



THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.
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The following monthly update for January 2019 is submitted by the Executive Director of the Korean War Veterans Association of the United States of America.

Happy New Year to our Korean War and Korean Defense Veterans and their Families



IMPORTANT EVENTS IN 2019

- Korean War Veterans Association Mid-Winter Board Meeting – March 13, 2019 – Arlington, VA
- Memorial Day at the Korean War Veterans Memorial – May 27, 2019 – Washington, DC
- Start of the War Commemoration – Korean War Veterans Memorial – June 25, 2019 – Washington, DC
- Korean War Veterans Association's General Membership Meeting – July 25 – 28, 2019 – Arlington, VA

새해 복 많이 받으세요
sae-hae bog manh-i bad-euseyo



2019 KWVA Revisit Korea Dates

The 2019 Korean War Veterans Association's annual Revisit Korea dates have been received. The recap:

22-28 June	Annual "6/25" Commemoration
24-30 July	Armistice Commemoration
25 Sep-1 October	Chosin/Changjin Commemoration
20-26 October	UN Commemoration Seoul and Busan
8-14 November	Seoul and Busan ("Turn toward Busan" Commemoration)

- * A change - Length of time between revisits reduced from five years to three.
 - * Those currently registered will soon get these dates to choose from.
 - * One veteran and one "companion".
 - * The widow or descendant of a deceased veteran or MIA eligible.
 - * All expenses in Korea paid for. 1/2 the veteran and 1/3 of the companion air paid for. (Reimbursed in Korea.)
 - * A doctors certificate of being able to travel is required.
 - * Death, disability, evacuation and cancellation insurance required.
 - * Those not registered should go to our web site miltours.com or KWVA.org, fill out and submit a registration form. We always select **"First come first served!"**
- Note: Registration Forms are also in the current issue of all "Graybeards."

For additional information email Jamie Wiedhahn at: jwiedhahn@miltours.com, phone: 703-590-1295

Mini Recruiting and Membership Report

Note: Data Current as of 1/25/2019

Recruiting Results - New Members This Month (January) This Year To Date

48

48

LAST Year (1/25/2018) *

33

33

*2018 Average: 40 New Members per Month

Current Count - Active Members

11398

LAST Year (1/25/2018)

12153

152 Members reported as deceased this year
1432 Members reported as deceased in 2018
May they rest in peace.



**I WANT YOU
TO RE-UP!**

**PAY YOUR
DUES TODAY**

**PLEASE
EXAMINE
YOUR
MAILING LABEL!**

**CHECK THE DATE ON
RIGHT END OF LABEL.
PLEASE PAY
YOUR DUES
TODAY!**



VETERANS AFFAIRS NEWS

- **VA awards Community Care Network contracts to increase health care access**

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) awarded contracts Dec. 28 to manage provider networks for Regions 1, 2 and 3 of VA's new Community Care Network (CCN), the department's direct link with community providers that will ensure VA provides the right care at the right time to Veterans.

- **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)



- **REPEAL OF SBP/DIC OFFSET REINTRODUCED:** The KWVA supports H.R. 553, *Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act*, which would repeal the requirement for surviving spouses to offset Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) benefits with Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) was reintroduced this past week. SBP and DIC are different benefits, which are earned for different reasons. The full repeal of this unjust offset remains a top legislative priority for the KWVA. [Learn more about H.R. 553](#)

- **VA WAIT TIMES IMPROVE, EQUAL TO OR BETTER THAN PRIVATE SECTOR:** A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association titled, "Comparison of Wait Times for New Patients Between the Private Sector and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers" found VA wait times significantly reduced for primary care and three other specialty services between 2014 and 2017. According to the study, in 2014 the average wait time for VA appointments was 22.5 days, and 18.7 days for the private sector. By 2017, the average wait time for VA was 17.7 days and 29.8 days for the private sector. [Read more](#) or access to the study.

**New year,
healthier you.**

Let VA help.

Get Started



Kicking off the new year with new health goals? VA is here to help you reach them. With the growing availability of wellbeing programs, VA is offering care private insurance often doesn't cover.

This includes recreational therapies, like the one that led Aubrey, an Army National Guard Veteran, to a renewed passion for skiing. After suffering a spinal cord injury while in the service, Aubrey was hesitant to try sports again. That changed when her recreational therapist urged her to attend the National Disabled Veteran Winter Sports Clinic. She hasn't looked back.

"I loved skiing before I was injured, and now I'm able to go out there and have a blast doing it, just a little differently," Aubrey says. "It gave me a chance to come out here, learn new things, realize life didn't end after my injury."

Visit [Explore.VA.gov](https://www.va.gov/explore) for more on VA health care or click the button below for information on all VA benefits.

[Explore VA Benefits](#)

VA BENEFITS FOR KOREAN WAR VETERANS

Following World War II, Korea was divided into two administrative regions separated by the 38th parallel. North Korea was occupied by the Soviet-backed Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and South Korea was administered by the American-backed Republic of Korea.

In June 1950, 75,000 members of the DPRK Army, with support from both the Soviet Union and China, crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded the Republic of Korea. In response, The United States formed and led an international alliance to defend the South.

After three years, an official cease-fire was announced stopping hostilities between the North and South. The Korean Armistice Agreement established the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), a 2.5 mile wide border that acts as a buffer between the two Koreas. The war was considered ended at that point, but a peace treaty was never signed.

Service-Connected Disability Benefits for Korean Vets

Korean War veterans with a disability or injury that occurred (or was aggravated) during the war, may qualify for service-connected disability compensation. Eligibility requirements include having been discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions.

AID & ATTENDANCE FOR KOREAN WAR VETERANS

Korean War veterans with non-service connected health issues who need long-term care may be eligible for Aid & Attendance. The Aid & Attendance benefit is a tax-free pension for qualified Korean War veterans, their spouses and surviving spouses who need help with some of the activities of daily living. The veteran must have served at least 90 days of active duty, with at least one day during an eligible period of war. The eligible wartime period for the Korean Conflict is June 27, 1950 through January 31, 1955. Additional requirements include having an honorable or other than dishonorable discharge.

The Aid & Attendance benefit does not need to be paid back. It is a lifetime benefit to cover the cost of home care, board and care, adult day care, assisted living and skilled nursing. For more information, contact an American Veterans Aid benefit consultant at (877) 427-8065.

Korean War Veteran Health Risks

During the Korean War, service members were exposed to many hazards with serious long-term health consequences, such as below freezing climate conditions, noise and vibration, radiation (nuclear weapons testing or cleanup), chemical warfare agent experiments, asbestos, industrial solvents, fuels, lead, PCBs and chemical agent resistant coating (CARC).

Cold Injuries

Siberian winds cause temperatures in various parts of Korea to drop below 0 degrees F. During the Chosin Reservoir Campaign, which lasted from October 1950 through December 1950; the temperature dropped to 50 degrees F below zero, with a wind chill factor of 100 degrees F below zero. Cold injuries included hypothermia, frostbite and trench foot. An estimated 5,000 Korean service members with cold injuries were evacuated from Korea during the winter of 1950-1951. Cold injuries can develop into more serious health conditions such as diabetes and peripheral vascular disease.

Noise & Vibration Injuries

Hearing loss is one of the most common types of military-related injuries. The noise and vibration from guns, explosives, aircraft, communication devices and machinery can cause hearing loss, tinnitus and other types of acoustic trauma. Korean War hazardous noise exposure occurred during training, various types of military operations and combat.

Radiation Exposure

Korean war veterans who participated in nuclear-related activities were exposed to radiation that caused serious and even fatal diseases, such as cancer, leukemia, lymphoma and multiple myeloma. Other types of radiation exposure included:

X-ray radiation from high voltage vacuum tubes at stations operated by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Pilots, submariners, divers and other individuals who received Nasopharyngeal (nose and throat) radium irradiation treatments to prevent ear damage from pressure changes.

(subheading) Other Occupational Hazards

In addition to noise, vibration and radiation hazards, many Korean Veterans were also exposed to Asbestos, Industrial solvents, lead, Fuels, PCBs and CARC paint.

Asbestos is a fibrous mineral found in rock and soil that can cause serious health problems, including cancer and lung disease. Korean War veterans may have been exposed to asbestos if their work involved:

Mining

Milling

Building and repairing ships or other types of shipyard work

Insulation

Building demolition

Carpentry, construction, manufacturing and installation of certain types of products, like flooring and roofing.

Industrial solvents were used during the Korean War to clean, degrease and strip or thin paint. Long-term exposure to industrial solvents can cause various health problems such as:

Breathing problems

Neurological damage

Visual problems

Lead poisoning was another potential hazard for Korean Conflict veterans. Lead is a toxic metal that can accumulate in the body. Korean War veterans may have been exposed to lead if they drank water from old lead pipes, came in contact with lead-based paints, or spent long periods of time at an indoor firing range. Air, dust, soil and commercial products can also contain lead. Symptoms of lead poisoning include fatigue, gastrointestinal problems, anemia, increased blood pressure, weakness, decreased memory, difficulty concentrating, hyperactivity and irritability.

