

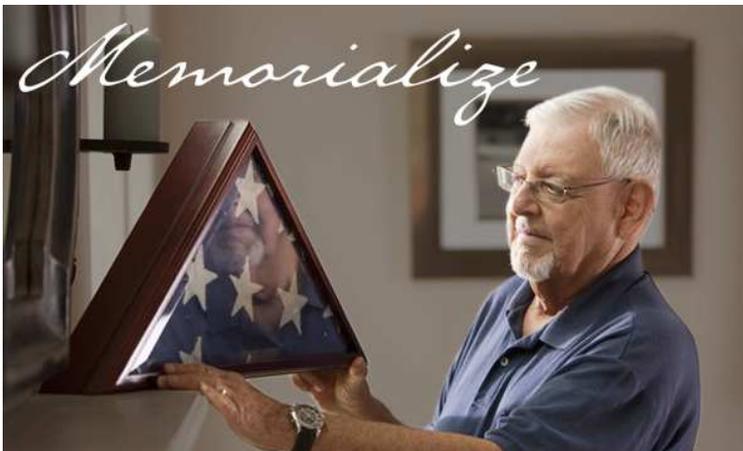


THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.
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The following monthly update for November 2018 is submitted by the Executive Director of the Korean War Veterans Association of the United States of America.

- **MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT REPORT:** As of November 26, 2018
 - New Members in November - 24
 - New Members in 2018 to date – 438
 - Current Count - Active Members – 11,727
 - Members reported as deceased this year 1278
 - Members deceased in 2017 - 801
- **VA-ENROLLED VETERANS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE FLU SHOT:** Now through March 31, 2019, all VA-enrolled veterans are eligible for free annual flu shots at their local Walgreens or Duane Reade pharmacy. While this immunization program is limited to VA patients, Walgreens offers flu shots to most VFW members and their families through other coverage programs, such as TRICARE, Medicare, and many health care plans. [Locate your closest Walgreens or Duane Reade.](#)
- **HOW TO REPORT THE DEATH OF A RETIRED SOLDIER:** Contact the Department of the Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center anytime by calling (800) 626-3317. You will be immediately referred to a local Casualty Assistance Center, who will report the death to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to stop retired pay and initiate the survivor benefits process. When reporting the death, please provide as much of the information below as you have:
 - Full name
 - Next of kin information
 - Social security number and/or service number
 - Circumstances surrounding the death
 - Retirement date
 - Copy of the death certificate
 - Retired rank
 - Copy of the Statement of Service (Last DD Form 214)



We are the National Cemetery Administration.

You may already know the [National Cemetery Administration](#) (NCA) cares for 136 VA national cemeteries across the nation, but our work extends beyond that. We lead the way in providing a variety of world class burial and memorial benefits and memorialize our nation's Veterans in perpetuity. We work to accomplish this in a variety of ways, and all of them involve Veterans, families and partners like you. Learn how you can help commemorate and share the stories of Veterans to ensure their legacy never dies.

To learn more about burial and memorial benefits

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

- **LOCATIONS OF VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CENTERS:**
If you are looking for a VA Hospital or Medical Center near you, please click on to the attached site and each hospital and medical center is located under the state you line on.
<https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/allstate.asp>
- **VA ON-LINE INFORMATION SITES:**
 - The digital 2017 Benefits Book is here: https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp
 - The Benefits Assistance Service (BAS) has a BAS also has a summary of VA benefits available here: https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/benefits_summary_materials.asp
 - Veteran Data Pocket Card: Attached and at the following link: <https://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/pocketcards/fy2018q1.pdf>
 - VA Cemetery Factsheet on Weekend Burial: https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/docs/factsheets/NCA_Weekend_Burial_Program.pdf
- **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
December 2019	December 31, 2019	January 2, 2020

- **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.

- **VA Video Appointments:** Veterans who use VA can now book appointments with their providers to be seen on the [VA Video Connect](#) app in lieu of face-to-face appointments. The app provides a secure video connection through a camera phone, computer or tablet and gives direct, real-time access to health care teams. VA Video Connect has successfully allowed thousands of veterans to receive services while reducing their travel and wait times. [Learn more.](#)

- **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/soldier-for-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.

- **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.

- **VA RATES 70 PERCENT OF ITS NURSING HOMES AS FAILURES**

WASHINGTON —Veterans organizations are demanding that Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie bring immediate attention to his nursing home program that currently has 70 percent of its 132 homes receiving failing grades by the VA’s own rating system.

Two USA Today and Boston Globe reporters who documented substandard and negligent care at the VA nursing home in Brockton, Mass., which is one of 45 nursing homes that received the VA’s lowest rating of one star. Forty-seven homes received two stars, 16 homes three stars, and 15 homes four stars. Only nine nursing homes received the VA’s top five-star rating.

“While much of the media’s attention has been on the proper implementation of VA healthcare legislation, we cannot forget about 46,000 mostly senior veterans who reside in these nursing homes,” said the two national commanders, who collectively speak for more than 4.6 million members and their auxiliaries.

“The media reports about sub-par care, patient neglect and safety violations at VA nursing homes are more than just disturbing,” said the Legion’s national commander. Anybody who respects veterans should be angered by this,” said Reistad. “These are not just patients in a home, these are people who in the prime of their lives risked their lives, and made enormous sacrifices on behalf of our country. America’s veterans deserve better. We not only expect VA to fix these problems immediately, but we want transparency. Those who sleep on the job and ignore the best interests of their patients need to find a different employer.”

Echoing his counterpart, the VFW national commander said “These veterans earned the right to receive high quality care in a fully-staffed and well-managed facility. Their families deserve to know that their loved ones — their heroes — are not being abandoned or abused, and America needs to be reassured that the VA is honoring our nation’s promise to those who have borne the battle,” said Lawrence. “The VA must improve its delivery of quality care at these facilities. It must recruit and retain only the best healthcare professionals and support staff, and it must hold all employees accountable for their actions or inactions. It is not a right but a privilege to work for America’s veterans, and anything less is unacceptable.”

Veterans Identification Card Fact Sheet

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

Veterans can use the VIC with participating vendors in lieu of their DD-214. Implementation of the VIC closes the gap for individuals that do not have an identification card that designates them as a Veteran. Moreover, it allows the VA to ensure Veterans are able to take advantage of the benefits and discounted services available to them without

compromising Personal Identifiable Information (PII) that is visible on the DD-214. The VIC does not replace the or serve as an alternate means of identification in place of the Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC) or retirement card issued by the Department of Defense, or other state or federal identification highlighting their Veteran status. Veterans who have served honorably will be able to apply for a VIC online using [Vets.gov](https://www.vets.gov) or [AccessVA](https://www.access.va.gov).

Key Facts:

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

How to Apply for a VIC

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

Explanation of Initiative

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

VIC FAQ's

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

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

Q. How can the VIC card be used?

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

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

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

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

A. Individuals that served in the Army Reserve, the Navy Reserve, the Marine Corps Reserve, the Air Force Reserve,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Applicants can update their DEERS information using the information below:

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

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

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

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

A. Veterans can submit requests for a VIC on Vets.gov 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  and then click .

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

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

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

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A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

**Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie Announces
the New VA.gov website**

[See Video Here](#)

Fellow VA Employees, since my arrival, you’ve heard me talk repeatedly about my main priority as Secretary: to give our customers the best possible experience the minute they encounter VA. I’m excited to announce that this Veterans Day, we’re going to do just that with the launch of the new VA.gov. What makes me most proud of this effort is that every corner of VA came together – across all offices and organizational boundaries – to listen to our customers and put Veterans first. Over 10 Million people visit VA’s websites each month. Many have a frustrating experience. They can’t find the tools and services they need. They’re confused by multiple VA brands.

In fact, one Veteran said, “I have no handle on VA...the hospitals are the only thing I can put my head around. There’s no storefront, no website.” How do we know this? We talked to them. In fact, we talked to 5,000 of them. But more importantly, we listened to what they had to say. Based on what we heard, we’re giving Veterans an easy way to log in on a centralized home page, access to the 20 top tasks 80% of them need most, standard design to eliminate confusion across VA services, and a personalized profile where they can do basic things like update their name and address in one location.

With just that one update, the information will flow across the VHA and VBA border continuing updates across multiple systems.

When we showed our customers these changes, they said: “Since you’ve updated it, it seems to send a message that VA cares enough to try to make it more accessible.” And “VA has pivoted from focusing on the organizational structure to helping me as a Veteran.” While this is just a first step in our digital modernization process it’s a major leap forward for providing exceptional customer service to those we serve. Take a look around VA.gov, kick the tires, and tell us what you think. Let us know where we can make improvements.

This Veterans Day, we’re going to provide our customers with one of the best digital experiences across the entire Federal government. It’s an exciting time to be at VA. And it’s my honor to be working with you.

Thank you.

PLEASE PRODUCE LOCALLY FOR ALL THOSE WHO DO NOT ROUTINELY ACCESS EMAIL DUE TO THEIR SPECIALTIES.

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VA realigns several program offices to improve efficiency in meeting Veterans’ health care needs

WASHINGTON — As part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) modernization efforts to improve efficiency in care coordination for Veterans and meet a presidential executive order for reorganizing the executive branch, VA plans to realign several programs within its Veterans Health Administration (VHA) into four offices.

A requirement of [Executive Order 13781, Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch](#), the realignment, which will begin Nov. 25, is designed to enhance quality care for Veterans by improving coordination of services in the areas of population health; education and training of health care professionals; research, academic affiliations; engineering services; and human resources (HR).

“The realignment creates greater accountability and clearer governance for the program offices that perform these critical functions,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “Integrating and consolidating offices will allow VA to reduce bureaucracy and focus on meeting Veterans’ needs.”

Population Health will consolidate six programs into one new office to reduce administrative burden on the Veterans Integrated Services Networks (VISNs) and hospitals. **This consolidation will enable facilities to target issues common to their market area and, based on the populations’ health in the region, align with other federal agencies to promote best practices based on public and private institutional standards.**

The Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) and Office of Research and Development (ORD) will realign under the new Discovery, Education and Affiliates Networks (DEAN) office to foster a collaborative environment that will address the most complex health concerns facing Veterans, while improving medical care for all Americans.

On June 22, Dr. Carolyn M. Clancy moved from executive in charge of VHA to oversee the DEAN office. “It is critical that someone of Dr. Clancy’s experience take on this new role to help ensure that the next generation of physicians will thrive in providing cutting-edge medical care and innovations for Veterans,” Wilkie said.

Engineering and Environment of Care functions will be integrated into a single office to improve coordination between related environmental and safety initiatives and provide a world-class health care environment. VA Medical Centers will now have a single point of contact for safety issues. The consolidation of functions also will ensure high-quality safety standards, which are essential to Veterans’ health.

HR will merge four headquarters-based HR groups with similar functions into one office to create a more efficient HR organization and provide more transparent and consistent service. A more efficiently functioning HR Service in VHA will improve the quality and efficiency of central office functions, which are essential to VA providing high-quality health care to Veterans.

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[VA realigns several program offices to improve efficiency in meeting Veteran health care needs_21NOV2018_final.pdf](#)

- **VA MOBILIZES FEDERAL AGENCIES TO OFFER FREE LEGAL SERVICES TO HELP VETERANS**

WASHINGTON — Today the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) together with representatives from the departments of Labor, Justice, Defense, Homeland Security, the U.S. Navy and others, signed a joint statement aimed at improving access to free legal services for Veterans in need.

Federal agencies and the Veterans legal services community came together at VA headquarters in Washington D.C. to celebrate [VA’s Medical Legal Partnerships](#) and to recognize volunteers who serve at VA-based free legal clinics.

Currently, VA hosts at least 170 free legal clinics in its VA Medical Centers, Community Based Outpatient Clinics and Vet Centers across the country, by partnering with external legal service providers, such as local bar associations, legal aid organizations and law school clinics.

“Legal assistance stands high on the list of many Veterans’ important but unmet needs,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “Our goal is to make sure our Veterans have access to not only health care and disability benefits, but to community legal services that are central to their overall well-being.”

Veterans often face stressful legal situations — such as eviction, foreclosure, child support or driver’s license revocations — that can affect their ability to gain or maintain employment and housing, or focus on medical treatment. At the VA-hosted event today, VA and other federal agencies committed to encourage and further the provision of volunteer legal services to Veterans.

As a prime example of the VA-based legal clinics nationwide, attorneys and paralegals from VA and 13 other federal agencies have provided pro bono legal assistance on their own time to Veterans at the Washington, D.C., VA Medical Center’s legal clinic, run by the [Veterans Pro Bono Consortium](#). During the past year, the legal clinic at that facility has served more than 800 Veterans.

For more information about VA’s coordination of legal services for Veterans at VA facilities visit <https://www.va.gov/OGC/LegalServices.asp>.

• **VA RESEARCHERS NAMED TO TIME MAGAZINE’S LIST OF 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN HEALTH CARE**

WASHINGTON — Two research scientists with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) were recently named to TIME Magazine’s list of the [50 most influential people in health care in 2018](#).

TIME Magazine honored VA’s [Dr. Ann McKee](#) and [Dr. Tony Wyss-Coray](#) among a roster of physicians, scientists, and business and political leaders whose works are transforming health care approach and delivery around the country.

“Dr. Ann McKee and Dr. Wyss-Coray are key VA health care leaders who are performing groundbreaking research,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “And I’m proud to have them in our ranks searching for new ways to improve the lives of our Veterans.”

McKee is chief of Neuropathology at the [VA Boston Healthcare System](#) and director of the [VA-BU-CLF Brain Bank](#), a joint endeavor between VA, Boston University and the Concussion Legacy Foundation. She is a pioneer in identifying and understanding the repercussions of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) — a degenerative condition caused by repeated traumatic blows to the head. CTE has been associated with repetitive, mild traumatic brain injury in military service members.

Her research has called widespread attention to the alarming prevalence of CTE in professional football players. After former New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez died by suicide at age 27, McKee discovered CTE in his brain — the most severe case of CTE she had seen in someone his age. Her research has also demonstrated that adults are not the only ones at risk of brain injury from mild repetitive trauma. McKee has found evidence that children age 6 to 12 who play tackle football are also at risk for brain injury.

Wyss-Coray is a VA senior research scientist and associate director of the [Center for Tissue Regeneration, Repair and Restoration](#) at Palo Alto, California. He is also a professor of neurology and neurological sciences at Stanford University. His laboratory studies the effects of aging and immune responses on the brain and the role Alzheimer’s disease plays in brain degeneration and memory loss.

Wyss-Coray is best-known for his groundbreaking research into the use of blood taken from young mice to combat the effects of aging and memory loss in older mice. The process originally involved surgically connecting young mice to older mice — so they would share blood circulation. Now, his team injects plasma from donor mice into older mice. He hopes, eventually, to perfect the technique for use in humans, with an eye toward treating Alzheimer’s disease. For more information on VA Research, visit www.research.va.gov.

TIME Magazine said it launched the Health Care 50 to highlight extraordinary people changing the state of U.S. health care this year. Winners were nominated by a team of health editors and reporters who evaluated their work on key factors, including originality, impact and quality.

