing in action on Feb. 12, 1951.

Following the war, returning American prisoners of war reported that Falk died in either April or May of 1951, while being held as a prisoner of war at the Suan Bean Camp in North Korea.

Between 1990 and 1994, North Korea returned to the United States 208 boxes of commingled human remains, which were later determined to contain the remains of at least 400 U.S. servicemen who died during the war. First Lieutenant Falk's remains were included in this turnover

To identify Falk's remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and Y-chromosome DNA (Y-STR) analysis, dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial and material evidence.

DPAA remains fully prepared to resume recovery operations in the Democratic Republic of Korea, and looks forward to the continued fulfillment of the commitment made by President Trump and Chairman Kim on the return and recovery of U.S. service members in North Korea.

Today, 7,686 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using modern technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously returned by North Korean officials or recovered from North Korea by American recovery teams. Falk'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 James S. Streetman, Jr. Streetman, 23, born in Columbus, Georgia, was accounted for on August 31.

In July 1950, Streetman was a member of Company B, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, participating in the defense of the 24th ID's Kum River Line against the Korean People's Army (KPA), near the town of Taejon, South Korea. The KPA outmaneuvered and overwhelmed Streetman's regiment, forcing units into a fighting withdrawal through enemy lines. Streetman was initially reported to have been killed in action on Aug. 14, 1950, however historical records determined he had been killed July 22, 1950.

After the war, the American Graves Registration Services (AGRS) processed remains from South Korean battlefields for possible identification. Remains that could not be identified were buried as "Unknowns" in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu. Because no remains could be associated with Streetman, he was declared non-recoverable.

On Oct. 6, 1950, unidentified remains recovered from north of Taejon designated as Unknown X-162, were interred by the U.S. Army in the former American Cemetery No. 1, renamed to United States Military Cemetery Taejon. After attempts to identify the remains were unsuccessful, Unknown X-162 were declared unidentifiable and were subsequently interred at the National Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP), known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu.



--**Army Master Sgt. Leonard K. Chinn**, 34, of Idaho Falls, Idaho, accounted for on July 12, will be buried Sept. 19, 2018 in Silver Creek, Nebraska. In late 1950, Chinn was a member of Company D, 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, when his unit was fighting off persistent Chinese attacks in North Korea. Chinn was reportedly captured by enemy forces on Dec. 1, 1950 and was held at several temporary prisoner of war camps before being marched northwest to POW Camp 5 Complex, North Korea.

Several repatriated American prisoners of war reported that Chinn died April 5, 1951 in Camp 5.

On Dec. 14, 1993, North Korea turned over to the U.S. 33 boxes of remains of servicemen who had died during the Korean War. North Korean documents, turned over with some of the boxes, indicated that some of the remains were recovered from the vicinity where POWs from Chinn's unit were believed to have died.

To identify Chinn's remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial (mtDNA) Y-chromosome (Y-STR) and autosomal (auSTR) DNA analysis, as well as anthropological analysis, and circumstantial evidence.

--**Army Pfc. William H. Jones**, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on September 13.

In November 1950, Jones was a member of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, engaged in attacks against the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces near Pakchon, North Korea. On Nov. 26, 1950, after his unit made a fighting withdrawal, he could not be accounted for and was reported missing in action.

On July 27, 2018, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) turned over 55 boxes, purported to contain the remains of U.S. servicemen killed during the Korean War. The remains arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii on Aug. 1, 2018, and were subsequently accessioned into the DPAA laboratory for analysis.

DPAA remains fully prepared to resume recovery operations in the DPRK, and looks forward to the continued fulfillment of the commitment made by President Donald Trump and Chairman Kim Jong-un on the return and recovery of U.S. servicemen in North Korea.

Jones' 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.

For about DPAA, visit www.dpaa.mil, find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa or call (703) 699-1420/1169.

--**Army Master Sgt. Charles H. McDaniel**, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on September 12.

In November 1950, McDaniel was a medic with the 8th Cavalry Regiment Medical Company, supporting the regiment's 3rd Battalion. The unit was engaged with enemy forces of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF,) southwest of the village of Unsan, and east of Hwaong-ri, North Korea. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 2, 1950, when he could not be accounted-for by his unit.

On July 27, 2018, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) turned over 55 boxes, purported to contain the remains of U.S. servicemen killed during the Korean War. The remains arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii on Aug. 1, 2018, and were subsequently accessioned into the DPAA laboratory for analysis.

DPAA remains fully prepared to resume recovery operations in the DPRK and looks forward to the continued fulfillment of the commitment made by President Donald Trump and Chairman Kim Jong-un on the return and recovery of U.S. servicemen in North Korea. McDaniel'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 Pvt. Charles G. Kaniatobe**, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on September 13.

In July 1950, Kaniatobe was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, engaged in combat operations the against North Korean People's Army near Chonui, South Korea. Kaniatobe could not be accounted-for and was declared missing in action on July 10, 1950.

DPAA is grateful to Department of Veterans Affairs for their partnership in this mission.

Interment services are pending; more details will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services.

Kaniatobe's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, 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. Morris Meshulam**, 19, of Indianapolis, Indiana, accounted for on June 4, 2018, will be buried Sept. 23 in his hometown. In late November 1950, Meshulam was a member of Battery D, 82nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion (Automatic Weapons,) 2nd Infantry Division. The Division suffered heavy losses to units of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) between the towns of Kunu-ri and Sunchon, North Korea. Meshulam was reported missing in action on Dec. 1, 1950.

In February 1951, a prisoner of war returned by the CPVF reported that Meshulam died of cold weather injuries in early January 1951 but could not give a location to where Meshulam's remains

were located.

In July 1951, a Korean farmer led a U.S. Army recovery team to a grave in a field that contained the remains of a U.S. Soldier. The recovered remains were sent to the Tanggok United Nations Memorial Cemetery for possible identification. The remains, designated Unknown X-1596 were declared unidentifiable and buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu.

In June 2016, DPAA disinterred Unknown X-1596 from the Punchbowl and sent the remains to the lab for identification.

To identify Meshulam's remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial (mtDNA) DNA analysis, dental, anthropological and chest radiograph comparison analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence.



--**Marine Corps Pfc. Roger Gonzales**, 20, of San Pedro, California, accounted for on June 4, 2018, will be buried Sept. 21 in Rancho Palos Verdes, California. In late November, 1950, Gonzales was a member of Company F, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. The U.S. X Corps

began earnest operations in the northeast of the Korean Peninsula against enemy units of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF), which were thought to be soldiers of the Korean People's Army (KPA). The X Corps began its offensive, spearheaded by the 1st Marine Division and the U.S. Army's 31st Regimental Combat Team, in the area of the Chosin Reservoir. On Nov. 27, 1950, Gonzales' unit moved northwest from Hagru-ri to Fox Hill at the Toktong Pass. In the early hours of November 28, the CPVF attacked and Gonzales' company sustained heavy casualties. Gonzales was reported to have been killed in action on Nov. 29, 1950 and was buried at the base of Fox Hill. On Sept. 10, 1954, the KPA returned a shipment of 25 sets of remains that had reportedly been recovered from the west side of the Chosin Reservoir. The remains were shipped to the Central Identification Unit Kokura in Japan, for identification. One set of remains, designated X-15010 was declared unidentifiable and was interred as an "Unknown" in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu. In June 2016, after further analysis of historical and biological information relating to X-15010 DPAA disinterred the unknown X-file from the Punchbowl and sent the remains to the lab for identification.

• **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CONDUCTS NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY**

The KWVA attended ceremonies at the Pentagon on Friday, September 21, 2018 to honor our nation's former prisoners of war and to remember more than 82,000 Americans who remain missing and unaccounted for going back to World War II, as well as their families. The nation sets aside the third Friday in September to recognize and remember former POWs and our MIAs, yet for the 700 military and civilian men and women assigned to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), every day is another opportunity to recover, identify, and return a fallen American home to a loving family who still waits

• **'NEVER FORGET OUR DUTY:' MATTIS SAYS PUSH TO BRING MIA TROOPS HOME CONTINUES**



Defense Secretary Jim Mattis speaks during the 2018 POW/MIA National Recognition Day Ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington, Friday, Sept. 21, 2018. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Friday that the recent identifications of the remains of two soldiers missing from the Korean War should inspire the nation to a renewed commitment for a full accounting of the lost and fallen from all conflicts.

All who have served, or will ever serve, must know that "their fellow citizens will go to the ends of the Earth to bring them home," Mattis said, after

presiding at a pass-in-review by troops of all the services on the Pentagon parade grounds to mark the annual National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

"Our POWs, our missing in action, their families -- they have met the most terrible challenges undeterred with the highest fortitude, honoring a nation that loves them for what they call out in each of us," Mattis said in remarks to an audience that included former POWs and families of the missing. "For that, we owe them an irredeemable debt of gratitude."

He added that they could take encouragement from the identifications announced Thursday by President Donald Trump of the remains of two soldiers who went missing in what is now North Korea in 1950.

The remains of Army Master Sgt. Charles H. McDaniel, 32, of Vernon, Indiana, and Army Pfc. William H. Jones, 19, of Nash County, North Carolina were the first to be identified from the 55 cases of remains returned by North Korea which arrived in the U.S. last month at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii.

Mattis described them as "two long-lost heroes," and "two beloved sons of America, finally home on our soil."

Recognition Day honored "two categories" of the nation's warriors, Mattis said: those who were held captive and those who never returned from battle.

In the first category, Mattis cited former POWs in the audience and also the late Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona, a naval aviator and POW in Vietnam for nearly five years, for their continuing service after their release.

McCain "did not let the torture he endured define his lasting service to America," Mattis said. He returned "ready without reservation to serve once again," Mattis said.

"We will never let their sacrifices wither in the compost of history," Mattis said of the POWs.

In the second category, Mattis referred to the missing in action, and also their families, as well as the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and Veterans Service Organizations, for their refusal to give up hope on a full accounting.

He noted the presence in the audience of Ann Mills Griffiths, 77, head of the National League of POW/MIA for more than 40 years. Her older brother by 11 months, Jimmy, had been missing since his Navy F-4B Phantom went down off the coast of Vietnam in 1966.

Last month, DPAA announced that the remains of Cmdr. James B. Mills had been identified. He will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery next June.

"We will never forget our duty to keep searching for those still awaiting their homecoming," Mattis said.



NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

September 21, 2018

Arrival

Honors

Invocation

*Chaplain (Colonel) Kevin Lockett, USAF
Office of the Chief of Chaplains*

Joint Service Inspection

Retreat

National Anthem

Remarks

*The Honorable James N. Mattis
Secretary of Defense*

Pass-in-Review

Flyover

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE CONDUCTS FLAG PRESENTATION TO THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Vice President Mike Pence participated in a flag presentation to the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation on Thursday September 20, 2018. The American flag he presented was flown during the repatriation ceremony of recently recovered remains of presumed U.S. soldiers killed during the Korean War.