Exposure to diesel and jet fuel also impacted the health of Korean War service members. The gases and air particles from the combustion or burning of diesel and jet fuel contain toxic chemicals than can harm the body. Prolonged exposure can lead to respiratory problems and lung cancer.

PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) are manufactured organic chemicals that were used as coolants and lubricants in various products until 1977. PCB exposure can lead to numerous health issues such as liver problems, neurotoxicity and cancer. Korean War veterans who repaired PCB transformers, capacitors and conduits were at risk for PCB exposure.

CARC (Chemical Agent Resistant Coating) paint, also known as camouflage paint, was used by the military to make the metal surfaces on vehicles, helicopters and certain types of equipment more resistant to corrosion and chemical warfare agents. Korean War veterans who painted tanks, armored personnel carriers and other military vehicles may have been exposed to CARC paint. Health issues resulting from CARC paint include respiratory problems and kidney damage.

Korean War Veterans may be eligible for a wide-variety of benefits available to all U.S. military Veterans. VA benefits include disability compensation, pension, education and training, health care, home loans, insurance, vocational rehabilitation and employment, and burial. See our Veterans page for an overview of the benefits available to all Veterans.

The following sections provide information tailored to the experiences of Korean War Veterans to help you better understand specific VA benefits for which you may qualify.

Benefits for Korean War Veterans Who Experience Cold Injuries

Veterans who experienced cold injuries may have medical conditions resulting from a cold-related disease or injury. Examples of cold-related medical conditions include: skin cancer in frostbite scars, arthritis, fallen arches, stiff toes, and cold sensitization. These cold-related problems may worsen as Veterans grow older and develop complicating conditions such as diabetes and peripheral vascular disease, which place them at higher risk for late amputations.

Learn more about cold injuries on the [Veterans Health Administration's Cold Injuries page](#).

Learn more about how service-connected cold injuries or diseases may qualify you for [VA Disability Compensation benefits](#).

Benefits for Korean War Veterans Exposed to Ionizing Radiation

Korean War era Veterans may qualify for health care and compensation benefits if you were exposed to ionizing radiation during military service. Health care services include an Ionizing Radiation Registry health exam and clinical treatment at VA's War Related Illness and Injury Study Centers. You may also be entitled to disability compensation benefits if you have certain cancers as a result of exposure to ionizing radiation during military service.

Learn more about VA benefits for Veterans exposed to ionizing radiation:

[Veterans Health Administration's Radiation page](#)

[Disability Compensation Ionizing Radiation Exposure page](#)

Benefits for Korean War Veterans Who Participated in Radiation-Risk Activities

Korean War era Veterans may qualify for health care and compensation benefits if you participated in certain radiation-risk activities, such as nuclear weapons testing, during military service. These Veterans may be informally referred to as "Atomic Veterans". Health care services include an Ionizing Radiation Registry health exam and clinical treatment at VA's War Related Illness and Injury Study Centers. You may also be entitled to disability compensation benefits if you have certain cancers as a result of your participation in a radiation-risk activity during military service.

Learn more about VA benefits for Veterans who participated in radiation-risk activities:

[Veterans Health Administration's Radiation Risk Activity page](#)

[Disability Compensation Radiogenic Diseases Exposure page](#)

[How to Apply](#)

The specific VA benefit or program web page will provide tailored information about how to apply for a particular benefit or program. Generally, Servicemembers, Veterans, and families can apply for VA benefits using one of the methods below.

Apply online using [eBenefits](#), **OR**

Work with an accredited [representative](#) or [agent](#), **OR**

Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you. You can find your regional office on our [Facility Locator](#) page.

- **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.](#)

Veterans Identification Card **Fact Sheet**

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

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

Key Facts:

- On December 29, 2017, VA launched the Veterans Identification Card (VIC) Program.
- Veterans can submit an electronic application for the VIC using [Vets.gov](#) or [AccessVA](#). To sign in, they can use their ID.me account or the same log-in that they use for their eBenefits account (DS Logon).

- Individuals that have a character of discharge type of Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) are eligible for a VIC.
- Individuals with a Dishonorable, Other than Honorable conditions or Bad Conduct discharge are not eligible for a VIC.
- The VIC can be presented to Vendors for discounted goods and services without compromising Personal Identifiable Information (PII) that is visible on the DD-214. Vendor's acceptance of the VIC is voluntary and does not constitute an endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the VA.
- The VIC does not reflect entitlement to any benefits administered by the VA, DoD, or any other federal department or agency.
- The VIC will serve as proof of service for Veterans who do not have a form of identification that designates them as a Veteran.
- The VIC is not meant to duplicate Veteran identification cards currently issued by the VA, DoD, or state department or agency.

How to Apply for a VIC

- Veterans can apply for a VIC using [Vets.gov](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  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 .

4. 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.

- **VA SECRETARY WILKIE: VA HEADED IN RIGHT DIRECTION**

It's been more than five months since Fayetteville native Robert Wilkie was sworn in as secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs on July 30.

During Wilkie's confirmation hearing in June, Georgia Republican Sen. Johnny Isakson gave Wilkie strict marching orders.

"Mr. Wilkie, there are no excuses anymore," the senator said. "Failure is not an option."

It's a charge that Wilkie has taken to heart, as his predecessor, David Shulkin, lost his job following a controversy over travel expenses and ongoing concerns over access to VA care.

Concerns about private care and the Veterans Choice Program remain.

The Veterans Choice Program allows approved veterans to receive care from a community provider, paid by the VA, if the VA can't provide the specialty care in a timely manner, or if the nearest VA medical facility is too far away.

An audit report last year found that veterans waited an average of 94 days in Fayetteville to see a health provider in the Choice network.

And in September, the Office of Inspector General released a report of Choice providers alleging untimely payments between 2015 and 2017 for providing veteran care.

The OIG found that 14 providers no longer accepted Choice authorization patients because of the late payments. It also noted that the payment issue dealt with a third-party VA provider, and that claims staff were "in a constant state of backlog."

Wilkie talked with The Fayetteville Observer while he was in town last month. He touched on access to care and tuition reimbursements tied to the Forever GI Bill.

Wilkie said one of the most transformative pieces of legislation in the history of the department — the Mission Act — was signed by President Donald Trump on June 6.

The VA website says the Mission Act "addresses in-network and non-VA health care issues, veterans' homes, access to walk-in VA care, prescription drug procedures" and more.

It requires the VA to provide access to community care if the VA does not offer the service; it eliminates the gap on funding associated with Choice funding ending May 31, 2018, and it replaces Choice by consolidating programs into a single entity, the VA website states.

It also rewards caregivers of veterans from the Korean and Vietnam War eras, Wilkie said.

"The reason that is important, other than to close the loop on a promise that was meant to be kept, is the trends in American health care are to get people out of hospitals and clinics and get them at home," Wilkie said.

More than 5 million family members across the country take care of veterans and are now being provided with financial and resource support through the act, he said.

The Mission Act also provides whoever is in the VA secretary role leeway to establish access and availability standards, and addresses the issue of wait times, he said. He has until June to publish any changes to national VA standards for wait times and care.

Reports of 94 day wait times in Fayetteville have almost all been corrected, he said.

“We’re the only health care (agency) in the system that publishes our wait times ... we make sure that we are open for inspection and advice, and I think we’re doing a very good job in terms of our effort,” Wilkie said.

When it comes to specialty care and Choice, Wilkie pointed to the D.C. Veterans Hospital as an example where years were spent looking for a transplant surgeon.

A transplant surgeon was found, and that surgeon may complete one transplant in a week, he said. But at a nearby hospital, surgeons complete 50 transplants a week, he said.

“I’m going to send that veteran to where they do this every day and every hour,” Wilkie said.

In the meantime, he would prefer that money spent trying to recruit a transplant surgeon go toward recruiting two doctors or four nurses who specialize in women’s health, or two doctors specializing in primary care.

The VA’s specialties, he said, are in prosthetics, spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury.

He described partnerships with the National Football League and the National Hockey League as examples for evaluating traumatic brain injuries. The VA is looking at the brains and information about athletes who have suffered from brain injuries.

At the same time, Wilkie said, the VA is not immune to the pressures that exist in the rest of the country. He cited a shortage of mental health and primary care professionals as examples.

“So we have to target our resources to the greatest need,” he said. “And specialty care is one that can be opened and will be open for Choice.”

Wilkie said Choice won’t exist unless bills are paid, and he said mechanisms are in place to ensure that happens.

In response to privatization, Wilkie said he believes the vast majority of veterans will prefer to stay with the VA. He said he does not project more than 35 percent of the veteran population to receive care outside of the VA.

The way the VA provides care may change as it starts serving a population used to receiving quicker service, he said, highlighting that more than half of the veterans the VA now serves are younger than 65.

Same day appointments for primary care and mental health issues are important, he said.

“The work on mental health is really, I still think it’s the last frontier in medicine. We’re only beginning to understand the effects of trauma on the brain, and we understand that better by talking to the people who’ve experienced it,” he said.

Other focuses are women’s health and creating electronic health records within the Department of Defense that start the minute a service member enters a military processing station to the time he or she transitions to VA care.

Another issue the VA faced last year was the implementation of the Forever GI Bill.

