



**THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Washington, D.C.

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

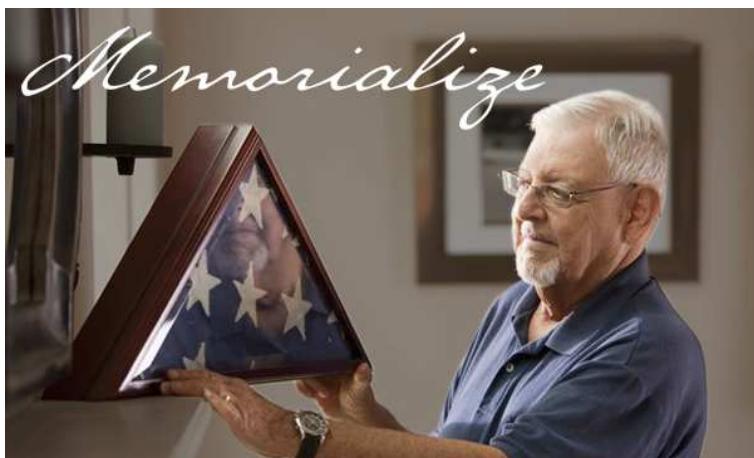
• **MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT REPORT:**

- New Members in October – 28
- New Members in 2018 to date – 412
- Current Count - Active Members – 11,788
- 1192 Members reported as deceased this year

• **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 live 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

- **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 veteran's 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.

<u>Entitlement Month</u>	<u>Retired Pay Date</u>	<u>Annuitant Pay Date</u>
October 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	October 3, 2019
October 2019	October 1, 2019	October 1, 2019
October 2019	November 1, 2019	November 1, 2019
November 2019	November 29, 2019	December 2, 2019

SHINGLES VACCINATION UPDATE *By Ronald Wolf, Writer-Editor, Office of the Surgeon General/Medical Command*

Last month, we included a reminder for Military Retirees to ask about vaccines for shingles. The vaccine is recommended for everyone over 60 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), but approved by the Food and Drug Administration for those over 50. A newer vaccine, Shingrix, is now available and is considered to be more effective and longer lasting. The CDC recommends Shingrix for shingles and related complications. Usually, two doses of Shingrix are needed with injections 2 to 6 months apart for adults aged 50 years or older. You should consider being vaccinated with Shingrix even if you have already been vaccinated with the current vaccine Zostavax. Studies have shown that the effectiveness of Zostavax wanes over time. If you have previously had a Zostavax vaccine injection, discuss with your physician whether you should and how soon you can receive a Shingrix vaccination. You should wait at least 8 weeks after a patient received Zostavax to administer Shingrix. One thing: check at your health care facility about availability of Shingrix. Demand is high, and some temporary shortages have been reported. To recap, shingles is a painful rash that usually develops on one side of the body, often the face or torso. It is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox. After a person recovers from chickenpox, the virus becomes dormant in the body and can stay dormant for decades. During a shingles outbreak, a rash consisting of blisters forms; it usually fades away in 2 to 4 weeks. The problem with shingles is the nerve pain that may last for months after the rash goes away. The pain can be deep and intense, and most over-the-counter pain killers have little effect. Over time the nerve pain will diminish, but that process can be slow and especially frustrating. Most people who develop shingles have only one outbreak during their lifetime, but you can have shingles more than once. Vaccinations are an important tool in maintaining health and readiness for all ages. The vaccine for shingles is an important vaccine. Even if you've already been vaccinated, ask your physician what he or she recommends.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH:

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and VA is doing outreach to remind veterans, both women and men, of the importance of monthly self-checks as well as mammograms for early detection. While breast cancer typically affects women, there are cases of male breast cancer. This is particularly true for veterans who were exposed to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune from the 1950s through the 1980s for more than 30 days. For individuals who were stationed in the Camp Lejeune area and were exposed to the water between Aug. 1, 1953 and Dec. 31, 1987, presumptive service connection for veterans who developed one or more of eight diseases, including breast cancer, is available. There are also options for family member reimbursements for relatives of veterans who resided at Camp Lejeune during this time. Learn about [breast cancer early detection](#), [water contamination at Camp Lejeune](#), or if you lived or worked at Camp Lejeune in 1987 or before, register to receive notifications regarding [Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water](#).

A FUTURE WITHOUT RETIREMENT SERVICES OFFICERS? *By Mark E. Overberg, Director, Army Retirement Services*

What would the Army look like without the retirement services officers (RSOs) that serve on almost every Army installation? Last year, these RSOs advised over 21,000 active duty Soldiers and their families about retirement benefits and processes. They were the point of entry to the Army for 980,000 Retired Soldiers and 247,000 surviving spouses, answering many thousands of their questions about retirement benefits and solving their pay problems. RSOs were physical proof that the Army believes Retired Soldiers are still a part of the Army family. If RSOs are eliminated, retiring and Retired Soldiers and surviving spouses will lose their subject matter expert who untangles complex and conflicting retirement benefits, such as military retired pay and VA disability compensation; the Department of Defense Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance and the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation; plus Combat Related Special Compensation and Concurrent Retired and Disability Pay to name just a few. RSOs complete the 30-hour Department of the Army SBP Certification Course before they can advise anyone about the SBP. RSOs complete another 30-hour certification course so they can explain the myriad retirement laws, DOD instructions, Army regulations, benefits and entitlements. They are required to recertify on both courses every three years to ensure they know the latest laws and policies. RSOs advise garrison commanders about the retired community for whom the garrison commander is charged with providing retirement services. RSOs advise and administer the installation retiree council, the primary connection between the garrison commander and tens of thousands of Retired Soldiers with whom he or she must communicate. RSOs write and publish the garrison

commander's annual newsletter to Retired Soldiers and surviving spouses. RSOs plan, organize, and secure funding for the garrison commander's annual retiree appreciation day. RSOs organize the garrison commander's monthly retirement planning brief and explain retired pay and the Survivor Benefit Plan. And they coordinate the installation subject matter experts who explain TRICARE, household goods moves and storage after retirement, DD Form 214s, retirement orders, and how to use a VA regional office and VA benefits. Retired Soldiers' volunteer work on Army installations save garrison commanders millions of dollars each year. The Army recently asked Retired Soldiers to help Army recruiters open doors and meet their goals. And thousands of Retired Soldiers serve as Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps instructors in over 1,700 American high schools, inspiring our youth to serve in the military and to be good citizens. Army Chief of Staff General Maxwell Taylor created the retirement services program in 1955 when there were only 100,000 Retired Soldiers. "Your informed voice, in your community and in your day-to-day contacts with your fellow citizens, can help the Army maintain the kind of public support essential to the existence of a powerful, mobile, combat ready Army," he said. Today, Retired Soldiers are the Army's largest demographic. Over 30,000 Soldiers from all three components join their ranks each year. In 2020, the Army will have more than a million Retired Soldiers. Now is not the time to cut the RSOs who help Soldiers retire and who care for the Army's Fourth Component. Now is the time to develop systems to accurately measure what Retired Soldiers do for the Army. Now is the time to increase support to the Fourth Component. If you're concerned that the Army may eliminate RSOs, send an email to the editor of Army Echoes at ArmyEchoes@mail. mil. Tell us what you think.

- **TRICARE Prime and Select Open Season:** Beginning on Nov. 12, TRICARE will kick off its first open season where Prime and Select beneficiaries can enroll in or change their health care coverage plan for 2019. The open season period will last until Dec. 10 and any changes made during this period will become effective on Jan. 1, 2019. If you are satisfied with your current plan then your coverage will continue automatically for 2019, as long as you remain eligible for coverage. [Find out more](#) about the open season and how to modify your existing health plan.
- **HOLIDAY OVERSEAS MAIL DEADLINES APPROACHING:** Military and U.S. Postal Service officials have issued suggested mailing deadlines for holiday packages and letters to military locations overseas in time for Christmas. To get them there in time for Hanukkah, which starts on Dec. 2 this year, subtract 23 days from the deadlines. According to Military Times, the deadlines for various methods of shipping are the same for most APO/FPO/DPO (diplomatic post office) ZIP codes, with the exception of some mail going to APO/FPO/DPO Zip Code 093, which covers overseas contingency areas. Read the [Military Times article](#) for suggested mailing deadlines.
- **VA SECRETARY WILKIE TESTIFIES BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE:** On Wednesday, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie testified before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs to discuss the progress he has made in his first 60 days. He spoke at length about a variety of topics including implementation of the KWVA-supported VA *MISSION Act of 2018*, Blue Water Navy, accountability of wrongdoers, and the department's efforts to modernize its electronic health record. Secretary Wilkie said at the hearing, "the state of VA is better" when describing the department's recent progress. [Watch the hearing](#)

- **SURVEY SHOWS VA SUSTAINS HIGH CUSTOMER SATISFACTION IN BURIAL AND MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES**

WASHINGTON — The results of a recent [VA customer survey](#) indicates Veterans and their families continue to experience high customer satisfaction in burial and memorial services for Veterans and families from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)'s National Cemetery Administration (NCA).

NCA's annual survey to Veterans, families and funeral directors, which was released at the end of September and covers fiscal year 2018, revealed the following:

- The administration scored in the high 90th percentile in customer service and cemetery appearance, with 98.2 percent of all respondents saying they were satisfied with their experience at the national cemetery;
- 98.7 percent of respondents noted they would recommend VA national cemeteries to Veteran families during their time of need; and

- 99 percent of respondents said the appearance of their VA national cemetery was excellent.