“When I was presented this flag... I knew where it belonged. It belonged here on this hallowed ground, the Korean War Veterans Memorial,” said Pence. “We will never relent in our effort to bring our missing fallen home.”

Thirty-six thousand American soldiers died in the Korean War, which took place from 1950 to 1953. About 7,700 are listed as missing.

The vice president accepted the remains at a ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii last month, a request made by President Trump during his summit with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un. 55 cases of war remains were retrieved from North Korea as part of the agreement. The Defense Department told CBS News earlier this month that so far, two individuals have been identified from the repatriated remains. Their names have not yet been announced, however.

“This flag was among those flags that graced the cases of some 55 remains of fallen American heroes and it was my great honor to receive it,” said Pence. Thursday’s ceremony came as South Korean President Moon Jae-in told reporters in Seoul on Thursday that Kim was interested in arranging a second meeting with President Trump “in the near future, in order to move the denuclearization process along quickly.”

Pence welcomed Kim’s latest commitment to allow nuclear inspectors to testing sites and to permanently dismantle the North’s main nuclear complex as “good news” and said the administration looks forward to further progress along the Korean Peninsula.

DPAA Families/VSO/MSO Quarterly Call and Update **Thursday, July 19, 2018, 2:00 PM** **‘Fulfilling Our Nation’s Promise’**



Summary: Keeping the families of our missing as well as veterans informed is a primary objective of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's (DPAA) mission. This update is intended to provide an overview of efforts during the previous quarter to account for our missing.

The agenda includes:

- Update on the Personnel Accounting Mission (Director Kelly McKeague)
- Partnerships and Innovations Update (Deputy Director, PI, Rocky Gillette)
- Operational Update (Deputy Director Operations RDML Kreitz, Dir Indo-Pac Colonel Mike Gann/Dir Euro-Med Colonel Brian Pearl)
- IDs/Disinterments (DPAA Lab Director, Dr. John Byrd)
- Question & Answer

Update on the Personnel Accounting Mission (Director Kelly McKeague)

Interest in the POW/MIA mission is increasing both in Congress and the public; DPAA trajectory in terms of activities and achievements is a positive one.

North Korea

From Singapore Summit, there is strong priority and commitment at all levels of the government to recovering and repatriating remains, including those already in their possession. Overarching strategic engagement with Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) still sensitive, fragile, so some information we’re able to share with you, others we are not at liberty to do so at this time. State Department and United Nations Command have the lead on repatriation and coordination, but DPAA is involved in all-aspects of the process.

The 200 number in the press is what they previously told Governor Richardson, but they have not acknowledged a number since the Summit. But, whatever number of boxes the DPRK chooses to turn over will be what they believe to correspond to the number of remains; based on past unilateral turnovers we assess the number will be something different due to a

commingling of remains. Whenever the DPRK repatriates remains, DPAA will have personnel at the turnover to conduct field forensic reviews of the remains before they are flown to Hawaii and accessioned into the DPAA laboratory. If future negotiations reach agreement on the resumption of field operations, DPAA will be ready. We have drafted concept plans based on our 10-years of experience as well as the 2011 record of arrangement in our planning. If DPAA is permitted to resume operations in North Korea, we do not anticipate adverse impacts to our global missions as currently planned. Will inform all of you as soon definitive information becomes available.

Budget

Our budget request for FY19 is \$131M and has been reviewed by the Authorization and Appropriation Committee in the House and Senate. House Appropriations Committee added \$10M for Southeast Asia (e.g. Vietnam War) operations. The House added an additional \$20M for Korean War during floor debate. The Senate Appropriations Committee made no adds to our budget request. The Senate Appropriations bill has not yet been to the floor for a vote. Once the Senate passes an appropriations act it will be reconciled with the House version via Conference Committee.

DPAA submitted a legislative proposal for FY 2019 to enhance information sharing with our partners and to accept gifts for the purposes of facilitating personnel accounting. This proposal was included in the FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act which was signed into law on August 13.

Thanks again to those of you who continue to educate Congress on our mission's importance.

Engagements

Successful trip to Northeast Asia

Japan: high priority from their Prime Minister and Diet to recover their war dead; allows us to coordinate WWII activities throughout Indo-Pacific Region. We are also establishing a formal agreement between DPAA and the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare to better synchronize our procedures and increase collaboration on activities throughout the Pacific Theater where both nations have unaccounted-for personnel.

Republic of Korea: We continue to improve our partnership with our counterparts at the Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA (Killed in Action) Recovery and Identification (South Korea) (MAKRI).

People's Republic of China: We continue to press them on records; they are open to more unilateral investigations and private partnerships. We have a Research Investigation Team (RIT) in-country now.

VFW Convention

Looking forward to addressing VFW's Convention in Kansas City next week; thanks for the staunch support.

Sanctions

Visa sanctions were recently imposed on Burma and Laos but are tiered depending on those nations' cooperation and will increase if provisions of the sanctions are not met; DPAA currently has ongoing missions in Laos and missions planned in both countries next year; so far there have not been any negatives impacts.

KWVA Board Meeting, Arlington, VA July 26, 2018

Principal Deputy Director Fern Sumpter Winbush and Indo-Pac Korean War analyst, Dan Baughman, briefed the board on Korean War accounting developments.

PBS Nova Press Tour For "Last B-24" Documentary July 31, 2018

Panel discussion. The "Last B-24" (Tulsamerican) session will feature a short clip of the film, followed by a panel discussion with participants and producers. Documentary is set to air on November 7 on PBS. More details will be sent out as we get closer to the date.

Korean-Cold War Annual Briefings

From August 9-10, 2018, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) will host the annual 2018 Korea/Cold War Government Briefings in Arlington, Virginia and will present information on efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting of missing Americans from the Korean and Cold War. Highlights include a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown, briefing from DoD leadership, the Korean War Disinterment Project Panel and a dinner hosted by the Republic of Korea Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony, September 21, 2018

This year's poster is available to order online at: <http://www.dpaa.mil/Families/Posters.aspx>

Family Member Updates (FMU)

We hosted an FMU in Louisville, KY on May 19, 2018, with 181 family members attending. Local representatives from Congressional offices and Veterans Service Organizations attended as observers. The next FMU will be in Philadelphia, PA on September 8, 2018. The full FMU and Annual Meetings schedule can be found at: <http://www.dpaa.mil/Families/Family-Events/>

National League of Families Meeting

Last month, the Agency supported the 49th Annual Meeting of the National League of Families from June 20 to 24. More than 20 personnel from DPAA, DoD, and the Department of State provided briefings to the 300-person audience. Also, the families of more than 120 losses had one-on-one meetings with DoD experts and casualty officers to update them on the government's efforts to account for their respective loved ones. DPAA also hosted a tour of the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico for more than 180 family members.

Fam-Web Update

In June 2018, DPAA launched the Family Website (Famweb): a centralized online resource designed to increase proactive information flow and improve website experience for family members of personnel missing from past conflicts. The site can be accessed from the DPAA website "Families" tab. From Famweb, family members can select a specific conflict to view a summary and photo of their loved, with newly available battle level summaries (Tet Offensive, Battle of Tarawa, etc.) developed through working with our University partners.

DAV National Convention

On Sunday, July 15, 2018, Mrs. Fern Sumpter Winbush and Mr. Steve Thompson presented a DPAA update at the DAV's POW/MIA Committee meeting at their annual convention in Reno, NV. Mrs. Sumpter Winbush briefed larger picture issues such as the Agency's budget, partnership relationships, and the increased number of identifications made in recent years, and Mr. Thompson spoke about family and veteran engagement strategies, scientific advances, identification of Unknowns, and both current and planned operations.

Partnerships & Innovation (PI) Update

Operations Q3 (covered individually below)

- IP: ○ 2 completed
 - 1 in progress
 - 2 impending (Q4)

- EM: ○ 3 supported (complete)
 - 2 completed
 - 3 in progress
 - 7 impending (Q4)

- Working assessment for FY18 is a cost avoidance of \$11.3M based on total annual partner field missions

Partnership Arrangements

- Implemented Q3 (14 total) ○ ISSA --Inter-Service Support Agreement (agreements with other federal entities, e.g., agreement to allow DPAA to use warehouse space on a military base; allowing Parks Service archaeologists to assist DPAA) : 2
 - MOU Memorandum of Understanding: 9
 - Grant/CA--Cooperative Agreement (agreement between USG and a non-federal entity to cooperate to achieve a common end.): 1
 - PPA--Partner Project Agreement (the more specific, more detailed agreement that follows the generic MOU): 2

 - In-Progress Q3 (10 total) ○ MOU: 9
 - PPA: 1

 - Implemented Q4 (2 total) ○ MOU: 1
 - PPA: 1
- Volunteers
- Active: 22
 - In Development: 5
- Research
- Current research fellows include: ○ 6 historians, 1 underwater archaeologist, 1 archivist, 2 family historians

 - One historian vacancy and one archivist vacancy (offer extended) still open

Field Operations Overview

- **Deputy Director for Operations' May 2018 trip to France, Belgium, Germany, and Sicily.** RDML Kreitz conducted a successful trip to Europe in May, meeting with American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) staff in Paris, participating in several memorial services, conducting recovery site visits in France and Sicily, visiting DPAA's Germany Detachment, and meeting with U.S. military leaders in Germany.
- This is the busy season for field operations. We have 10 missions in progress, with 20 more planned for execution over the next 90 days.
- We are working on our FY 2019 OPLAN and have built a plan to ensure no degradation under a Continuing Resolution.
- This is Colonel Mike Gann's last quarterly update as he will be retiring from the U.S. Marine Corps in September. Colonel Brian Peterson, USMC, is the incoming Director, Indo-Pacific Region.
- We are welcoming Colonel Brian Pearl today, our new Director, Europe-Mediterranean Region.

Europe-Mediterranean Region:

- Operations in Last 60 Days: (**May-June**)
 - Austria (18-2AT) Partner recovery of a terrestrial aircraft crash site
 - Belgium (18-1BE) Partner underwater investigation of an uncorrelated aircraft crash site
 - France (18-1FR) Organic recovery of a terrestrial aircraft crash site
 - France (18-2FR) Underwater recovery of an aircraft crash site off the coast of Corsica and in partnership with the French Navy
 - Germany (18-3DE) Organic investigation of aircraft crash sites
 - Italy (18-5IT) Organic recovery of a terrestrial aircraft crash site in Sicily
 - Russia (18-1RU) Organic investigation of 3 crash sites and one cemetery location in partnership with Russian military coordinated through the US/Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs

- Operations next 30 days: (**July-August**)
 - Austria (18-1AT) Organic investigation of terrestrial aircraft crash sites
 - France (18-6FR) Organic recovery of a terrestrial aircraft crash site
 - France (18-7FR) Partner recovery of a terrestrial aircraft crash site
 - France (18-8FR) Partner recovery of a terrestrial aircraft crash site
 - Germany (18-2DE) Organic recovery of a terrestrial aircraft crash site
 - Germany (18-6DE) Organic investigation of terrestrial battlefield losses
 - Germany (18-8DE) Partner recovery of a terrestrial aircraft crash site
 - Germany (18-9DE) Partner Recovery of a terrestrial aircraft crash site
 - Germany (18-12DE) Partner recovery of a terrestrial aircraft crash site
 - Italy (18-4IT) Organic investigation of terrestrial aircraft crash site

Q: Why have we not gone to the UN Cemeteries and will we be asking to investigate crash sites?