ALL KOREAN WAR PUNCHBOWL UNKNOWNNS WILL BE DISINTERRED!

The Punch Bowl cemetery in Hawaii isn’t a bad place to spend eternity. The grounds are peaceful; dotted with broad branched Monkeypod trees and their Harry Potteresque surface roots. There’s a million-dollar view of Honolulu and the Pacific Ocean. The summer rains come every few minutes, while the sun shines; friendly drizzles, that don’t last long. Still, spending time beneath an Unknown marker is an unsettling way to do any time, let alone eternity. The remains of 867 unknown Korean War MIAs were laid to rest in this paradise following the war. Six decades of anonymity. 867 families going without closure, while their loved one waiting beneath American soil. A broad effort has gone into resolving the scenario. 214 caskets have been exhumed in recent years, thanks to that effort. The remains of 113 missing men have gotten back their names and been sent home to their families. 644 linger on though, waiting for their opportunity. That opportunity has come! A plan is finally in place to bring up all the caskets. Every one of them! This will be done gradually, in seven phases, over the next few years. It will be done, though. Each phase will begin with disinterments of those cases having the best chances for identification based on information in the X-File and the most complete skeletons. Eight caskets will be brought up every two weeks. The first eight are already up. Another eight were scheduled for the first week of November. Phase one includes forty current family requests. The plan will continue until all 644 caskets are up and the remains inside are in the lab; waiting again, but this time with purpose. There have been cries of bring them all up at once. There are reasons for a measured pace. Thousands of men lost from other wars, many of them also unknown, hold their ground in the cemetery. Patriotic services are held in their honor throughout the year. Folks come to visit them. The busy process of raising 644 caskets at one end of the grounds would intrude on the respect given to them. Lab capacity is an issue, yet using outside labs is an issue. The final sign off on each identification requires verifiable continuity each step along the way. The officials marking those final signatures are uncomfortable authorizing work done by laboratories not under their control. So most of the Unknowns will wait a little longer, as will the families hoping the name of their missing loved one will be among them. Fifty-five of their brethren just brought back from North Korea, cut them in the identification line. The return ceremony happened only a few miles away. Hope lifted in the Hawaiian breeze, drifted past the Waikiki hotels and settled among the Monkeypod trees and sunshine rain. The Punch Bowl Unknowns will have their turn soon.

Veterans in the 116th Congress, by the numbers

By: [Leo Shane III](#)



Rep.-elect Dan Crenshaw, R-Texas, left, listens during member-elect orientations on Capitol Hill in Washington. Crenshaw is among 19 new veterans elected to Congress this year. (Pablo Martinez Monsivais/AP)

WASHINGTON — With Democrat Gina Ortiz Jones’ concession in the Texas 23rd district race earlier this week, all of the congressional elections involving veterans have now been decided.

The final results leave the total number of lawmakers with military experience for next year’s session at 95, down seven from the start of the

last congressional session. It's another decrease in veteran representation in Congress, a figure that has declined steadily since the mid-1970s.

At that time, the years following the Vietnam War, nearly three-fourths of lawmakers had served in the military. The 116th session will open with less than 18 percent of Congress boasting first-hand familiarity with the military.

The number of vets in Congress appears headed down again

But the number of female vets in Congress is headed up, and 17 new veteran candidates who won races on Election Day

By: Leo Shane III

However, next year's Congress will boast the largest number of female veterans in history (six) and the largest class of freshmen veteran lawmakers in a decade (19). Nearly half of the veterans caucus served in the ranks after 2000, while four members still boast service from the 1950s.

Here's a look at the group, by the numbers:

- 95 total veterans in the 116th Congress.
- 30 are Democrats, 65 are Republicans.
- 18 will serve in the Senate, 77 will serve in the House.
- 47 served in the military after 2000.
- 21 served in the military in the 1960s or earlier.
- 19 are first-time lawmakers.
- 6 are women.
- 50 served in the Army, Army Reserve or Army National Guard.
- 17 served in the Marine Corps or Marine Corps Reserve.
- 16 served in the Air Force, Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard.
- 13 served in the Navy or Naval Reserve.
- 1 served in the Coast Guard.

After the midterm elections, 95 veterans are expected to serve in the House and Senate when the next session starts in January.

District	Party	Name	In office now?	Gender	Service	Era	Combat tours
GA 9	GOP	Doug Collins	Yes	Male	AF Reserve	2000s-2010s	OIF
WY Senate	GOP	Mike Enzi	Yes	Male	Air Force	1960s-1970s	none
SC Senate	GOP	Lindsey Graham	Yes	Male	Air Force	1980s-2010s	OIF
PA 6	Dem	Chrissy Houlahan	No	Female	Air Force	1980s	none
VA 5	GOP	Denver Riggleman	No	Male	Air Force	1990s	none
OR 4	Dem	Peter DeFazio	Yes	Male	Air Force	1960s-1970s	none
TX 36	GOP	Brian Babin	Yes	Male	Air Force	1970s	none
MS Senate	GOP	Roger Wicker	Yes	Male	Air Force	1970s-1990s	none
OH 6	GOP	Bill Johnson	Yes	Male	Air Force	1970s-1990s	none
GA 11	GOP	Barry Loudermilk	Yes	Male	Air Force	1980s-1990s	Desert Storm

District	Party	Name	In office now?	Gender	Service	Era	Combat tours
UT 2	GOP	Chris Stewart	Yes	Male	Air Force	1980s-1990s	none
NE 2	GOP	Don Bacon	Yes	Male	Air Force	1980s-2010s	OIF
CA 33	Dem	Ted Lieu	Yes	Male	Air Force	1990s-2010s	none
IL 16	GOP	Adam Kinzinger	Yes	Male	Air Force	2000s-2010s	OIF
Georgia	Republican	Johnny Isakson	Yes	Male	Air Force	1960s-1970s	none
FL 16	GOP	Vern Buchanan	Yes	Male	Air NG	1970s	none
PA 10	GOP	Scott Perry	Yes	Male	Army NG	1980s-2010s	OIF
OK Senate	GOP	Jim Inhofe	Yes	Male	Army	1950s	none
KY Senate	GOP	Mitch McConnell	Yes	Male	Army	1960s	none
MA Senate	Dem	Ed Markey	Yes	Male	Army	1960s-1970s	none
RI Senate	Dem	Jack Reed	Yes	Male	Army	1970s	none
AK Senate	GOP	Tom Cotton	Yes	Male	Army	2000s-2010s	OIF
IN 4	GOP	Jim Baird	No	Male	Army	1960s-1970s	Vietnam
TN 7	GOP	Mark Green	No	Male	Army	1980s-2000s	OIF, OEF
CO 6	Dem	Jason Crow	No	Male	Army	1990s-2000s	OIF, OEF
FL 6	GOP	Michael Waltz	No	Male	Army	1990s-2010s	OEF
FL 17	GOP	Greg Steube	No	Male	Army	2000s	OIF
KS 2	GOP	Steve Watkins	No	Male	Army	2000s-2010s	OEF
NY 11	Dem	Max Rose	No	Male	Army	2010s	OEF
AK (House)	GOP	Don Young	Yes	Male	Army	1950s	none
GA 2	Dem	Sanford Bishop Jr.	Yes	Male	Army	1960s	none
IL 1	Dem	Bobby Rush	Yes	Male	Army	1960s	none
MN 7	Dem	Collin Peterson	Yes	Male	Army	1960s	none
NJ 9	Dem	Bill Pascrell	Yes	Male	Army	1960s	none
NY 15	Dem	Jose Serrano	Yes	Male	Army	1960s	none
NC 1	Dem	G.K. Butterfield	Yes	Male	Army	1960s	none

District	Party	Name	In office now?	Gender	Service	Era	Combat tours
CA 5	Dem	Mike Thompson	Yes	Male	Army	1960s-1970s	Vietnam
NC 3	GOP	Walter Jones	Yes	Male	Army	1960s-1970s	none
VA 3	Dem	Bobby Scott	Yes	Male	Army	1970s	none
TN 1	GOP	Phil Roe	Yes	Male	Army	1970s	none
TX 11	GOP	Mike Conaway	Yes	Male	Army	1970s	none
LA 3	GOP	Clay Higgins	Yes	Male	Army	1970s-1980s	none
TX 1	GOP	Louie Gohmert	Yes	Male	Army	1970s-1980s	none
SC 2	GOP	Joe Wilson	Yes	Male	Army	1970s-1990s	none
FL 2	GOP	Neal Dunn	Yes	Male	Army	1980s	none
NV 2	GOP	Mark Amodei	Yes	Male	Army	1980s	none
AR 1	GOP	Rick Crawford	Yes	Male	Army	1980s-1990s	none
KY 2	GOP	Brett Guthrie	Yes	Male	Army	1980s-1990s	none
OH 8	GOP	Warren Davidson	Yes	Male	Army	1980s-1990s	none
IL 15	GOP	John Shimkus	Yes	Male	Army	1980s-2000s	none
NY 1	GOP	Lee Zeldin	Yes	Male	Army	2000s	OIF
FL 18	GOP	Brian Mast	Yes	Male	Army	2000s-2010s	OEF
IL Senate	Dem	Tammy Duckworth	Yes	Female	Army NG	1990s-2010s	OIF
IA Senate	GOP	Joni Ernst	Yes	Female	Army NG	1990s-2010s	OIF
SC 4	GOP	William Timmons	No	Male	Army NG	2010s	none
KY 5	GOP	Hal Rogers	Yes	Male	Army NG	1950s-1960s	none
NY 2	GOP	Peter King	Yes	Male	Army NG	1960s-1970s	none
AR 3	GOP	Steve Womack	Yes	Male	Army NG	1980s-2000s	none
OH 15	GOP	Steve Stivers	Yes	Male	Army NG	1980s-2010s	OIF
MS 1	GOP	Trent Kelly	Yes	Male	Army NG	1990s-2010s	Desert Storm, OIF

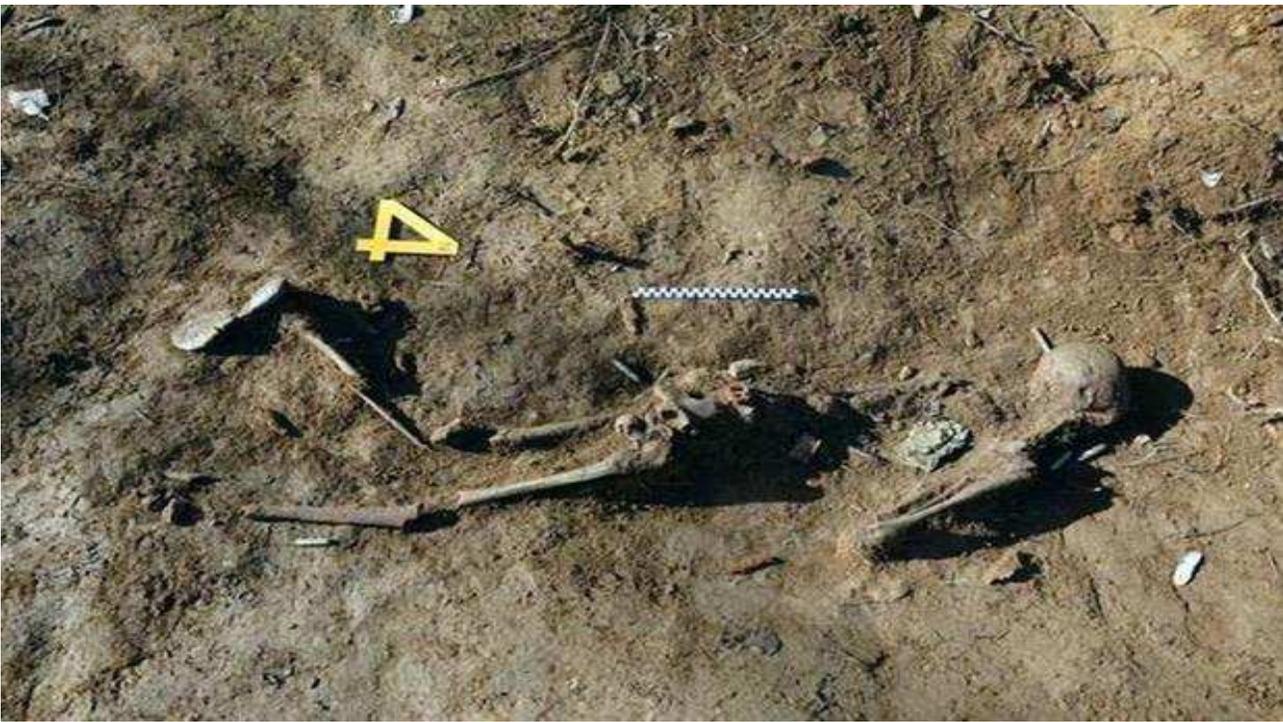
District	Party	Name	In office now?	Gender	Service	Era	Combat tours
HI 2	Dem	Tulsi Gabbard	Yes	Female	Army NG	2000s-2010s	OIF
KS 1	GOP	Roger Marshall	Yes	Male	Army Reserve	2010s	none
MD 4	Dem	Anthony Brown	Yes	Male	Army Reserve	1980s-2010s	OIF
OH 2	GOP	Brad Wenstrup	Yes	Male	Army Reserve	1990s-2010s	OIF
LA 5	GOP	Ralph Abraham	Yes	Male	Coast Guard, ANG	1980s-2010s	none
KS Senate	GOP	Pat Roberts	Yes	Male	Marine Corps	1950s-1960s	none
CT Senate	Dem	Richard Blumenthal	Yes	Male	MC Reserve	1970s	none
IN Senate	GOP	Todd Young	Yes	Male	Marine Corps	1990s-2000s	none
AK Senate	GOP	Dan Sullivan	Yes	Male	Marine Corps	1990s-2010s	OEF
IN 6	GOP	Greg Pence	No	Male	Marine Corps	1970s-1980s	none
TX 3	GOP	Van Taylor	No	Male	Marine Corps	1990s-2000s	OIF
ME 2	Dem	Jared Golden	No	Male	Marine Corps	2000s	OIF, OEF
CA 8	GOP	Paul Cook	Yes	Male	Marine Corps	1960s-1980s	Vietnam War
IL 12	GOP	Mike Bost	Yes	Male	Marine Corps	1970s-1980s	none
MI 1	GOP	Jack Bergman	Yes	Male	Marine Corps	1970s-2000s	Vietnam
AZ 7	Dem	Ruben Gallego	Yes	Male	Marine Corps	2000s	OIF
MA 6	Dem	Seth Moulton	Yes	Male	Marine Corps	2000s	OIF
PA 17	Dem	Conor Lamb	Yes	Male	Marine Corps	2000s-2010s	none
CA 50	GOP	Duncan Hunter	Yes	Male	Marine Corps	2000s-2010s	OIF, OEF
WI 8	GOP	Mike Gallagher	Yes	Male	Marine Corps	2000s-2010s	OIF
CA 24	Dem	Salud Carbajal	Yes	Male	MC Reserve	1990s	Desert Storm
MI Senate	Dem	Gary Peters	Yes	Male	Navy	1990s-2000s	none
FL Senate	GOP	Rick Scott	No	Male	Navy	1970s	none
CA 39	Dem	Gil Cisneros	No	Male	Navy	1990s-	none

District	Party	Name	In office now?	Gender	Service	Era	Combat tours
						2000s	
NJ 11	Dem	Mikie Sherrill	No	Female	Navy	1990s-2000s	none
VA 2	Dem	Elaine Luria	No	Female	Navy	1990s-2010s	none
PA 14	GOP	Guy Reschenthaler	No	Male	Navy	2000s-2010s	OIF
TX 2	GOP	Daniel Crenshaw	No	Male	Navy	2000s-2010s	OIF, OEF
TX 22	GOP	Pete Olson	Yes	Male	Navy	1990s	Desert Storm
DE Senate	Dem	Thomas Carper	Yes	Male	Navy Reserve	1960s-1990s	Vietnam
IN 8	GOP	Larry Bucshon	Yes	Male	Navy Reserve	1980s-1990s	none
MD 1	GOP	Andy Harris	Yes	Male	Navy Reserve	1980s-2010s	Desert Storm
CA 20	Dem	Jimmy Panetta	Yes	Male	Navy Reserve	2000s	OEF
IN 3	GOP	Jim Banks	Yes	Male	Navy Reserve	2010s	OEF
MS 4	GOP	Steven Palazzo	Yes	Male	Marine Corps/Army	1980s-2010s	Desert Storm, OIF



• MIA UPDATE:

South Korea Unearths Nine Sets of War Dead Remains Inside DMZ



South Korea announced Monday, Nov. 19, 2018, it has found five more sets of remains from troops killed in the 1950-53 Korean War in the Demilitarized Zone. Pictured is a skeleton that remains largely intact. (COURTESY OF SOUTH KOREA'S DEFENSE MINISTRY)

Stars and Stripes | By [Kim Gamel](#) and [Yoo Kyong Chang](#)

SEOUL, South Korea -- South Korea has unearthed nine sets of remains of war dead, including a rare, relatively intact skeleton, during a mine-clearance operation inside the heavily fortified border that divides the peninsula, the military said Monday.