“National Cemetery Administration staff continue to provide world-class burial and memorial services at VA cemeteries, delivering, earning and sustaining the trust of Veterans and families,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “The employees’ commitment to excellence in customer service results in an experience that is consistently positive for Veterans and their families in terms of ease, effectiveness and emotional resonance.”

NCA has a well-established culture of customer service, and has ranked first in customer satisfaction among the nation’s top corporations and federal agencies in an [independent survey](#) conducted by the CFI Group six consecutive times, most recently in 2016.

VA continues to pride itself on hiring Veterans and attributes its high satisfaction scores to having 76.7 percent of NCA employees being Veterans themselves.

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.

- **NEW RULE CHANGES HOW VA CALCULATES INCOME FOR NEEDS-BASED BENEFITS:** The, VA published a [final rule in the Federal Register](#) that will establish a three year look-back period when determining eligibility for income-based benefits, including pension with aid and attendance. The new rule goes into effect on Oct. 18, 2018. It makes several changes, such as increasing the amount of net worth a veteran can have to qualify for pension and expanding the definition of custodial care to allow veterans to deduct medical expenses for dementia care and third-party care providers. The three-year look-back rule is intended to limit asset transfers done solely to qualify for governmental assistance. Such transfers may bar the veteran from receiving pension benefits, until the assets are used for their living expenses. There are some protections in place for veterans to transfer funds without a penalty, such as special needs trusts for the benefit of helpless children and helpless adult children and trusts where the veteran retains control over the funds. Veterans can also reverse the transfer or buy back the asset to avoid the penalty. For questions about VA benefits and assistance with filing a claim, contact the KWVA National Veterans Service Officer (VSO), Richard “Rocky” Hernandez Sr. PH: 254-702-1009, email: rfernandez7@hot.rr.com

- **END OF FISCAL YEAR HOSPITAL STAR RATING SHOWS LARGE IMPROVEMENT IN OVERALL QUALITY OF SERVICES OF VA MEDICAL CENTERS ACROSS NATION**

WASHINGTON — Today, as part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ (VA) efforts to remain transparent and hold VA facilities accountable, VA released [end of fiscal year 2018 \(FY2018\) hospital Star ratings](#), which evaluate and benchmark quality of care delivery at VA medical centers (VAMCs) across the nation.

“With closer monitoring and increased medical center leadership and support we have seen solid improvements at most of our facilities,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “Even our highest performing facilities are getting better, and that is driving up our quality standards across the country.”

The Star rating designation is designed to help VA identify best practices of its top performing hospitals and share them across VA’s health care system to achieve system-wide improvements.

Compared with data from the same period a year ago, the release of VA’s Strategic Analytics for Improvement and Learning (SAIL) report shows 66 percent of VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) have improved in overall quality in the

third quarter — with the largest gains seen in areas where there were VA-wide improvement initiatives, such as mortality, length of stay and avoidable adverse events. Six VAMCs experienced a decrease in quality, and improvement activities are underway at each of these facilities.

Additionally, of the medical centers placed under the Strategic Action for Transformation program (StAT), an initiative that monitors high-risk medical centers and mobilizes resources to assist them, eight are no longer considered high risk and 80 percent (12 medical centers) show measurable improvements since being placed under StAT in January 2018.

“There’s no doubt that there’s still plenty of work to do, but I’m proud of our employees, who work tirelessly to move VA in the right direction for Veterans and taxpaylers,” Wilkie said.

- **SOLDIER FOR LIFE:** We were honored to have a Soldier for Life and Korean War veteran visit our office recently. Chief Warrant Officer Four Donald Loudner, U.S. Army Retired, National Commander of the National American Indian Veterans (NAIV), stopped by while in Washington, DC for the observances commemorating the 65th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. During his visit CW4 (Ret) Loudner shared some of the NAIV’s efforts to advocate for Native American veterans and spouses and discussed next year’s groundbreaking for the National Native American Veterans Memorial. For more information about the memorial visit: <https://nmai.si.edu/nnavm/>.
- **SOLDIER FOR LIFE’ WINDOW STICKER:** The Army and Air Force Exchange Service sells the SFL window sticker. If your local store doesn’t have it, ask the manager or order online at <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/soldierfor-life-decal/8060674>. It is also available from retailers. Retirement Services Officers are also authorized to order and distribute the SFL window sticker. There is no sticker with the word “Retired” because the sticker represents the entire Soldier for Life program, including veterans who didn’t retire.
- **TRICARE OPEN SEASON:** Open season is an annual period when you can enroll in a health insurance plan for the next year. With TRICARE, open season will occur each fall, beginning on the Monday of the second full week in November to the Monday of the second full week in December. During Open Season, you can:
 - Enroll in a new TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select plan
 - Change your enrollment (e.g., switch from individual to family enrollment)
 - Enroll in a FEDVIP vision or dental plan (for certain categories of beneficiaries) If are not enrolled in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select, you will not have TRICARE coverage and only be eligible for space available coverage in a military hospital or clinic. Thinking about changing plans? Visit the Compare Plans page for a side-by-side plan comparison at <https://www.tricare.mil/About/Changes/OpenSeason>.
- **HOW TO CORRECT YOUR RECORDS IN DEERS:** To request a correction of your records in the Defense Eligibility and Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS), you must start with the U.S. Army Human Resources Command’s Veteran Inquiry Branch. They will verify and/or correct your records at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS). If your DFAS record is not corrected first, any change you make in DEERS will be overwritten by the information in your DFAS records. Start by contacting HRC at (888) 276-9472 or askhrc.army@us.army.mil. You’ll need to complete a Standard Form 180-15a2, Request Pertaining to Military Records, and provide your birth certificate
- **HOW THE SOCIAL SECURITY RULES WORK FOR YOU** *By Jim Borland, Acting Deputy Commissioner for Communications, Social Security Administration* ~ Retirement doesn’t have the same meaning for everyone. Some people plan to retire and never work again. Some people plan for second careers in occupations that wouldn’t have adequately supported their families, but they do the work for pure enjoyment. Some people, whether by design or desire, choose to work part-time or seasonally to supplement their retirement income. Retirees (or survivors) who choose to receive Social Security benefits before they reach full retirement age (FRA) and continue to work have an earnings limit. In 2017, the annual earnings limit was \$16,920 for those under FRA the entire calendar year. In 2018, it is \$17,040. If you earn over the limit, we deduct \$1 from your Social Security monthly benefit payment for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit. In the calendar year you reach FRA, which you can check out on our website, you have a higher earnings limit. Additionally, we will only count earnings for the months prior to FRA. In 2017, the limit was \$44,880. In 2018, it is \$45,360. In the year of FRA attainment, Social Security deducts \$1 in benefits for every \$3 you earn above the limit. There is a special rule that

usually only applies in your first year of receiving retirement benefits. If you earn more than the annual earnings limit, you may still receive a full Social Security payment for each month you earn less than a monthly limit. In 2018, the monthly limit is \$1,420 for those who are below FRA the entire calendar year. The 2018 monthly limit increases to \$3,780 in the year of FRA attainment. Once you reach FRA, you no longer have an earnings limit, and we may recalculate your benefit to credit you for any months we withheld your benefits due to excess earnings. This is because your monthly benefit amount is calculated based on a reduction for each month you receive it before your FRA. So, if you originally filed for benefits 12 months before your FRA but earned over the limit and had two months of Social Security benefits withheld, we will adjust your ongoing monthly benefit amount to reflect that you received 10 months of benefits before your FRA, and not 12. Most people understand that if they work while receiving benefits before FRA, their benefit may be reduced. What most people do not consider in their retirement planning is that we recalculate your Social Security monthly benefit at FRA to credit you for Social Security benefit payments withheld due to earnings over the limit. Explaining the earnings limit is another way that Social Security helps secure your today and tomorrow. Understanding both the earnings limit and the possible recalculation of your ongoing Social Security benefits will provide an additional perspective on retirement for you to consider.

- **NEW WAY TO DO SSI WAGE REPORTING WITH SOCIAL SECURITY** Social Security has expanded its online wage reporting service to allow people who receive supplemental security income (SSI) benefits, deemors, and people who receive both social security disability (SSDI) and SSI benefits, and their representative payees to report wages securely online. This capability had been available only to SSDI beneficiaries and their representative payees. The service is available through my Social Security portal. Wage reporters can still use the SSI telephone wage reporting at (800)772-1213 and SSI mobile wage reporting applications. This new option allows them to avoid visiting a field office to report their wages in person and allows them to print or save a receipt of their report. However, users must still contact a local field office to report when they first start working for each new employer. It's also important to note that representative payees are able to report wages but won't have access to beneficiaries 'or recipient's other information.

- **US, SOUTH KOREA SUSPEND MORE MILITARY EXERCISES** By: [Tara Copp](#) and [Aaron Mehta](#)



*U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter aircraft, assigned to the 36th Fighter Squadron, participate in an elephant walk during Exercise Vigilant Ace 18 at Osan Air Base, South Korea, on Dec. 3, 2017.
(Staff Sgt. Franklin R. Ramos/U.S. Air Force)*

The Pentagon announced Friday it is suspending another major military exercise with South Korea in an effort to support denuclearization talks with North Korea, raising concerns as to how long forces on the peninsula can forgo major training opportunities before readiness is hurt. U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and South Korean National Defense Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo made the decision to suspend "Vigilant Ace," an annual December air exercise involving more than 12,000 forces, "to give the diplomatic process every opportunity to continue," Pentagon press secretary Dana White said in

a statement.“Both ministers are committed to modifying training exercises to ensure the readiness of our forces. They pledged to maintain close coordination and evaluate future exercises,” she said.