The bill changed how housing stipends for veterans enrolled in college are calculated and required the VA to make payments related to where the veteran takes most of his or her classes. However, payments from the VA were not made in time with the start of fall semesters.

Wilkie said the VA’s information and technology system was not capable of handling the change.

“I was told several times that we were just around the corner of fixing it, and after the second time of hearing that I said ‘Stop. We’re going to go back to the old system of distributing checks — tuition reimbursement — and we

will work on the IT fix, " Wilkie said. "We will make everyone whole, but we're not going to allow our veterans to fall behind because of a computer glitch."

He communicated with university presidents, and said checks are in the process of being distributed.

Overall, Wilkie said he believes the VA is headed in the right direction.

"I see incredible things every day," he said, praising the VA's workforce. "I've been in 120 days I've been in 19 states, including Alaska and Hawaii ... and having seen the reach of VA, I am very proud of that."

HEALTH INFORMATION

• **WHY DO PATIENTS LIE TO THEIR DOCTORS?** *By [Elaine K. Howley](#).*

For best results, the doctor-patient relationship should be built on mutual trust and honesty.

DESPITE OUR BEST intentions, humans aren't always the most honest of species. From little white lies to selective reporting and glossing over of details, there are a lot of ways that we skirt the truth. And we're more likely to do so when the topic is sensitive or makes us uncomfortable in some way.

It probably shouldn't come as a surprise then that people aren't always completely honest with their doctors. A recent study published in the journal [JAMA Network Open](#) found that 60 to 80 percent of patients have been less than fully forthright with their doctors at some point. That's a lot of untruths told for a wide variety of reasons.

Lead author Angela Fagerlin, professor and chair of population health sciences at University of Utah Health and a research scientist with the [VA Salt Lake City Health System's](#) Informatics Decision-Enhancement and Analytic Sciences Center for Innovation, says the team conducted the study because "we wanted to see and to understand how many people misled their physicians about different components of their health care."

[See: [10 Questions Doctors Wish Their Patients Would Ask.](#)]

To do that, the study surveyed two groups of people: The first consisted of 2,011 people ranging in age from 19 to 79 (mean age 36) and the second had 2,499 people age 50 and older (mean age 61). Both surveys, administered as online questionnaires, asked participants if they'd ever avoided telling a health care provider the truth for one of several reasons including:

- Not understanding the provider's instructions
- [Disagreeing with the doctor's recommendation](#)
- Not exercising at all or not exercising regularly
- Eating an unhealthy diet
- Taking a certain medication
- Taking a certain medication incorrectly or counter to its instructions
- Taking someone else's prescription

"We found a lot of people admitted to not telling their physician everything that they could have," Fagerlin says, and this is problematic because withholding relevant information could lead to dangerous outcomes. Any one of the reasons for lying listed above could potentially have negative consequences, Fagerlin says.

Many of these cases of fibbing or omitting details are completely understandable when you look a little closer at what's happening in individual scenarios. Fagerlin points to the example of a patient who's already taking four medications to manage several conditions and is being prescribed a fifth drug. "The doctor could say, 'we need to put you on [blood pressure medication](#),' but the patient thinks, '[I can't afford another medication](#),' or 'I don't want the

hassle,' but they'll nod their head and the physician will write the prescription. But the patient won't fill it. They act like they agree, but they don't."

In some instances, it could be that another medication the patient is taking would be the better one to stop taking or substitute a cheaper alternative for, and the patient would then be able to afford the fifth drug. But the only way such a resolution can come about is if the patient speaks up and tells the doctor about whichever barrier he or she is experiencing that's [preventing taking the prescribed medication](#). "If they had talked to the physician about this, the doctor might have said, 'if you can only afford four, it's drug number two you should drop. That one probably has the least impact.' But this can only happen if they voice the concern."

Similarly, Fagerlin says another concerning finding was that about a quarter to a third of study respondents (32 percent in the younger survey and 24 percent in the older survey) said they didn't understand the clinicians' instructions. This can result from a [doctor being hurried](#) or not realizing that [medical jargon](#) has elbowed into the conversation. "Sometimes they say things so fast with so many words" that can overwhelm even the most educated and intelligent of patients. "I'm in the health care system and even I have no idea what (the doctor says) sometimes," she says.

But people are often reluctant to speak up in these situations because of the innate [power dynamic](#) that can sometimes arise in [the doctor-patient relationship](#). "People don't want to look stupid. It's hard to admit not understanding in that power dynamic," where the doctor has knowledge and understanding that the patient is often excluded from. "But it's very obvious where that can go very bad, especially with medications," she says, as miscommunication can lead to dangerous drug interactions or incorrect prescriptions.

The fact that 20 to 25 percent of respondents said they weren't honest about their eating and exercise habits wasn't shocking, but the percentage who admitted to this deception was somewhat surprising, and likely just the tip of the iceberg, Fagerlin says. "We're asking people to admit to being dishonest. That's a hard thing to do." She says the actual incidence of lying could actually be quite a bit higher for many of the reasons cited in the study because some patients might not realize they're doing it, have forgotten they did it or because they won't admit to misleading a health care provider.

Another surprising finding was that younger people tended to be more dishonest – or at least more likely to admit to being less than fully honest with a doctor – than older patients, Fagerlin says. The first sample group that had the mean age of 36 had higher percentages of fibs reported. Given that "as you age you often have more comorbidities and visit the doctor more, that amounts to more opportunities to mislead" a health care provider, so the researchers thought they'd get a higher number in the older group. But the results suggest that younger people were more likely to lie. The reason why seemed more to be because younger people "'didn't want to be judged or hear how bad my behavior is,'" she says. Women and people who reported being in poorer health also seemed more likely to lie to their providers, the survey found.

So how can doctors help patient bridge this honesty gap? After all, with good health and safety at stake it seems that complete openness and honesty should be an important goal for any doctor-patient relationship. "I think there's room on both sides" to improve communications, Fagerlin says.

Dr. Gary LeRoy, a [family physician](#) at East Dayton Health Clinic in Dayton, Ohio and president-elect of the American Academy of Family Physicians, agrees that both patients and providers have a duty to communicate openly and honestly. He notes that providers may have to dig a little to get the full story from certain patients but it can be done successfully with careful, nonjudgmental probing. "It's taking the time to have the conversation. I know in this fast-paced world, we want instant gratification for whatever we're seeking. It's difficult for people to stop for a moment and talk. But the first thing that I remember one of my mentors teaching me in medical school when we were talking about interviewing patients was to look them in the eye. Sit down at their level and have a meaningful conversation with them. I think that disengages the individual who wants to not be as forthcoming as you would like."

Sometimes he'll ask the same question in multiple contexts and seek clarification if it seems a patient isn't being fully truthful. "You ask them open-ended questions but you keep tightening up the questions as you get answers." In addition, he looks for non-verbal clues such as fidgeting, long pauses before answering and anxiety – not in an effort to expose a lie for the sake of exposing the liar, but in the pursuit of what's actually going on so he can help the patient to the best of his ability.

Offering a very direct assurance that the doctor is there to help, not to judge, can go a long way toward helping many patients open up and feel more comfortable sharing everything, he says, and Fagerlin adds that "providers want to help patients and give them the best care possible. They're not going to judge you for the most part. They want to help you, but they can't serve you well and protect your health if they don't know everything." It all comes back to good interpersonal communication. Patients have to [speak up](#) and [doctors need to listen](#).

Still, it can be difficult for patients to fully engage in honest dialog with a doctor sometimes because of simple social reasons. "People tend to want other people to think highly of them. It can be hard to admit a failing or mistakes or things that put you in a less positive light," Fagerlin says.

Getting more comfortable with a particular provider may help some patients open up, but for others, this closeness can actually make it more difficult to tell-all. "It can cut both ways," LeRoy says, and some patients who would benefit from consistent care might avoid doing that because they're uncomfortable being honest with a family physician or primary care provider. "In this day and age of convenience medicine where you see whomever is available or you go to one of these places at the drugstores and see somebody – you don't know them and they don't know you. And so you tell them what you want to tell them to get what you want to get, and then you want to move on. Sometimes that can be detrimental to the patient's health outcome as opposed to someone that's been seeing them on a regular basis."

Particularly when it comes to delicate questions around lifestyle or behavior, such as sexual practices or drug use, societal taboos can make it even more difficult for patients to tell a provider the full extent of what's going on. It might be easier for some patients to talk to a doctor they'll never see again about [erectile dysfunction](#) or a [sexually transmitted infection](#), for example, but then you lose continuity of care and the benefits that can provide in ongoing support and treatment.

In other situations, LeRoy says patients will broach particularly difficult topic with so-called "doorknob comments," where a patient will mention something potentially very important just as the appointment is concluding because they've been too scared or uncomfortable to tell the doctor upfront that this issue was the reason for the appointment to begin with.

To help reduce the chances of these doorknob comments, LeRoy uses an intake form that asks patient why they scheduled the appointment and to list their concerns in order of perceived priority. This exercise gives patients the opportunity to think about why they're really there and remind them what the goal of the appointment should be. For some patients, it's easier to share what's going on in writing, rather than saying it out loud. It also "shows me what they think their priority is because sometimes there's a disconnect between what the doctor thinks is a priority and what the patient's priorities are."