A: We have asked to excavate the UN Cemeteries in previous negotiations and will continue to ask for this. We will also request to visit crash sites in future operations.

Sherra Basham, Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing: Expressed her thanks to Colonel Mike Gann for his years of service.

Q: Can we be informed of the location of funerals so that we might attend?

A: If the family consents to the release of that information, then we will provide it to you.

Ann Mills Griffiths, National League of Families: Q: Was the \$10 million plus up for South East Asia you mentioned in the appropriations specifically for the Vietnam War?

A: Not specific for the Vietnam War, however, based on last year's reporting requirement the intent is for those additional funds, should they survive the Conference, to apply them to Vietnam War accounting efforts.

Mary Ann Reitano, WWII Families for the Return of the Missing: Thanked Col Gann for his years of service.

Q: Will we be providing talking points for the Laos delegation?

A: We are unaware of any upcoming Laos delegations, but will check with our counterparts at the State Department to ensure we have an opportunity to provide input.

Frank Metersky, Korean War Advocate:

Q: Has DPAA asked what must happen before we can negotiate with North Korea to resume field operations?

A: At this time, we do not have any indication when talks will occur; we remain in close contact with State of Secretary Pompeo is still pressing hard on the issue.

Q: Are we doing field operations in China.

A: We did a WWII case in 2017 and will use a partner for a Korean War loss in 2019.

• **NORTH KOREA'S DEMANDS FOR ECONOMIC AID PUSH SOUTH INTO A CORNER**

South Korea is sending envoys to Pyongyang ahead of Moon-Kim summit

KIM JAEWON, Nikkei staff writer

SEOUL -- Pyongyang's push for economic aid from Seoul is forcing South Korean President Moon Jae-in to make some tough decisions ahead of a summit with Kim Jong Un later this month.

The U.S. opposes the provision of economic assistance until it sees North Korea taking concrete steps toward denuclearization. But Moon -- a self-styled mediator between the U.S. and North Korea -- is keen to avoid a collapse in the diplomatic process and a return to last year's tensions on the peninsula.

The urgency of the situation won't be lost on Moon's five special envoys, including National Security Adviser Chung Eui-yong, who are traveling to Pyongyang on Wednesday to fix the date and agenda of the third inter-Korean summit since April.

A planned trip by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to North Korea last month was canceled by President Donald Trump at the last moment, as the two nations struggle to resolve differences on the denuclearization process.

Washington is demanding that Pyongyang submits a list of its nuclear arms and facilities, while Kim's regime wants the U.S. to declare a formal end to the Korean War.

Kim's demands for financial assistance may also drive a deeper wedge between a pro-engagement Moon and a Trump administration that appears to be increasingly skeptical about a rapprochement with Pyongyang.

"North Korea may suggest that the South does two things -- one is to push the U.S. to declare the end of the Korean War, the other is to loosen sanctions," said Park Won-gon, an international relations professor at Handong Global University in Pohang, South Korea. "But it also knows that Seoul has no power to do so."

At their historic first meeting at the border village of Panmunjom, Moon and Kim agreed to launch joint projects such as connecting roads and railways from Seoul through to Sinuiju on North Korea's border with China. But little progress has been made because the U.S. is unwilling to lift sanctions.

"The North is expected to urge the South to take actions for improving inter-Korean relations and expanding economic cooperation," said Choi Kang, vice president of the Asan Institute for Policy Studies. Kim is likely to remind Moon this was agreed on at their first summit, he said.

The Rodong Sinmun, an official North Korean party newspaper, on Aug. 29 urged the South to comply with the Panmunjom Declaration.

"The North and the South should solve our reunification matters independently by cooperating as one nation," the newspaper said in a commentary article. "The U.S. announced additional sanctions on foreign companies using the excuse of 'illegal trade' with us."



Kim inspects a medical appliances factory. © Reuters

In a speech on Aug. 15, Moon said: "Inter-Korean relations are not bound to North Korean nuclear issue."

Choi said this month's summit in Pyongyang will be a critical moment for Moon to decide whether to stay in line with U.S. sanctions on North Korea or take an independent approach on denuclearization.

"If the South Korean government accepts the North's demands, they will agree on economic projects in detail in the summit, but it will violate sanctions on North Korea," he said. "If the South suspends economic cooperation and demands denuclearization actions, the North is highly likely to object to inter-Korean exchanges."

Robert Kelly, a political-science professor at Pusan National University, said Moon should pressure Kim to take visible actions toward denuclearization.

"North Korea needs to stop dancing around with mixed sporting events and musical numbers and that sorta film-flam, and finally offer something real -- giving up a warhead for inspection, blowtorching some missiles, closing a gulag, something," Kelly said. "Otherwise Moonshine will look like one-way appeasement, not a two-way detente." Meanwhile, North Korea is set to hold a military parade in its capital on Sunday as part of celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the country.

Chinese President Xi Jinping had been expected to visit the country around that date, but South Korea's Yonhap News, citing sources in Beijing, reported Monday that he may not go.

"North Korea wants to escape from diplomatic isolation with the inter-Korean summit," said Handong Global University's Park. "Pyongyang is facing further isolation as even Xi Jinping is not likely to go to the country."

US - NORTH KOREA RESUME TALKS ON RECOVERY OF WAR DEAD REMAINS

By KIM GAMEL / STARS AND STRIPES Published: September 9, 2018

SEOUL, South Korea — While the United States and North Korea struggle to get nuclear talks back on track, negotiators moved forward with efforts to bring home the remains of more American troops killed in the 1950-53 Korean War. U.S. and North Korean generals met Friday in the truce village of Panmunjom to discuss the next steps, a spokesman said, more than a month after 55 cases said to contain the remains of U.S. servicemembers were repatriated. The talks came as the longtime adversaries are otherwise locked in a diplomatic stalemate over efforts to persuade the North to abandon its nuclear weapons program. "Participants discussed military-to-military efforts to support any potential future return of remains," UNC spokesman Col. Chad Carroll said Sunday in an email. More details were not released. The return of the 55 cases in late July was the first such repatriation in more than a decade. President Donald Trump hailed it as a tangible outcome of his June 12 summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. But experts noted it was just the start of a long process, with more than 7,600 Americans still missing from the war, including 5,300 believed to have been lost in North Korea.

RELATED ARTICLES

Previous



Remains from North Korea in moderate to poor condition, could take years to identify



'Humbling' and 'historic' to participate in repatriation of remains from N. Korea, say C-17 crews



China quietly builds bridges to North Korea

The Yonhap News Agency reported that Air Force Maj. Gen. Michael Minihan, who is chief of staff for United Nations Command and U.S. Forces Korea, and North Korean Lt. Gen. An Ik San were the chief delegates at the meeting. Trump and Kim agreed at the Singapore summit to resume the long-stalled search for the remains, "including the immediate repatriation of those already identified" as part of a four-point declaration that mainly focused on a promise to try to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula.

The return of the 55 cases fulfilled part of that promise, but U.S. officials are pushing to resume searches in North Korea. The recently returned remains, mostly bones and other fragments, were flown to Hawaii for analysis and identification.

Joint U.S.-North Korean military search teams recovered 229 caskets containing American remains from North Korea between 1996 and 2005.

The U.S. conducted 33 investigative and recovery operations in the country before former President George W. Bush's administration called off the search, claiming the safety of American participants was not guaranteed.

Critics at the time also argued the North was using the program to extort money from Washington, prompting the label "bones for bucks."

The last repatriation was in 2007, when then-New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson traveled to Pyongyang and returned with six sets of remains.

The State Department has said no payment was made for the remains received in July.

Negotiators, meanwhile, are working to resume diplomatic efforts after Trump canceled a planned trip to the North by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, citing frustration over slow progress on denuclearization.

The new special U.S. envoy to North Korea, Stephen Biegun, will travel to Seoul, Beijing and Tokyo for a weeklong trip.

• U.S.-NORTH KOREA SUMMIT DEAL ON DENUCLEARIZATION FALTERING



Bruce Klingner

Senior Research Fellow, Northeast Asia

SUMMARY

Claims by President Trump that “there is no longer a nuclear threat from North Korea” and that “total denuclearization [is] already starting to take place” have run into the reality of North Korean intransigence. Pyongyang has resorted to its usual negotiating tactics of the past two decades—dragging out negotiations and demanding benefits even for incremental progress on peripheral matters while holding back progress on the real issues. Negotiators should emphasize that North Korea must demonstrate progress toward denuclearization and reject Pyongyang’s demands for U.S. action to reduce regime security concerns.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The diplomatic path with North Korea remains open, but it will be far longer and bumpier than has been depicted by the Trump Administration.

The U.S. should maintain maximum pressure until Pyongyang makes significant, tangible steps toward denuclearization. Washington must also continue to confront the regime on its human rights violations.

Claims by President Trump that “there is no longer a nuclear threat from North Korea”¹ and that “total denuclearization [is] already starting to take place”²

David Brunnstrom and James Oliphant, “Trump: North Korea ‘Total Denuclearization’ Started; Officials See No New Moves,” Reuters, June 21, 2018,

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-usa-sites/trump-north-korea-total-denuclearization-started-officials-see-no-new-moves-idUSKBN1JH2QX> (accessed August 22, 2018).

have run into the reality of North Korean intransigence. The terse Singapore summit communiqué was a shaky foundation upon which to build a comprehensive agreement to compel Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear, missile, and biological and chemical weapons (BCW) programs.

The striking differences between U.S. and North Korean statements reveal that little actual progress toward denuclearization has been made. The Trump Administration sought to add meat to the bare bones of the Singapore agreement by getting the regime to publicly and unambiguously affirm that it would abandon its weapons of mass destruction (WMD) arsenals in an expeditious manner. Such a declaration was needed to combat mounting skepticism—fueled by evidence that the regime was *expanding* its nuclear and missile programs after the summit.

Instead, the regime unleashed a lengthy and vitriolic upbraiding within hours of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's departure from Pyongyang. North Korea categorically rejected Trump Administration proposals, accused Washington of violating the spirit of the Singapore summit, and threatened to retract its denuclearization pledge.

Washington and Pyongyang remain far apart even over the definition of “denuclearization,” let alone the sequencing, linkages, and timeline for achieving it. North Korea's insistence on addressing its security concerns *prior* to implementing denuclearization runs counter to positions taken by the Trump Administration. The regime demands that the U.S. first improve bilateral relations and provide security assurances, including declaring an end to the Korean War. Yet despite its harsh missive, Pyongyang has not pulled the plug on diplomacy. The regime, however, expressed a clear preference for dealing only with President Trump, trying to decouple Secretary Pompeo from the process. By praising Trump personally, Kim Jong-un seeks additional concessions from the President, whom the regime sees as more eager to maintain the proclaimed success of the summit.