It’s been almost a year since North Korea tested its last ballistic missile, after firing missiles throughout most of 2017 that proved the country had rapidly advanced its missile capabilities.

In the months of quiet since then, President Donald Trump has made repeated overtures to the North Korean government, which resulted in a summit between the two countries last summer in Singapore. At that summit, Trump pledged to suspend what he perceived as wasteful wargames that North Korea views as provocative; North Korea in the months since has re-started the repatriation of U.S. remains from the Korean War.



- **NOMINEE TO LEAD US FORCES KOREA SAYS PAUSE IN EXERCISES THERE HAS HURT READINESS**

U.S. President Donald Trump’s decision to cancel some military exercises with South Korea led to a “slight degradation” in American readiness, according to the president’s nominee to lead U.S. Forces Korea.

By: Joe Gould, Leo Shane III

Mattis is in Singapore meeting with Asian ministers of defense including his Japanese counterpart Takeshi Iwaya. In the statement, White said Mattis consulted with the Japanese on the decision.

The announcement is the latest twist around the question of when, or if, the U.S. will resume the joint exercises, and with warnings that the pause in exercises will hurt the readiness of U.S. forces on the peninsula.

During a Sept. 25 hearing, Army Gen. Robert Abrams, the then-nominee to lead U.S. Forces-Korea, said of the Ulchi Freedom exercise being canceled: “That’s a key exercise to maintain continuity and to continue to practice our interoperability, and so there was a slight degradation” in readiness.

A day later, Mattis downplayed that impact, saying: “If you emphasize the word ‘slight,’ certainly if you’re not training today then you could say there’s a slight degradation. Is it notable? Is it material? ... I think that’s why he [Abrams] put the word ‘slight’ in there.

“There’s nothing significant to it.”

- **KOREA UPDATE:** On Thursday, October 25, 2018, the Republic of Korea, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, and the United Nations Command announced that as a part of a compromise reached in September, troops and weapons have been removed from the Joint Security Area near the village of Panmunjom. This disarmament was one of the many conditions agreed to last month during a summit between the defense ministers of the two Koreas and the U.N. Command. Additional provisions include creating buffer zones, land and sea boundaries, establishing a no-fly zone above the border, removing some of their front-line guard posts and opening the Joint Security Area up to tourists. Earlier this month North and South Korea began a separate demining operation near Hill 281, also known as Arrowhead Hill. Once demining operations have been completed, joint operations will begin in order to recover the remains of more than 300 sets of U.S., Korean and U.N. allies believed to be buried there. General Vincent Brooks, commander for U.S. Forces Korea and U.N. Command, applauded the action stating that, “The area around this hill contains the fallen from several countries, and returning them to their countries and families is a top priority for me.

- **DPAA ACCOUNTS FOR 203 MISSING PERSONNEL IN FY 2018:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) accounted for 203 formerly missing persons from past conflicts, the highest yearly total reached by the agency or its predecessor organizations. Also, the agency individually identified the remains of three additional personnel, who were previously accounted for as part of group burials, reaching another milestone of 206 individual identifications for the FY. Broken down by conflict, 10 were accounted for from the Vietnam War, 37 from the Korean War, and 156 were from World War II. “Science and technology have expanded exponentially in recent years, enabling identifications that even five years ago seemed impossible. We also attribute the increasing yearly trend to DPAA’s expanded use of partnerships, a more precise management of disinterments, and improvements in our robust field operations,” said Rear Adm. Jon Kreitz, DPAA’s Deputy Director for Operations. The agency is focused on the research, investigation,

recovery and identification of approximately 34,000 (out of approximately 83,000 missing personnel) believed to be recoverable, who were lost in conflicts from World War II to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

- **POPULAR TOURS TO DMZ VILLAGE SUSPENDED**

AARON KIDD/STARS AND STRIPES



By **KIM GAMEL** | STARS AND STRIPES Published: October 30, 2018

SEOUL, South Korea — Tours to the Korean truce village of Panmunjom have been suspended while authorities await guidance on new arrangements to comply with a far-reaching military agreement.

Agencies notified tourists last week and offered refunds for those who had prepaid for a visit to the tightly controlled Joint Security Area, the heart of the heavily fortified border that sits about 35 miles north of Seoul.

The tours to the JSA — the only point along the 155-mile long border where North and South Korean troops face each other — are popular with foreign tourists eager for a glimpse of the communist state.

The U.S.-led United Nations Command, which administers the southern side of the jointly patrolled area, confirmed the tours have been postponed. The command's military armistice commission was "looking into dates when they can resume," it said.

"There will be no crossings until the State Department has created and coordinated guidance for the crossings," a UNC official said in an email Tuesday, discussing the issue on condition of anonymity.

The military armistice commission anticipates that crossings will be very controlled at first with name accountability and a head count, the official said while stressing that guidance will come from the State Department.

Visitors have long been allowed into only certain parts of the area — including the blue conference building where the armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War was signed — as part of tightly controlled tour groups led by authorized agencies.



A man poses near South Korean soldiers inside a conference building at the Joint Security Area on the border of North and South Korea, May 24, 2017.
AARON KIDD/STARS AND STRIPES

But the inter-Korean military agreement reached last month called for the JSA to be disarmed and for civilians to be allowed in the area with “freedom of movement” from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The two Koreas, backed by the UNC, announced last week that they had completed the withdrawal of firearms and military posts from the area as part of the agreement, which is aimed at reducing tensions amid diplomatic efforts to persuade the North to give up its nuclear weapons.

The UNC — which is led by Gen. Vincent Brooks, who also commands U.S. Forces Korea — announced Monday that the work done to date had been verified.

It also said a third meeting planned for Tuesday between UNC, North and South Korean officials to discuss further implementation of the military agreement had been postponed.

“The trilateral talk will be rescheduled and is being coordinated between” the three parties, according to a press release. The website NK News quoted travel industry sources as saying that North Korean authorities expect tourists visiting the JSA on its side to be able to freely cross the Military Demarcation Line as early as Thursday. It said the news was reportedly relayed by the Korean International Tourism Company.

In addition to the UNC statement, South Korea’s defense ministry said discussions are ongoing and no definite date has been fixed for the JSA border crossings to begin.

“The issue related to the free traffic or sightseeing is a matter in need of review and consultation,” ministry spokesman Lee Jin-woo told reporters Monday.

It’s also not clear how the changes may affect Americans who face a travel ban imposed after the death last year of Otto Warmbier, a University of Virginia student who fell into a coma while detained in the North.

Currently, Americans can step into the North while in the building where the armistice was signed, a popular feature of the tours. But the military agreement suggests tourists would be allowed deeper into the North Korean side of the area. Representatives of several South Korean tour agencies said the JSA tours have not been allowed since Oct. 25, when the UNC informed them to be on standby as the area was temporarily closed.

One employee reached on the phone declined to be interviewed, saying he was too busy processing refunds for visitors who had prepaid for upcoming JSA tours, which have required advance notice to provide time for approval from the U.N. security battalion.

The JSA tours are usually combined with visits to other sites such as an observation tower and an old North Korean infiltration tunnel near the Demilitarized Zone, a 2.5-mile wide no man's land that bisects the peninsula largely along the 38th Parallel. Those tours have not been affected.

- **US-LED COMMAND, KOREAS AGREE TO PULL GUARD POSTS, FIREARMS FROM BORDER VILLAGE THIS WEEK, SEOUL SAYS**



Military officials from South Korea, North Korea and the U.S.-led United Nations Command meet in the truce village of Panmunjom on Monday, Oct. 22, 2018.

By KIM GAMEL |

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S.-led United Nations Command, North and South Korea agreed Monday to remove weapons and guard posts from a jointly patrolled area this week, according to the defense ministry in Seoul. The decision, made during a second round of trilateral talks in the truce village of Panmunjom, is a major step toward implementing an inter-Korean military pact reached last month.

The ministry also said the Koreas also have finished removing land mines from the area, which is the heart of the heavily fortified border that has divided the peninsula since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

Seoul and Pyongyang have moved forward with initiatives aimed at improving relations despite little progress in diplomatic efforts to rid the North of its nuclear weapons.

The longtime rivals agreed in September to withdraw weapons and guard posts from the Joint Security Area in Panmunjom and replace them with 35 unarmed guards from each side.

That was part of a wide-ranging military agreement aimed at reducing tensions in the border area, including a no-fly zone.

The UNC, which is led by Gen. Vincent Brooks, administers the southern side of the JSA and the rest of the Demilitarized Zone, a 2.5 mile wide, 155-mile long buffer zone.

Monday's three-hour meeting occurred less than a week after the first trilateral talks.

The three sides “evaluated and confirmed that the destruction of land mines in the JSA has been completed,” the defense ministry said in a statement.

They also agreed to “finish withdrawing firearms and guard posts (from the JSA) by Oct. 25 and to inspect for two days after that,” the defense ministry said.