LeRoy adds that often, lies or half-truths uttered in the doctor's office are misguided attempts at just being liked. "The vast majority of our patients want to be good patients. And in the process of wanting to be a good patient they may omit certain things such as 'I have not been taking my medications the appropriate way because I can't afford them,' or 'I forget them,' or 'I don't want to share that with a trusted physician or caregiver.'" He says this can present a challenge for the family physician, who has the benefit of knowing a patient well, which may make the relationship more complex. "I've been taking care of some of my patients for a decade or more, and so I often refer to them as part of my extended family. And so they want to please me in that sense. Sometimes it's very important to tell the patient how important the truth is to the appropriate care for them." Other patients say they [don't want](#)

[their provider to think they're "difficult"](#) or they want the provider to like them. "People in general we don't want to be broken," LeRoy says.

No matter what's driving a patient to be less than 100 percent truthful, the bottom line, Fagerlin says, is that withholding details from your provider can have consequences, so it's best to fess up, no matter how hard it is. "Even if it's really hard, tell your doctor what you're thinking and what you're doing."

- **GLAUCOMA – WHY VETERANS NEED REGULAR EYE EXAMS**

Glaucoma Awareness Month

What is glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a disease that damages your eye's optic nerve. It usually happens when fluid builds up in the front part of your eye. That extra fluid increases the pressure in your eye, damaging the optic nerve.

However, some forms of glaucoma can damage the optic nerve, even when the eye pressure is in the normal range during the eye exam. This can happen when the eye pressure becomes high at other times of the day and the patient does not feel the pressure elevation. It can also happen when blood flow to the optic nerve becomes reduced below a critical level, which can happen during periods of very low blood pressure, even during sleep.

For example, in some patients who take their hypertension medications right before bedtime, it can cause the blood pressure to drop too low during hours of sleep. Another risk factor that can adversely affect glaucoma is obstructive sleep apnea, which may also reduce the delivery of oxygen to the optic nerve

Glaucoma is a leading cause of blindness for Veterans over 60 years old. But blindness from glaucoma can often be prevented with early treatment.

Look at this example of [what your vision would be like](#) with glaucoma.

[Here is a very helpful video](#) by VA's Dr. Dan Bettis which answers some of the common patient questions about glaucoma. Please take five minutes and watch it with your family.

[Click here for a very detailed patient's guide](#) to information about the disease.

Veterans enrolled in VA health care can schedule appointments directly with Ophthalmology or Optometry without a referral from primary care.

Schedule an eye exam at [your VA health care facility](#).

- **EXPLORING THE SENIOR CO-HOUSING TREND** By **Elaine K. Howley**

Did 'The Golden Girls' have it right all along? A Look at Senior Co-Housing



Seniors who would prefer to avoid moving into an assisted living community or nursing home may find co-housing a viable option for staying at home longer

PICTURE IT: A HIT 1980S sitcom in which four senior women share a home in Miami. Hilarity ensues, and the world falls for "The Golden Girls." But more than just a beloved television show, the concept on which their wise and friend-first adventures were built is becoming a more common arrangement for regular people to age in place and get the most out of their later years with friends by their side.

Senior or elderly co-housing "isn't a new concept," says Sue Johansen, vice president of partner services with A Place for Mom, a senior referral service based in Seattle. "But what is new is that people are trying to explore it in different ways. What we're seeing today is that seniors are wanting to stay in their homes longer," with two primary reasons driving that move: socialization and cost-sharing.

[See: [11 Things Seniors Should Look for in a Health Provider.](#)]

Cost-Sharing Advantages

"It's usually the financial piece that's the stronger driver that we've seen," Johansen says. Co-housing offers multiple seniors who'd rather not move into an [assisted living community](#) or [nursing home](#) another option for [staying at home longer while spending less money](#) to keep up a separate household. "It allows both the senior who owns the home and others who rent a room to be in an independent environment for longer, to pool resources financially, to live more comfortably and to share an environment with somebody who may face similar challenges."

For example, if none of the co-housing residents are able to keep up with housekeeping duties, perhaps they can split the expense of hiring a cleaning service. [Home health care](#) may also be more economical when delivered in a co-housing situation. "Facilitating care for multiple residents" is a common feature of these sorts of living situations. "They may have a home care company that comes in or they may have a cleaning service or an errand service that can help serve all two or three seniors in a home together," Johansen says.

Similar arrangements can often be found in senior co-housing communities that have been planned to cater specifically to adults of a certain age who are living in co-housing situations. The Cohousing Association of the United States reports there are more than 160 of these communities across the U.S. today, with 130 more in development. "A cleaning service will do multiple homes on a block or a home care company will have multiple clients in a small radius," Johansen says. Grocery or [meal delivery services](#) might work with all the residents in a certain neighborhood to improve efficiencies.

For many seniors, that financial piece may play the biggest role in pointing them toward co-housing as their best option, says Roxanne Sorensen, an aging life care specialist and owner of Elder Care Solutions of WNY in Rochester, New York, a case management consultancy. Sorensen says that as older adults live longer, finding an affordable housing option that fits their needs is a challenge that co-housing might be able to help address. "Why not take the model of developmentally disabled group homes and mimic that for seniors?" she asks. By moving several seniors into one home rather than each living alone, that will reduce the cost of procuring home health staff while perhaps also reducing loneliness.

In addition, Sorensen says changes to federal programs such as Medicaid may make co-housing a more attractive option in the future. "The funding keeps drying up. Every time they do something to Medicaid it affects the seniors" and the level of care they can afford. "The people who have paid into the system like the elderly, they shouldn't be penalized," but she says reforms to federal benefits programs like [Medicare](#) and Medicaid could curtail their ability to live out their golden years the way they want.

Socialization Advantages

There are lots of reasons why an older adult might find him or herself feeling isolated or lonely. For one, divorce among seniors is on the rise. According to the Pew Research Center, since the 1990s, the divorce rate among

adults aged 50 and over (so-called "[gray divorce](#)") has more than doubled. For others, death leaves the surviving spouse living alone. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that 28 percent of people aged 65 or older lived alone when the census was conducted in 2010. And these individuals are more likely to be female, given that women's life expectancy is 81.2 years versus 76.4 years for men. (Life expectancy in the U.S. has been following a downward trend over the past several years, with an [editorial in The BMJ](#) reporting the cause being despair resulting in increased suicide and substance abuse.)

Social isolation and loneliness are associated with higher mortality in older adults, and senior co-housing might be an option for alleviating some of this isolation. Simply living with another person or people – especially if you have shared experiences or other things in common – can provide a wonderful opportunity to socialize and feel part of something bigger than yourself. Who wouldn't want to live with friends? Much like any other shared housing arrangement, this one can yield a new partner or friend with whom to have adventures and good times.

Disadvantages of Senior Co-Housing

There can also be a downside to senior co-housing. As with any roommate situation, conflicts can crop up over everything from dishes in the sink to household expenses. And as vexing as such discord can be when you're in your 20s, it may be compounded later in life by health issues and other age-related factors such as [cognitive deficits](#) or reduced mobility. "The bandwidth of dealing with the ramifications if you get into a bad situation tend to be overwhelming. That's the deterrent that has kept this from being a larger portion of what we're seeing in the marketplace in general," Johansen says.

One way to reduce the chances of having a bad match is to carefully select your living partners and to set out all expectations clearly and in writing right from the outset. "If they're going to go into a co-housing situation, the homeowner really needs to take the time and expense to get a rental agreement drawn up," Johansen says. That agreement should call out the specific needs that each senior has and wants to ensure are met.

[See: [Easy Ways to Protect Your Aging Brain.](#)]

In addition, when searching for the right roommate for this type of situation, taking a "common-sense" approach to safety should be paramount. "Be smart about how you approach it. Have the initial interviews outside of the home so you can meet somebody and not be inviting people to come into the home." If a child or other loved one is available to assist during this screening process, Johansen says that can help increase safety and the selection of the right co-housing partner or partners.

"The challenge to senior co-housing is it's not a very well developed network, so oftentimes people are having to seek out roommates via more traditional means," such as posting an ad on Craigslist or another roommate search service. Johansen says some services are starting to spring up to cater to this trend, such as Senior Homeshares and the Golden Girls Network. Similar to other roommate matching websites, these services seek to connect compatible seniors to share a home. Senior centers can also be a good way of finding people to share your home with.

The key is to "find that right roommate who's going to add to the experience rather than detract from it," Johansen says, noting that "the downsides are that if a senior moves in with another senior and both are challenged in similar ways, that can be a problem." On the other end of the spectrum "if one has higher needs than another, then one of the two ends up sometimes being the caregiver, which may not be what they wanted or signed up to do."

As with any roommate situation, "you run the risk of getting someone in the home who's not trustworthy, whether that be from a financial standpoint or a danger in another way," such as elder abuse, Johansen says. "Seniors opening up their homes to others can be problematic and risky," so it's important to proceed carefully if you're planning to pursue this option, as making a bad selection could actually lead to increased isolation for the homeowner, rather than the intended connection. "If you get the right person, that can be a great thing. If you don't,

it can almost be more isolating to the senior who has the home because if there isn't a good fit, they tend to retreat to their respective spaces within the home and it has the opposite effect."