The diplomatic path with Pyongyang remains open, but it will be far longer and bumpier than has been depicted by the Trump Administration. The U.S. should maintain maximum pressure until Pyongyang makes significant, tangible steps toward denuclearization. Washington must also continue to confront the regime on its human rights violations.

Singapore Communiqué: Key Issues Unresolved

Although the first summit meeting between U.S. and North Korean leaders was historic, the resulting joint statement broke no new ground. Each of the four components of the Trump–Kim communiqué was in previous accords in stronger and more encompassing terms. Most notably, the North Korean pledge “to work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula” in the Singapore communiqué was weaker than the September 2005 Six-Party Talks Joint Statement.

Despite pre-summit claims by the Trump Administration that North Korea had moved toward accepting the U.N.-required concept of complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement (CVID) of its nuclear programs, there was no evidence of that in the communiqué. Nor did the Trump–Kim joint statement include any reference to missiles, a nuclear/missile test moratorium, biological and chemical weapons, verification, or human rights—all topics that the Trump Administration promised would be addressed during the summit.

Conflicting Interpretations of the Communiqué. The imprecise terms of the communiqué enabled both sides to give contrasting public characterizations of what had been agreed, a flaw consistent with previous agreements with North Korea. The Six-Party Talks and the February 2012 Leap Day Agreement both collapsed in part due to divergent interpretations.

The U.S. and North Korea disagree on even basic concepts such as “denuclearization” and “the Korean Peninsula.” Pyongyang has long rejected calls for its unilateral disarmament, instead embedding denuclearization within a broader context of global arms control. As a self-professed member of the nuclear club, Pyongyang has stated it will abandon its nuclear arsenal only when the other members, including the United States, abandon theirs.

North Korea defines the Korean Peninsula not as the landmass encompassing North and South Korea (as the U.S. does), but instead as anything that influences or impacts the peninsula. As such, the U.S. extended deterrence guarantee to its allies (“nuclear umbrella”) and any nuclear-capable system, including submarines, aircraft carriers, dual-capable aircraft, and strategic bombers in Guam, would all be susceptible to restrictions.

Secretary Pompeo asserts that Kim Jong-un committed to the fully verified and complete denuclearization of North Korea.³

U.S. Department of State, “U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono, and South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha at a Press Availability,” July 8, 2018, <https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2018/07/283888.htm> (accessed August 22, 2018).

Pompeo emphasizes that “the sanctions and economic relief that North Korea will receive will only happen after the full denuclearization, the complete denuclearization, of North Korea [which both sides] agreed that we need to do it in as timely a fashion as is possible to achieve the outcome.”⁴

Nick Wadhams and Jihye Lee, “Pompeo Says ‘Unanimity’ North Korea Sanctions to Stay Until Nukes Are Gone,” Bloomberg, June 14, 2018,

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-06-14/pompeo-pushes-back-against-north-korean-sanctions-relief-claims-jie0v9bx> (accessed August 22, 2018).

Conversely, North Korean official media criticized Washington’s demand for CVID of North Korea since it “denies and belittles the historical significance” of the Singapore summit. In mid-July, North Korea rebuked Pompeo for his “gangster-like demand for denuclearization” calling for CVID, declaration, and verification, all of which it claims run “counter to the spirit of the Singapore summit.”⁵

Nick Wadhams and Anthony Capaccio, “North Korea Slams U.S. ‘Gangster-Like’ Demands at Nuclear Talks,” Bloomberg, July 7, 2018,

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-07-07/pompeo-says-u-s-north-korea-weighed-denuclearization-timeline> (accessed August 22, 2018).

North Korea insists that the onus for action is on Washington “if the U.S. side takes genuine measures for building trust in order to improve the [North Korea]–U.S. relationship, [Pyongyang] too can continue to take additional good-will measures of next stage commensurate with them.”⁶

“N. Korea Says Trump Recognizes Phased, Simultaneous Actions Toward Denuclearization,” Yonhap, June 13, 2018,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/news/2018/06/13/0200000000AEN20180613000753315.html> (accessed August 22, 2018)

The regime is pushing for a peace treaty to end the Korean War, a security guarantee for the regime, and removal of sanctions.

Pyongyang claims that President Trump agreed to lift sanctions as well as “abide by the [North Korean] principle of step-by-step and simultaneous action in achieving peace, stability[,] and denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.”⁷

Jacqueline Thomsen, “North Korea: Trump Agreed to ‘Step-by-Step’ Approach to Denuclearization,” The Hill, June 12, 2018, [http://thehill.com/policy/international/asia-](http://thehill.com/policy/international/asia-pacific/391964-north-korea-trump-agreed-to-step-by-step-approach-to)

[pacific/391964-north-korea-trump-agreed-to-step-by-step-approach-to](http://thehill.com/policy/international/asia-pacific/391964-north-korea-trump-agreed-to-step-by-step-approach-to) (accessed August 22, 2018).

The regime prefers gaining front-loaded concessions prior to it moving toward compliance with its previous denuclearization commitments, U.N. resolutions, and international law. In this matter, the North Korean regime acts like a criminal inquiring what benefits a policeman will provide to convince him not to rob banks anymore. Pyongyang thus signaled its unwillingness to allow the Trump Administration to claim credit for agreements that had not actually occurred. The regime warned that U.S. failure to adopt its framework would lead to a “dangerous situation where we may be shaken in our unshakable will for denuclearization.”⁸

David Brunnstrom, Tim Kelly, and Patricia Zengerle, “After Pyongyang Put-Down, Pompeo Stands by ‘Difficult’ Denuclearization Talks,” Reuters, July 9 2018,

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/japan-says-reaffirmed-commitment-north-korea-sanctions-u-033534312.html> (accessed August 23, 2018).

The regime also signaled that its human rights record was off the table. North Korean media declared that the U.S. should abandon any attempt to criticize the regime on human rights. The regime accused the Department of State’s annual human rights report of being contrary to the spirit of the Singapore agreement.⁹

“North Korea Slams U.S. Over Human Rights Report Ahead of Pompeo’s Visit,” The Straits Times, July 6, 2018, [https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/north-korea-slams-us-](https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/north-korea-slams-us-over-human-rights-report-ahead-of-pompeos-visit)

[over-human-rights-report-ahead-of-pompeos-visit](https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/north-korea-slams-us-over-human-rights-report-ahead-of-pompeos-visit) (accessed August 23, 2018).

U.S.–South Korea Military Exercises

In a post-summit press conference, President Trump unilaterally declared that he would suspend the “provocative” U.S.–South Korea “war games”—terms that Washington had previously rejected when used by North Korea. Trump’s decision was made without consulting or notifying South Korean and Japanese allies, the Pentagon, or U.S. Forces Korea.

Trump characterized the routine training exercises as “inappropriate” while negotiating with North Korea, but focused more on their cost. He commented that the exercises are “tremendously expensive. The amount of money we spend on that is incredible.... South Korea contributes, but not 100 percent.”¹⁰

Dan Lamothe, “Trump Pledged to End Military Exercises With South Korea. But Will It Ever Happen?” The Washington Post, June 12, 2018,

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/checkpoint/wp/2018/06/12/trump-pledged-to-end-military-exercises-with-south-korea-but-will-it-ever-happen/?utm_term=.e838104f41f2 (accessed August 23, 2018).

He added, “We save money—a lot”¹¹

Amanda Macias, “Trump Boasted About Big Savings, But a Canceled Military Exercise With South Korea Would Have Cost Less Than One Fighter Jet,” CNBC, July 12, 2018,

<https://www.cnbc.com/2018/07/10/us-saved-14-million-by-canceling-south-korea-military-exercise.html> (accessed August 23, 2018).

by cancelling. The Pentagon subsequently announced that cancelling the exercises saved only \$14 million.¹²

Tom O'Connor, "Trump Saves U.S. \$14 Million by Canceling Korea War Games," Newsweek, July 9, 2018, <http://www.newsweek.com/trump-saves-14-million-canceling-korea-war-games-cost-fight-isis-every-day-1015138> (accessed August 22, 2018).

Maintaining strong alliances and robust forward-deployed U.S. forces is a critical and cost-effective component to mitigating risk in northeast Asia. As The Heritage Foundation's *Index of Military Strength* explains:

The costs of alliances, including the sometimes disproportionate cost of alliance leadership, must not be weighed against cash savings but rather against the cost of possible conflict in blood as well as treasure without them. Preserving peace and sustaining the global political and economic system's current U.S. orientation can be achieved most cost-effectively with allied support.

The alternatives would call for either the maintenance of a huge U.S. military presence overseas far in excess of what is being maintained now or the holding of substantial forces in readiness at home in case the need arose to fight their way back into Europe or Asia to confront trouble in support of what is called "offshore balancing."¹³

Martin Murphy, "The Importance of Alliances for U.S. Security," in Dakota L. Wood, ed., 2017 *Index of Military Strength: Assessing America's Ability to Provide for the Common Defense* (Washington, DC: The Heritage Foundation, 2016), <https://index.heritage.org/military/2017/essays/importance-alliances-u-s-security/#fn10-3781>.

Trump's decision was a major unilateral concession for which the United States received nothing in return. Pyongyang neither codified its missile and nuclear test moratorium in the Singapore communiqué nor announced reciprocal constraints on its own military exercises.

For years, the U.S. rebuffed North Korea's "freeze for freeze" proposal, in which Pyongyang would suspend its prohibited nuclear and missile tests in return for Washington and Seoul suspending allied conventional military exercises. In September 2017, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley had dismissed the proposal as insulting, noting that when "a rogue regime has a nuclear weapon and an [intercontinental ballistic missile] pointed at you, you don't take steps to lower your guard."¹⁴

Jeremy Herb, Joshua Berlinger, and Taehoon Lee, "Haley: Kim Jong Un 'Begging for War,'" CNN, September 4, 2017, <https://www.cnn.com/2017/09/04/politics/haley-north-korea-united-nations/index.html> (accessed August 24, 2018).

President Trump's decision risks degrading U.S. and South Korean deterrence and defense capabilities. The exercises are necessary to ensure the interoperability and integration of allied military operations and ensure readiness to respond to North Korean attacks.

After Trump cancelled the bilateral Freedom Guardian exercise, South Korea cancelled its *Taeguk* command post-exercise¹⁵

"S. Korea Halts Its Own Military Drill Amid Dialogue Mood," Yonhap, June 20, 2018,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2018/06/20/0301000000AEN20180620005300315.html> (accessed August 23, 2018).

as well as its *Ulchi* exercise,¹⁶

"S. Korea Suspends Annual Defense Drill," Yonhap, July 10, 2018, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/news/2018/07/10/0200000000AEN20180710005100315.html> (accessed August 23, 2018).

and the allies cancelled two joint Marine Corps exercises and indefinitely suspended the Marine Exercise Program.

South Korea is also reportedly considering cancelling its independent live-fire artillery drills in the West Sea.¹⁷

"We Expect North Korea to Relocate Long-Range Artillery Away From the Front," Hankyoreh, June 27, 2018, http://english.hani.co.kr/arti/english_edition/e_editorial/850873.html (accessed August 22, 2018).