Panmunjom, the site of the armistice signing, is the only place in the DMZ where North Korean and UN troops face each other. It’s well-known for the blue conference buildings that straddle the border, a popular tourist destination. It has been the site of past violence, including the defection of a North Korean soldier who came under fire from his former comrades as he made a dash to the South last year.

The UNC, which deploys a security battalion in the area, didn’t comment on the most recent meeting.

But Brooks, who also commands U.S. Forces Korea, has signaled support for the inter-Korean military pact.

“UNC will continue to work closely with [South and North Korea] to synchronize implementation efforts on the way ahead,” Brooks said in a statement Friday about the mine-clearance operation.

The trilateral talks were led by military officers from the three sides.

Critics have raised concern that South Korea is moving too fast to embrace the North even as nuclear talks have faltered in the months after an unprecedented U.S.-North Korean summit in Singapore.

President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un agreed to the “complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula” during their first summit on June 12 in Singapore. But the two sides have yet to agree on how to accomplish that.

Trump has said he expects to meet with Kim for a second time after the midterm elections. A senior U.S. administration official told reporters that would likely happen early next year.

- **NORTH KOREA INTENDS TO ABOLISH ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS, SOUTH SAYS**

SEOUL (Reuters) - North Korean leader Kim Jong Un intends to abolish all nuclear weapons, materials and facilities to achieve “complete” denuclearization, South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who held his third summit with Kim last month, said on Friday.

Kim and U.S. President Donald Trump pledged to work towards denuclearization at their landmark June summit in Singapore, but the agreement was short on specifics. Negotiations have made little headway since, with the North refusing to declare its nuclear weapons and facilities or agree to a concrete timeline.

Moon emphasized Kim’s resolve to abandon nuclear and missile programs, that the North pursued in defiance of U.N. Security Council resolutions and focus on the economy if regime security is guaranteed.

“By complete denuclearization, he meant to start by stopping additional nuclear and missile tests, and then abolish the facilities that produce the nukes and develop the missiles, and all the existing nuclear weapons and materials,” Moon said, according to a script of his interview with BBC shared by his office.

After his third summit in Pyongyang, Moon said the North was ready to invite international experts to watch the dismantling of a key missile site and would close the main Yongbyon nuclear complex if Washington took reciprocal actions.

The actions could include putting a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War, opening of a U.S. liaison office in North Korea, humanitarian aid and an exchange of economic experts, Moon said.

Reclusive North Korea and the rich, democratic South are technically still at war because the conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty.

And when the North makes substantial progress in denuclearization, a gradual easing of economic sanctions Pyongyang should be “seriously considered,” Moon said.

The United States has insisted on irreversible steps towards denuclearization first.

“MATTER OF TIME”

“Ending the war is a sort of a political declaration to terminate the longstanding hostile relationship between the United States and North Korea, and it would kick off peace negotiations depending on the denuclearization process,” Moon said.

“There is consensus between South Korea and the United States that it is desirable to make the end-of-war declaration at an earliest possible date, so I think it’s a matter of time, but it will definitely happen.”

His comments come amid U.S. concerns that inter-Korean relations may be warming too fast relative to negotiations to dismantle North Korea's weapons programs.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has expressed "discontent" with an inter-Korean military pact reached during last month's summit in a rare sign of disagreement between the allies.

The two Koreas agreed in that accord to halt military drills, set up a no-fly zone near the border and gradually remove landmines and guard posts within the Demilitarized Zone, among other steps.

Moon also said Pyongyang and Washington were in working-level discussions to arrange a second summit as soon as the U.S. midterm elections are over.

Trump said on Tuesday his second summit with Kim would be held after the elections slated for Nov. 6. It remains unclear what steps the United States plans to take towards denuclearization "of the Korean peninsula", a reference North Korea has used in the past to include the U.S. nuclear umbrella in the region.

Seoul's Unification Ministry said on Friday the two Koreas would hold high-level talks on Monday at the border village of Panmunjom.

At last month's meeting, Moon and Kim agreed to resume economic cooperation, including relinking railways and roads and reopening a joint factory park and tours to the North's Mount Kumgang resort, when conditions are met.

- **NORTH, SOUTH KOREA AGREE TO RECONNECT ROADS, RAIL AMID U.S.**

SEOUL (Reuters) - North and South Korea agreed on Monday to begin reconnecting rail and road links, another step in an improving relationship that has raised U.S. concern about the possible undermining of its bid to press the North to give up its nuclear program.

The agreement on transport links came during talks in the border village of Panmunjom aimed at following up on the third summit this year between South Korea's President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, last month.

"The South and North reached the agreement after sincerely discussing action plans to develop inter-Korean relations to a new, higher stage," said a joint statement released by the South's Unification Ministry.

They agreed to hold ceremonies in late November or early December to inaugurate work on reconnecting the railways and roads that have been cut since the 1950-53 Korean War.

The two sides will carry out joint field studies on the transport plans from late this month, according to the statement.

They also agreed to discuss late this month a plan to pursue a bid to co-host the 2032 Olympic Games, and to explore in November ways to restart webcam reunions and video exchanges for families separated by the Korean War.

Military officials from both sides are to meet "in the near future" to craft follow-on steps to a military pact struck at last month's summit.

The accord includes the reinstatement of a joint military commission, the halting of military exercises, a no-fly zone near their border and the gradual removal of landmines and guard posts within the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

Meetings will also be held on reforestation on Oct. 22, and on health and disease prevention in late October at a joint liaison office opened last month in the North's border city of Kaesong.

The talks were led by the South's Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon and Ri Son Gwon, chairman of the North's committee for peaceful reunification that handles cross-border affairs.

"We are at a very critical moment for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and the advancement of inter-Korean relations, and there's also a second North Korea-U.S. summit coming up," Cho told reporters before leaving for Panmunjom.

In June Kim met U.S. President Donald Trump in an unprecedented summit in Singapore and the two sides are arranging a second meeting, which Trump said was likely after U.S. congressional elections on Nov. 6.

Despite the meeting between Kim and Trump, Washington is still pursuing a policy of "maximum pressure" to get North Korea to give up its nuclear weapon and ballistic missiles that Pyongyang says can hit the continental United States.

'PROBLEMS SHOULD BE FIXED'

The thaw in ties between the neighbors has sparked U.S. concerns that it may be outpacing negotiations to dismantle the North's nuclear and missile programs.

In August, a joint inspection plan for the rail project was scrapped after the United Nations Command (UNC), which overlaps with U.S. forces in the South and oversees affairs in the DMZ, refused passage for a test train, military sources said.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressed “discontent” over the inter-Korean military agreement, South Korea’s foreign minister Kang Kyung-wha said last week.

Kang’s remarks amounted to a rare confirmation of discord between Seoul and Washington, though the allies have said they remain in lockstep on North Korea.

In final remarks on Monday, the North struck a sour note, with Ri blaming Seoul for hurdles in implementing their pacts.

“If we look back at the projects we have been carrying out so far, there are problems that should be fixed, and the South side knows better,” Ri said, without elaborating.

Asked later about the remarks, Cho said there was no “special background” but attributed delays in the rail and road initiative and other cultural exchanges to “each other’s circumstances”.

The rail and road initiative and the joint Olympics bid were agreed by Moon and Kim at their latest summit, in the North Korean capital, Pyongyang.

Moon also said the North would permanently abolish key missile facilities in the presence of foreign experts.

Trump said on Wednesday South Korea would not lift sanctions on North Korea without U.S. approval.

• **KOREAS, UN FINISH REMOVING FIREARMS FROM BORDER VILLAGE**

By: [Hyung Jin Kim, The Associated Press](#)



In this Oct. 2, 2018, file photo, South Korean soldiers search for landmines inside the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) that separates the two Koreas in Cheorwon, South Korea. South Korea on Thursday, Oct. 25, 2018, said it has discovered what could be Korean War remains at a frontline area where it's jointly clearing mines with North Korea. (Song Kyung-Seok/Pool Photo via AP)

SEOUL, South Korea — The rival Koreas and the U.S.-led U.N. Command finished removing firearms and troops from a jointly controlled area at a border village on Thursday, as part of agreements to reduce decades-long animosity on the Korean Peninsula.

South Korea separately announced that its troops found what it believes are Korean War remains in another front-line area where they have been [clearing land mines with North Korean soldiers](#). The rival Koreas plan their first-ever joint searches for war dead there after their demining work is done.

Disarming the Joint Security Area at [the border village of Panmunjom](#) and the joint searches are among a package of deals the Koreas' defense ministers struck on the sidelines of their leaders' summit last month. Other steps include creating buffer zones along their land and sea boundaries and a no-fly zone above the border, as well as removing some of their front-line guard posts.

- **NORTH KOREAN SIDE OF DMZ SOUNDS QUIETER NOW, EVEN PEACEFUL**

Lt. Col. Hwang Myong Jin has been a guide on the northern side of the Demilitarized Zone that divides the two Koreas for five years. He says it's gotten quieter here since the summits between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and the presidents of South Korea and the United States, in perhaps the last place on Earth where the Cold War still burns hot.

By: Eric Talmadge, The Associated Press

On Thursday, the Koreas and the U.N. Command completed a removal of weapons, ammunition and soldiers manning guard posts at Panmunjom's Joint Security Area, Seoul's Defense Ministry said in a statement. The three sides earlier finished removing mines from the village.

The three sides will jointly verify their disarmament work on Friday and Saturday. Under the September deals, the two Koreas are to let 35 "unarmed personnel" from each side guard the Joint Security Area and let tourists freely move around there.