This is where a larger community might offer a better option for certain individuals, because in a larger community "you're always able to find a small group of people that you resonate with and have a shared interest with versus trying to seek that out with one or two individuals. It's part of the human condition just magnified when you're a senior and have other challenges," Johansen says. Still these arrangements can work with careful vetting, and Johansen recommends having [structured activities](#) or a connection to a nearby senior center to help improve the socialization aspect of living with other seniors.

These relationships can take a range of different forms and the details of how you slice up costs and responsibilities will vary widely based on who you're living with. In all cases, Johansen recommends considering what you're missing and what you want to get from a co-housing relationship to help guide you and find the right match. "If I'm a senior and I own my home but I'm no longer able to drive and therefore I don't get that interaction, am I looking for somebody who's still driving and someone socially engaged who can provide that link to me?"

[See: [7 Red Flags to Watch for When Choosing a Nursing Home.](#)]

For some seniors, "the [finances are the biggest driver](#), and therefore I don't have a lot of those other softer needs. Rather I want to make sure I set the right price and we talk about who's responsible for what financially. Who's going to buy the food and pay for the electricity?" Johansen says it's important in all cases to get the financial details spelled out and to ensure that all members of the co-housing situation "understand clearly what the priorities are and set up arrangements to make sure their needs are met."

Despite the potential pitfalls, Sorensen says she thinks the co-housing trend is here to stay. "Some people don't want to be in a huge institution or a nursing home. If I'm in a five-person house, I'm home, right? And I still have the care I need." Sorensen says she thinks this approach is going to only grow in popularity in the coming years, as the baby boomer generation ages. "I would love to see it going that way. I think it's going to happen little by little, because I think that's what boomers want."

[NEWS PERTAINING TO THE KOREAN PENINSULAR](#)

• [TRUMP TO MEET WITH NORTH KOREA'S LEADER AT 2ND SUMMIT, WHITE HOUSE](#)

[ANNOUNCES](#) *By: The Associated Press*



North Korea leader Kim Jong Un, left, and U.S. President Donald Trump conclude their meetings in Singapore in June 2018. The White House announced Friday, Jan. 18 that a second summit is planned for February. (Susan Walsh/Pool photo via AP)

President Donald Trump is to hold a [second summit](#) with the leader of North Korea near the end of February to try to coax the North to give up its nuclear program.

The announcement came at the White House Friday after Trump met with a North Korean envoy.



White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Trump met for 90 minutes with [Kim Yong Chol](#) to discuss denuclearization and a second summit. Kim Yong Chol is a North Korean senior ruling party official and former intelligence chief.

Sanders said the president looks forward to meeting with [North Korean leader Kim Jong Un](#) at a place to be announced at a later date.



NORTH KOREA'S KIM LOOKING TO 'ACHIEVE RESULTS' WITH TRUMP IN 2ND SUMMIT AMID NUCLEAR STANDOFF

Kim Jong Un says if things don't improve, North Korea may find "a new way" forward.

By: Christopher Bodeen, The Associated Press

Trump had his first, historic meeting with Kim Jong Un last June in Singapore and reached a vague denuclearization agreement, but little tangible progress has been made since.

So far, no details have been publicly released about how denuclearization could occur.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the North Korean former spy chief met early Friday to resume efforts to arrange a second summit.

Trump has spoken several times of having a second summit early this year, and he's exchanged multiple letters with Kim Jong Un despite little progress on the denuclearization agreement reached at their first meeting.

Since the first one, several private analysts have published reports detailing continuing North Korean development of nuclear and missile technology. A planned meeting between Pompeo and the envoy, North Korea's former spy chief, in New York last November was called off abruptly. U.S. officials said at the time that North Korea had canceled the session.

The talks have stalled over North Korea's refusal to provide a detailed accounting of its nuclear and missile facilities that would be used by inspectors to verify any deal to dismantle them.



By: Kyle Rempfer

• PENCE CHANNELS HIS INNER BUSH WITH 'WOLF PACK OF ROGUE STATES' COMMENTS

The vice president named to the "Wolf Pack" the rogue states included in the Bush administration's Axis of Evil, but added newcomers in Latin America.

The North has demanded that the U.S. end harsh economic penalties and provide security guarantees before the North takes any steps beyond its initial suspension of nuclear and missile tests.

Vice President Mike Pence said Wednesday that the U.S. is still awaiting "concrete steps" by North Korea to dismantle the nuclear weapons that threaten our people and our allies in the region."

Trump has offered assurances that a second summit could allow the two leaders to seal a deal resolving the nuclear standoff and improving a relationship marked by decades of animosity and mistrust since the Korean War.

Kim Jong Un expressed frustration in an annual New Year's address over the lack of progress in negotiations. But on a visit to Beijing last week, he said North Korea would pursue a second summit "to achieve results that will be welcomed by the international community," according to China's official Xinhua News Agency.

Kim's latest trip to China, his fourth since last year, came as the North's strongest ally has encouraged negotiations with the U.S. while at the same time arguing in favor of immediate easing of sanctions.

The U.S. and North Korea seemed close to war at points during 2017. The North staged a series of weapons tests that brought it closer to its nuclear goal of one day being able to target anywhere on the U.S. mainland. The two sides then turned to insulting each other: Trump called Kim "Little Rocket Man" and North Korea said Trump was a "dotard."

Kim abruptly turned to diplomacy with Seoul and Washington last year, possibly fearing economic harm from the penalties imposed over the weapons tests.

Still, even after the Singapore summit, the first between U.S. and North Korean leaders, there has been little real progress in nuclear disarmament.

Independent analysts are highly skeptical that North Korea will easily abandon a nuclear arsenal constructed in the face of deep poverty and probably seen by Kim as his only guarantee of his government's survival

- **TALKS ON 2ND SUMMIT FOR TRUMP, KIM SET FOR WASHINGTON**



By: Matthew Lee, The Associated Press

U.S. President Donald Trump, right, meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore in June 2018. This week Kim Yong Chol, a North Korean senior ruling party official and former intelligence chief, is expected to meet with U.S. officials in Washington for talks ahead of a possible second summit between Trump and Kim Jong Un. (Evan Vucci/AP)

WASHINGTON — High-level talks aimed at finalizing a second summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un are planned for this week in Washington, two U.S.

officials said Thursday.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is expected to meet former North Korean spy chief Kim Yong Chol at a Washington hotel on Friday, the officials said.

The meeting will likely be followed by a Kim visit to the White House, where he could meet with Trump, according to the officials, who were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Neither the U.S. nor North Korea has announced any meetings, although earlier Thursday, Kim Yong Chol arrived in Beijing, where he was booked on a flight to the U.S., South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported.

Trump has spoken several times of having a second summit with Kim early this year despite little tangible progress on a vague denuclearization agreement reached at their first meeting in Singapore last June.

A planned meeting between Pompeo and Kim Yong Chol in New York last November was called off abruptly. U.S. officials said at the time that North Korea had canceled the session.

The talks had stalled over North Korea's refusal to provide a detailed accounting of its nuclear and missile facilities that would be used by inspectors to verify any deal to dismantle them.

The North has been demanding that the [U.S.](#) lift harsh sanctions and provide it with security guarantees before it takes any steps beyond its initial suspension of nuclear and missile tests.

[Kim Jong Un](#) expressed frustration in an annual New Year's address over the lack of progress in negotiations. But on a visit to Beijing last week, he said North Korea would pursue a second summit "to achieve results that will be welcomed by the international community," according to China's official Xinhua News Agency.

• **KIM JONG UN SAYS HE'S READY FOR MORE TALKS WITH TRUMP** By: [Kim Tong-Hyung, The Associated Press](#)

In this undated image from video distributed on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019, by North Korean broadcaster KRT, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un delivers a speech in North Korea. (KRT via AP)



SEOUL, South Korea — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said Tuesday he hopes to extend his high-stakes nuclear summit with President Donald Trump into 2019, but also warns Washington not to test North Koreans' patience with sanctions and pressure.

During his televised New Year's speech, Kim said he's ready to meet with Trump at any time to produce an outcome "welcomed by the international community." However, he said the North will be forced to take a different path if the United States "continues to break its promises and misjudges our patience by unilaterally demanding certain things and pushes ahead with sanctions and pressure."

Kim also said the United States should continue to halt its joint military exercises with ally South Korea and not deploy strategic military assets to the South. He also made a nationalistic call urging for stronger inter-Korean cooperation and said the North is ready to resume operations at a jointly run factory park in the North Korean border town of Kaesong and restart South Korean tours to the North's Diamond Mountain resort. Neither of those is possible for South Korea unless sanctions are removed. Some analysts say North Korea has been trying to drive a wedge between Washington and Seoul while putting the larger burden of action on the United States. Pyongyang over the past months has accused Washington of failing to take corresponding measures following the North's unilateral dismantlement of a nuclear testing ground and suspension of nuclear and long-range missile tests.