The return of remains from the 1950-53 Korean War, including 55 cases containing the remains of American troops who were lost in North Korea, has been a bright spot in otherwise slow diplomatic efforts to persuade the North to give up its nuclear weapons.

The defense ministry announced it had recovered five sets of remains, including one that "appears to be complete," last week during work in the Cheorwon area northeast of Seoul. It released a photo of the skeleton, which still had a shoe on one foot.

"All the five sets have been determined during the on-site investigation to be the remains of war dead," the ministry said in a press release. They will be sent to the ministry's agency for the recovery and identification of troops killed in action, known as MAKRI, for DNA analysis and further identification.

The total number of remains found since the operation began Oct. 1 at Arrowhead Hill is now nine. The site saw fierce fighting during the war, which ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

Major fighting at Arrowhead, also known as Hill 281, involved American, French, South Korean and Chinese forces, according to retired Lt. Col. Steve Tharp, a military history expert who is researching the battles. The North Koreans were farther east and would not have been involved, he said.

The joint effort to remove land mines and excavate remains from the DMZ, a 2.5-mile wide, 155-mile long no man's land, is part of an inter-Korean military pact that was reached during a summit between the two countries in September. Some 7,675 Americans remain unaccounted for since the war, with an estimated 5,300 believed to be on the North Korean side. More than 133,000 South Koreans are still missing from the conflict, according to the defense ministry.

[North Korea also returned 55 cases](#) said to contain the remains of American servicemembers in July as part of an agreement between leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump during their June 12 summit in Singapore. It was the first such repatriation in more than a decade.

The Americans initially captured Arrowhead in 1951 and suffered major losses in attacks in August 1952 when the 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, was in control, according to Tharp.

A French battalion took over in October 1952 and fought with South Korean soldiers on nearby White Horse Hill as the area came under heavy attack by the Chinese, who also released a dam upstream to flood the river and block the U.N. from sending reinforcements, he said.

"The French hung on, but they did lose some people there," Tharp said.

The next major battle in the area occurred toward the end of the war when the Chinese attacked South Korean soldiers as part of a surge in fighting to gain ground before the armistice was signed on July 27.

--**Army Cpl. Albert E. Mills, 20**, of Dallas, accounted for on July 13, 2018, will be buried November 12 in his hometown. In July 1950, Mills was a member of Company F, 2nd Battalion 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, blocking the Korean People's Army from advancing along a corridor linking the cities of Taejon and Taegu. South Korea. On July 23, 1950, enemy forces attacked American defenses at Yongdong. Mills was reported missing in action on July 25, 1950, as a result of the fighting, when he could not be accounted for by his unit.



On March 28, 1950, based in information provided by a local witness, an American Graves Registration Search and Recovery team recovered two sets of remains from a mountain near Yongdong. The remains, designated X-851 and X-852, were interred in the United Nation's Military Cemetery (UNMC) Tanggok in April 1951.

In an effort to support identification attempts, remains recovered throughout South Korea were sent to the Central Identification Command in Kokura, Japan, for identification. While X-851 was positively identified, X-852 could not be associated with any missing service members. The remains were subsequently transferred to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu and buried as a Korean Unknown.

On April 9, 2018, DPAA disinterred "X-852 Tanggok" from the Punchbowl and sent the remains to the laboratory for identification.

To identify Mills' remains, scientists from DPAA used anthropological, and chest radiograph comparison analysis which, as well as circumstantial evidence.

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

--**Army Sgt. Eugene G. McBride, 20**, of Lincoln, Nebraska, accounted for on Sept. 10, 2018, will be buried November 14 in his hometown. In January 1945, McBride was a member of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 311th Infantry Regiment, 78th Infantry Division. On Jan. 30, 1945, while engaged in an attack against enemy forces near Huppenbroich, Germany, McBride was killed by a blast from an enemy artillery shell. His remains were not identified by American forces after the battle.

On Feb. 18, 1945, Army officials at United States Military Cemetery Margraten processed unidentified remains of a Soldier who had reportedly been killed near Huppenbroich, Germany. The remains, designated X-90 Margraten, had no identification tags and were subsequently buried at the cemetery as an unknown soldier.

After the war, the American Graves Registration Command traveled to Huppenbroich and extensively searched the Hürtgen Forest, to locate McBride's and another soldier's remains. In 1949, American Graves Registration Command officials pursued the possibility of an association between X-90 Margraten and McBride. However, a positive identification could not be made and the remains were interred at the Rhone American Cemetery in France, on Jan. 7, 1952.

Unable to make a correlation with any remains found in the area, he was declared non-recoverable on Jan. 7, 1952.

In 2016, based upon a comprehensive study of unresolved American losses of the Hürtgen Forest, the original recovery location of the remains, and evidence from the personal effects recovered with X-90 Margraten, a DPAA historian determined that there was a likely association between the remains and McBride.

In June 2017, the Department of Defense and American Battle Monuments Commission disinterred X-90 and

accessioned the remains to the DPAA laboratory for identification

To identify McBride's remains, scientists from DPAA used anthropological and chest radiograph comparison analysis, as well as circumstantial and material evidence.

DPAA is grateful the American Battle Monuments Commission for their partnership in this mission. Of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II, more than 400,000 died during the war. Currently there are 72,784 service members (approximately 26,000 are assessed as possibly-recoverable) still unaccounted for from World War II. McBride's name is recorded on the Tablets of the Missing at the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Hombourg, Belgium, an American Battle Monuments Commission site along with the other MIAs from WWII. Although interred as an Unknown, McBride's grave was meticulously cared for by ABMC for 70 years. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

--**Army Cpl. Edward M. Jones, 20**, of Lake Charles, Louisiana, accounted for on Sept. 13, 2018, will be buried November 9 in his hometown. In February 1951, Jones was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, supporting Republic of Korea Army attacks against units of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) near Hoengsong, South Korea. On Feb. 12, 1951 Jones was reported missing in action when he could not be accounted for by his unit.

After the war, during Operation Little Switch, where sick, wounded and prisoners from each side were exchanged, a returning American POW reported that Jones had died at the Suan Bean Camp, a prisoner of war camp in North Korea. Based on this information, the U.S. Army declared Jones deceased as of March 16, 1951.

Between 1990 and 1994, North Korea returned to the United States 208 boxes of commingled human remains, which were later determined to contain the remains of at least 400 U.S. servicemen who died during the war. On Dec. 21, 1993, North Korea turned over 34 boxes of remains believed to be unaccounted-for servicemen from the war, 22 which were reported to have been in the vicinity of the Suan POW Camp Complex.

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

DPAA 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 Pfc. Mathis O. Ball, Jr., 20**, of Collin County, Texas, accounted for Aug. 14, 2018, will be buried November 18 in Bokchito, Oklahoma. In July 1950, Ball was a member of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, engaged in combat operations against North Korean forces near Choch'iwon, South Korea. Ball could not be accounted-for and was declared missing in action on July 12, 1950.

In December 1953, based on a lack of information regarding his status, Ball was declared deceased. In January 1956, he was declared non-recoverable.

On Oct. 4, 1950, a set of unidentified remains was recovered from an isolated grave in the vicinity of Choch'iwon, South Korea, in an area corresponding to where Ball's unit engaged in battle. The remains, designated X-91, were processed for identification, but a match could not be made. The remains were interred in American Cemetery No. 1, later renamed to United Nations Military Cemetery Taejon.

From October 1950 to September 1951, the American Graves Registration Service attempted to associate Unknown X-91 with a U.S. Soldier. When a possible association could not be made, the remains were declared unidentifiable and X-91 was buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu as an Unknown.

On Oct. 2 2017, Unknown X-91 was disinterred from the Punchbowl and sent to the laboratory for analysis.

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



--Army Pvt. Charles G. Kaniatobe, 21, of Idabel, Oklahoma, accounted for Sept. 13, 2018, will be buried November 17 in his hometown. In July 1950, Kaniatobe was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, engaged in combat operations against the North Korean People's Army near Chonui, South Korea. Kaniatobe could not be accounted-for and was declared missing in action on July 10, 1950.

In December 1953, based on a lack of information regarding his status, Kaniatobe was declared deceased. In January 1956, he was declared non-recoverable. No list provided by the Chinese or North Koreans reported Kaniatobe as a POW, and no returning American POWs reported him as a

POW.

In early October 1950, a Graves Registration Team attached to Kaniatobe's regiment recovered the remains of 164 Americans from the area between Chonui and Choch'iown. On Oct. 6, 1950, a set of unidentified remains, designated Unknown X-173 and recovered in the vicinity of Choch'iwon were interred by the U.S. Army in present-day United Nations Military Cemetery Taejou.

In March 1952, Unknown X-173 was exhumed and transferred to the U.S. Army Central Identification Unit in Kokura, Japan for identification. When an identification could not be made, the remains were reburied as Unknown X-173 in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Hawaii.

On Oct. 16 2017, Unknown X-173 was disinterred from the Punchbowl and sent to the laboratory for analysis.

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

—Army Cpl. Frederick E. Coons, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on Oct. 29, 2018.

On July 29, 1950, Coons was declared missing action in the vicinity of Geochang, South Gyeongsang Province, South Korea, when he couldn't be accounted for after a unit withdrawal action to set up a roadblock against North Korean Forces.

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

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

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

Coons' personnel profile can be viewed at <https://dpaa.secure.force.com/dpaaProfile?id=a0Jt0000007Whx1EAC>

—Army Pvt. Robert J. Sipes, Jr., killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on Oct. 23, 2018.

In November 1950, Sipes was a member of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. He was killed in action on Nov. 30, 1950, during heavy fighting between the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) and the 7th Cavalry Regiment near the village of Unsan, North Korea. His remains were processed through a 7th Cavalry Regiment Collection Station on Dec. 1, 1950, and interred at the United Nations Military Cemetery (UNMC) Pyongyang, on Dec. 2, 1950.

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

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

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

Sipes' personnel profile can be viewed at <https://dpaa.secure.force.com/dpaaProfile?id=a0Jt000000bHtzjEAC>

--Army Cpl. Francisco Ramos-Rivera, 33, of Puerto Rico, accounted for on July 12, will be buried November 29 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In July 1950, Ramos-Rivera was a member of Company H, 2nd Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, engaged in combat operations against North Korean forces near Taejon, South Korea. After U.S. forces regrouped after their evacuation of Taejon, Ramos-Rivera could not be accounted-for and was declared missing in action on July 20, 1950.

In December 1953, based on a lack of information regarding his status, Ramos-Rivera was declared deceased. In January 1956, he was declared non-recoverable.

In February 1951, several sets of remains were found in the vicinity of the village of Kujong-ri, South Korea, in an area corresponding to where Ramos-Rivera's regiment withdrew from battle. One set of remains, designated X-453 Tanggok, could not be identified. In May 1955, X-453 Tanggok was declared unidentifiable and was buried as an Unknown at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu.

In August 2017, Unknown X-453 was disinterred from the Punchbowl and sent to the laboratory for identification.

--Army Pfc. Leo J. Duquette, 19, of Toledo, Ohio. Duquette was accounted for on Aug. 8, 2018.

In July 1950, Duquette was a member of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, engaged in combat operations against North Korean forces near Choch'iwon, South Korea. Duquette could not be accounted-for and was declared missing in action on July 11, 1950.

In December 1953, based on a lack of information regarding his status, Duquette was declared deceased. In January 1956, he was declared non-recoverable.

In October 1950, the remains of 164 Americans were found in the vicinity of the Chonui and Choch'iwon, South Korea, in an area corresponding to where Duquette's unit engaged in battle. One set of remains, designated X-132, was processed for identification, but a match could not be made. The remains were interred in American Cemetery No. 1, later renamed to United Nations Military Cemetery Taejon.

From October 1950 to September 1954, the American Graves Registration Service attempted to associate Unknown X-132 with a U.S. Soldier. When a possible association could not be made, the remains were declared unidentifiable and X-132 was buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu as an Unknown.

On Oct. 16, 2017, Unknown X-132 was disinterred from the Punchbowl and sent to the laboratory for analysis.

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

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

-- **Army Pfc. John W. Martin**, 23, of Saratoga, New York. Martin 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.

Martin's name did not appear on any prisoner of war lists, and no returning prisoners of war reported that he had been captured. Based on this information, he was declared deceased as of Dec. 31, 1951. In 1956, his remains were declared non-recoverable.

In September 2001, during the 25th Joint Recovery Operation, a burial site located at the Chosin Reservoir, in the vicinity of where Martin's unit fought during the war, was excavated. The remains were accessioned to the DPAA laboratory for identification.

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

• **DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTABILITY AGENCY MONTHLY REPORT** – Submitted by Bruce R. Harder
KWVA National Director and Coordinator for POW/MIA

On October 31, I represented the KWVA at the DPAA quarterly conference call to discuss DoD's continued progress of the past conflict personnel accounting mission. The update began at 2:00 pm and lasted for about an hour and a half.