The area symbolizes the Koreas' seven decades of division. It's where an armistice was signed at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. Rival soldiers have faced each other only meters (feet) apart in the zone, which has been the scene of numerous incidents of bloodshed and violence. It is also a venue for talks and a popular tourist destination.

Soldiers and visitors were previously allowed to move freely inside the area, but the 1976 ax-killing of two American troops by North Korea at Panmunjom led to the creation of ankle-high concrete slabs that mark the border there.

The Koreas are split along the 248-kilometer (155-mile) -long, 4-kilometer (2.5-mile) -wide border called the Demilitarized Zone that was originally created as a buffer. But unlike its name, the DMZ is now the world's most heavily fortified border. An estimated 2 million mines are peppered inside and near the DMZ, which is also guarded by barbed wire fences, tank traps and combat troops on both sides.

Officially, the entire DMZ area, including Panmunjom, is jointly overseen by North Korea and the U.N. Command. About 28,500 U.S. troops are deployed in South Korea to deter possible aggression from North Korea.

- **US FORCES IN KOREA AREN'T PACKING UP JUST YET. HERE'S WHY.**

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

The Defense Ministry said earlier Thursday that its troops found what they believe are two sets of human remains at another DMZ spot. It was the first such discovery since South Korea began the joint demining work with North Korea on Oct. 1 at a place where one of the heaviest Korean War battles took place.

According to the ministry, a bayonet, bullets and a South Korean army identification tag with the name "Pak Je Kwon" were found along with the remains. Military records show Pak was a sergeant first class who died in a battle in 1953 in the final weeks of the Korean War.

Pak has two surviving sisters and authorities will take their DNA samples to find out if parts of the bones belong to him.



A South Korean soldier carries a

coffin containing a piece of bone believed to be the remains of an unidentified South Korean soldier killed in the Korean War in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) dividing the two Koreas in Cheorwon, northeast of Seoul, Thursday, Oct. 25, 2018. (Jung Yeon-je/Pool Photo via AP)

During a media visit to the site, South Korean soldiers wrapped a piece of bone in white paper and put it into a wooden box. They later wrapped the box with a national flag, placed it on a small table and offered a shot of liquor before they paid a silent tribute.

"Sgt. 1st Class Pak Je Kwon has come back to us. It's been 65 years since he died in battle. Now, we can offer up a shot of soju (Korean liquor)" to him, South Korean President Moon Jae-in tweeted.

The area, known as Arrowhead Hill, is where South Korean and U.S.-led U.N. troops repelled a series of Chinese attacks to secure a strategically important hilltop position. South Korea said the remains of an estimated 300 South Korean, French and U.S. soldiers are believed to be in the area. The remains of a large number of Chinese and North Korean soldiers are also likely there.

The Korean War left millions dead or missing, and Seoul officials believe the remains of about 10,000 South Korean soldiers alone are still inside the DMZ.

September's agreements received strong criticism from conservatives in South Korea that Moon's government made too many concessions that will eventually weaken the country's military strength at a time when North Korea's nuclear threat remains unchanged. Moon, a liberal who wants greater ties with North Korea, has facilitated a series of high-profile U.S.-North Korean talks, including a June summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump, to address the standoff over Kim's nuclear program.

- **KOREAN WAR: IS AN OFFICIAL END IN SIGHT?**



South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un hold their hands together after watching the mass games performance of "The Glorious Country" at May Day Stadium in Pyongyang, North Korea,

By [KIM GAMEL](#) | STARS AND STRIPES Published: October 26, 2018

SEOUL, South Korea — The 1953 armistice agreement ended three years of bloodshed on the Korean Peninsula, but the rival nations remain technically in a state of war to this day.

The warring parties — with South Korea backed by the United States and the North supported by the Chinese in a Cold War showdown — were unable to agree on a peace accord so they settled on a truce. It was meant to be temporary. Nearly seven decades later, the search for peace has emerged as a key issue in nuclear talks between Washington and Pyongyang.

Acting as mediator, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said this week that a formal end-of-war declaration would provide a powerful incentive for the North to get rid of its nukes.

"Ending the Korean War is an urgent task. It is a process that we must go through in order to move towards a peace regime," Moon said Wednesday in his address to the U.N. General Assembly.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un offered during his third summit with Moon to dismantle his country's main nuclear complex if the U.S. takes "corresponding measures." It's believed that a desire for an end-of-war declaration is at the top of his wish list.

It would seem a simple question. Everybody wants peace, right? So, what's the problem?

Different goals

Both Korean leaders want an end-of-war declaration as outlined in the agreement reached during their first summit on April 27. But they can't do it alone. The armistice was signed on July 27, 1953, by Army Lt. Gen. William Harrison Jr. on behalf of the U.S.-led United Nations Command that fought for the South and North Korean Gen. Nam Il representing his country and allied Chinese forces.

South Korea wasn't at the table because then-President Syngman Rhee didn't want to stop at the 38th Parallel. He wanted to keep fighting to unify the peninsula.

The signatories later met at a Geneva conference in 1954 to try to forge a peace treaty, but they failed.

Unable to agree on a peace accord in 1953, the rival Koreas technically remain in a state of war to this day.
COURTESY OF PIXABAY

President Donald Trump has shown enthusiasm for the idea, tweeting “KOREAN WAR TO END!” after Moon and Kim held their April summit. He also has expressed a desire to pull out U.S. forces to save money while insisting it’s not part of the current equation.

The agreement he signed with Kim in their historic June 12 meeting in Singapore called for joint efforts to build a “lasting and stable peace regime on the Korean Peninsula.” But U.S. officials insist those efforts are dependent on denuclearization.

Kim and Moon have pressed forward with improving bilateral relations, agreeing earlier this month to a far-reaching military agreement aimed at easing border tensions. The UNC — commanded by Gen. Vincent Brooks, who also leads U.S. Forces Korea — has said it’s planning to “thoroughly review” the deal.

Bargaining chip

The Trump administration doesn’t trust North Korea’s promises that it’s committed to denuclearization. Senior U.S. officials want to keep the end-of-war declaration as leverage, saying North Korea should first provide a detailed inventory of its nuclear facilities and take other concrete measures.

Pyongyang, however, insists it should be rewarded for steps it already has taken, including a missile- and nuclear-testing freeze and the purported destruction of its underground nuclear-testing site.

Talks between the two sides, which peaked with the unprecedented U.S.-North Korean summit in Singapore, have stalled over details.

Moon, who assumed power last year promising to seek engagement with the North, is eager to maintain the momentum. But he is caught in the middle between the North and the U.S., a staunch ally that protects the South with ground troops and a so-called nuclear umbrella.

The South Korean president has repeatedly said he hopes an end-of-war declaration will be made by the end of the year.

Alliance worries

Many in Washington worry the declaration would accelerate efforts toward a peace treaty and undermine the justification for stationing 28,500 U.S. troops in South Korea.

The armistice cemented the post-World War II division of the peninsula and put the UNC in charge of enforcing the agreement and overseeing the southern side of the Demilitarized Zone.

The U.S. also has a separate mutual defense treaty with South Korea, signed shortly after the armistice.

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[Trump says he believes nuclear deal with N. Korea possible](#)

Supporters argue that an end-of-war declaration and even a subsequent peace treaty would not mean the withdrawal of U.S. forces since that would be up to Seoul and Washington.

Kim also has suggested that declaring an end to the war would have nothing to do with American troops or the alliance. But he hasn’t publicly stated that himself or via his government’s propaganda organs, leading to skepticism over his aims.

Kim also is seeking security guarantees and ejecting the U.S. from the peninsula has been a long-held goal of North Korea and its communist ally China.

Critics also have raised concern that left-leaning South Koreans could eventually seize the momentum to push for the Americans’ departure.

Details, details

South Korean presidential adviser Moon Chung-in recently outlined a detailed proposal for an end-of-war declaration that would include Seoul, Washington and Pyongyang.

He said it would mean the end of hostile relations between the three nations and would stipulate that the existing armistice agreement would remain unaltered “until a peace treaty is signed.”

That would mean the UNC would not be dissolved and the “status quo on the Korean Peninsula will be maintained.” The adviser’s comments, made during a press conference earlier this month, were clearly aimed at alleviating alliance jitters. But he conceded the North has not offered any specifics of its own other than Kim’s assurances that were relayed by visiting envoys.

Moon said the end-of-war declaration would be political in nature and no peace treaty would be signed without the nuclear disarmament of the North.

Two-thirds of the U.S. Senate would also have to ratify any peace treaty.

Meanwhile, prominent North Korean defector and former diplomat Thae Yong Ho warned on his blog that the regime has long maintained that an end-of-war declaration would mean an end to the armistice and the U.S.-led UNC.

- **AMID N. KOREA NUCLEAR TALKS, POLL SHOWS HIGH SUPPORT FOR S. KOREA AMONG AMERICANS**



South Korean President Moon Jae-in (center) waves while arriving to the West Wing of the White House with President Donald Trump in Washington on May 22, 2018.

ANDREW HARRER/BLOOMBERG

President Donald Trump may be skeptical about the value of U.S. troops in South Korea, but a new poll suggests an increasingly large majority of Americans favor a continuing military presence in the country — and most say they would support a U.S. military intervention in case of a conflict.

The polling data, collected in July by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, found that almost three quarters (74 percent) of Americans supported long-term bases in South Korea.