Kim used his New Year's speech a year ago to start a newfound diplomatic approach with Seoul and Washington, which led to three summits with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and a historic June summit with Trump in Singapore. Kim also met three times with Chinese President Xi Jinping, which boosted his leverage by reintroducing Beijing — Pyongyang's main ally — as a major player in the diplomatic process to resolve the nuclear standoff.

But nuclear talks between Washington and Pyongyang have stalled in recent months as they struggle with the sequencing of North Korea's disarmament and the removal of U.S.-led sanctions against the North.

The North has also bristled at U.S. demands to provide a detailed account of nuclear and missile facilities that would be inspected and dismantled under a potential deal.

The hardening stalemate has fueled doubts on whether Kim will ever voluntarily relinquish the nuclear weapons and missiles he may see as his strongest guarantee of survival. In his meetings with Trump and Moon, Kim signed vague statements calling for the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula without describing when and how it would occur.

But North Korea for decades has been pushing a concept of denuclearization that bears no resemblance to the American definition, with Pyongyang vowing to pursue nuclear development until the United States removes its troops and the nuclear umbrella defending South Korea and Japan. The North used a blunt statement last month reiterated its traditional stance on denuclearization, saying it will never unilaterally give up its weapons unless Washington removes what Pyongyang describes as a nuclear threat.

Washington and Pyongyang have yet to reschedule a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and senior North Korean officials after the North canceled it at the last minute in November. There are views that North Korea wants a quick second summit because it thinks it can win major concessions from Trump that they probably couldn't from lower-level U.S. officials, who are more adamant about the North committing to inspections and verification.

• **TRUMP SAYS HE'S READY TO MEET AGAIN WITH KIM JONG UN:** *Deb Riechmann, The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Wednesday that he has received a letter from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and will be setting up a meeting with Kim “in the not-too-distant future” to restart talks about the North’s nuclear programs.

"He'd like to meet. I'd like to meet," Trump said as he held up the letter during a Cabinet meeting.

Earlier in the day, Trump tweeted: "Kim Jong Un says North Korea will not make or test nuclear weapons or give them to others — & he is ready to meet President Trump anytime."

Kim has met several times with the leader of South Korea and attended a summit in Singapore with Trump in June. Kim has signed vague statements pledging a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula but has not described how and when that might occur.

In a New Year's message, Kim hinted at a possible cap on nuclear weapons production if the U.S. took equivalent steps. He did not elaborate. He also stood by his commitment on denuclearization, which does not mean the unilateral ridding of the North's arsenal. Both areas need to be further clarified in negotiations.

Kim sees such weapons as a valuable deterrent to a possible U.S. military strike. He also believes his weapons put him in a position of strength from which he can make demands and extract concessions.

The message he is conveying to Trump is for the American leader to start addressing his concerns about security and easing sanctions or the North Korean will have no choice but to try a different, less-friendly approach. Kim is warning that he will be able to make a case to China, Russia and possibly even South Korea that if the situation deteriorates, Washington will be to blame.

During the Cabinet meeting, Trump lamented that he's not been given enough credit for opening a dialogue with North Korea. Trump said his engagement with North Korea helped stave off what he said, "could have been World War III."

But he and Kim spent most of 2017 exchanging personal insults and war threats before agreeing to their meeting in Singapore.

"You know, frankly, if this administration didn't take place, if another administration came in instead of this administration ... you'd be at war right now," he told reporters. "You'd be having a nice, big fat war in Asia. And it wouldn't be pleasant."

Before Trump took office, the United States engaged in four major negotiations with North Korea over its nuclear and missile programs, stretching from the mid-1990s to about 2012. All were aimed at getting North Korea to halt or disable its nuclear missile programs in exchange for economic and diplomatic concessions.

Trump also said North Korea has tremendous economic potential, so he looked forward to meeting again with Kim. “We’ll set that up,” he said. “We’ll be setting that up in the not too distant future.”



• **KIM JONG UN LEAVES CHINA AFTER TALKS WITH XI ON TRUMP SANCTIONS** *In this image from the Korean Central News Agency, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his wife, Ri Sol Ju, walk in Pyongyang before boarding a train to China, Monday, Jan. 7, 2019. COURTESY OF KCNA*

By JIHYE LEE AND SHINHYE KANG | Bloomberg | North Korean leader Kim Jong Un left Beijing after talking and dining with Chinese President Xi Jinping, according to South Korean media, in a show of unity as they engage in delicate negotiations with President Donald Trump's administration.

Kim spent a little more than a day in the Chinese capital and was en route to

Pyongyang by 2 p.m. Wednesday local time, Yonhap News Agency of South Korea reported, citing unidentified officials. His delegation was seen off by high-ranking Chinese officials and honor guard at a Beijing train station and could return to North Korea as soon as Thursday morning, Yonhap said.

The trip — Kim's fourth to China since March — suggests negotiations over North Korea's nuclear arsenal are gaining momentum after months without high-level diplomatic exchanges. Trump is seeking a second summit with Kim to reenergize talks that have made little headway since their first meeting in June, saying Sunday a date would be announced "in the not-too-distant future."

Given the limited speeds of the heavily fortified Kim uses to travel, it could take 12 to 14 hours for him to reach the Chinese border city of Dandong, about 520 miles away, meaning he might spend the night in one of its luxury carriages before returning home.

Kim spoke with Xi for about an hour Tuesday night, discussing ways to strengthen their ties and lay out strategy for a potential summit between Kim and Trump on curbing Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions, Yonhap reported, citing unidentified people familiar with the talks. The DongA Ilbo newspaper said that Xi hosted Kim at a banquet, which was held on the date believed to be North Korean leader's 35th birthday.

Kim could be looking to leverage his relationship with Xi, who Trump has accused of relaxing pressure on North Korea, to push the U.S. to make concessions in nuclear talks. The North Korean leader said in his New Year's address that he might take a "new path" in negotiations if Trump didn't ease trade, travel and investment restrictions.

While Kim was in China, Xi's government was in talks with a visiting U.S. delegation over a trade war that has been extracting a financial cost on the world's two biggest economies. For Xi, whose country provides a lifeline to North Korea's anemic economy, the meeting with Kim reminds Trump that China's cooperation will make any nuclear deal more effective.

Still, China has denied any interest in using North Korea as a bargaining chip and doing so risked undermining a source of stability in its strained relations with the U.S.

Kim visited a factory of Chinese traditional pharmaceutical company the next morning and returned to the state guest house. He left there around noon, Yonhap reported.

There has been no mention of the meetings so far in Chinese or North Korean state media. Video footage shown on South Korean and Japanese media showed streets being cleared of traffic for a convoy of luxury vehicles, supposedly shuttling Kim through Beijing.

Naoko Aoki, a nuclear security fellow at the RAND Corp. in Washington, said that Kim's delegation included officials focused on diplomatic and security policy and some key economic players haven't been seen. "Judging from the delegation lineup, the mission appears to place emphasis on North Korea's continuing diplomatic outreach and nuclear and security issues," Aoki said.

Kim traveled to China -- his most important security and trade partner -- before meetings last year with Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in. Trump complained after a similar China trip in May that Xi might have emboldened Kim to take a harder line before their own eventual meeting in Singapore.

China and Russia, who both wield vetoes on the United Nations Security Council, have called for easing sanctions to reward Kim's move last year to halt weapons tests and dismantle some testing facilities. While there have been reports of easier inspections at the North Korean border, China has denied that it's relaxing pressure on the regime.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told a regular news briefing Tuesday in Beijing that Kim's visit had no bearing on U.S. trade talks. "China and the DPRK are friendly and close neighbors and it is also an important tradition for us to maintain friendly exchanges," Lu said, referring to North Korea's formal name.

SOUTH KOREA'S YOUTH GROUP SUPPORTS THE U.S.-ROK ALLIANCE AND THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN SOUTH KOREA PUBLISHED DATE JANUARY 14, 2019



ROK-U.S. Alliance Research Youth Committee held a rally 2019-1-6
 The majority of South Koreans support the U.S.-ROK (Republic of Korea) alliance and the presence of the U.S. military in South Korea. The older generation has expressed this view through their weekly flag rallies in Seoul, in which they wave both the South Korean and U.S. flags (7:40). There have also been anti-U.S. demonstrations, such as the one by the "Youth Resistance," which occurred in front of the U.S. Embassy in Seoul on January 1, 2019. An interesting development is occurring, however. A youth group, ROK-U.S. Alliance Research Youth Committee, held a pro-U.S. rally on January 6, 2019 at Gwanghwamun Square, Seoul. About 70 of them chanted continuously for 2

hours.

ROK-U.S. Alliance Research Youth Committee held a rally 2019-1-6

- "[South Korean government] Go ahead and provide [the increased burden share of the] defense cost for [stationing] U.S. forces [in South Korea]"
- "Resume the ROK-U.S. military exercises."
- "We support the stationing of the U.S. troops [in South Korea]."
Some signs read:
- "We Love USA; We Need USA; We Want USA"



- “Please Stay USA”
- “President Trump, Please Help Us”
- “Give Me Liberal Democracy or Death”
- “If ‘Democratic Miracle’ brings Communism, Is it really Democracy?”