Heritage analyst Lieutenant General Thomas Spoehr (Ret.), U.S. Army, assessed that "suspending these large joint exercises for an extended period of time, particularly for more than six months, could erode the readiness of U.S. and South Korean forces to successfully work together to defend South Korea. If the President's [pledge]...encompasses lower-level exercises, the negative impact on readiness will be more immediate and severe." He summarized, "Because ceasing these exercises would erode the U.S. and South Korea's ability to defend the peninsula."¹⁸

Thomas Spoehr, "Suspending Military Exercises in South Korea Carries Risks," Heritage Foundation Commentary, June 12, 2018,

<https://www.heritage.org/asia/commentary/suspending-military-exercises-south-korea-carries-risks>.

Trump's decision could create a slippery slope in which Pyongyang demands curtailing additional allied military activity. North Korea has often responded critically to an opponent who violated the regime's interpretation of a vague agreement.

Beautification of Kim Jong-un

After the summit, President Trump claimed to have established a strong relationship with Kim Jong-un as a measure of the summit's success. More disturbing, however, was Trump's praise of the North Korean leader, commenting: "He's got a great personality. He's a funny guy, he's very smart, he's a great negotiator. He loves his people."¹⁹ Maegan Vazquez, "Trump Says Accused Human Rights Abuser Kim Jong Un 'Loves His People,'" CNN, June 12, 2018, <https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/12/politics/donald-trump-kim-jong-un-loves-his-people/index.html> (accessed August 22, 2018).

Kim is on the U.S. sanctions list for human rights violations. In 2014, the U.N. Commission of Inquiry concluded that North Korea's human rights violations were so "systemic, widespread, and gross" as to legally constitute crimes against humanity. The report catalogues North Korea's atrocities included "extermination, murder, enslavement, torture, imprisonment, rape, forced abortions and other sexual violence, persecution on political, religious, racial and gender grounds, the forcible transfer of populations, the enforced disappearance of persons and the inhumane act of knowingly causing prolonged starvation."²⁰ United Nations Human Rights Council, Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, No. A/HRC/25/63, February 7, 2015, p. 14, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/CoIDPRK/Pages/ReportoftheCommissionofInquiryDPRK.aspx> (accessed August 22, 2018).

Trump's post-summit praise was a stark contrast to his earlier eloquent and powerful condemnation of Pyongyang's atrocities. In his State of the Union Address, Trump declared that "no regime has oppressed its own citizens more totally or brutally than the cruel dictatorship in North Korea."²¹ Elise Hu, "Will Trump Raise North Korea's Human Rights Abuses at Summit with Kim Jong Un?" NPR, June 7, 2018, <https://www.npr.org/2018/06/07/617804581/will-trump-confront-n-koreas-human-rights-abuses-with-kim-well-see> (accessed August 22, 2018).

The president movingly highlighted the plight of North Korean escapee Ji Seong-ho and the tragic death of Otto Warmbier due to his treatment in North Korean captivity.²² Kaitlyn Schallhorn, "Otto Warmbier's Parents Recognized at State of the Union in Emotional Moment," Fox News, January 31, 2018, <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2018/01/30/otto-warmbiers-parents-recognized-at-state-union-in-emotional-moment.html> (accessed August 23, 2018).

In his November 2017 speech to the South Korean National Assembly, Trump proclaimed that "North Korea is a country ruled as a cult... Far from valuing its people as equal citizens, this cruel dictatorship measures them, scores them, and ranks them based on the most arbitrary indications of their allegiance to the state."²³ "Trump Condemns Brutal Dictatorship of N.K., Warns It Not to 'Underestimate Us,'" Yonhap, November 8, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2017/11/08/0301000000AEN20171108006754315.html> (accessed August 22, 2018).

Trump described how "an estimated 100,000 North Koreans suffer in gulags, toiling in forced labor, and enduring torture, starvation, rape, and murder on a constant basis."²⁴ Ken Dilanian, "U.S. Won't Bring Up North Korea's Human Rights Issues at Singapore Summit," NBC News, June 11, 2018, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/north-korea/u-s-won-t-bring-north-korea-s-human-rights-n880986> (accessed August 23, 2018).

He also stated that "North Korean women are forced to abort babies that are considered ethnically inferior. And if these babies are born, the newborns are murdered."²⁵ "Donald Trump's South Korean Speech: The Key Points," The Guardian, November 7, 2017, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/08/donald-trumps-south-korea-speech-key-points-kim-jong-un> (accessed August 23, 2018).

WMD Programs Expansion

Contrary to President Trump's assertion that Pyongyang has begun to denuclearize, the regime still retains the same arsenal and production capabilities that it had before the summit. There has been no reduction in the North Korean nuclear, missile, or BCW threat to the United States and its allies—and the regime continues to upgrade and expand its nuclear and missile programs.

After the summit, the U.S. Intelligence Community assessed that Pyongyang had increased production of fissile material for nuclear weapons²⁶ Courtney Kube, Ken Dilanian, and Carol E. Lee, "North Korea Has Increased Nuclear Production at Secret Sites, Say U.S. Officials," June 30, 2018, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/north-korea/north-korea-has-increased-nuclear-production-secret-sites-say-u-n887926> (accessed August 22, 2018).

and continued production of ICBMs that can target the United States.²⁷ Ellen Nakashima and Joby Warrick, "U.S. Spy Agencies: North Korea Is Working on New Missiles," The Washington Post, July 30, 2018, https://www.washingtonpost.com/gdpr-consent/?destination=%2fworld%2fnational-security%2fus-spy-agencies-north-korea-is-working-on-new-missiles%2f2018%2f07%2f30%2fb3542696-940d-11e8-a679-b09212fb69c2_story.html%3f&utm_term=.b70bf4bf8d9 (accessed August 22, 2018).

Unclassified satellite imagery revealed North Korea has upgraded its missile, re-entry vehicle, missile launcher, and nuclear weapon production facilities, as well as identified a covert nuclear-weapons-related highly enriched uranium production facility.²⁸

Jonathan Cheng, “North Korea Expands Key Missile-Manufacturing Plant,” *The Wall Street Journal*, July 1, 2018, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/north-korea-expands-key-missile-manufacturing-plant-1530486907> (accessed August 22, 2018); Frank V. Pabian, Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., and Jack Liu, “Infrastructure Improvements at North Korea’s Yongbyon Nuclear Research Facility,” June 26, 2018, <https://www.38north.org/2018/06/yongbyon062618/> (accessed August 22, 2018); Ankit Panda, “Exclusive: North Korea Has Continued Ballistic Missile Launcher Production in 2018, Per U.S. Intelligence,” *The Diplomat*, June 30, 2018, <https://thediplomat.com/2018/07/exclusive-north-korea-has-continued-ballistic-missile-launcher-production-per-us-intelligence/> (accessed August 22, 2018); and Ankit Panda, “Exclusive: Revealing Kangson, North Korea’s First Covert Uranium Enrichment Site,” *The Diplomat*, July 13, 2018, <https://thediplomat.com/2018/07/exclusive-revealing-kangson-north-koreas-first-covert-uranium-enrichment-site/> (accessed August 22, 2018).

The North Korean activity was not *per se* a violation of the Singapore communiqué, since no real deal had been created. But Pyongyang’s actions run counter to the spirit of the summit and are inconsistent with a government preparing to abandon its nuclear programs. They are also a continuing violation of numerous U.N. resolutions.

Watered-Down U.S. Policy

North Korea pushed the Trump Administration into abandoning its earlier advocacy for rapid implementation of unilateral nuclear disarmament, providing no benefits until North Korean denuclearization was complete, and possibly even its insistence on CVID.

U.S. Abandoned Insistence on Timelines. In May, Pompeo commented that the U.S. wanted “rapid” denuclearization “that won’t be extended over time.”²⁹

Nick Wadhams, “Pompeo Eases Demand That North Korea Give Up Nukes Immediately,” *Bloomberg*, May 23, 2018, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-05-23/pompeo-seeks-credible-n-korean-steps-toward-denuclearization> (accessed August 22, 2018).

Shortly after the summit, Pompeo declared that “with respect to the pace at which denuclearization will take place, I think we both agreed that we need to do it in as timely a fashion as is possible.”³⁰

Anne Gearan and John Hudson, “Trump Administration Insists Agreement Means North Korea Will Denuclearize,” *The Washington Post*, June 15, 2018, https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-administration-insists-agreement-means-north-korea-will-denuclearize/2018/06/14/d97c59ac-6fea-11e8-bf86-a2351b5ece99_story.html?utm_term=.93735d112cc7 (accessed August 23, 2018).

But after North Korea rejected the U.S. approach, the Trump Administration fell off its earlier insistence on rapid denuclearization. Secretary Pompeo admitted, “It may take some time to get where we need to go,” adding, there was “no time limit” on the process and “no rush.”³¹

Roberta Rampton and David Brunnstrom, “Pompeo Says North Korea Deal ‘May Take Some Time,’ Sanctions to Remain,” *U.S. News and World Report*, July 18, 2018, <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2018-07-18/pompeo-says-north-korea-deal-may-take-some-time-sanctions-to-remain> (accessed August 22, 2018).

He now admits that “the ultimate timeline for denuclearization will be set by Chairman Kim.”³²

“Pompeo Says North Korea Will Set Denuclearization Timeline,” *CBS News*, August 3, 2018, <https://wdef.com/2018/08/03/pompeo-says-north-korea-will-set-denuclearization-timeline/> (accessed August 23, 2018).

President Trump declared that “we have no rush for speed” and “[w]e have no time limit.”³³

“Trump: No Time Limit on N. Korea’s Denuclearization,” *Yonhap*, June 18, 2018, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/news/2018/07/18/0200000000AEN20180718000252315.html> (accessed August 22, 2018).

He explained that “it’s like rushing the turkey out of the stove. It’s not going to be as good.... The more they rush, the worse it’s going to be. The longer we take, the better.”³⁴

“Trump Says Won’t Rush Negotiations with N. Korea,” *Yonhap*, June 29, 2018, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/news/2018/06/29/0200000000AEN20180629000200315.html> (accessed August 22, 2018).

North Korea now effectively controls the pace of the negotiations.

Dropping CVID? There are also questions as to whether the Administration is walking back from its previous insistence on CVID—the concept required of North Korea by numerous U.N. Security Council Resolutions. Secretary Pompeo has recently described U.S. policy as Permanent Verifiable Irreversible Dismantlement (PVID),³⁵

Sarah Kim, “Pompeo Alters Wording on Nukes,” *JoongAng Daily*, May 4, 2018, <http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3047690> (accessed August 23, 2018).

and then as Final, Fully Verified Denuclearization (FFVD).³⁶

David Brunnstrom, John Walcott, and Hyonhee Shin, “U.S. Softens North Korea Approach As Pompeo Prepares For More Nuclear Talks,” *Reuters*, July 4, 2018, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-usa/us-softens-north-korea-approach-as-pompeo-prepares-for-more-nuclear-talks-idUSKBN1JU26E> (accessed August 24, 2018).