Notably, there was broad agreement across the political spectrum on this issue, with 73 percent of Democrats, 71 percent of independents and 79 percent of Republicans in favor of the bases.

Though the Chicago Council's data shows that there has been majority support for a U.S. military presence in South Korea since at least 2002, when it began polling the issue, this year's survey is the highest level of support they have recorded. Americans are also more willing than they have been in decades to send U.S. troops to support South Korea if the country were to be invaded by North Korea, the Chicago Council found, with 64 percent in favor — more than double who said the same in 1986, the first time the question was asked.

Support for coming to South Korea's defense is similar to 62 percent in 2017, but substantially higher than 2015 when 47 percent backed U.S. military action if North Korea invaded. Mattis defends decision to suspend war games, says US commitment to S. Korea 'remains ironclad'

Again, there was broad bipartisan agreement on the issue, with 63 percent of Democrats, 61 percent of independents, and 70 percent of Republicans in favor.

Roughly 28,000 U.S. troops are located on the Korean peninsula as part of a security arrangement that has been in place since the Korean War armistice in 1953. During the campaign and later, after taking office, Trump has repeatedly expressed doubts about keeping American troops in the Asia-Pacific, often focusing on the costs for the U.S. military. "We have 32,000 soldiers in South Korea," Trump said during a press conference in New York City this week, using a higher figure that analysts said is inaccurate. "They are very wealthy. These are great countries. These are very wealthy countries. I said why aren't you reimbursing us for our cause."

The issue of U.S. troops in South Korea has long been politically divisive in South Korea. However, a survey conducted by the East Asia Institute in 2015 found 61 percent of South Koreans thought U.S. troop numbers in the broader Asia-Pacific region should be kept as is.

The latest survey was released as the United States prepares for a potential second summit between Trump and his North Korean counterpart, Kim Jong Un, to discuss denuclearization. The two leaders met in Singapore on June 12 and reached a vague agreement that called for the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," but Pyongyang has made few visible efforts to give up its nuclear program since then.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in visited Pyongyang earlier this month for his third meeting with Kim. Speaking in New York City this week, he said that Kim was sincere about giving up nuclear weapons.

The Chicago Council's polling data showed that six in 10 Americans (59 percent) say that North Korea's nuclear program is a critical threat facing the United States — down from last year, when it had reached 75 percent. An 83 percent majority of the country was found to oppose the idea of accepting that North Korea will nuclear weapons and produce more and a slightly smaller majority — 66 percent — opposed accepting North Korea's possession of nuclear weapons in exchange for an agreement that it would not produce more.

There was little support for U.S. military acts against North Korea in retaliation for its nuclear program, with 57 percent of Americans opposed airstrikes against North Korean facilities and 69 percent opposing the use of U.S. troops to overthrow the Kim regime. In contrast, 77 percent of Americans favored tightening economic sanctions on North Korea if it did not abandon its nuclear program, the Chicago Council found.

If North Korea did agree to give up its nuclear weapons, a large majority was in favor of establishing official diplomatic relations with North Korea (77 percent), but they were more mixed on other measures. A narrower 54 percent majority said they supported providing economic and humanitarian aid to the country, while the same percentage said there could be a partial withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea.

Less than half (44 percent) said the United States should cancel joint military exercises with South Korea, while just 18 percent said they would support a complete withdrawal of American forces from South Korea.

The poll also found large bipartisan support for South Korea's leader, with 67 percent favorable views of Moon. Despite both Trump and Moon's kind words about North Korea's Kim, the American public has kept an overwhelmingly negative view of him, with only 6 percent professing a favorable view.

The Chicago Council's analysis was based on data from an online research panel conducted by GfK Custom Research between July 12 and July 31. A total of 2,046 adults living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia were surveyed, with a margin of error of plus or minus 2.4 percentage points. The GfK Knowledge Panel was recruited through random sampling methods.

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Trump warns he may 'instantly' restart war games with S. Korea

• [TOP US DIPLOMAT TO VISIT NORTH KOREA TO SET UP SUMMIT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS](#)

UNITED NATIONS — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will travel to North Korea next month to prepare for a second summit between leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump meant to jump-start stalled efforts to rid the North of its nuclear bombs, the State Department said Wednesday.

Pompeo was invited by Kim to Pyongyang, the North's capital, "to make further progress on the implementation" of agreements made during a June summit in Singapore between Kim and Trump and to set up another leaders' meeting, State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert said.

Her statement came after Pompeo met Wednesday with North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho at the U.N. General Assembly meetings in New York.



Small question, big consequences: Is North Korea a nuclear power?

Pyongyang can probably arm its short- and mid-range missiles with nuclear warheads, experts say, but what about long-range nukes?

By: Foster Klug, The Associated Press

Pompeo said on Twitter that his meeting with Ri was "very positive. There were no other immediate details about what the diplomats discussed.

"Much work remains, but we will continue to move forward," Pompeo said.

Also at the U.N. session, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said high-level diplomacy has "removed the shadow of war" that hung over the Korean Peninsula last year as Kim and Trump threatened each other with destruction during a series of increasingly powerful North Korean weapons tests.

Experts believe those tests put the North close to being able to accurately target anywhere on the U.S. mainland.

"Over the past year, something miraculous has taken place on the Korean Peninsula," Moon said in an address to world leaders. "We have crossed the barriers of division and are tearing down the walls in our heart."

Moon met last week with Kim in Pyongyang and has been the leading force behind the summit. He and others hope another Trump-Kim summit will ease widespread skepticism that Kim will actually relinquish an arsenal that many believe Pyongyang sees as the only major guarantee of the Kim dynasty's continued authoritarian rule.



North Korean leader agrees to dismantle main nuclear site if US takes similar action

The two Koreas agreed to set up buffer zones, no-fly zone on border to reduce military tensions.

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

Diplomacy has stalled following Kim's vague promise at the Singapore summit to work toward "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula in exchange for U.S. security guarantees.

At the heart of the impasse: a North Korean demand for a declaration to formally end the Korean War before it takes any major disarmament steps. That war ended in 1953 with a ceasefire, not a peace treaty.

Washington, however, wants the North to first provide a list of the contents of its nuclear arsenal before agreeing to that war declaration, which could remove a big piece of diplomatic leverage over the North.

Also Wednesday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov warned that dismantling an Iran nuclear accord would threaten global efforts to halt North Korea's nuclear program.

Lavrov and others defended the 2015 Iran deal at a U.N. Security Council meeting chaired by Trump about non-proliferation. Trump pulled the U.S. out of the accord, arguing it wasn't tough enough on Iran, and is threatening new sanctions. Lavrov said dismantling the accord would "be counterproductive for the efforts under way now to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula.

- **TRUMP SAYS HE BELIEVES NUCLEAR DEAL WITH NORTH KOREA IS POSSIBLE**



President Donald Trump expressed optimism about a nuclear deal with North Korea as he spoke during a news conference, Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2018, in New York. Trump said sanctions will remain in place, but North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "likes me, I like him, we get along." (Mary Altaffer/Associated Press)

UNITED NATIONS — President Donald Trump on Wednesday defended his work to settle a nuclear deal with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, saying he has given up nothing but his time during a June summit yet stands on the cusp of denuclearizing the North.

In a wide-ranging news conference on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly, Trump told reporters that despite tough U.S. sanctions against the North staying in place, he

believes that Kim wants to get a deal done because of their close ties.

"We have a very good relationship. He likes me, I like him, we get along," Trump said. "He wants to make a deal and I'd like to make a deal."

He wouldn't put a timeframe, however, on when the two leaders might settle the standoff. "We're not playing the time game," he said.

It has lasted for decades, flummoxed a long line of U.S. and South Korean presidents and had many fearing war last year during a series of increasingly powerful North Korean weapons tests that experts believe put the country close to a long-time goal of viably targeting any spot on the U.S. mainland.



- **SMALL QUESTION, BIG CONSEQUENCES: IS NORTH KOREA A NUCLEAR POWER?**

Pyongyang can probably arm its short- and mid-range missiles with nuclear warheads, experts say, but what about long-range nukes?

By: Foster Klug, The Associated Press

Trump and his top diplomat, Mike Pompeo, are trying to get past the deadlock that has followed the Singapore summit. Pompeo is planning to visit Pyongyang next month to prepare for a second Kim-Trump summit. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe Wednesday also said separately that he wants to meet with Kim though no details had been decided on yet.

Trump's optimistic comments come amid widespread skepticism that Kim will actually relinquish an arsenal that Pyongyang likely sees as the only way to guarantee the Kim dynasty's continued authoritarian rule.

Although Trump maintained that he'd given up nothing in his dealings with Kim, he has faced criticism for his decision during the Singapore summit to scrap annual U.S. military drills with ally South Korea. Critics called it a concession for the North, which has long railed against the drills as invasion preparation and proof of U.S. hostility.

Trump said Wednesday that he'd long wanted to stop the drills, which had always been portrayed by the allies as defensive in nature, because of their high cost and said he could restart them if needed. "For the taxpayer, we're saving a fortune," Trump said.

Trump also made the stunning claim that former President Barack Obama told Trump that Obama was "very close" to going to war with the North.

"If I wasn't elected," Trump said, "you'd be in a war."

The State Department said Pompeo was invited by Kim to Pyongyang, the North's capital, "to make further progress on the implementation" of agreements made during the Singapore summit and to set up another leaders' meeting.