ROK-U.S. Alliance Research Youth Committee held a rally 2019-1-6

They also held a mock funeral of the “the national security of liberal [free] democracy”—indicating their concern about the degradation of the national defense and its impact on their system of liberal democracy.



ROK-U.S. Alliance Research Youth Committee held a rally 2019-1-6

Additionally, students also said the following:

- Student leader: “We must stand with the U.S. If we are to defend [our] liberal democracy, we must maintain good relations with the U.S. The president of the U.S. requested [South Korea] to pay twice the current defense burden sharing cost. Is that such a difficult request?”
- Attendees: “No, it’s not.”
- Student leader: “Shouldn’t we be able to pay such amount to defend our national security?”
- Attendees: “Yes, that’s right.”
- Student leader: “But the [current] South Korean administration is requesting a discount from the U.S. Does that even make sense?”
- Attendees: “No, it doesn’t [make sense].”
- Student leader: “I’m so worried about the future of the Republic of Korea. We’re here to defend our liberal democracy. If the government is not going to defend our liberal democracy, shouldn’t we at least try to?”
- Attendees: “Yes, that’s right.”

What is significant about this rally is that the younger generation is beginning to speak out. It shows their genuine concern for the future of the country

● US, NORTH KOREA APPEAR HEADED TOWARD A SECOND SUMMIT, BUT TO WHAT END?

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, right, meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing, Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019.

COURTESY OF KCNA By [KIM GAMEL](#) / STARS AND STRIPES

SEOUL, South Korea — The stars are aligning for a second U.S.-North Korean summit as Kim Jong Un vowed to try to achieve good results this time and renewed his commitment to the denuclearization of the divided peninsula.

The North Korean leader gave no details about how he will do so, according to the Chinese report of his remarks Thursday. But both sides will be under pressure to deliver a more specific outcome than the general pledges made in their first meeting on June 12 in Singapore.



Talks have since stalled over differences on key details including the North's demands for a reciprocal approach that features rewards such as eased sanctions for steps already taken, including a moratorium on nuclear and long-range missile tests.

President Donald Trump's administration, meanwhile, insists it will maintain its "maximum pressure" campaign that it believes forced the communist state to the table.

Kim told Chinese President Xi Jinping during his visit to Beijing this week that he will try during his next summit with Trump "to achieve results that will be welcomed by the international community," according to the official Xinhua news agency.

North Korea "will continue sticking to the stance of denuclearization and resolving the Korean Peninsula issue through dialogue and consultation," Kim was quoted as saying.

He also expressed hope "that relevant parties will attach importance to and positively respond to [North Korea's] legitimate concerns, and jointly push for a comprehensive resolution of the Korean Peninsula issue."

Xi called on Washington and Pyongyang to "meet each other halfway," the report said.

Summit diplomacy

All sides have signaled that another U.S.-North Korean summit is imminent, with State Department and North Korean officials reportedly meeting recently in Hanoi, Vietnam, to discuss the venue.

Kim's fourth summit with Xi was widely seen as an effort by the North to coordinate strategy and get China's support for lifting sanctions ahead of the meeting with Trump.

"I think Chairman Kim Jong Un's visit to China is a sign that we are close to a second North Korea-U.S. summit," South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Thursday during a press conference.

"I expect we may hear news of high-level negotiations between the North and the U.S. in the near future."

The plans come as U.S. and North Korean officials have been unable to hammer out a deal at the lower levels, raising questions about whether the two leaders will be able to bridge the gap and make their next meeting more than a photo opportunity.

"Kim seems to only be interested in talking with the president, so the rough outlines of an agreement might need to happen at the top level," said Alexandra Bell, senior policy director for the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation.

"In a best-case scenario, both sides will agree to entering actual technical negotiations. That's the only way to get a deal," she added. "President Trump and Kim can agree on general parameters ... but will need the assistance of technical experts to reach actual agreements."

While Trump has insisted he's in no hurry, North Korea has expressed mounting frustration over the lack of progress despite what it says are sincere efforts that include the purported destruction of its main nuclear testing site.

Kim's trip to China followed his annual New Year's address in which he warned his country may need to find "a new way" forward if the situation doesn't improve.

The main sticking point appears to be a fundamental difference over the definition of denuclearization.

Washington has offered economic incentives and security guarantees only if the North dismantles its nuclear weapons program. But Pyongyang wants a step-by-step approach and said in December it will not unilaterally give up its nuclear weapons until the United States removes what it called an American nuclear threat.

North Korean propaganda often includes a veiled demand to remove some 28,500 U.S. servicemembers stationed in South Korea. The U.S. already has suspended annual joint war games with Seoul following the Singapore summit.

Moon, who has pushed to improve inter-Korean relations while brokering the nuclear talks, urged the North to take bolder disarmament measures and said Washington should reward them, an indication that he may support the eventual lifting of sanctions.

“North Korea knows it needs to take clearer denuclearization steps to see international sanctions lifted, and the United States is aware that reciprocal measures are needed to encourage these North Korean denuclearization steps,” Moon said.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who has yet to reschedule a high-stakes meeting with his North Korean counterpart that was canceled in November, has acknowledged it would take more than one summit to reach a solution.

“Lots of work ... is left to be done, but I’m confident that in the next short period of time President Trump and Chairman Kim will get the chance to meet again,” Pompeo said Friday in an interview with Sean Hannity on Fox News.

“I’d be surprised if we get all the way home in this meeting, although it would be fantastic if we did,” he added. “But suffice it to say I think we have set the conditions where we can make real progress.”

MOON EXPECTS CONCRETE OUTCOME AT NORTH KOREA-US SUMMIT By **ANDREW SALMON** SEOUL,

South Korean president upbeat on imminent North Korea-US summit, combative toward Japan and bullish on innovation and high technology investments



South Korean President Moon Jae-in holds his New Year press conference at the presidential Blue House in Seoul on January 10, 2019. Photo: AFP/Jung Yeon-je

South Korean president Moon Jae-in predicted that following Kim Jong Un’s visit to China this week, a second US-North Korea summit is imminent, and he expects more concrete outcomes from that meeting than the first, held in Singapore last June.

Moon, speaking at his annual New Year’s press conference, added that the presence of US troops in South Korea and around the region was not linked to North Korea’s denuclearization, but added that the US needed to come up with corresponding measures to encourage North Korea.

He also discussed his plans and hopes for the national economy, with the focus being on innovation, technology, job growth and social welfare spending.

However, he was in a take-no-prisoners mode on the dire state of relations between Seoul and Tokyo.

Second summit soon

“Chairman Kim Jong Un’s visit to China is, in short, a signal that the second North Korea-US summit is going to happen in the near future,” he said, adding “the very near future.”

Kim has just returned home after a surprisingly short overnight visit to China, which he took by train reportedly accompanied by high-level officials. The trip was businesslike: As well as meeting President Xi Jinping for talks, Kim visited a traditional medicine factory.

Moon said that in the second summit, Pyongyang should come up with “drastic measures” on denuclearization, adding that he thought the second summit should include “clear and specific” agreements.

While nothing has been confirmed, there are indications that Hanoi, Vietnam, may be the setting for the next summit.

The first North Korea-US summit, in Singapore last June, ended with a broadly aspirational, but non-detailed declaration, lacking binding measures or timelines. In the months since, progress has ground to a virtual standstill. “North Korea knows that for the international sanctions to be lifted, they have to do more on denuclearization, and from the US side, they need to come up with counter-measures that benefit North Korea’s endeavors,” he said.

As for the issue of what denuclearization should involve, Moon cited the halting of missile launches and nuclear tests, the closure of the main North Korean nuclear facility at Yongbyon, the admission of international monitors and the dismantlement of ICBMs and missile assembly lines.

Moon said it was his belief that Kim’s understanding of what denuclearization meant was in synch with the understanding of other global leaders. And contrary to a detailed commentary on the issue published in North Korean media late last year, “denuclearization of the Korean peninsula” – the Pyongyang-preferred term that was used in the Singapore summit declaration – did not encompass US troops and assets in South Korea or around the region, Moon said.

“Chairman Kim, when it comes to denuclearization and to an end-of-war treaty as well, thinks these are separate from US forces in Korea, so USFK is not linked to the denuclearization process of the Korean peninsula,” Moon said.

“As two sovereign nations, the US and Korea have an alliance and this is why USFK is residing in [South] Korea. This will not affect future dialog between the US and North Korea ... to keep USFK in Korea lies in the hands of Washington and Seoul.”

As for US regional military assets in Guam and elsewhere, Moon said that they “correspond to peace and stability in Northeast Asia as a whole ... I don’t think these other issues are related to US-North Korea talks.”

However, Moon was optimistic on the possibility of real progress, given that the current North Korea-US process is being undertaken with a top-down approach, driven by national leaders Kim and US President Donald Trump, unlike the processes of former years, which were led by working- and vice-ministerial-level officials.

On the issue of a widely anticipated visit by Kim to Seoul, expected last December, Moon said the trip presented challenges for North Korea, whose leaders have never visited the South.

Pundits have suggested that with global sanctions in place, the two Korean leaders had little left to discuss in December, having already held three summits in 2018. Moon said he expected another inter-Korean summit to take place after the upcoming North Korea-US summit.