As usual, DPAA will produce a summary document outlining the remarks made by members of the DPAA staff and the question and answer period that followed. It usually takes at least a couple weeks for that document to be prepared and distributed to the participating organizations that participated in the conference call. As soon as I receive that document, I will forward a copy to each of the KWVA officials I listed above on the to and cc lines.

Since the KWVA just received a DPAA personnel accounting update from the DPAA Deputy Principal Director, Mrs. Fern Sumpter-Winbush, at our annual membership meeting in Florida in mid-October, there was not too much recent news to report that we had not already been shared with the KWVA. However, there are a few pieces of information that I can pass along as highlights from the conference call. Here are the key takeaways for the KWVA:

- The 55 boxes of remains repatriated to the U.S from North Korea on July 27, 2018, are similar in condition to the 208 boxes of remains that the North Koreans returned to the U.S between 1990 and 1993.
- The remains are commingled, and it is likely that more than 55 individuals are represented in the boxes. The KPA only provided the county in North Korea from which the remains were recovered for each box of remains.
- DPAA does not yet have an estimate of how many individuals are represented in the 55 boxes.
- The two individuals already identified from the 55 boxes were relatively easy to identify because both individuals had dental and clavicle remains as well as other unique aspects of the remains.
- Identifying the remainder of the remains in the 55 boxes will take some time with some remains being easier and quicker to identify than others.

- The State Department has agreed that the DPAA Director (Kelly McKeague) will lead negotiations with the North Korean Korean People's Army (KPA) when the negotiations take place. State Department as well as other U.S. government organizations from the Department of Defense will participate in the talks.
- DPAA has been authorized to communicate directly with the KPA regarding plans to resume joint remains recovery operations in North Korea.
- The U.S. goal is to conduct joint field activities in North Korea in the Spring of 2019.
- DPAA has prepared a draft response to an arrangement document the KPA provided to DPAA for review. The DPAA response document is now being coordinated with other U.S. government agencies.
- When coordination is completed, DPAA will forward the response document to the KPA and coordinate a date, time, location and venue for talks on the draft arrangement for Joint U.S./KPA field activities in North Korea.
- If both sides agree to a final arrangement at the talks, both governments will review the document, and then the arrangement will be signed.
- The arrangement will specify the schedule of events and all details about how the joint field activities will be conducted.
- Resumption of Joint field activities in North Korea in 2019 is not a "done deal," several key steps must be completed before any joint remains recovery operations take place in North Korea.

During the Question and answer period, I asked three questions for the KWVA:

1. Q: How many possible U.S remains were recovered in the in the ROK in FY2018 and how many have been identified? DPAA: No answer was provided during the conference call, DPAA will research and provide a response in their notes of the meeting.
2. Q: Are any Korean War cases being investigated or scheduled for recovery in China in FY2019? (19 U.S servicemen from the Korean War are still unaccounted-for in China) DPAA: No cases from the Korean War are being investigated or scheduled for recovery in 2019.
3. Q: Where is DPAA in the process of scheduling talks with the KPA on resuming remains recovery operations in North Korea in 2019? DPAA: see the bullets above for the DPAA response to this question.

If you have any questions about the information I provided above, please contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce R. Harder
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 National Director and Coordinator for POW/MIA
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• **DPAA Families/VSO/MSO Quarterly Call and Update Wednesday, October 31 2018, 2:00 PM 'Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise'**

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

The agenda includes: Update on the Personnel Accounting Mission (Director Kelly McKeague) Outreach and Communications (OC) Overview (OC Director, Todd Livick) Partnerships and Innovations (PI) Update (PI Director, Dr. Tom Holland) Operational Update (Deputy Director Operations RDML Kreitz, Dir Indo-Pac Colonel Brian

Peterson/Dir Euro-Med Colonel Brian Pearl) □ IDs/Disinterments (DPAA Lab Director, Dr. John Byrd) □ AFMES-AFDIL Update: (Director DoD DNA Operations, Dr. Tim McMahon) □ Question & Answer Update on the Personnel Accounting Mission (Director Kelly McKeague)

Budget As with the rest of DoD, we're very pleased to begin the new FY with a full appropriation, a first in 10 years. The Congress augmented our FY19 budget request of \$131M with two adds: \$10M for Vietnam War operations and \$20M for Korean War operations. We are fortunate in the interest and support Members of Congress and their staffs have respectively shown and provided. These additional resources are key to enabling us to expand capacity and capability.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) The August 1st honorable carry ceremony of remains from the DPRK was a landmark event hosted by Vice President Pence. The 55 cases containing purported remains of U.S. service members have been undergoing forensic testing and analyses at both DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System-Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFMES-AFDIL). Last month, DPAA identified two service members, U.S. Army PFC William Jones and U.S. Army MSG Charles McDaniel. These IDs were made relatively quickly because their dental remains and clavicles were among the remains. In regard to the recovery aspect of the commitment reached in Singapore, we have been designated by the State Department to lead the negotiations with the Korean People's Army (KPA) and our issue is delinked from denuclearization. DPAA will continue communicating with KPA officials over the next few months to try to secure an agreement for operations in the DPRK in the spring of 2019. Recoveries in the DPRK were last conducted in 2005.

2. Korean-Cold War Annual Briefings in August, DPAA hosted the annual Korea/Cold War Government Briefings in Arlington, VA, which was attended by a record 720 family members. Speaker highlights included updates from the DoD, State Department, and National Security Council officials who participated in the Singapore Summit; a briefing from Governor Richardson; an update from the South Korean Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA (Killed in Action) Recovery and Identification (MAKRI); a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown; and a dinner hosted by the Republic of Korea Ministry of Veterans Affairs. At the meeting, we also explained the Korean War Disinterment Project that was approved by DoD and will enable the systematic, conditions-based disinterment of all 652 Unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific over the next five to seven years. Eight disinterment's occurred this past week, the first of the project.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day, September 21, 2018. This year's National POW/MIA Recognition Day was observed by our Southeast Asia detachments at the respective U.S. Embassy. Here at the Pentagon, Secretary Mattis hosted the ceremony, and his poignant speech emphasized the nation's unrelenting commitment to this mission. It's posted on our Facebook page, at <https://www.facebook.com/dodpaa/videos/466684510507523>. In Hawaii, a very moving ceremony was highlighted by U.S. Army MSG Charles McDaniel's son, Charles, Jr., as the keynote speaker. He and his brother, Larry, then placed a rosette next to their father's name on the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific marble Tablets of the Missing. It's posted at: <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/631887/2018-pow-mia-recognition-day>. For those who would like this year's National POW/MIA Recognition Day poster, they can be ordered online via our website, <http://www.dpaa.mil/Families/Posters.aspx>

The Last B24 - Tulsamerican Premier Over the past year, PBS NOVA filmed a documentary, entitled The Last B-24. It will air November 7, 2018, at 9 pm EST on PBS, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/space/last-B-24.html>. The film captures both the complex, behind-the-scenes efforts to recover missing crewmen from the Tulsamerican, a B-24 bomber that crashed off the coast of Croatia during World War II, by DPAA partners (The National WWII Museum, the University of New Orleans, and University of Innsbruck) and interviews with family members. The documentary also weaves the work and interviews of family members associated with a nearby B-17 loss and also includes the recovery and identification of Captain Lawrence Everett Dickson, whose P-51 Mustang crashed in Austria while on a combat mission.

Europe Trip Next month I will have the honor of speaking at Cambridge American Cemetery's Veterans Day Ceremony. Last Veterans Day, I spoke at the American Cemetery in Luxemburg, and I can attest first hand to the tremendous

respect and honor DPAA's allies and friends in Europe continue to show towards those who fought in World War II (WWII). Later during that trip, I will meet with senior government officials from Croatia, Hungary, and Austria to obtain additional cooperation regarding accounting for missing WWII U.S. service members as DPAA continues to press for increased operations in those countries.

3. Outreach and Communications Overview

VFW National Convention July 21-25, 2018 DPAA Director Mr. Kelly McKeague updated more than 10,000 members of the VFW on the current status of DPAA and its worldwide missions. Johnie Webb also briefed the POW/MIA Committee and DPAA manned a booth in the exhibition hall where veterans and their families stopped by to learn about DPAA and the effort that goes into accounting for DoD personnel lost in past conflicts.

American Legion Convention Representatives from DPAA attended the American Legion's 100th National Convention in Minneapolis, MN, during the week of 26 August where approximately 9,500 members were in attendance. A briefing was presented to the National Security Committee that included POW/MIA representatives from each state. The floor was opened for questions, resulting in a good exchange of information. DPAA's team also set up and manned a booth in the exhibition hall where veterans and their families stopped by to learn about DPAA and the effort that goes into accounting for DoD personnel lost in our past conflicts.

Family Member Updates (FMU) DPAA hosted an FMU in Philadelphia, PA, on September 8, 2018. 324 family members were briefed on the status of their unaccounted-for loved ones, representing 129 losses. The next FMU will be in Greensboro, NC, on November 17, 2018. The full FMU and Annual Meetings schedule can be found at: <http://www.dpaa.mil/Families/Family-Events/>

SOA Reunion DPAA sent a team to the Special Operations Association's annual reunion earlier this month. DPAA staff briefed members and guests during the SOA/SFA POW/MIA forum on the current status of accounting efforts in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam; provided an update on potentially significant discoveries of long sought special operations after action reports; and discussed DPAA's outreach and communications strategies. DPAA staff also interviewed Association members and gathered important information that will hopefully contribute to lead development.

Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) Annual Meeting DPAA's Principal Deputy Director (PDD), Ms. Fern Sumpter Winbush, briefed the annual Korean War Veterans Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL, from October 16-18, 2018. Ms. Winbush provided a DPAA overview and Korea update briefing at the KWVA board and membership meetings, and our lead analyst, Dan Baughman, supported the question and answer session and conducted veteran interviews.

75th Commemoration of the Battle of Tarawa The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) will host a ceremony on November 19, 2018, at 1 p.m. HST at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu. The ceremony will commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Tarawa and rededicate the memorial's Courts of the Missing, which recently underwent a two-year restoration project. Mr. McKeague will attend this ceremony. The Deputy Director for Operations will also serve as the senior DPAA official at a repatriation ceremony on Tarawa on the 75th anniversary of the Tarawa assault.

Key Media Engagements Media Activity Highlights: July 27, 2018 - Local/Regional/National/Global coverage of the DPRK's unilateral turnover of 55 boxes of remains purported to be U.S. service members. July 31, 2018 - BBC's International Radio August 1, 2018 - Local/Regional/National/Global coverage of the honorable carry ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. August 2, 2018 - Pentagon Press Corps - Director McKeague and Dr. Byrd (VTC) August 8, 2018 - DPAA held a news conference (38 outlets attended) to kick off the agency's Korean War-Cold War Annual Government Briefings held in Arlington, VA. August 14, 2018 - White House Press Corps - Director McKeague, Dr. Byrd and Dr. McMahon Sept. 6, 2018 - Takeout Podcast with Major Garrett Sept 20, 2018 - Defense Writers Group September 20, 2018 - President Trump tweeted the news that DPAA had made the first two identifications from the 55 boxes of remains. September 21, 2018 - POW/MIA Recognition Day coverage Sept. 21, 2018 - Federal News Radio's

"Federal Drive" program October 22, 2018 - Korean Broadcasting Service - Lab visit and interview with Director McKeague

Partnerships & Innovations (PI) Update Field Operations 4th Qtr □ Four (4) – IP □ Seven (7) – EM

Partnership Arrangements □ Description and number of arrangements implemented in 4th Qtr (14 total – new partners)
o Six (6) – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). o One (modification) – Grant/ Cooperative Agreement (CA) (agreement between USG and a non-federal entity to cooperate to achieve a common end.). o Two (2) – Partner Project Agreement (PPA) (the more specific, more detailed agreement that follows the generic MOU). o Five (5) – Contract. □ In-Progress Q4 (7 total) o Seven (7) – MOU.

Partnership Cost Avoidance □ Final estimated cost avoidance for FY18 is \$10.4M, realized through 22 executed field activities.

Volunteers □ Active: 19 □ In Development: 21

Research □ 10 current research fellows include: o Six (6) historians, 1 underwater archaeologist, 1 archivist, 2 family historians o One additional historian vacancy and one additional archivist vacancy still open □ In collaboration with DPAA's lab, developing scientific research efforts with partner institutions (Isotopes)

Field Operations Overview

Deputy Director for Operations I just returned from a very successful trip to multiple countries in our European-Mediterranean Directorate's theater of operation. In our continued effort to pursue international partnerships, I met with senior government officials, military chiefs, and university directors in Malta, Italy, and the Netherlands to obtain cooperation and support for current and future recovery operations. Additionally, I met with senior officials from ABMC Sicily-Rome, one of our focal points for WWII disinterment's in the European-Mediterranean Theater. The trip concluded with successful engagements in Bahrain and Kuwait as we secured important support from the US Navy, US Army and Kuwaiti government as we begin the search for one of our five unaccounted-for service members from the Persian Gulf War.

In September I traveled to Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam to participate in annual talks regarding FY19 operations in support of our Vietnam War efforts. The talks in both Laos and Vietnam were extremely successful. In Laos, we gained support for year-round Stony Beach investigations, permission to conduct joint DPAA/partner organization recovery operations beginning in FY20, and Laos agreed in principle to increasing JFA size from 65 to 85 personnel starting in JFA 19-2LA (pending negotiations on details). In Vietnam, we gained support for four new initiatives: (1) increasing team size from 100-125, employment of 7-9 teams per JFA, longer JFAs on a case-by-case basis to close sites, and conduct of minor excavation work during ITs; (2) permission to augment DPAA teams with partner personnel in FY19; (3) increased development of partnerships within Vietnam, including more training, to improve the capabilities of Vietnamese-led teams; and (4) gained direct access to Vietnamese National Archives catalogues.

Next month, I will have the honor of being the guest speaker at the USS MISSOURI Memorial Association Veterans Day Ceremony. I will also be speaking at the repatriation ceremony on Tarawa on November 20th as we both commemorate the 75th anniversary of the start of the battle and start the journey home for several fallen Americans. At the end of November, I will lead the US delegation to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of sustained Joint Operations in Vietnam. This ceremony will highlight the importance of the relationship forged between our two countries as we continue to work together to account for the remaining missing American's from the Vietnam War.

Visa Sanctions on Cambodia, Laos, and Burma Two weeks ago, the Cambodian Prime Minister, without conditions, lifted his suspension of

cooperation on the U.S. POW/MIA mission. The suspension was imposed more than a year ago after the U.S. Government (USG) imposed visa restrictions on Cambodia. DPAA plans to excavate a loss site in January 2019. Over the summer, the USG imposed sanctions on Laos and Burma for failure to accept its respective nationals who have been ordered removed from the United States. These sanctions are graduated in nature and may impact future operations, though as of today, DPAA has not seen retaliatory measures from either country. The first Joint Field Activity of the FY is underway in Laos, and I will be traveling to Cambodia in two weeks to meet with Senior Minister Pol Saroeun and Undersecretary of State Lapresse to work through the details of resuming both recovery and investigation operations starting in mid-January. Of note, Stony Beach and a DPAA representative have been conducting investigations in Cambodia throughout the past year.