Pompeo met earlier Wednesday with North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho at the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York. Pompeo said on Twitter that his meeting with Ri was "very positive." There were no details immediately available about what the diplomats discussed.

"Much work remains, but we will continue to move forward," Pompeo said.

Also at the U.N. session, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said high-level diplomacy has "removed the shadow of war" that hung over the Korean Peninsula last year as Kim and Trump threatened each other with destruction during the run of North Korean weapons tests.

"Over the past year, something miraculous has taken place on the Korean Peninsula," Moon said in an address to world leaders. "We have crossed the barriers of division and are tearing down the walls in our heart."

Moon met with Kim in Pyongyang last week and has been the leading force behind the summit. He and others hope another Trump-Kim summit will lead to disarmament progress.

Diplomacy has stalled following Kim's vague promise at the Singapore summit to work toward "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula in exchange for U.S. security guarantees.

At the heart of the impasse: a North Korean demand for a declaration to formally end the Korean War before it takes any major disarmament steps. That war ended in 1953 with a ceasefire, not a peace treaty.

Washington wants the North to first provide a list of the contents of its nuclear arsenal before agreeing to that war declaration, which could remove a big piece of diplomatic leverage over the North.

Also Wednesday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov warned that dismantling an Iran nuclear accord would threaten global efforts to halt North Korea's nuclear program.

Lavrov and others defended the 2015 Iran deal at a U.N. Security Council meeting chaired by Trump about non-proliferation. Trump pulled the U.S. out of the accord, arguing it wasn't tough enough on Iran, and is threatening new sanctions.

Lavrov said dismantling the accord would "be counterproductive for the efforts under way now to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula.

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](#) or [AccessVA](#).

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](#) or [AccessVA](#). 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](#) or [AccessVA](#)

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](#) or [AccessVA](#)

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 [Request a Veteran ID card](#) 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 [Preview Card](#) and then click [Request Card](#)

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.



- **MIA UPDATE:**

—**Pfc. Army John W. Martin**, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on Sept. 24, 2018.

In late November 1950, Martin was a member of Medical Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. Approximately 2,500 U.S. and 700 South Korean soldiers assembled into the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), which was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, when it was attacked by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces. As the Chinese attacks continued, American forces withdrew south. By December 6, the U.S. Army evacuated approximately 1,500 service members; the remaining soldiers had been either captured, killed or missing in enemy territory. Martin was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, after he was last seen near the Chosin Reservoir.

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.

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

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

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

--**Army Cpl. James I. Jubb**, 21, of Eastport, Maryland, accounted for on Jan. 25, 2018, will be buried October 17 in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C. In August 1950, Jubb was a member of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, his unit suffered heavy losses while fighting units of the North Korean People's Army in the vicinity of the Naktong River, South Korea. Jubb was reported missing in action on Aug. 10, 1950 when he could not be accounted for by his unit. His remains were later declared unrecoverable.

In October 1951, the Army Graves Registration Services recovered four sets of unidentified American remains from a mountain near Ohang, South Korea, which is located east of the Naktong River. One set of remains, designated "Unknown X-2160" could not be identified and were subsequently interred at the National Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP) in Honolulu.

In 2017, based on research regarding two individuals who remained unaccounted-for from Jubb's unit, analysts from DPAA determined that Unknown X-2160 could likely be identified. DPAA disinterred Unknown X-2160 in October 2017 and sent the remains to the laboratory for analysis.

To identify Jubb's remains, scientists used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as chest radiograph comparison, which matched his records. DPAA is appreciative to the Department of Veterans Affairs for their partnership in this mission.

Today, 7,677 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. Jubb's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the NMCP 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 Pfc. Kenneth B. Williams**, 38, of Akron, Ohio, accounted for on Aug. 13, 2018, will be buried October 22 in Seville, Ohio. In late November 1950, Williams was a member of Heavy Mortar Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. Approximately 2,500 U.S. and 700 South Korean soldiers assembled into the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), which was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, when it was attacked by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces. As the Chinese attacks continued, American forces withdrew south. By December 6, the U.S. Army evacuated approximately 1,500 service members; the remaining soldiers had been either captured, killed or missing in enemy territory. Williams was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, after he was last seen near the Chosin Reservoir.

Williams' name did not appear on any prisoner of war lists, however returning Americans reported Williams died as a prisoner of war. Based on this information, he was declared deceased as of Jan. 31, 1951.

On Nov. 30, 1993, North Korea turned over 33 boxes, believed to hold the remains of unaccounted-for U.S. servicemen from the Korean War. The reported recovery location of one of the boxes was in Kaljoh-ri, Changjin County, South Hamgyong Province, North Korea, near where Williams was last seen.

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

DPAA is grateful to the government and people of the Democratic People's 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.



--**Army Master Sgt. Charles H. McDaniel**, 32, of Vernon, Indiana, accounted for on Sept. 12, 2018, will be buried October 27 in Greenwood, Indiana. 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 west 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.

Throughout the remainder of the war, the United Nations Command regularly requested that the CPVF and Korean People's Army (KPA) provide lists of American and allied servicemen held in their custody. No lists provided included his name as a prisoner of war, and no returning American prisoners provided any information on McDaniel. Based on the lack of information, the U.S. Army declared him deceased as of Dec. 31, 1953.

On June 12, 2018, President Donald Trump met with North Korea Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un in Singapore, in the first meeting between the leaders of the United States and North Korea. The leaders signed a joint statement, including a commitment to return the remains American service members lost in North Korea.

On July 27, 2018, North Korea turned over 55 boxes, purported to contain the remains of American service members 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 identification.

To identify McDaniel's remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis, dental, anthropological analysis and chest radiograph comparison analysis, as well as circumstantial and material evidence, including a single identification tag that was included in the July 27, turnover

COMING HOME: A KOREAN WAR VETERAN WHO WAS MIA FOR DECADES FINALLY BURIED ON HOME SOIL



Lt. Col. Kevin T. Black presents the flag to Col. Charles H. McDaniel Jr., son of Master Sgt. Charles H. McDaniel Sr., who was killed in action during the Korean War and whose remains were returned by the North Korean government, on Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018 at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Greenwood, Ind.

By DAVID MONTERO | Los Angeles Times | Published: October 29, 2018

INDIANAPOLIS (Tribune News Service) — The last memory Charles McDaniel had of his father was as a 3-year-old boy living on an U.S. Army base in Tokyo in 1950. His dad, coming home from work, picked him up and playfully swung him around in the air.

For decades, that was pretty much all there was. Sometimes, he would look in the mirror and see a faint resemblance — though he thought his younger brother, Larry, inherited more of their dad's features.

Charles McDaniel thought about this Saturday morning as he stood and saluted before the flag-draped casket that held his father's remains. The now-71-year-old man's hand trembled slightly as a cold wind kicked up and a stiffened flag flew at the grave site. He thought about his mother, sitting next to him. He thought about how it had taken 68 years for his dad to return to the United States.

Master Sgt. Charles McDaniel Sr. had gone off to serve as a medic during the Korean War and disappeared in November 1950. He was presumed dead by the Army. But there had been no body returned. There had been no funeral. And Gladys McDaniel, his wife, didn't speak much about him to Charles or Larry in the subsequent years.

Over the decades, the sons gleaned slivers of information about their dad: He was a good man. He was a great father who often held them when they were babies. He chose to be a medic because he wanted to help people in need.

"I think it was hard on her," Larry McDaniel said. "Though I wish I had asked more questions about him."

Charles McDaniel ended up following in his dad's footsteps, becoming a medic and a chaplain in the Army. He began looking into his father's records in recent years, but they didn't reveal a lot. He had served in World War II through five campaigns in Europe. He left the Army in 1945 and became a truck driver for the coal mines. He re-enlisted as the Korean War began to ramp up. He was 25 when he is believed to have died during the Battle of Usan.

In July, Charles received a call from the Army. He was told that, when North Korea turned over 55 boxes of remains in June as part of an agreement between its leader, Kim Jong Un, and President Donald Trump, there was a piece of a dog tag. It was his dad's.

Charles McDaniel was stunned. He wept and began to wonder if his father might finally be coming home. Then he got another call. Through DNA testing and an X-ray match of a collarbone coupled with the location where the remains had been found and the dog tag, scientists with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency were certain.

"It was my father," Charles said.

The deceased veteran's remains had been brought to Hawaii in June, where government scientists sorted and studied them in labs behind large glass windows. Trays are laid out and numbered, and the painstaking process of identification is conducted daily. There are bones, along with nonorganic items such as canteens, boot covers, blankets and pieces of military equipment

John Byrd, director of analysis for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, said there is a lot of work to do. There are more than 82,000 Americans missing from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and other conflicts. World War II accounts for the bulk of the missing, totaling 72,000.



Indiana National Guard Honor Unit carry the coffin with the remains of Master Sgt. Charles H. McDaniel Sr., who was killed in action during the Korean War and whose remains were returned by the North Korean government, on Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018 in Greenwood, Ind.

MARCUS YAM/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Over the years, getting remains from North Korea hasn't been easy, and sometimes they were delivered to the United States mingled with misidentified remains. Officials with the accounting agency said the remains in the 55 boxes came with more specific information — including a lot of boxes coming from a village in the area of the Chosin Reservoir. The turnover of the materials in June was sizable. In the early 1990s the largest provided in any given year was 33 boxes; between 1990 and 1994, the United States received a total of 208 boxes.