Pompeo has not explained why the Administration stopped using the term codified in the U.N. resolutions. During Pompeo's recent testimony, Senators from both political parties expressed concern that the new terminology reflects a watering down of U.S. demands. The Administration has needlessly caused confusion over U.S. objectives toward North Korea.

Maximum Pressure Is Not Maximum. President Trump described his policy as “maximum pressure,” yet he has not fully enforced U.S. laws against North Korean violators. After meeting with senior North Korean official Kim Yong-chol on June 1 of this year, Trump said he put “hundreds” of North Korean sanctions in abeyance because “we’re talking so nicely” with Pyongyang. He added, “I don’t even want to use the term ‘maximum pressure.’”³⁷ Shannon Pettypiece and Nick Wadhams, “Trump Says North Korea Summit Back On for June 12 in Singapore,” Bloomberg, June 1, 2018,

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-06-01/trump-receives-north-korean-aide-in-historic-white-house-visit> (accessed August 23, 2018).

Trump subsequently disclosed that he would not sanction 300 North Korean entities, a number equal to the cumulative total that the U.S. sanctioned during the nine-and-half years of the Obama and Trump Administrations.³⁸

Anthony Ruggiero, “Maximum Pressure 2.0: How to Improve Sanctions on North Korea,” Foundation for the Defense of Democracies Memorandum, June 4, 2018, http://www.defenddemocracy.org/content/uploads/documents/MEMO_Ruggiero_June2018.pdf (accessed August 22, 2018).

Trump explained, “I can’t really put on new sanctions when I’m meeting with [Kim], I thought it would be disrespectful.”³⁹

“Trump’s Optimistic News Conference After Meeting with Kim Jong Un, Annotated,” The Washington Post, June 12, 2018, https://www.washingtonpost.com/gdpr-consent/?destination=%2fnews%2fthe-fix%2fwp%2f2018%2f06%2f12%2ftrumps-optimistic-news-conference-after-meeting-with-kim-jong-un-annotated%2f%3f&utm_term=.ac20acefe4e2 (accessed August 28, 2018).

In addition, the U.S. Treasury Department deferred the implementation of sanctions against three dozen Russian and Chinese entities providing prohibited support to North Korea. Nor has the White House taken any action against a dozen Chinese banks that Congress recommended be sanctioned for their dealings with North Korea.

North Korea mended ties with China, which relaxed its restrictions against economic engagement with the regime.

South Korea’s Moon Jae-in Administration is urging the United States to relax pressure by allowing exemptions from sanctions for Seoul to resume large-scale economic projects with Pyongyang.

By abandoning timelines, downplaying regime human rights violations, and continuing to pull U.S. punches on sanctions, the Trump Administration has now effectively adopted President Obama’s “strategic patience” policy. In his July testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Pompeo described current policy as “patient diplomacy.”⁴⁰

David Brunnstrom, “North Korea Making Bomb Fuel Despite Denuclearization Pledge: Pompeo,” Reuters, July 25, 2018, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-usa/patient-north-korea-diplomacy-wont-drag-out-to-no-end-pompeo-idUSKBN1KF2QT> (accessed August 22, 2018).

The Trump Administration has made it harder to increase international pressure if talks stall or collapse. Some fear that the high water mark of international pressure has already passed.

The Cost of Failure

U.S. engagement is likely to continue for several months. If Pyongyang were to engage in blatantly bad-faith behavior, such as a nuclear test, missile flight, or openly declaring an end to negotiations, the U.S. would be faced with a clear policy decision point.

But a bigger challenge for the Trump Administration will be to decide, in the absence of a dramatic provocation, when it has gone too far down the rabbit hole. If negotiations continue for three months or six months without real progress, what would be the catalyst for pulling the plug? If the U.S. signals it is considering altering course, China, Russia, and South Korea would counsel allowing yet more time for diplomacy.

As the talks drag on with no progress, the clock is ticking on the Trump Administration’s earlier admonitions that the North Korean nuclear threat to the American homeland was getting dangerously close. When he was Director of the CIA, Mike Pompeo declared in January 2018 that Pyongyang was only a “handful of months” away from being able to target the United States with a nuclear ICBM.⁴¹

“N. Korea ‘Handful of Months’ Away from Ability to Nuke U.S.: CIA Chief,” Yonhap, January 23, 2018,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/news/2018/01/23/0200000000AEN20180123000200315.html> (accessed August 22, 2018).

The Trump Administration deemed Pyongyang crossing that threshold to be “intolerable.”⁴²

Miranda Green, “McMaster: ‘We Have to Provide All Options’ on North Korea,” CNN, August 5, 2017, <https://www.cnn.com/2017/08/05/politics/mcmaster-military-options-north-korea/index.html> (accessed May 11, 2018).

—and justification for a U.S. preventive military attack on North Korea.⁴³

Bruce Klingner, “Save Preemption for Imminent North Korean Attack,” Heritage Foundation Backgrounder No. 3095, March 1, 2017, <https://www.heritage.org/missile-defense/report/save-preemption-imminent-north-korean-attack>.

In June 2018, Trump retrospectively stated, “We were very close to going to war. You could have lost 30 million people, 50 million people.”⁴⁴

“Trump Says Won’t Rush Negotiations With N. Korea.”

Similarly, Pompeo commented that the opening of discussions with Pyongyang “de-escalated a situation which the prospect for conflict was rising daily.”⁴⁵

Mike Pompeo, testimony before the Foreign Relations Committee, U.S. Senate, July 25, 2018, https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/072518_Pompeo_Testimony.pdf (accessed August 22, 2018).

A lack of progress in negotiations could lead President Trump to feel that Kim had personally betrayed him. Trump put great emphasis on the personal assurance Kim had given him: “I have confidence that Kim Jong Un will honor the contract we signed and, even more importantly, our handshake.”⁴⁶

Jordan Fabian, “Trump: China May Be Exerting ‘Negative Pressure’ on North Korea,” The Hill, July 9, 2018, <http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/396087-trump-china-may-be-exerting-negative-pressure-on-nuclear-deal-with> (accessed August 22, 2018).

Trump commented earlier this year that if diplomacy did not work out, “we’ll have to go to Phase Two [which] may be a very rough thing. Maybe very, very unfortunate for the world.”⁴⁷

David Choi, “Trump Warns of Very Rough Phase Two Against North Korea If Sanctions Don’t Work: Very, Very Unfortunate for the World,” Business Insider, February 23, 2018, <http://uk.businessinsider.com/trump-phase-2-north-korea-sanctions-2018-2?r=US&IR=T> (accessed May 11, 2018).

Prior to returning to government as National Security Advisor, John Bolton commented that the purpose of engaging with North Korea was “to foreshorten the amount of time that we’re going to waste in negotiations that will never produce the result we want, which is Kim giving up his nuclear program.”⁴⁸

“John Bolton on Trump’s Decision to Meet with Kim Jong Un,” Fox News, March 9, 2018, http://video.foxnews.com/v/5748784936001/?playlist_id=2114913880001#sp=show-clips (accessed August 23, 2018).

Congress Exercising a Role

While the Trump Administration has the lead on diplomatic engagement with North Korea, the U.S. Congress is insisting on a role. Frustration with both the Obama and Trump Administrations for pulling U.S. punches against North Korea led Congress to enact new legislation to induce the executive branch into applying the authorities it already possessed.

For example, the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016, Sections 401 and 402, stipulate that prior to suspending (for one year) or removing sanctions, the President must certify North Korea has taken significant steps toward:

- Verifiably ceasing counterfeiting of U.S. currency;
- Implementing financial transparency [and] preventing money laundering;
- Verifying compliance with U.N. resolutions;
- Accounting for and repatriating abducted citizens of other countries;
- Abiding by internationally recognized standards for the distribution and monitoring of humanitarian aid;
- Providing credible assurances that it will not support further acts of international terrorism;
- Improving living conditions in its political prison camps;
- Completely, verifiably, and irreversibly dismantling all of its nuclear, chemical, biological, and radiological weapons programs;
- Releasing all political prisoners; and
- Ceasing censorship of peaceful political activity.⁴⁹

North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016, H.R. 757, 114th Cong., 2nd Sess., §§ 401 and 402.

In 2017, Congress further enhanced sanctions measures against North Korea through the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act.⁵⁰

Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, H.R. 3364, Public Law 115–44.

Additional congressional measures being considered to press the Trump Administration are the North Korea Policy Oversight Act⁵¹

North Korea Policy Oversight Act of 2018, S. 3142, <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/s3142/summary> (accessed August 23, 2018).

and the Otto Warmbier Banking Restrictions Involving North Korea (BRINK) Act.⁵²

Otto Warmbier Banking Restrictions Involving North Korea Act of 2017, S. 1591, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1591> (accessed August 23, 2018).

In August 2018, Congress passed a defense authorization bill that would prevent President Trump from reducing U.S. troops in South Korea and affirms CVID as a key component of U.S. policy toward North Korea.⁵³

“U.S. Congress Passes Defense Bill Restricting Drawdown of Troops in S. Korea,” Yonhap, August 2, 2018,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/news/2018/07/27/0200000000AEN20180727000400315.html> (accessed August 22, 2018).

Representative Ted Yoho (R-FL), Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, proposed legislation to impose fines against Chinese banks and other entities aiding North Korea. Emphasizing the Treasury Department’s reluctance to sanction Chinese banks, Yoho explained his goal was to make sanctions “mandatory, [to] have the force of law behind them that these need to be implemented; and if they’re not implemented, [the administration has] let us know why.”

Yoho disputed the Treasury Department’s characterization that it would be “too disruptive” to blacklist the largest Chinese banks. Yoho argued, “There are no banks too big to sanction when it comes down to doing this stuff with North Korea. They’re going to have to decide, is the price of doing business with North Korea worth the pain the United States is causing?”⁵⁴

Joel Gehrke, “GOP Plans Sanctions Against Chinese Banks That Aid North Korea,” Washington Examiner, July 16, 2018, https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/defense-national-security/gop-plans-sanctions-against-chinese-banks-that-aid-north-korea?_amp=true&__twitter_impression=true (accessed August 22, 2018).

What Washington Should Do

Guiding principles for negotiating with North Korea should include:

- **CVID.** North Korea should unequivocally, explicitly, and publicly accept the U.N.-required abandonment of the regime’s nuclear, missile, and BCW weapons programs in a “complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner.”⁵⁵

U.N. Security Council, Resolution 2371, S/RES/2371, August 5, 2017, paragraph 2, <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2371> (accessed August 22, 2018).

The Trump Administration should cease its use of alternative terms such as PVID and FFVD.

- **Require detailed, carefully crafted text.** Past negotiations with North Korea were flawed because the allies, overeager to achieve an agreement, acquiesced to short, ambiguously worded agreements that paid insufficient attention to details. Negotiators should press for clearly identifying definitions, provisions, and requirements—such as the extensively detailed arms-control treaties with the Soviet Union.

- **Get it in writing.** There has been a long history of negotiators being surprised that North Korea had a different interpretation of the provisions and requirements of agreements. U.S. negotiator claims of oral agreements with North Korean counterparts have enabled the regime to pocket concessions without reciprocating. Oral agreements with North Korea are not worth the paper they are written on.