Lao Flooding Assistance In response to a request from the Lao Government to the U.S. Ambassador to Laos, DPAA provided excess supplies from Southeast Asia warehouses to assist in the relief efforts in Attepeu Province where a dam collapse had caused widespread flooding. The Lao Government, and particularly their POW/MIA officials, expressed their appreciation for DPAA's humanitarian efforts.

Republic of Korea (ROK) DPAA continues to work closely with our ROK partners. Last month, DPAA repatriated the remains of 64 Koreans to the ROK; these remains had been segregated over the years by DPAA scientists assigned to the DPAA Korean War Project. As part of an agreement reached earlier this month, the ROK Army and the Korean People's Army (KPA) have begun demining in the DMZ to enable joint recovery operations next spring at Arrowhead Hill. In coordination with the DPRK, DPAA is prepared to offer basic scientific support to ROK and DPRK recovery operations.

Europe-Mediterranean (EM) Region:

Operations in 4th Qtr: (July-Sept) □ Investigations ○ Four (4) DPAA teams conducted investigations of multiple sites associated with missing air crews ○ Germany (three (3) aircraft crash sites) ○ United Kingdom (five (5) aircraft crash sites) ○ Italy (five (5) aircraft crash sites) ○ Romania (five (5) aircraft crash sites) ○ Two partner investigations ○ Alaska, survey of potential aircraft crash/sunken ship sites off Kiska Island (Project Recover) ○ Italy, survey of potential aircraft underwater crash sites (Project Recover)

□ Recoveries ○ Four (4) DPAA teams conducted excavations of three (3) aircraft crash sites and one isolated burial ○ Germany, A-26G with one missing crew member ○ France, B-17F with two (2) missing crewmembers ○ France, underwater, P-47D with one missing crew member (Note: Conducted with support from the French Navy, who supplied the diving platform and some team personnel. The

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remains recovered from this site have already been identified as 2d Lt James Lord) ○ Poland, isolated burial potentially associated with a B-17G with seven (7) missing crew members ○ Four (4) partner recoveries of aircraft crash sites ○ Germany, B-17 with seven (7) missing crew members (Archaeological and Historical Conservancy) ○ France, P-47D with one missing pilot (St. Mary's University) ○ France, P-47D with one missing pilot (University of Wisconsin) ○ Malta, Underwater, B-24 with one missing crew member (University of Malta) (NOTE: began as an investigation but shifted to a recovery)

□ Operations next 60 days: (Oct-Nov) ○ Italy, DPAA investigation of several underwater crash sites ○ Germany, Currently conducting one partner excavation of a B-17G with four (4) missing crew members (Cranfield University) ○ Italy, November excavation of a P-38G with one missing crew member

□ Disinterment Operations: ○ Exhumed 16 Unknowns in 4th Qtr from American Battle Monuments Commission cemeteries in Europe ○ One more exhumation planned before the end of the calendar year □ U.S. – Russia Joint Commission (USRJC) Update ○ August, DPAA welcomed Rich Lyda as the Chief of the Joint Commission Support Division ○ September, Doc Foglesong, the U.S. Side Chairman traveled with Dr. Connell, Acting Executive Secretary for the U.S. side, to Moscow for meetings with Col-Gen Vostrotin, the Russian Side Chairman as well as U.S. Embassy staff in Moscow ○ Plans are being finalized for the 22nd USRJC Plenum to be held in Washington, DC in November.

Gen Foglesong has agreed to double the number of family and veterans group representatives to serve as observers to the Plenum to a total number of four.

Indo-Pacific (IP) Region:

Operations in 4th Qtr: (July-Sept) o Solomon Islands (18-1), 2 RTs, 1 IT o Papua New Guinea (18-2), 1 IT, 1 Partner IT (University of Queensland) o Vietnam (18-4), 1x Vietnamese RT, 1x Unilateral Excavation; 1x Underwater IT, 2x Research and Investigation Teams o Laos (18-5), 3x RT

□ Operations next 60 days: (Oct-Nov) o Tarawa (18-1) via History Flight o Vietnam (19-1), 2x RT, 1x Vietnamese RT, 1x Unilateral Excavation, 1x Underwater IT, 1x Research and investigation Team, Initial Partner Incorporation (University of Illinois

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Chicago) o Laos (19-1) 3x RT, 1x IT, UXO Mitigation Planning

□ Disinterment Operations: o Punchbowl Cemetery (Hawaii): 26 disinterments (12 - Korea, 14 - WWII)

Scientific Analysis:

Statistics:

FY 2018 Identifications/ Statistics o Total = 203 accounted for personnel • WWII = 156 • Korean War = 37 • Cold War = 0 • Vietnam War = 10 o The lab had 459 total accessions in FY18 • 71 accessions from field operations • 126 accessions from unilateral turnovers • 239 accessions from disinterments • 18 accessions from partners/contractors • 5 accessions from other sources

Laboratory staff size has grown to 124, counting military, GS, and contractors and including two more underwater archeologists for a total of four now. The Lab also received additional funding for the Korean War Project and we now have ten scientists working the project. The lab continues to innovate new methods of data analysis to cope with the massive projects undergoing analysis and to ramp up stable isotope testing as a new test modality. We have overhauled our information management system and are working a data integration project with AFDIL.

Armed Forces Medical Examiner System – Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFMES-AFDI):

FY 2018 Stats o 3,000 Mitochondrial and nuclear DNA Analyses reported to DPAA o 189 First-time named BTB reports (DNA reports supporting new Identifications) o 530 Addendum reports (additional portions)

o Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) work flow for chemically treated or highly degraded samples; the process has been online for two years o Double throughput last 6 months; 45 samples/month o Optimized existing workflow to double sample output: 12

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samples/run o Bought 3 new higher through-put instruments: 15-45 samples/run o Still only Forensic lab in the world with this capability.

To meet DPAA scope and pace, submitted Unfunded Request (UFR) for 36 new scientists was denied. Using existing budget due to optimizations, hired 12 out of the 36 new scientists in Sept 2018.

Questions and Answers:

American Legion, Freddy Gessner: Thank you for hosting the call. No questions.

Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) Rocky Harder: 1). In FY18, how many possible American remains were recovered from South Korea and how many have been identified? Answer: Dr. Byrd: We received one unilateral turnover from MAKRI but have not yet identified the remains. There is another set of remains that I will review next week in Seoul that we expect to send to the lab and identify in the not too distant future.

2.) Are there any Korean War Ops scheduled in China for FY19? Answer: RDML Kreitz: There is a WWII loss being investigated but no Korean War losses.

3). Where do we stand with talking to North Korea about the resumption of joint recovery operations? Answer: Mr. McKeague: We have been passing messages to the KPA. Currently, the Interagency is working through the details of the DoD counter proposal to the plan the KPA passed to us. The issue is to avoid violating the sanctions that are in place. State and Treasury are helping us work through this. Once approved, we will pass the counter-proposal to the KPA and look to schedule negotiations.

Special Operations Association/Special Forces Association Mike Taylor: At our reunion three members of DPAA received the President's Award. Jack Kull, Southeast Asia Policy Officer, Matt Kristoff, Vietnam Way analyst, and Steve Thompson, Outreach & Communications. They have provided exemplary service over the years. This is the highest given and has only been presented seven times. Previous recipients were JPAC, Ann Mills Griffiths, Major General Kelly McKeague, and Stony Beach.

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), John Towles: No questions. Thank you for your efforts and let us know how we can help you in your efforts.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Grant Coates: 1). Can you please explain the ancestral DNA issue you referred to earlier? Answer Dr. McMahan: The technology is similar to commercial products such as

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Ancestry DNA and 23 and Me but works on the degraded remains with which we work. Basically it means that any relative within 4 generations of the missing person will be a suitable DNA family reference. This will be very helpful in making IDs.

Honor Release Return Moe Moyer: No questions.

Korea Cold War Families of the Missing, Sherra Basham: No questions. Thank you for what is being done regarding the nuclear DNA testing improvements.

National League of Families, Ann Mills Griffiths: 1). You seem to have mixed messages regarding linkage of recovery operations in North Korea to denuclearization. Are they linked or not? Answer Mr. McKeague: Secretary Pompeo has indicated that the two issues are not linked. The Secretary's Special Envoy to North Korea has said he is not bringing it up in his discussions. The delays we were referring to are due to the requirement to avoid violating the sanctions that are in place as we reimburse North Korea for recovery work and provide vehicles and fuel for recovery operations. State and Treasury are helping us to get this accomplished.

2). You mentioned that the Korean War Disinterment Project will have seven phases that will take five to seven years to accomplish. Can this be collapsed into fewer years so that aging family members can get answers sooner? Answer RDML Kreitz: We wish we could, but many things prevent that. First, we have a cemetery cap we must live with—we cannot disinter all of the unknowns at once as this would harm the cemetery. We also have a State of Hawaii permitting process. We have recently persuaded them to raise the limit on permits. We will stay with our five (5) to seven (7) year estimate but will do so faster if conditions allow.

Korean War POW/MIA Network, John Zimmerlee: 1). It seems as though the discussion today is all about bones. In light of the Moore lawsuit, what can you tell us about what you are doing to investigate the cases of live POWs? Answer (provided after the call): Since its inception in 1992, the US-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs has

aggressively sought out reports of Americans who were possibly transferred to the former Soviet Union and has pursued all leads. In its role to provide analytical and logistical support to the USRJC, DoD has maintained a staff of researchers in Moscow and Washington, D.C. for the past 25 years. Our researchers have traveled the length and breadth of the former Soviet Union, and interviewed thousands of veterans and alleged witnesses. The transfer issue was a central theme during every one of the interviews and continues to be in our efforts to determine the fate of our missing. A primary focus of our archival research has been to identify information related to the transfer issue. Even during the long hiatus of USRJC activity between 2005 and 2016, DoD continued to pursue all leads related to the transfer issue.

Considerable resources have also been expended to review inmate records at dozens of

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psychiatric hospitals, special prisons for foreigners, and former Gulag camp sites throughout the former Soviet Union. DoD investigators conducted numerous expeditions to examine crash sites which allegedly involved U.S. personnel. Throughout the years, there have been many media campaigns requesting persons to come forward with any information on Americans, both military and civilian, who may have been within the territory of the former Soviet Union. The Vietnam War missing list was checked in its entirety in both Russia and Kazakhstan. To date, DoD and the USRJC have not been able to substantiate a single report of Americans having been transferred to the Soviet Union. Despite herculean efforts to thoroughly investigate every report made by various individuals, evidence to verify the reports remains elusive.

Since the reinvigoration of the USRJC in 2016, the transfer issue has been raised with the Russian Side at every meeting and is scheduled once again to be discussed at the 22nd Plenum on November 28. One of the important issues to be discussed with Vasily Khristoforov, former head of the Federal Security Service archives (old KGB archives), at the Plenum is how to gain access to the relevant information in security service archives.

In short, DoD and the USRJC will continue to pursue possible leads and continue to champion requests for further archival research in still-classified Russian records and to conduct interviews with regard to all credible investigative leads about the possible transfer of Americans to the former Soviet Union.

Frank Metersky, Korean War accounting advocate:

1). Are the K-55 remains individual or comingled? Answer Dr. Byrd: We made the first two identifications from remains that were not highly comingled. However, most of the remains are comingled. Our next opportunity to make identifications should come in the next few months as all of the bone samples have been cut and submitted to AFMES-AFDIL and the results are starting to come in. 2). Do you have an estimate of the number of individuals represented in the K-55? Answer Dr. Byrd: More than 55 however, we need to wait until the first round of DNA testing to make an estimate. Slightly more than 500 samples were submitted, and we need the results before estimating the number of individuals represented.

3). Who is doing the negotiations for DPAA? Answer, Mr. McKeague: When negotiations take place, it will be myself and RDML Kreitz. Representatives from the State Department and the United Nations Command will be present as observers.

4). Do you have any indications of North Korean cooperation? Answer, Mr. McKeague: Yes, I believe the North Koreans are interested in the resumption of joint recovery operations with the U.S. They have been cooperating with the Republic of Korea on demining in the DMZ that will lead to joint recovery operations between the two Koreas.

5). Do you know what area the K-55 remains came from? Any Marine loss areas?

12

Answer, Dr. Byrd: The information provided was similar to that in the K-208 turnovers. Usually a village or place name or a battle or POW camp was given. There are no locations from the West side of the Chosin Reservoir where the Marines fought.

• 2ND ID DEDICATES NEW HEADQUARTERS SOUTH OF SEOUL AT CAMP HUMPHREYS



The 2nd Infantry Division dedicates its new headquarters building at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2018.

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — The 2nd Infantry Division dedicated its new headquarters building on Camp Humphreys Tuesday, officially opening a new chapter after moving from its decades-old home north of Seoul. The ceremony took place at the entrance of the new Freeman Hall, which retains the name of the [previous headquarters on Camp Red Cloud](#) in Uijeongbu.

The Indianhead Division has been stationed [near the front lines with North Korea](#) since the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.



Soldiers unveil a plaque honoring the late Gen. Paul L. Freeman Jr., namesake of Freeman Hall, as the 2nd Infantry Division headquarters is known, Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2018.

Commander Maj. Gen. Scott McKean vowed to maintain readiness from the new base in Pyeongtaek, some 40 miles south of Seoul.

“We bid farewell to Uijeongbu and Camp Red Cloud, where so much of our story was written,” he said.

“As we begin our newest chapter here let there be no doubt we will continue to be steadfast and ready in our responsibilities to defend the Republic of Korea,” he added, using the formal name for South Korea. The 2nd ID command moved to Camp Humphreys earlier this year, following U.S. Forces Korea and the Eighth Army as a long-delayed agreement to relocate most U.S. forces south was implemented.

Some 28,500 U.S. servicemembers are stationed in South Korea.

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End of an era: Camp Red Cloud is finally closing — for real this time



From foxholes to high-rises: A look at the US military's long history in South Korea

TRUMP EXPRESSES REGRET FOR NOT VISITING ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY ON VETERANS DAY



President Donald Trump stands in front of headstones during an American Commemoration Ceremony on Nov. 11, 2018, at Suresnes American Cemetery near Paris. (Jacquelyn Martin/AP)

WASHINGTON — In an interview being aired Sunday, President Donald Trump expresses regret for not visiting Arlington National Cemetery over Veterans’ Day weekend but said that he was prevented from doing so because he was “extremely busy on calls for the country.”

The comments — part of wide-ranging discussion with Fox News Sunday host Chris Wallace — come after extensive criticism of Trump’s handling of ceremonial duties during the holiday weekend.

Last week, Trump traveled to France to take part in events marking the 100th

anniversary of World War I, but courted controversy when he skipped a ceremony at Aisne Marne American Cemetery on Saturday because of inclement weather.

Other world leaders and U.S. officials made it to the site despite the rain. White House officials said the weather grounded a planned helicopter ride to the site and a presidential motorcade would have disrupted traffic throughout Paris.

Upon his return back to America, Trump opted not to attend similar commemoration events at Arlington National Cemetery. He did attend another memorial event in France, delivering a speech paying tribute to the troops who served in WWI.