Byrd said that dental records are the gold standard for identification, but that DNA has become an important tool as well. And Defense POW/MIA Director Kelly McKeague said the recent discovery that collarbones are unique identifiers — similar to a fingerprint — has helped provide more identifications. On average, the agency does around 200 identifications per year.

"It's a powerful moment that means a lot to the families," McKeague said. "It is a commitment that we will never leave one behind."

When Charles McDaniel Sr. had been identified, his remains were carefully placed in a standard issue green Army blanket — a tradition that dates to World War I. As a man folded the blanket over the remains, they were taken on a gurney covered with an American flag for the final journey home.

Lt. Col. Michael Daake, who serves with the Indiana National Guard, was assigned to be the casualty assistance officer for the McDaniel family. He was with the family when the remains arrived in Indiana on a commercial airline flight last week.

He said it was “emotional, but also satisfying” to be able to help bring the family together again.

“It is an honor to do this for them,” Daake said. “I’m glad to be a part of it.”

Charles McDaniel said the news of his father’s return provided more than just closure for him. He said as the news spread about the identification, he began hearing from family members from all over the country.

“I have talked with three cousins I had never communicated with before. My father had two brothers, and one was a career soldier like my father would’ve been, and he had three children, but I never met any of them,” McDaniel said. “My dad has brought us together.”

Before the funeral service started Saturday morning at the Community Church of Greenwood, McDaniel stood in front of the casket at the altar. He said he arrived early, before anyone else, to have a private moment with his dad. It was a prayer, he said.

McDaniel said he had never been able to address his dad directly because there had never been a grave to visit. He said it was starting to sink in that his father was going to be within a 10-minute drive from his home.

“I would go to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington and talk to him there,” he said. “That was my dad’s grave.”

As a few hundred people began to arrive at the church, McDaniel stood before the casket and greeted them. He shook hands with some. Hugged others. There were introductions to people he’d never met and reminders of people he hadn’t seen in years. He lightly patted the casket and then stood at the lectern.

He told the story of his father. How he married Gladys Watts in 1943 after joining the Army three years earlier. How he got a Bronze Star in World War II, re-enlisted with the Army in 1948 and got transferred to Tokyo. McDaniel said he served with the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division in the Korean War.

McDaniel said his father was listed as missing in action in 1950 after the Battle of Usan.

“On that night, Nov. 2, 1950, my father disappeared from history,” McDaniel said. “We didn’t know what had happened to him.”

The dog tags changed everything, he said.

He choked up as he held his father’s dog tags in a plastic bag and then pulled out his own. He put on his own dog tags over his dress blues — noting the breach in protocol — and said they represented an identity of someone willing to die for others.

“My father gave his life for me. He gave his life for you,” McDaniel said. “He gave his life for his buddies. He gave his life for this nation. He gave his life for South Korea.”

At the cemetery, the honor guard presented flags to McDaniel, his brother and their mother, who gently stroked the flag with her hand, and his father’s sister, Wilma Jean Gutshall. Charles McDaniel said he thought about his mom losing her husband. He thought about missing his dad.

He said he thought about how he had followed in his father's footsteps by joining the Army and serving as a medic. As a bugler played taps and the honor guard fired its volleys, he stood up in front of the casket — his face reflected in its silvery top.

- **HAWAII LAB TURNS OVER REMAINS OF 64 SOUTH KOREAN SOLDIERS IN AIRFIELD CEREMONY**



South Korean Vice Minister of National Defense Choo Suk Suh bows as he transfers a box of remains to Col. Hak Ki Lee, commander of the KIA Recovery and Identification agency, during a repatriation ceremony at Joint

Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Thursday, Sept. 27, 2018.
JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii —
The remains of 64 South Korean soldiers began their final journey home Thursday following a repatriation ceremony in Hawaii that included a front-row audience of American veterans of the Korean War.

“I am honored and humbled by the reason we are gathered here this morning for this repatriation ceremony: to pay our respect to the 64 fallen South Korean soldiers who today begin their journey back home,” said Rear Adm. Jon Kreitz, deputy director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, during the ceremony in a Hickam Airfield hangar.

The remains have been at the agency’s labs since being returned following joint recovery operations conducted in North Korea from 1996 to 2005.

The remains of roughly 7,700 Americans are still unaccounted for from the Korean War, with about 5,000 of those believed to be in North Korea. In July, North Korea returned 55 boxes containing an unknown number of American remains. DPAA identified two U.S. soldiers from those remains earlier this month.

“It is our fondest hope that [South Korea] will be successful in giving these heroes back their names and in reuniting them with their families in their country,” Kreitz said.

Sixty-three of the microwave-sized boxes of remains – each shrouded with a South Korean flag – had been loaded into the hold of a C-130 cargo plane. One box, wrapped in a United Nations flag, was used in the formal transfer from DPAA to United Nations Command to South Korea’s Ministry of National Defense.

Taking part in the ceremony were Choo Suk Suh, South Korea’s vice minister of national defense; United Nations Command Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Mark Gillette; and Col. Hak Ki Lee, commander of the South Korea KIA Recovery and Identification agency, known as MAKRI. MAKRI will now continue the work of identifying the remains. Plans originally called for 65 boxes to be transferred to South Korea, but this summer forensic scientists from MAKRI were able to identify one soldier from DNA samples taken in December 2017, said Jennie Jin, the Korean War project lead for DPAA in Hawaii.

Pvt. Yoon Gyeong-hyuk, who was killed in North Korea’s South Pyongan Province, was repatriated in July, she said. DPAA is nearing the end of the identification process for the estimated 200 individuals retrieved from North Korea from 1996-05, Jin said.

The task of separating the commingled remains of American and South Korean dead presented a forensic challenge particular to both countries, she said.

“My concern is not to send Asian-Americans back to Korea,” Jin said. “[MAKRI’s] concern is they cannot take North Koreans or Chinese into their laboratory. No enemy forces are allowed in their laboratory. So we had two different



concerns. During the joint forensic review, they kept asking me, ‘How do you know this is not North Korean or Chinese?’”

They came to an agreement over the 64 sets of remains based on DNA evidence, historical records and the search-and-recovery reports, she said.

Initially, DPAA scientists examined the remains for a type of DNA specific to maternal ancestry called mitochondrial, which generally revealed Asian ancestry, Jin said.

But because about 100 Americans still missing from the Korean War were of Asian descent, further evidence was needed.

“We then looked at all our Asian-American guys to see if they have family reference samples, and, fortunately, almost all of them that are still missing in North Korea have their family DNA on file,” she said. “So we did the matching, and none of them matched the guys we’re sending back to Korea today.”

“Then we used historical information to find where these guys were lost, and then we looked at the actual recovery reports,” Jin said. So, for example, if both Asian and American remains were found in a mass grave during the recovery operations, it was a good indicator that those Asians were not North Koreans or the Chinese who fought with them.

“We never buried enemy forces with our guys,” she said. “So that was very strong evidence — circumstantial — but pretty strong evidence that these are not the North Koreans or Chinese.”

Most of the 64 remains were recovered from sites associated with the Battle of Unsan or the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, both fought in late 1950 in what is now North Korea.

As the repatriation ceremony ended, Korean War veteran Jimmy Shin offered a pithy judgment of the affair.

“About time,” he said.

RELATED ARTICLES



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Remains of 64 South Korean soldiers to be repatriated this week

- **SURVEY SHOWS VA SUSTAINS HIGH CUSTOMER SATISFACTION IN BURIAL AND MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES**

WASHINGTON — The results of a recent [VA customer survey](#) indicates Veterans and their families continue to experience high customer satisfaction in burial and memorial services for Veterans and families from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)’s National Cemetery Administration (NCA).

NCA’s annual survey to Veterans, families and funeral directors, which was released at the end of September and covers fiscal year 2018, revealed the following:

- The administration scored in the high 90th percentile in customer service and cemetery appearance, with 98.2 percent of all respondents saying they were satisfied with their experience at the national cemetery;
- 98.7 percent of respondents noted they would recommend VA national cemeteries to Veteran families during their time of need; and
- 99 percent of respondents said the appearance of their VA national cemetery was excellent.

"National Cemetery Administration staff continue to provide world-class burial and memorial services at VA cemeteries, delivering, earning and sustaining the trust of Veterans and families," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "The employees' commitment to excellence in customer service results in an experience that is consistently positive for Veterans and their families in terms of ease, effectiveness and emotional resonance."

NCA has a well-established culture of customer service, and has ranked first in customer satisfaction among the nation's top corporations and federal agencies in an [independent survey](#) conducted by the CFI Group six consecutive times, most recently in 2016.

VA continues to pride itself on hiring Veterans and attributes its high satisfaction scores to having 76.7 percent of NCA employees being Veterans themselves.

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.

On behalf of the Vermont Veterans' Home, we gratefully acknowledge your generous donation of the book of letters of appreciation from Korean students to our Korean War Veterans.

This thoughtful contribution enables us to enhance the quality of life for our Veterans and members. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for helping us "Fulfill the Promise" to our Veterans and Members.



*Melissa Jackson, BSW, LNHA
Chief Executive Officer*

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 501C3 Foundation.

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

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.

[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.arlingtoncemetary.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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US ARMY DIRECTORY

<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 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/rsi</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/bcacdcaco, 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://halekoah.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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Sister Service Publications for Retired Service Members

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Fisher

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