- **Create a road map.** Once both sides agree on what will be constrained and eliminated, there must be settlement on linkages and sequencing of responsibilities, as well as the timelines under which they will be carried out. Washington should identify steps for North Korea to quickly demonstrate commitment to come into compliance with U.N. resolutions.

- **Distrust, but verify.** North Korean cheating on previous agreements makes it even more important to have more a robust and intrusive verification regime. The U.S. should reject any agreement that does not include robust verification. Parameters should be commensurate with the verification protocols of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, and Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty with the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact.

Provisions must include data declaration of North Korea’s nuclear, chemical, biological, and missile production, fabrication, test, and storage facilities, and the stockpile of fissile material and WMD arsenals; dismantlement of those facilities and destruction of the regime’s WMD arsenals; on-site inspections of declared facilities; and short-notice challenge inspections of non-declared facilities.

- **Implement maximum pressure.** The Trump Administration is correct in not removing existing sanctions—but has erred in not fully enforcing U.S. laws. Washington must take action against new entities as evidence arises that they have violated U.N. sanctions or U.S. legislation and regulations. U.S. sanctions are responses to North Korean actions. As long as the sanctioned behavior continues, then Washington should maintain its targeted financial measures. Reducing U.S. sanctions is subject to legal constraints.

- **Make treaty contingent on reducing conventional force threat.** The U.S. and South Korea should not sign a peace treaty until the North Korean nuclear threat is eliminated and the conventional threat reduced. North Korea has extensive conventional, mechanized, armor, and artillery corps deployed near the demilitarized zone, posing a threat to the South.

A peace treaty should be an endpoint of arms control negotiations—rather than the opening gambit to improve relations with North Korea. Signing a peace treaty prematurely could dangerously degrade allied deterrence and defense capabilities, and create societal and legislative momentum in both South Korea and the U.S. for reduction or removal of U.S. forces.

These forces should be capped and then weaned away from the forward area using measures similar to those in the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty and the accompanying Vienna Document of Confidence and Security Building Measures. Reducing the potential for either side to conduct a sudden-start invasion while increasing transparency on military forces can lower tensions by reducing the potential for miscalculation leading to a military clash.

- **Predicate economic assistance on CVID progress.** Provision of aid and assistance should be implemented in a manner to encourage economic reform, marketization, and the opening up of North Korea to the outside world rather than providing direct financial benefits to the regime.

Aid should be consistent with U.S. laws, such as Executive Order No. 13722 which bans “new investment in North Korea [and] any approval, financing, facilitation, or guarantee by a U.S. person...where the transaction...would be prohibited...if performed by a United States person or within the United States.”⁵⁶

Donald J. Trump, “Blocking Property of the Government of North Korea and the Workers’ Party of Korea, and Prohibiting Certain Transactions With Respect to North Korea,” Executive Order No. 13722, March 18, 2016, https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/nk_eo_20160316.pdf (accessed August 23, 2018).

- **No normalization of diplomatic relations without progress on human rights.** For denuclearization, the devil is in the details. But for North Korean human rights violations, the devil is in Pyongyang. The U.S. should not formalize diplomatic ties without progress on improving the regime’s atrocious human rights record. Suspension or removal of some U.S. sanctions is predicated on such progress.

Conclusion

Pyongyang has resorted to its usual negotiating tactics of the past two decades to drag out negotiations and eke out benefits even for incremental progress on peripheral matters—while holding back progress on the real issue of denuclearization. Like a magician diverting his audience’s attention, Kim is dangling progress on shiny objects (such as the return of U.S. service member remains and closing non-essential sites) to distract Washington.

There is a long history of failed diplomatic efforts to resolve North Korean security threats. That does not preclude yet another attempt under a new North Korean leader, but skepticism and wariness are warranted. The Trump Administration should learn from the mistakes of past negotiations and not be overeager for an agreement.

Negotiators should emphasize that North Korea must demonstrate progress toward denuclearization and reject Pyongyang’s demands for U.S. action to reduce regime security concerns. North Korea is in violation of U.N. resolutions—not the United States or its allies.

US: POSSIBLE OCTOBER TALKS WITH NORTH KOREA ON WAR REMAINS

By: [Robert Burns, The Associated Press](#)



Vice President Mike Pence, left, gestures to an American flag that was used during the return of remains from the Korean War in Hawaii in August 2018, while presenting it to the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Thursday, Sept. 20, 2018, during a ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington. At center is Richard Dean, Vice Chairman of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, and right is Deputy Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan. (Jacquelyn Martin/AP)

WASHINGTON — The U.S. hopes to begin face-to-face negotiations with North Korea next month on terms for

resuming on-the-ground searches in North Korea for remains of American servicemen, a senior Pentagon official said Thursday.

Kelly McKeague, director of the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency, said the aim is to begin searches at former battlefields next spring if agreement can be reached on areas of current dispute such as the types and amounts of compensation to North Korea for its assistance.

Remains of two American servicemen killed during the Korean War and returned by North Korea two months ago were identified by President Donald Trump on Thursday, as [Army Master Sgt. Charles H. McDaniel](#), 32, of Vernon, Indiana, and Army Pfc. William H. Jones, 19, of Nash County, North Carolina.



TRUMP IDS TWO SOLDIERS RECOVERED FROM NORTH KOREA

Remains of Army Master Sgt. Charles H. McDaniel, 32, and Pfc. William H. Jones, 19, will now be reunited with their families.

By: Tara Copp

McDaniel's name had already been made public last month because his military identification tag was among the 55 boxes of remains that North Korea turned over on July 27. [The tag was turned over to his sons](#). These are the first two service members identified from those remains.

"These HEROES are home, they may Rest In Peace, and hopefully their families can have closure," Trump tweeted.

Also Thursday, Vice President Mike Pence spoke about [the remains' recovery](#) during remarks to the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, but he did not reveal the names of the two who have been identified. He presented the foundation with an American flag that was among those draped over the 55 boxes from North Korea.

He said he hoped the remains from the 55 boxes are "a vanguard of what's to come" from future recoveries of war dead in North Korea. The U.S. conducted excavations in North Korea from 1996 to 2005 but suspended them amid rising political and military tensions on the Korean Peninsula.



A Marine holds a American flag while Vice President Mike Pence, right, holds his hand over his heart as retired Army Col. Richard Dean, Vice Chairman of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, salutes, during a ceremony presenting the flag that was used during the return of remains from the Korean War during a ceremony in Hawaii in August 2018, to the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Thursday, Sept. 20, 2018, at the memorial in Washington. (Jacquelyn Martin/AP)

McKeague said [it was unclear](#) how many individuals are contained in the 55 boxes, but he said it could be dozens more than 55. He described the bones as a "mish-mash" that will require DNA analysis and other extensive study. The first two identifications came relatively quickly, he said, because the remains

included partial skulls with teeth that could be matched to dental records, as well as clavicles matched to military X-ray records. The remains contained in the 55 boxes had been stored by the North Korean army, probably for decades. Thousands of additional remains are believed to lie on North Korean battlefields and at former POW camps. McKeague said the Pentagon would like to send search and excavation teams into the country as early as next spring if acceptable arrangements can be negotiated in advance.



Corn in the bones: The science behind North Korea war remains

Here's how you can tell Americans from others, experts say, and other mysteries DNA can solve.

North Korea recently submitted proposed terms for follow-on search operations, but McKeague said the offer was rejected. He described the offer as "out of sorts," which he said meant that some elements were unreasonable. He cited as an example a demand that the U.S. provide eight ambulances in addition to other vehicles, fuel, food and other items. The U.S. is preparing a counterproposal, McKeague said, and has offered to meet with a North Korean negotiating team in a third country in late October.

● **TWO KOREAS TO HOLD MILITARY TALKS ON EASING BORDER TENSIONS THIS WEEK**



A South Korea soldier stands guard in May at the Joint Security Area of the Demilitarized Zone, which divides the two Koreas.

AARON KIDD/STARS AND STRIPES

By KIM GAMEL AND YOO KYONG CHANG | STARS AND STRIPES

Published: September 11, 2018

SEOUL, South Korea – North and South Korean military officers will discuss ways to ease border tensions Thursday in the truce village of Panmunjom, the defense ministry said. The talks will occur four days before an inter-Korean summit is to begin in Pyongyang amid a new push for diplomatic momentum in the crisis over the North nuclear weapon's program.

The military meeting will focus on proposals to excavate the remains of troops killed in the 1950-53 Korean War from the heavily fortified frontier, the removal of guard posts from the Demilitarized Zone on a trial basis and how to disarm the jointly patrolled area in Panmunjom, the Yonhap News Agency reported.

The officers also are expected to discuss the military agenda for the three-day meeting between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, which is to begin on Sept. 18, more than four months after the two leaders first met.

South Korea's three-member delegation to the military meeting, which will be held on the North Korean side, will be led by Col. Cho Yong Geun, the defense ministry said in a statement. A ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with department policy, said details about the agenda haven't been finalized.

The Demilitarized Zone – a 2.5-mile-wide, more than 150 mile long no man's land lined with barbed wire and dotted with landmines – has divided the peninsula since the war ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

The Joint Security Area, with several blue conference buildings straddling the Military Demarcation Line, is controlled by the U.S.-led United Nations Command.

It's a popular tourist destination but also has been the site of past tensions, including the dramatic escape by a North Korean soldier who defected to the South last year by running across the border while under gunfire from his former comrades.

South Korea's Defense Minister Song Young-moo said last month that the two sides had each agreed to remove several guard posts on a trial basis.

Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander of the UNC and U.S. Forces Korea, said he supports the initiative as a way to reduce tensions and build trust between the rival nations, despite the risks.

"I have some concerns about what that means militarily to the ability to defend along the Military Demarcation Line and in depth beyond it," he told reporters in Seoul. "I believe that there's a reasonable amount of risk that's involved in this, not an excessive amount of risk," to the defense of South Korea.

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[S. Korean president urges Trump, Kim to make 'bold decisions' in nuclear impasse](#)



Mass rally wraps up North Korea's 70th anniversary events

• **U.S. EYES OCTOBER TALKS WITH NORTH KOREA ON HUNT FOR REMAINS OF WAR DEAD**

WASHINGTON – The U.S. hopes to begin face-to-face negotiations with North Korea next month on terms for resuming on-the-ground searches in North Korea for remains of American servicemen, a senior Pentagon official said Thursday.

Kelly McKeague, director of the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency, said the aim is to begin searches at former battlefields next spring if agreement can be reached on areas of current dispute such as the types and amounts of compensation to North Korea for its assistance.

Remains of two American servicemen killed during the Korean War and returned by North Korea two months ago have been positively identified, but McKeague would not disclose their names. He said the White House wants to do that. The remains were among an undetermined number contained in 55 boxes the North Korean army turned over to U.S. officials on July 27.

Later Thursday, Vice President Mike Pence spoke about the remains recovery during remarks to the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, but he did not reveal the names of the two who have been identified. He presented the foundation with an American flag that was among those draped over the 55 boxes from North Korea.