When Wallace asked why he didn’t travel to Arlington for some of the events, Trump said “I should have done that.” He noted that he did attend those ceremonies in 2017.

“In retrospect, I should have done, and I did last year and I will virtually every year,” the president said in interview excerpts released by the news station. “But we had come in very late at night and I had just left, literally, the American cemetery in Paris and I really probably assumed that was fine.

“I was extremely busy because of affairs of state, doing other things ... But I would have, I would have done it.”

On Thursday, at a White House event honoring veterans and military families, Trump said that veterans are “a tremendously important group of people to me” and touted a host of legislative accomplishments in veterans policy over the last two years.

• **US ANALYSTS SAY THEY FOUND SECRET NORTH KOREAN MISSILE SITES. BUT TRUMP SAYS THERE’S ‘NOTHING NEW’**

By: [Matthew Lee, The Associated Press](#)



North Korea leader Kim Jong Un, left, and U.S. President Donald Trump conclude their meetings in June in Singapore. U.S. analysts say they have located more than half of an estimated 20 secret North Korean missile development facilities, and the findings come as the Trump administration's denuclearization talks with the North appear to have stalled. The findings also highlight the challenge the U.S. faces in ensuring that North Korea complies with any eventual agreement that covers its nuclear and missile programs. (Susan Walsh/Associated Press)

WASHINGTON — U.S. analysts said Monday they have located 13 secret [North Korean missile development sites](#), underscoring the challenge that the Trump administration faces in trying to reach its promised broad arms control agreement with Pyongyang.

The administration has said it is hopeful about [eventually reaching an agreement](#) with North Korea. President Donald Trump declared after his historic summit in June that with President Kim Jong Un there was “[no longer a nuclear threat](#) from North Korea.”

But a report based on satellite imagery shows the complexity posed by an extensive network of weapons facilities that the U.S. wants to neutralize.



REPORT: SPY AGENCIES SUSPECT NORTH KOREA IS BUILDING NEW MISSILES

New evidence including satellite photos indicates work is underway on at least one and maybe two ICBMs.

By: The Associated Press

A report from the Center for Strategic and International Studies has identified 13 secret facilities used to produce missiles and related technology. Although the sites are not launch facilities and in some cases are rudimentary, the authors of the report say they are hidden and illustrate the scope of the North's weapons program and the country's determination to conceal its military might.

"The dispersed deployment of these bases and distinctive tactics employed by ballistic missile units are combined with decades of extensive camouflage, concealment and deception practices to maximize the survival of its missile units from pre-emptive strikes and during wartime operations," they said.

On Tuesday, Trump tweeted that the sites mentioned in a news report are “nothing new” to him.

The story in the New York Times concerning North Korea developing missile bases is inaccurate. We fully know about the sites being discussed, nothing new - and nothing happening out of the normal. Just more Fake News. I will be the first to let you know if things go bad!

The authors say the sites, which can be used for all classes of ballistic missiles, should be declared by North Korea and inspected in any credible, verifiable deal that addresses Pyongyang's most significant threats to the United States and its allies.

South Korea's presidential office said the report didn't include any information it didn't already know. Presidential spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom said continued activity at North Korean missile sites only underlines the need for nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang to proceed at a faster pace.

Kim took exception to a New York Times article on the report that said North Korea was engaging in “great deception,” saying that the North has never promised to dismantle a short-range ballistic missile base 84 miles northwest of Seoul that was highlighted by CSIS.

Kim said such suggestions can “trigger misunderstanding and potentially block dialogue ... at a time when we need dialogue between North Korea and the United States.”



● **NORTH KOREA THREATENS TO RESUME NUKE DEVELOPMENT OVER SANCTIONS**

North Korea has warned it could revive a state policy aimed at strengthening its nuclear arsenal if the United States does not lift economic sanctions against the country.

By: Kim Tong-Hyung, The Associated Press

Seoul has worked hard to revive nuclear negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea that have reduced fears of war in South Korea following a series of North Korean weapons tests and threats of military action by Trump last year. North Korea analysts not involved in the report said the findings were not surprising given Pyongyang's past activities but were still cause for concern. They noted that Kim had not agreed to halt either nuclear weapons or missile development in negotiations with Trump or Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

"The fact that North Korea has continued to build nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles in the midst of high-level diplomacy with China, South Korea and the U.S. should not come as a surprise," said Abraham Denmark, the Asia program director at The Wilson Center. "Despite all the summitry, North Korea is just as dangerous today as it was a year ago."

"Improving relations with Pyongyang may be a laudable goal, but any claim that the North Korean nuclear and missile threats have been solved is either wishful thinking or purposefully deceptive," he said.

"Interesting but unsurprising report," said Kelsey Davenport, director for nonproliferation policy at the Arms Control Association. "Kim Jong Un only committed voluntarily to halt long-range missile tests."

The report was released less than a week after North Korea abruptly called off a new round of negotiations with Pompeo that had been set for Thursday in New York. The cancellation, which the U.S. ascribed to scheduling issues, followed threats from North Korean officials to resume nuclear and missile testing unless U.S. sanctions are lifted.

The administration has said repeatedly that sanctions will not be lifted until a denuclearization agreement is fully implemented.

● **POMPEO'S MEETING WITH NORTH KOREAN OFFICIALS POSTPONED**

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's Thursday meeting with a top North Korean official has been postponed, the State Department said.



A statement early Wednesday from department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said the New York meeting will now take place at an unspecified "later date."

"We will reconvene when our respective schedules permit," she said. "Ongoing conversations continue to take place. The United States remains focused on fulfilling the commitments agreed to by President Trump and Chairman Kim [Jong Un] at the Singapore Summit in June."

The statement did not elaborate on the reason for the postponement, which was announced while most of the United States was focused on Tuesday's midterm election results.

Pompeo was expected to travel to New York with the Trump administration's special representative for North Korea, Stephen Biegun, to meet with Kim Yong Chol, former head of North Korea's spy agency who has been leading nuclear talks for North Korea.

The purpose of the meeting was to "discuss making progress on all four pillars of the Singapore Summit joint statement, including achieving the final, fully verified denuclearization" of North Korea, according to a Monday statement from the State Department.

On Sunday, Pompeo said he expected to make "real progress" at the meeting.

"I'm confident that we'll advance the ball again this week when I'm in New York City," he said on CBS News' "Face the Nation."

Progress on North Korea's denuclearization has stalled since Kim and Trump met in Singapore in June. The two leaders have expressed interest in holding a second summit, which Trump said last month would have to take place after the midterm elections.

• **NO-FLY ZONE, MILITARY DRILL BAN NEAR KOREA BORDER TAKE EFFECT**

Hyonhee Shin

SEOUL (Reuters) - A no-fly zone and a ban on military drills near the heavily fortified border between North and South Korea came into effect on Thursday as the once uneasy neighbors push to further defuse tensions.

The measures were part of a military accord inked during last month's inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang, which includes a halt in "all hostile acts," and a gradual removal of landmines and guard posts within the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). The United States has raised concerns that the deal could undercut defense readiness amid tardy progress on North Korea's denuclearization, though it displayed support at an annual security consultative meeting of defense ministers on Wednesday in Washington.

"The South and the North completely removed dangers of military clash through the military agreement," South Korea's President Moon Jae-in told the parliament on Thursday.

"The two Koreas and the United States will achieve complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and lasting peace based on firm trust."

North Korea has also taken steps toward the pact, such as covering artillery deployed along the skirmish-prone western shore, Seoul's defense ministry said.

The no-fly zone extends 40 kms (25 miles) north and south from the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) in the east and 20 kms (12 miles) in the west for fixed-wing aircraft.

The agreement also bars live-fire drills involving fixed-wing aircraft and air-to-ground guided weapons in the no-fly area. South Korea and the United States had held such drills regularly until halting joint exercises in June.

There are different restrictions on helicopters, drones and balloons, with exemptions for commercial and non-military operations such as medical, disaster and agricultural uses.

"We will thoroughly verify the North side's implementation of the agreement, including its movement on military exercises around the MDL and whether it complies with the no-fly zone," the South's defense ministry said in a statement.

The no-fly zone was a key sticking point for Washington because it would effectively bar close air support drills, in which airplanes provide firepower for troops who may be operating near enemy forces.

The allies agreed to halt the Vigilant Ace air defense drills set for December in a move to spur nuclear talks with Pyongyang, while South Korea said it kicked off two military exercises on Monday outside the banned area.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to work toward denuclearization during his historic June summit with U.S. President Donald Trump. But Pyongyang's actions have fallen short of U.S. demands for irreversible steps to scrap its arsenal, including a full disclosure of nuclear facilities and materials.

South Korea's spy agency said North Korea was preparing for international inspections at some of its nuclear and missile test sites, the Yonhap news agency said on Wednesday.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he planned to meet his North Korean counterpart next week.

● **NORTH KOREA THREATENS TO RESUME NUKE DEVELOPMENT OVER SANCTIONS**

U.S. President Donald Trump, right, meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore on June 12, 2018.

EVAN VUCCI/AP

By KIM TONG-HYUNG | Associated Press | Published:
November 3, 2018

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea has warned it could revive a state policy aimed at strengthening its nuclear arsenal if the United States does not lift economic sanctions against the country.

The statement released by the Foreign Ministry on Friday evening said North Korea could bring back its "pyongjin" policy of simultaneously advancing its nuclear force and economic development if the United States doesn't change its stance. The North sopped short of threatening to abandon ongoing nuclear negotiations with Washington.

Still, it accused Washington of derailing commitments made by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump at their June summit in Singapore to work toward a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. It was the first time the North said it could potentially resume weapons tests and other development activities since Kim signaled a new state policy in April.

In an interview with Fox News' Sean Hannity on Friday, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he plans to talk next week with his North Korean counterpart, apparently referring to senior North Korean official Kim Yong Chol. Pompeo did not provide the location and date for the meeting, which will likely be focused on persuading North Korea to take firmer steps toward denuclearization and setting up a second summit between their leaders.

"A lot of work remains, but I'm confident that we will keep the economic pressure in place until such time as Chairman Kim fulfills the commitment, he made to President Trump back in June in Singapore," Pompeo said.

The North Korean Foreign Ministry statement, released under the name of the director of the ministry's Institute for American Studies, said the "improvement of relations and sanctions is incompatible."

"The U.S. thinks that its oft-repeated 'sanctions and pressure' leads to 'denuclearization.' We cannot help laughing at such a foolish idea," it said. The ministry described the lifting of U.S.-led sanctions as corresponding action to the North's "proactive and good-will measures," apparently referring to its unilateral suspension of nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests and closure of a nuclear testing ground.

Following a series of provocative nuclear and missile tests last year, Kim shifted to diplomacy when he met with Trump between three summits with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who lobbied hard to revive nuclear diplomacy. However, the North has been playing hardball since the summits, insisting that sanctions should be lifted before any progress in nuclear talks, which fueled doubts about whether Kim would ever deal away a nuclear program he may see as his strongest guarantee of survival.

Ahead of his first summit with Moon in April, Kim said the country should shift its focus to economic development as the "pyongjin" policy had achieved a "great victory." He also declared that the North would stop nuclear and long-range missile tests. The North dismantled its nuclear testing ground in May but didn't invite experts to observe and verify the event.

"If the U.S. keeps behaving arrogantly without showing any change in its stand, while failing to properly understand our repeated demand, the DPRK may add one thing to the state policy for directing all efforts to the economic construction adopted in April and as a result, the word 'pyongjin' may appear again," Friday's statement said, referring to North Korea by its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"Pyongjin" means "dual advancement."

Moon has described inter-Korean engagement as crucial to resolving the nuclear standoff. A large number of South Korean CEOs accompanied Moon in his September visit to Pyongyang, when he and Kim agreed to normalize



operations at a jointly run factory park and resume South Korean visitors' travel to the North when possible, voicing optimism the international sanctions could end and allow such projects.

But South Korea's enthusiasm for engagement with its rival has also created discomfort in the United States amid growing concerns that the North is dragging its feet with its promise to denuclearize. South Korea last month walked back on a proposal to lift some of its unilateral sanctions against North Korea to create diplomatic space following Trump's blunt retort that Seoul could "do nothing" without Washington's approval.

• **2 KOREAS COMPLETE THE DISARMING OF 22 GUARD POSTS**

By: *Kim Tong-Hyung, The Associated Press*



In this Nov. 4, 2018, photo provided by South Korea Defense Ministry, a yellow flag is raised at a guard post of South Korea in the demilitarized zone, South Korea. (South Korea Defense Ministry via AP).

SEOUL, South Korea — The North and South Korean militaries completed withdrawing troops and firearms from 22 front-line guard posts on Saturday as they continue to implement a wide-ranging agreement reached in September to reduce tensions across the world's most fortified border, a South Korean Defense Ministry official said.

South Korea says the military agreement is an important trust-building step that would help stabilize peace and advance reconciliation between the rivals. But critics say the South risks conceding some of its conventional military strength before North Korea takes any meaningful steps on denuclearization — an anxiety that's growing as the larger nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang seemingly drift into a stalemate.

South Korea reportedly has about 60 guard posts — bunker-like concrete structures surrounded with layers of barbed-wire fences and manned by soldiers equipped with machine guns — stretched across the ironically named Demilitarized Zone.

The 248-kilometer (155-mile) border buffer peppered with millions of land mines has been the site of occasional skirmishes between the two forces since the 1950-53 Korean War. The North is believed to have about 160 guard posts within the DMZ.

In the September military agreement, reached on the sidelines of a summit in Pyongyang between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, the Koreans pledged to eventually withdraw all guard posts within the DMZ, but to start by removing 11 from each side as a "preliminary" measure.

The South Korean Defense Ministry official said soldiers on Saturday completed disarming 11 guard posts on the southern side of the DMZ. He said the ministry believes the North has also finished withdrawing personnel and weapons from 11 guard posts on the northern side of the DMZ. He didn't want to be named, citing office rules.

The Koreans plan to destroy 20 of the structures by the end of November, while symbolically leaving one demilitarized guard post on each side. They plan to jointly verify the results in December.

The Koreans also in the September deal agreed to create buffer zones along their land and sea boundaries and a no-fly zone above the border, which took effect on Nov. 1.

The Koreans and the U.S.-led U.N. Command recently finished removing firearms and troops from a jointly controlled area at the border village of Panmunjom and eventually plan to allow tourists to freely move around there. The Koreans

have also been clearing mines from front-line areas and plan to start in April their first-ever joint search for remains of soldiers killed during the Korean War.

While the Korean militaries move ahead with tension-reducing steps, Moon is otherwise running out of goodwill gestures toward North Korea, which is under heavy U.S.-led sanctions over its nuclear weapons program. Unless the sanctions are lifted, it would be impossible for Moon to push ahead with his more ambitious plans for engagement, such as reconnecting railways and roads across the border and normalizing operations at a jointly run factory park. Pyongyang insists that sanctions should be removed before there is any progress in nuclear negotiations, while Washington says they will remain until the North takes concrete steps toward irreversibly and verifiably relinquishing its weapons.

Analysts say the discord may have caused the last-minute cancellation of a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and his North Korean counterpart, Kim Yong Chol, that had been scheduled for this past Thursday to discuss denuclearization issues and setting up a second summit between Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump.

• **DECISION ON US-KOREA JOINT EXERCISES COMING BY DECEMBER** By: [Lolita C. Baldor, The Associated Press](#)



A member of the Honor Guard carries the South Korean flag after participating in the 2018 Security Consultative at the Pentagon, co-hosted by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and South Korea Minister of Defense Jeong Kyeong-doo, Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018. (Pablo Martinez Monsivais/AP)

WASHINGTON — The U.S. and South Korea are reviewing whether they will conduct large next year and will decide before December. South Korean Defense Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo told reporters Wednesday at the Pentagon that if more exercises are suspended the two countries will conduct other training to mitigate the lapse. He says the review will be done by Nov. 15. U.S.-South Korea

air exercise Vigilant Ace, which involves more than 12,000 forces, has been suspended. Three major joint military drills were scrapped this year as part of a broader effort to push for diplomatic progress with North Korea. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis says he is not yet concerned about a loss of combat capability. He says they may have to make changes to make sure those capabilities aren't eroded, but so far it is not a worry.

Defense Secretary Jim

Mattis, right, and South Korea Minister of Defense Jeong Kyeong-doo, left, arrive to begin reviewing the troops as they co-host the 2018 Security Consultative at the Pentagon, Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018. (Pablo Martinez Monsivais/AP)



• **NUCUS-NORTH KOREA NUCLEAR TALKS ARE CANCELLED; MOVE MAY BE PRESSURE TACTIC, ANALYSTS SAY** By: [Kim Tong-Hyung, The Associated Press](#)

A protester in Seoul, South Korea, tosses a banner showing a photo of U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a rally Nov. 3 against the United States' policy to put steady pressure on North Korea. North Korea has warned it could revive a state policy aimed at strengthening its nuclear arsenal if the United States does not lift economic sanctions against the country. The signs read: "No need the US-South Korea-Japan alliance."(AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

SEOUL, South Korea — U.S. officials told Seoul that it was North Korea that canceled nuclear talks this week between U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and a senior North Korean official, South Korea's foreign minister said Thursday. Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha provided no reason, aside from "busy schedules," for why North Korea canceled the meeting set for Thursday in New York that was meant to



discuss ridding the North of its nuclear weapons and setting up a second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

But some analysts say a last-minute cancellation — a familiar North Korean tactic — could be aimed at pressuring the United States to agree to a quick Trump-Kim summit because the North thinks it can win major concessions from Trump that lower-level U.S. officials might try to block. The U.S. president has recently appeared to be slowing the pace of diplomacy with North Korea amid signs that Kim is lagging behind in his supposed promise to denuclearize.

LEAR TALKS WITH NORTH KOREA MAY AFFECT US MILITARY POSTURE, DUNFORD SAYS

By *KIM GAMEL* / *STARS AND STRIPES* Published: November 6, 2018

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States will have to change its military posture on the Korean Peninsula if nuclear talks with North Korea advance, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

The comments came as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo confirmed he plans to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's right hand man Thursday in New York in a bid to jump start efforts to persuade the North to give up its nuclear weapons. The U.S.-led United Nations Command also held another round of military talks with North and South Korea Tuesday in the truce village of Panmunjom, which sits in the heavily fortified border that bisects the peninsula. Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the military remains ready to respond to any threats from North Korea but stressed its main role is to support the diplomatic process that began earlier this year. "Frankly, the more successful we are in the



diplomatic track, the more uncomfortable we will be in the military space," he said Monday during a [question-and-answer session at Duke University](#). "Because over time this negotiation will take a form where we're going to have to start making some changes to the military posture on the peninsula," he added. "And we're prepared to do that in support of Secretary Pompeo and make sure that we get to the desired end state, which is a peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." This would require that the U.S. and North Korea hammer out details in lower-level talks about what can be exchanged at the next summit, but the cancellation of the meeting between Pompeo and Kim Yong Chol indicates that the two sides remain far apart, Park said.

Critics say Trump's decision to start off his North Korean diplomacy with a leaders' summit, instead of building upward from lower-level talks, bestowed legitimacy on the North before it took any meaningful steps toward denuclearization. After his June meeting with Kim, Trump raised security jitters in Seoul by abruptly canceling major U.S. military exercises with South Korea which North Korea had termed invasion rehearsals.

"For North Korea, there has never been a U.S. president like Trump," Park said. "He doesn't ask too many questions or dig too much into details. The North simply got what it wanted the last time."

Foreign Minister Kang told lawmakers she planned to discuss the matter with Pompeo over the phone. South Korea's presidential office earlier said that the meeting's postponement wouldn't affect the momentum of talks between the U.S. and North Korea.

"We were notified by the United States that North Korea explained that (the meeting) should be postponed because both sides have busy schedules," Kang said. "I think it would be excessive to read too much into the postponement of the meeting."

Trump told reporters at the White House that the United States is "in no rush" and that the meeting between Pompeo and Kim Yong Chol would be rescheduled.

U.S. State Department spokesman Robert Palladino said the postponement was "purely a scheduling issue" but refused to elaborate. He did not provide a straightforward answer when asked whether the discord over sanctions has made it more difficult to set up meetings.

"Timing, timing," Palladino said. "This has to do with timing as a matter — we're talking about scheduling. And I'll leave it at that."

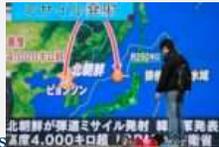
Seoul has worked hard to revive nuclear diplomacy between the U.S. and North Korea that has reduced war fears among South Koreans following a provocative run in North Korean weapons tests and Trump's threats of military action last year.

Kim Jong Un shifted to diplomacy early this year and has held three summits with South Korean President Moon Jae-in. North Korea's Foreign Ministry last week criticized the United States for its continued support of sanctions and hinted it may resume nuclear development if the measures aren't lifted.

RELATED ARTICLES



Mattis signals that large-scale US-South Korea military exercises could restart



US, China hold quiet military talks amid North Korea tensions



In standoff with North Korea, the US keeps deployment of 'strategic assets' mysterious

Dunford didn't elaborate. The U.S. already has suspended large-scale joint war games with the South to avoid provoking Pyongyang while talks are ongoing.

But the longtime allies, which fought together in the 1950-53 Korean War against the communist-backed North, have insisted that the presence of some 28,500 U.S. troops in the South is not up for negotiation.

President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un agreed to work toward the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" during their June 12 summit in Singapore.

But the U.S. administration has said it will maintain sanctions and other pressure on the North until it agrees to concrete measures toward that end.

Pyongyang, meanwhile, has called for measures such as lifting sanctions or declaring a formal end to the war to reciprocate for steps it already has taken such as ceasing missile and nuclear tests.

Pompeo and the main U.S. envoy for North Korea, Stephen Biegun, will discuss with North Korean envoy Kim Yong Chol measures to achieve "the final, fully verified denuclearization" of the communist state, according to the State Department.

North Korea raised concern over the weekend when it warned it may resume nuclear development if the U.S. maintains punishing economic sanctions against it.

The foreign ministry statement, published on state-run media, stopped short of threatening to abandon talks with Washington.

Dunford pointed to progress as tensions have eased since the diplomatic process began earlier this year leading to the unprecedented U.S.-North Korea summit.

Trump has said he expects to hold another meeting with Kim early next year.

The North has not conducted a missile test since it fired an intercontinental ballistic missile toward Japan in late November. It also says it has destroyed its main nuclear testing site after conducting its sixth and most powerful underground blast in September 2017.

But skeptics have expressed doubt that Kim Jong Un will be willing to abandon his hard-won nuclear weapons. “I don’t expect we’ll have an immediate solution diplomatically, but we’ve ceased the testing and the nuclear development,” Dunford said. “What has not changed is the missile capability that North Korea possesses or the nuclear capability that North Korea possesses.”

• **NORTH KOREA MOVES FORWARD WITH MISSILE EXPANSION SITES**



By BEN SHAPIRO

On Monday, new satellite images showed that North Korea has continued to upgrade its ballistic missile program at 16 secret facilities. As *The Daily Beast* reports, “The development suggests North Korea’s promise to shut down one major test site was an attempted deception.” The Center for Strategic and International Studies states, “North Korea’s decommissioning of the Sohae satellite launch facility, while gaining much media attention, obscures the military threat to U.S. forces and South Korea from this and other undeclared ballistic missile bases.”

In all likelihood, this finding relates to the United States’ recent decision to pull out of a high-level negotiation between Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and North Korea’s Kim Yong Chol last week.

None of this is any shock, of course. North Korea has relied on deception with regard to the West for decades, lying to Presidents Clinton, Bush, Obama, and now Trump about their intentions to disarm. But North Korea’s regime has no intentions of disarming. In fact, thanks to President Trump’s much-ballyhooed summit with Kim Jung Un, the North Koreans have an even larger stake in maintaining their nuclear and missile programs: they know that those programs are all that stand between them and the possibility of a coup attempt by allies of the West. It was North Korea’s nuclear program that earned them a seat at the big boy table with the United States in the first place.

This was always the danger of Trump’s strategy with regard to North Korea. As I stated at the time, making nice with the world’s worst dictator – praising him as a reformer, painting him as a moderate, talking about his strength – has serious consequences for forces inside and outside North Korea attempting to work against the regime. Trump legitimized the regime.

Now, Trump’s fans suggested that he had no other choice, and that he had lost nothing by playing kissy-face with the slavemaster of 25 million human beings. But that’s obviously untrue. He strengthened the perception within North Korea that the Kim regime will remain in power for the foreseeable future, while underscoring America’s positional weakness in the region. None of that was necessary.

It’s still too early to say, of course, that Trump’s North Korean gambit was a complete failure. Perhaps he has another trick up his sleeve. But the most likely scenario is that the United States was played again by the North Korean regime, which will remain in power and continue to develop its military capacity.

• SOUTH KOREA COULD SOON TAKE CONTROL OF ITS OWN WARTIME OPERATIONS FROM THE US



By: [Jeff Jeong](#)

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Stephen Lanza, center right, is briefed by his staff during a combined arms rehearsal meeting for Ulchi Freedom Guardian at Camp Yongin, South Korea, on Aug. 21, 2014. (Sgt. Daniel Schroeder/U.S. Army)

SEOUL — South Korea may soon take over the primary leadership role from the U.S. for wartime operations on the peninsula, following 65 years of American control.

During the 50th U.S.-Republic of Korea Security Consultative Meeting at the Pentagon on Oct. 31, U.S. and South Korean defense chiefs agreed on a set of measures to transform their military alliance. The agreement is meant to hand over more responsibility to the South for its national defense.

Currently, the U.S. four-star general of the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command, or CFC, has the authority over the maneuvers of both U.S. and South Korean troops during wartime. South Korea retrieved its peacetime OPCON in 1994. The talks of OPCON transfer began a decade ago, but the transition effort has been hampered in the face of North Korea's increasing military threats, including [nuclear capabilities](#).

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and his South Korean counterpart Jeong Keong-doo signed a document of guiding principles, which highlight a conditions-based transition of operational control, or OPCON, of South Korean troops during wartime.

“In signing this document, we ensured the continuity for the ROK-led future CFC as it assumes the mission of our current U.S.-led CFC,” Mattis said at a news conference, calling his meeting with Jeong a “milestone.”

Both sides agreed to keep the CFC in place after OPCON transfer, but the command is to be under the leadership of a South Korean four-star general, with a U.S. commander assuming a supporting role.

“The national authorities of the U.S. are to appoint a general or an admiral to serve as the deputy commander of the post-OPCON transition CFC,” the strategic document reads.

Jeong said the foundation for OPCON transfer was agreed upon in the wake of [diplomatic efforts to deprive North Korea of nuclear weapons](#).

The document also guarantees U.S. forces will continue to be stationed on the Korean Peninsula, dispelling concerns that the OPCON transfer may eventually lead to the pullout of American troops in South Korea.

Both militaries plan to verify the initial operational capability of South Korean troops next year and evaluate the full operational and full mission capabilities in the following years with the aim of completing the OPCON transfer before the end of the incumbent Moon Jae-in administration in 2022.



Doubts arise over South Korea's 'Sea Bow' missile interception ability

South Korea's surface-to-air anti-missile project hit a snag following test failures in 2016, when two of the five missiles missed their respective targets.

By: Jeff Jeong

Striving for peace

Despite mutual commitment to a new combined forces framework, questions linger about the feasibility of the OPCON transfer and the effectiveness of South Korean-led wartime operations.

“It’s not desirable if the OPCON transfer is sought by political factors related to sovereignty, not by military factors,” said Chun In-beom, a retired three-star South Korean Army general involved in the planning of the OPCON transition.

“A top priority should be on deterring war on the Korean Peninsula and carrying out effective wartime operations in time of deterrence failure,” said Chun, who is now a visiting scholar at the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at the Georgia Institute of Technology. “The OPCON transition must not be pressed for time, but it must be implemented in a stable and competitive manner based on conditions.”

Following three rounds of inter-Korean summits this year, South Korean President Moon Jae-in accelerated efforts to engage with North Korea, which has long feared of American-led combined forces capabilities, including nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and long-range bombers in the Asia-Pacific region.



South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un raise their hands after watching the mass games performance of "The Glorious Country" at May Day Stadium in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Sept. 19, 2018. (Pyongyang Press Corps Pool via AP)

After the summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, U.S.-South Korean military drills on the peninsula were halted, while both Koreas agreed on a series of tension-reducing measures, including the withdrawal of front-line guard posts.

Upon an agreement made by the leaders of the South and North during a September summit in North Korea’s capital, Pyongyang, the two countries pledged to end hostile acts over land, sea and air from Nov. 1. To that end, the

governments agreed to set up buffer zones in waters to the east and west of the peninsula, and establish no-fly zones in an area up to 40 kilometers from the military demarcation line.

Will this be a smooth transfer?

Kim Ki-ho, a defense professor at Kyonggi University, said the freeze of U.S.-South Korean war games is a major stumbling block to the evaluations of an OPCON transfer.

“Any unilateral exercise by the South Korean military is meaningless at this time. A key focus is to evaluate South Korean capabilities with the support of U.S. air and naval powers in different scenarios,” said Kim, who served on the CFC to oversee the planning and operations of joint and combined exercises. The retired Army colonel specifically cited the decision by Mattis and Jeong to suspend this year’s joint air exercise Vigilant Ace, used for allied airmen to practice airstrikes.

And under a South Korean-led command posture, he said, the deployment of U.S. strategic assets likely would not go as smoothly as it does under the leadership of U.S. commanders.



U.S. Marines, left, and South Korean marines, wearing blue headbands on their helmets, take positions after landing on the beach during the joint military combined amphibious exercise Ssangyong on March 12, 2016. (Kim Jun-bum/Yonhap via AP)

“Simply put, it’s different for someone to take responsibility to do something for himself, from someone to comply with a request of somebody else,” he noted. “That is, under a South Korean-led Combined Forces Command, the U.S. military could inevitably be more passive than before [and could] undergo more complicated procedures to implement plans.”