He said he hoped the remains from the 55 boxes are “a vanguard of what’s to come” from future recoveries of war dead in North Korea. The U.S. conducted excavations in North Korea from 1996 to 2005 but suspended them amid rising political and military tensions on the Korean peninsula.

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The remains contained in the 55 boxes had been stored by the North Korean army, probably for decades. Thousands of additional remains are believed to lie on North Korean battlefields and at former POW camps. McKeague said the Pentagon would like to send search and excavation teams into the country as early as next spring if acceptable arrangements can be negotiated in advance.

North Korea recently submitted proposed terms for follow-on search operations, but McKeague said the offer was rejected. He described the offer as “out of sorts,” which he said meant that some elements were unreasonable. He cited as an example a demand that the U.S. provide eight ambulances in addition to other vehicles, fuel, food and other items. The U.S. is preparing a counterproposal, McKeague said, and has offered to meet with a North Korean negotiating team in a third country in late October.

• **POMPEO: NO END TO N. KOREA SANCTIONS UNTIL ‘DENUCLEARIZATION’**

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON | Associated Press | Published: September 23, 2018
NEW YORK — Top U.S. diplomat Mike Pompeo said Sunday that economic sanctions on North Korea won’t be reduced until it completes “denuclearization” after leader Kim Jong Un offered to close the North’s main nuclear site in exchange for U.S. concessions. Kim said last week at a summit with South Korea’s president that he was willing to dismantle the Nyongbyon nuclear complex in the presence of outside inspectors if the U.S. takes unspecified “corresponding measures.” He also promised to dismantle the North’s



main rocket launch site.

That has helped revive U.S.-North Korea diplomacy that had failed to make headway since President Donald Trump met Kim in Singapore in June and won a vague commitment on denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. But U.S. administration officials have yet to signal a readiness to provide the kind of incentives that Pyongyang wants.

Pompeo also wouldn't be drawn on whether the U.S. would consider a declaration on ending the Korean War that the North has sought as a sign of reduced U.S. "hostility." The war ceased without a peace treaty in 1953.

Some see signs of hope on North Korea as Trump heads to UN

"Everybody's got their own idea what a concession might be. Some thought it was a concession for President Trump to go to Singapore. I certainly didn't think so; President Trump doesn't," Pompeo told "Fox News Sunday."

"But what we've made clear is the economic sanctions — the driving force to achieve the outcome we're looking for — will not be released. And the U.N. Security Council will not reduce those sanctions, until such time as we've achieved that final denuclearization," he said.

Pompeo has invited his North Korean counterpart for a meeting on the sidelines of the annual gathering of world leaders at the U.N. this week. Trump, who is considering a second summit with Kim, will be meeting South Korean President Moon Jae-for a debrief on the allied leader's recent visit to Pyongyang.

U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Nikki Haley, told CBS's "Face the Nation" that Trump is not interested in "half measures" and wants North Korea to allow inspectors at all its sites to verify denuclearization.

"I think what President Trump has said is we're not going to do any half measures. We have to make sure that we're thorough in this. There are multiple sites in North Korea, and we need to have inspectors in all multiple sites if that's going to happen," she said.

North Korea is suspected to have secret sites linked to its nuclear weapons program in addition to the plutonium and uranium production facilities at Nyongbyon.

While North Korea has halted nuclear and missile tests since late last year, it hasn't moved to abandon its nuclear arsenal of an estimated 40 to 60 bombs.

• **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

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.

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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	https://www.va.gov/oig
Office of the National Cemetery System	202.461.6240	www.cem.va.gov
Arlington National Cemetery	703.607.8585	www.arlingtoncemetery.mil
Board of Veterans Appeals	202.565.5436	www.bva.va.gov
Central Office (Main Switchboard)	202.273.5400	
Funeral Arrangements & Eligibility	703.607.8585	www.cem.va.gov
Government Life Insurance	800.669.8477	www.insurance.va.gov
Personal Locator	202.273.4950	

Other Veteran Government Agencies

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

Congressional Committees

Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs	202.224.9126	www.veterans.senate.gov
House Committee on Veterans Affairs	202.225.3527	https://veterans.house.gov
Congressional Rural Health Care Coalition	202.225.6600	www.ruralhealthinfo.org

Other Veteran Related Offices and Agencies

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

POW/MIA

Department of Defense, POW/MIA Affairs	703.699.1169	http://www.dpaa.mil/
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Incarcerated Veteran

Federal Bureau of Prisons	202.307.3198	https://www.bop.gov
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PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)

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

Locator and Reunion Services

Army Worldwide Locator	866.771.6357	hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/per_locator.htm
Navy Times Locator Services	901.874.3388	https://www.navytimes.com
Personnel Locator	800.333.4636	

Archives

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

Women Veterans

Women in Military Service-America Memorial Foundation	703.533.1155	www.womensmemorial.org
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<p>Arlington National Cemetery: (877) 907-8585 http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil</p> <p>Armed Forces Retirement Home: (800) 422-9988; http://www.afrh.gov</p> <p>Army & Air Force Exchange Service: www.shopmyexchange.com Army</p> <p>Echoes: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes Editor's e-mail address: ArmyEchoes@mail.mil</p> <p>Army Echoes Blog: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/blog</p> <p>Army Emergency Relief: (866) 878-6378; http://www.aerhq.org</p> <p>Army Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/USArmy</p> <p>Army Flickr: http://www.flickr.com/photos/soldiersmediacenter/</p> <p>Army Homepage: http://www.army.mil</p> <p>Army Live Blog: http://armylive.dodlive.mil/</p> <p>Army mobile phone apps: http://www.army.mil/mobile/</p> <p>Army Retirement Services: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement</p> <p>Army Stand To!: http://www.army.mil/standto/</p> <p>Army Lodging Program: (877) 711-8326; http://www.pal.army.mil Reservations: http://www.ihgarmyhotels.com</p> <p>Army Twitter: https://twitter.com/USArmy/</p> <p>Army YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/usarmy</p> <p>Casualty Assistance Checklist for Retired Soldiers: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/docs/Post/CasualtyAssistanceChecklist.pdf</p> <p>Chief of Staff, Army Retired Soldier Council: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/RetireeCouncil</p> <p>Combat-Related Special Compensation: (866) 281-3254 opt.4; https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/CRSC</p> <p>Commissary: http://www.commissaries.com</p> <p>Concurrent Retired & Disability Pay: (800) 321-1080, http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crdp.html</p> <p>Consumer Financial Protection Bureau: (855) 411-2372 http://www.consumerfinance.gov/</p> <p>Death — Report a Retired Soldier's Death: Call HQDA Casualty Operations Center, (800) 626-3317; from overseas, call (502) 613-3317 collect. https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reporting%20A%20Death</p> <p>DS Logon: https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/</p> <p>Funeral Honors (Military): Army Coordinator: (502) 613-8218 https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh/</p> <p>ID Card Facilities: (800) 538-9552; Nearest facility: www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl</p> <p>Legal Assistance Locator (Military): http://legalassistance.law.af.mil/content/locator.php</p> <p>Long Term Care Insurance: (800) 582-3337 http://www.ltcfeds.com/</p> <p>MyArmyBenefits: http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/ Help Desk: (888) 721-2769 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday - Friday);</p> <p>Survivor Outreach Services: (855) 707-2769, https://www.sos.army.mil/</p> <p>Reserve Component Retirements (888) 276-9472 https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reserve%20Component%20Retirements</p> <p>RC Application for Retired Pay: 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: https://www.hrc.army.mil/Default.aspx?ID=13664</p> <p>Soldiers Magazine: http://soldiers.dodlive.mil/</p> <p>Space-Available Travel: http://www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site</p> <p>Soldier for Life on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CSASoldierForLife</p>	<p>Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/usfspa</p> <p> U. S. Army Retired Lapel Button and Badge: Type "Soldier for Life" into the search box at https://www.shopmyexchange.com</p> <p>Veterans Service Records — Replace DD Form 214, awards: Retired 4/1/1996 or later: Visit http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/, Click on "Army White Pages" at the bottom, then log in. Next click on "Click Here to Access Your Army Record."</p> <p>Retired 3/31/1996 or earlier: Call Human Resources Command at (888) 276-9472 or visit http://vetrecs.archives.gov National Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records); 1 Archive Drive. St. Louis, MO 63138-1002</p> <p>DFAS (800) 321-1080 (M-F, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST) http://www.dfas.mil/ myPay (888) 332-7411; https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx Retiree/Annuitant web page http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html</p> <p>Social Security (800) 772-1213 http://www.socialsecurity.gov/; If overseas, contact the American Embassy/consulate, or visit http://www.socialsecurity.gov/foreign/phones.html.</p> <p>Medicare (800) 633-4227 http://www.medicare.gov</p> <p>TRICARE http://www.tricare.mil</p> <p>Health Beneficiary Counseling Assistance Coordinator: http://www.tricare.mil/bcacdcao, or nearest military treatment facility</p> <p>TRICARE North: (877) 874-2273; http://www.hnfs.com; 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>TRICARE South: (800) 444-5445; http://www.humana-military.com/ 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>TRICARE West: (877) 988-9378; https://www.uhcmilitarywest.com/; 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>TRICARE Overseas: (888) 777-8343; http://www.tricare-overseas.com</p> <p>TRICARE for Life: (866) 773-0404; TDD (866) 773-0405 http://tricare.mil/Plans/HealthPlans/TFL.aspx</p> <p>TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery: (877) 363-1296; http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery/</p> <p>TRICARE Network Pharmacy: (877) 363-1303; http://www.express-scripts.com</p> <p>TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan: (888) 838-8737; http://www.TRDP.org</p> <p>US Family Health Plan: http://www.usfhp.com/</p> <p>Armed Forces Recreation Centers http://www.armymwr.com</p> <p>Hale Koa Hotel, Hawaii: (800) 367-6027; http://halekoa.com</p> <p>Edelweiss Resort, Bavaria: 011-49-8821-9440 http://www.edelweisslodgeandresort.com</p> <p>Shades of Green, Florida: (888) 593-2242; (407) 824-3665 http://www.shadesofgreen.org/reservations.htm</p> <p>Dragon Hill, Korea: 011-822-790-0016 http://www.dragonhilllodge.com</p> <p>Veterans Affairs (VA) Information http://www.va.gov</p> <p>Burial & Memorial Benefits: http://www.cem.va.gov/ (877) 907-8199</p> <p>Benefits and Services: (800) 827-1000 (Retired Soldiers overseas should contact the American Embassy/consulate); TDD (800) 829-4833 http://benefits.va.gov/benefits/</p> <p>GI Bill: (888) 442-4551; http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/</p> <p>Health Care Benefits: (877) 222-8387; http://www.va.gov/health</p> <p>Insurance: SGLI/VGLI: (800) 419-1473; All other insurance: (800) 669-8477</p>
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Navy Shift Colors: <http://www.navy.mil/> then click Links/Shift Colors

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Fisher

James R. Fisher
National Executive Director
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