Jung Soo, a professor of defense management at Kookmin University, was more optimistic about South Korea’s OPCON takeover and the potential that Seoul will fill the vacuum of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities. (South Korea is heavily dependent on the U.S. military for ISR.)

“The defense budget for improving defense capability has been requested to increase 13.7 percent next year, and much of the budget would be invested in establishing defense systems to deter nuclear threats as well as acquiring ISR assets,” Jung said. “I believe the OPCON transfer is possible for sure.”

Kim Dae-young, an analyst at the Korea Research Institute for National Strategy, expects the [procurement of ISR systems](#) for the South Korean military to pick up.

“I expect priorities of weapons procurement programs would be readjusted with more focus on improving C4I and ISR capabilities,” Kim said, referring to airborne surveillance and targeting platforms like the Northrop Grumman E-8 Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, or JSTARS, as a key item for such a shopping list.

“In addition to JSTARS, the South Korean military [is eyeing] more airborne early warning and control systems, and more high-tech, longer-range drone systems,” he added.

But South Korea’s arms buildup plans could be frozen, if not axed altogether, amid talks of peace, said Shin Won-shik, a retired lieutenant general who served as deputy head of the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“Under a recent inter-Korean military agreement, the sides are supposed to consult any potential plan that could be construed as a hostile act in a joint committee,” Shin said. “That means any arms buildup plan could be affected or retarded by the de facto arms reduction deal with the North. In that case, South Korea’s defense readiness against potential threats would be weakened, to an extent, without proper augmentation of weapons programs, such as ISR assets.”

• **U.S., SOUTH KOREA RESUME LOW-KEY MILITARY DRILLS AHEAD OF TALKS WITH NORTH**

KOREA *Josh Smith, Joyce Lee*

SEOUL (Reuters) - The United States and South Korea will begin small-scale military drills on Monday just days ahead of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo meeting with a North Korea official to discuss denuclearization and plans for a second summit between the two countries.

The Korean Marine Exchange Program was among the training drills that were indefinitely suspended in June after U.S. President Donald Trump met North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore and promised to end joint U.S.-South Korea military exercises often criticized by the North.

A spokesman for South Korea’s Ministry of Defense confirmed a round of training would begin near the southern city of Pohang, with no media access expected.

About 500 American and South Korean marines will participate in the maneuvers, the Yonhap news agency reported. Meanwhile, Pompeo, interviewed on CBS’s “Face the Nation,” said he would be in New York City at the end of this week to meet with his North Korean counterpart, Kim Yong-chol.

“I expect we’ll make some real progress, including an effort to make sure that the summit between our two leaders can take place, where we can make substantial steps towards denuclearization,” Pompeo said.

In Washington last week, South Korea’s defense minister said Washington and Seoul would make a decision by December on major joint military exercises for 2019. Vigilant Ace, suspended earlier this month, is one of several such exercises that have been halted to encourage dialogue with Pyongyang.

The biggest combat-readiness war game ever staged in and around Japan has gone ahead, however, with nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan joining Japanese destroyers and a Canadian warship in the ocean off Japan — another key player in the effort to pressure North Korea.

North Korea warned on Friday that it could restart development of its nuclear program if the United States does not drop its campaign of “maximum pressure” and sanctions.

“The improvement of relations and sanctions are incompatible,” a foreign ministry official said in a statement released through state-run KCNA news agency. “The U.S. thinks that its oft-repeated ‘sanctions and pressure’ lead to ‘denuclearization.’ We cannot help laughing at such a foolish idea.”

North Korea has not tested a ballistic missile or nuclear weapon for nearly a year and has said it has shuttered its main nuclear test site with plans to dismantle several more facilities.

In recent weeks, North Korea has pressed more sharply for what it sees as reciprocal concessions by the United States and other countries.

“As shown, the U.S. is totally to blame for all the problems on the Korean peninsula including the nuclear issue and therefore, the very one that caused all those must untie the knot it made,” Friday’s statement said.

U.S. "confident" Iran sanctions will work: Pompeo

American officials have remained skeptical of Kim’s commitment to give up the nuclear arsenal he has already amassed, however, and Washington says it won’t support easing international sanctions until more verified progress is made.

Pompeo, interviewed on television’s “Fox News Sunday,” said the Trump administration wants a full, verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. He added that Trump insists on “no economic relief until we have achieved our ultimate objective.”

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, meanwhile, has forged ahead with efforts to engage with North Korea in recent months, raising U.S. concerns that Seoul could weaken pressure on North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons.

- **Bruins welcome veterans to practice**

Bruins welcome veterans to practice

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[7 NEWS WHDH](#) BOSTON (WHDH) - Bruins players practiced Wednesday under the watchful gaze of some of the country’s oldest service members – veterans of the Korean War.

“There’s people that have been less appreciated than we are in our public positions that have sacrificed a lot more than we ever will,” said Bruins forward David Backes.

The Bruins treated veterans to a practice viewing, followed by lunch and a meet-and-greet with players.

Bernie Smith came with his 12-year-old great-grandnephew, who’s a hockey player himself. Smith used to play pickup hockey in Boston and says back in the day he was quite the enforcer. “It’s like football on ice,” he said. “I was a defenseman and I’d whack people.”

Tom Henze came with his old friend and fellow veteran Tom Boyle. The two have been friends for more than 70 years. The veterans say it’s gratifying to be recognized for serving in what is sometimes called “The Forgotten War.”

“Our particular war is not so recognized, and we appreciate it,” said Vartkess Tarbassian.

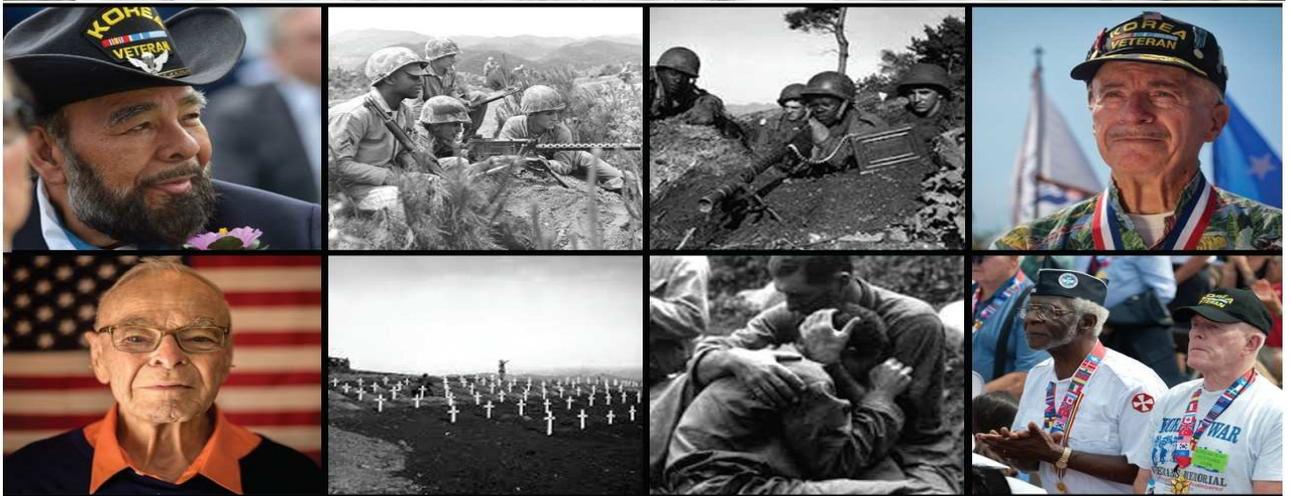
Army veteran Paul Kim was in the army in the 60s after moving to the U.S. from Korea. “Without their sacrifice, Korea wouldn’t be the way it is today, so we are so indebted to American soldiers,” Kim said. Backes spent close to a half hour meeting with veterans. He says his grandfather, a tail gunner in World War II, gave him an appreciation for what those in service do today and did so many years ago. “Try to deflect some of the recognition that I get for playing a game to those guys that have sacrificed and put their lives on the line to defend our freedom,” Backes said. “That’s why I wanted to come up here and spend a few minutes with these gentlemen.”



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.arlingtoncemetery.mil
Board of Veterans Appeals	202.565.5436	www.bva.va.gov
Central Office (Main Switchboard)	202.273.5400	
Funeral Arrangements & Eligibility	703.607.8585	www.cem.va.gov
Government Life Insurance	800.669.8477	www.insurance.va.gov
Personal Locator	202.273.4950	

Other Veteran Government Agencies

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

Congressional Committees

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

Other Veteran Related Offices and Agencies

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

POW/MIA

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

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

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

Locator and Reunion Services

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

Archives

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

Women Veterans

Women in Military Service-America Memorial Foundation	703.533.1155	www.womensmemorial.org
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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</p> <p>Echoes: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes Editor's e-mail address: ArmyEchoes@mail.mil</p> <p>Army Echoes Blog: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/blog</p> <p>Army Emergency Relief: (866) 878-6378; http://www.aerhq.org</p> <p>Army Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/USArmy</p> <p>Army Flickr: http://www.flickr.com/photos/soldiersmediacenter/</p> <p>Army Homepage: http://www.army.mil</p> <p>Army Live Blog: http://armylive.dodlive.mil/</p> <p>Army mobile phone apps: http://www.army.mil/mobile/</p> <p>Army Retirement Services: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement</p> <p>Army Stand To!: http://www.army.mil/standto/</p> <p>Army Lodging Program: (877) 711-8326; http://www.pal.army.mil Reservations: http://www.ihgarmyhotels.com</p> <p>Army Twitter: https://twitter.com/USArmy/</p> <p>Army YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/usarmy</p> <p>Casualty Assistance Checklist for Retired Soldiers: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/docs/Post/CasualtyAssistanceChecklist.pdf</p> <p>Chief of Staff, Army Retired Soldier Council: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/RetireeCouncil</p> <p>Combat-Related Special Compensation: (866) 281-3254 opt.4; https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/CRSC</p> <p>Commissary: http://www.commissaries.com</p> <p>Concurrent Retired & Disability Pay: (800) 321-1080, http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crdp.html</p> <p>Consumer Financial Protection Bureau: (855) 411-2372 http://www.consumerfinance.gov/</p> <p>Death — Report a Retired Soldier's Death: Call HQDA Casualty Operations Center, (800) 626-3317; from overseas, call (502) 613-3317 collect. https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reporting%20A%20Death</p> <p>DS Logon: https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/</p> <p>Funeral Honors (Military): Army Coordinator: (502) 613-8218 https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh/</p> <p>ID Card Facilities: (800) 538-9552; Nearest facility: www.dmdc.osd.mil/rs/</p> <p>Legal Assistance Locator (Military): http://legalassistance.law.af.mil/content/locator.php</p> <p>Long Term Care Insurance: (800) 582-3337 http://www.ltcfeds.com/</p> <p>MyArmyBenefits: http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/ Help Desk: (888) 721-2769 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday - Friday);</p> <p>Survivor Outreach Services: (855) 707-2769, https://www.sos.army.mil/</p> <p>Reserve Component Retirements (888) 276-9472 https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reserve%20Component%20Retirements</p> <p>RC Application for Retired Pay: Human Resources Command; ATTN: AHRC-PDR-RCR; 1600 Spearhead Division Ave.; Dept 482; Ft Knox, KY 40122-5402; (888) 276-9472; download the application from: https://www.hrc.army.mil/Default.aspx?ID=13664</p> <p>Soldiers Magazine: http://soldiers.dodlive.mil/</p> <p>Space-Available Travel: http://www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site</p> <p>Soldier for Life on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CSASoldierForLife</p>	<p>Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/usfspa</p> <p> U. S. Army Retired Lapel Button and Badge: Type "Soldier for Life" into the search box at https://www.shopmyexchange.com</p> <p>Veterans Service Records — Replace DD Form 214, awards: Retired 4/1/1996 or later: Visit http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/, Click on "Army White Pages" at the bottom, then log in. Next click on "Click Here to Access Your Army Record."</p> <p>Retired 3/31/1996 or earlier: Call Human Resources Command at (888) 276-9472 or visit http://vetrecs.archives.gov National Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records); 1 Archive Drive. St. Louis, MO 63138-1002</p> <p>DFAS (800) 321-1080 (M-F, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST) http://www.dfas.mil/ myPay (888) 332-7411; https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx Retiree/Annuitant web page http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html</p> <p>Social Security (800) 772-1213 http://www.socialsecurity.gov/; If overseas, contact the American Embassy/consulate, or visit http://www.socialsecurity.gov/foreign/phones.html.</p> <p>Medicare (800) 633-4227 http://www.medicare.gov</p> <p>TRICARE http://www.tricare.mil</p> <p>Health Beneficiary Counseling Assistance Coordinator: http://www.tricare.mil/bcacdcao, or nearest military treatment facility</p> <p>TRICARE North: (877) 874-2273; http://www.hnfs.com; CT, DC, DE, IL, IN, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, VA, WI, WV, some ZIPs in IA, MO, TN</p> <p>TRICARE South: (800) 444-5445; http://www.humana-military.com/ AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, OK, SC, TN (except 35 TN ZIP codes near Ft Campbell), and TX (except the extreme SW El Paso area)</p> <p>TRICARE West: (877) 988-9378; https://www.uhcmilitarywest.com/; AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, IA (except 82 Iowa ZIP codes near Rock Island, IL) KS, MO (except the St. Louis area), MN, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OR, SD, SW TX, UT, WA, WY</p> <p>TRICARE Overseas: (888) 777-8343; http://www.tricare-overseas.com</p> <p>TRICARE for Life: (866) 773-0404; TDD (866) 773-0405 http://tricare.mil/Plans/HealthPlans/TFL.aspx</p> <p>TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery: (877) 363-1296; http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery/</p> <p>TRICARE Network Pharmacy: (877) 363-1303; http://www.express-scripts.com</p> <p>TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan: (888) 838-8737; http://www.TRDP.org</p> <p>US Family Health Plan: http://www.usfhp.com/</p> <p>Armed Forces Recreation Centers http://www.armymwr.com</p> <p>Hale Koa Hotel, Hawaii: (800) 367-6027; http://halekoa.com</p> <p>Edelweiss Resort, Bavaria: 011-49-8821-9440 http://www.edelweisslodgeandresort.com</p> <p>Shades of Green, Florida: (888) 593-2242; (407) 824-3665 http://www.shadesofgreen.org/reservations.htm</p> <p>Dragon Hill, Korea: 011-822-790-0016 http://www.dragonhilllodge.com</p> <p>Veterans Affairs (VA) Information http://www.va.gov</p> <p>Burial & Memorial Benefits: http://www.cem.va.gov/ (877) 907-8199</p> <p>Benefits and Services: (800) 827-1000 (Retired Soldiers overseas should contact the American Embassy/consulate); TDD (800) 829-4833 http://benefits.va.gov/benefits/</p> <p>GI Bill: (888) 442-4551; http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/</p> <p>Health Care Benefits: (877) 222-8387; http://www.va.gov/health</p> <p>Insurance: SGLI/VGLI: (800) 419-1473; All other insurance: (800) 669-8477</p>
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Sister Service Publications for Retired Service Members

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Fisher

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Korean War Veterans Association, USA