North Korea investment

Calling potential South Korean investment in North Korea “a new wind,” Moon said: “This is a unique opportunity that only we possess ... I don’t know when we can utilize this opportunity, but this is definitely a blessing for our economy.”

And while he expressed hopes for the reopening of a South Korean factory zone and tourism complex inside North Korea, he conceded that sanctions make economic exchanges impossible at present.

“There is nothing we can do at this moment, but we are making all preparatory measures, so we will be able to start the moment that sanctions are relieved,” he said.

Meanwhile, Seoul-Tokyo relations are in tatters. One dispute centers on whether, as Tokyo insists, a Korean destroyer “painted” a Japanese aircraft last month with its targeting radar.

Another involves the decision by a South Korean court, this week, to enable asset seizures from Japanese companies in Korea to compensate Korean victims of forced labor during World War II.

Tokyo angrily maintains that related compensation was covered in a 1965 diplomatic relations treaty that was accompanied by an \$800 million financial aid package.

Moon said the 1965 treaty “did not suffice” and suggested that Tokyo take a “humble approach” toward historical issues. He acknowledged that Tokyo could “express regrets,” but stated that judicial decisions should be respected by governments.

He also accused Tokyo of stirring tensions over the recent issues. “The leaders of Japan and politicians in Japan, I believe ... were trying to produce more provocations and news,” he said. “I don’t think this is the right thing to do.”

Big money, high tech

In his address, Moon noted that South Korea had reached the “US\$30,000 per capita income” level, but the approval ratings of the formerly hugely-popular president are now in the late 40% range – a huge fall from the 80% ratings he was enjoying one year prior.

Despite the rosy metrics Moon cited, the falls in his ratings appear to be driven by slowing GDP growth, rising income inequality and, in particular, falling job growth, most especially quality job growth. Small businesses, in particular, have lambasted his raising of the minimum wage.

Moon – who has just undertaken a cabinet reshuffle this year in which he replaced his chief of staff, widely seen as being hard left and even pro-North Korean – acknowledged perennial economic problems.

“Over the long haul, the percentage of corporate income in the GDP has steadily increased more than the economic growth rate, while that of household income has continued to decline,” he admitted.

“The trickle-down effect has long ago ended. Also, increasing exports stopped bringing about a rise in employment long ago.”

He called for greater innovation in an economy that is known for effective metal bashing, but is criticized for being hidebound, citing the importance of innovation in key national industries: automobiles, shipbuilding and petrochemical industries.

He announced investments in “strategic, innovative industries” worth 5.2 trillion won (US\$4.6 billion). Key areas are data, artificial intelligence and the hydrogen economy, as well as smart factories, smart cities, self-driving cars and drones.

“The number of smart factories was only about 300 by 2014, but it will be drastically raised to 30,000 by 2022,” he said.

Now there are 57,000 electric vehicles on Korean roads. Moon said the government was planning on increasing the number of electric and hydrogen cars to 430,000 and 67,000, respectively, by 2023, as well as some 2,000 hydrogen buses.

Hyundai Motor Group has announced massive investments in hydrogen fuel cell technologies, and Moon expressed his hopes that the auto giant – which, in recent years has been offshoring to gain better access to overseas markets and to dilute the problems it faces with its militant domestic union, rather than investing at home – would create new plants in South Korea.

On the HR front, Moon pledged to foster 45,000 masters and PhD degree holders in “pace-setting innovative growth areas” as well as 40,000 skilled innovators in science, technology and ICT by the end of his term in 2022. He also announced major investments in social welfare and pledged to continue supporting cultural industries, noting the success of BTS and Korean dramas internationally.

● **NORTH KOREA’S KIM LOOKING TO ‘ACHIEVE RESULTS’ WITH TRUMP IN 2ND SUMMIT AMID**

NUCLEAR STANDOFF BY: CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chinese President Xi Jinping, left, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un review an honor guard during a welcome ceremony for Kim at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Jan. 8, 2019. Kim's four-day trip to China is seen as an effort by him to coordinate with his only major ally ahead of a second summit with U.S. President Donald Trump. (Shen Hong/Xinhua via AP)



BEIJING — North Korean leader [Kim Jong Un](#) has reportedly told the leader of his only major ally, China, that he wants to “achieve results” on the [nuclear standoff](#) on the Korean Peninsula during a [second summit with U.S. President Donald Trump](#). The comments, contained in Chinese state media reports Thursday, came a day after Kim left Beijing on his special armored train

after a two-day visit to the Chinese capital.

Kim's trip to China — his fourth in the past 10 months — is believed to be an effort to coordinate with Beijing ahead of a possible second summit with Trump. It comes after U.S. and North Korean officials are thought to have met in Vietnam to discuss the site of the summit.



- **TRUMP SAYS HE'S READY TO MEET AGAIN WITH KIM JONG UN**

President Donald Trump said Wednesday that he has received a letter from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and will be setting up a meeting with Kim “in the not-too-distant future” to restart talks about the North’s nuclear programs. *By: Deb Riechmann, The Associated Press*

North Korea will "make efforts for the second summit between (North Korean) and U.S. leaders to achieve results that will be welcomed by the international community," Kim was quoted as saying by China's official Xinhua News Agency.

All sides should “jointly push for a comprehensive resolution of the Korean Peninsula issue” and North Korea will “continue sticking to the [stance of denuclearization](#) and resolving the Korean Peninsula issue through dialogue and consultation,” Xinhua quoted Kim as saying.

Kim also said North Korea hopes its "legitimate concerns" will be given due respect, a reference to its desire for security guarantees and a possible peace treaty to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War.

He also credited Chinese President Xi Jinping with helping reduce regional tensions, saying "the Korean Peninsula situation has been easing since last year, and China's important role in this process is obvious to all."

The North's Korean Central News Agency reported that Kim told Xi that the North remains unchanged in its push to seek a negotiated resolution of the nuclear standoff. It said Kim also mentioned unspecified difficulties in improving ties with the United States and moving nuclear diplomacy forward.

Xi was quoted by Xinhua as saying that China supports the U.S.-North Korea summits and hopes the two sides "will meet each other halfway." KCNA said Xi accepted an invitation to visit North Korea, although details of when he might go were not given.

Xi has yet to visit North Korea since taking office in 2012.

- **STANDOFF BETWEEN U.S., NORTH KOREA**

Trump and Kim met in Singapore in June for the first-ever leaders' meeting between their nations, but there has been a standoff ever since, with dueling accusations of bad faith.

Kim's Beijing visit was seen as part of an effort to win Chinese support for a reduction of U.N. sanctions imposed over his nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs. The sanctions have severely impacted his country's already ailing economy.

While North Korea hasn't conducted any test launches or detonations in more than a year, it has displayed no real intention of abandoning the programs that are seen as guaranteeing the government's survival.

The trip also came after he expressed frustration in his annual New Year's address over the lack of progress in negotiations with Washington since the Singapore summit, saying that if things don't improve — meaning that if sanctions relief and security guarantees aren't in the offing — North Korea might have to find "a new way" forward.

While Trump says he considers Xi key to enticing Kim into taking concrete steps toward denuclearization, the president's own relationship with his Chinese counterpart has frayed over the U.S.-China trade war.

Officially, at least, China says it considers the tariff battle and North Korea's weapons programs to be entirely separate.

At Tuesday's daily Chinese foreign ministry briefing, spokesman Lu Kang said Beijing remains supportive of efforts to end tensions over U.S. demands for a halt to North Korea's nuclear and missile programs.

"We always believe that, as key parties to the Korean Peninsula issue, it's important for the two sides to maintain contact and we always support their dialogue to achieve positive outcomes," Lu said.

- **TRUMP'S DEMAND THAT SOUTH KOREA PAY MORE FOR US TROOPS LEADS TO IMPASSE** *U.S. soldiers take part in a transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on Oct. 22, 2018. According to reports on Jan. 12, 2019, U.S. negotiators are asking Seoul to pay roughly 50 percent more towards the cost of hosting U.S. troops on the Korean peninsula* By DAVID S. CLOUD AND VICTORIA KIM |

WASHINGTON (Tribune News Service) — South Korea is resisting a Trump administration demand for sharply higher payments to defray the cost of basing U.S. forces on its territory, raising fears that President Donald Trump might threaten a troop drawdown at a time of sensitive diplomacy on the Korean peninsula.



U.S. negotiators have sought a 50 percent increase in Seoul's annual payment, which last year was about \$830 million, or about half of the estimated cost of hosting 28,500 U.S. troops, according to two U.S. officials familiar with the discussions.

The U.S. stance reflects Trump's view that U.S. allies have taken advantage of American military protection for decades — a view resented by many South Korean officials, who say they already pay more to the U.S. than almost any other American ally except Japan.

Talks that began last March on a five-year funding agreement were suspended after negotiators did not agree on a new one by the end of 2018, when the last agreement expired.

South Korea, which initially called for adjusting annual payments only to account for inflation, is expected to make a counteroffer this month, but it is unlikely to satisfy the White House, U.S. officials said.

"The Koreans want to keep the status quo," said one U.S. official who discussed the deliberations on the condition of anonymity. "But the president had made clear, not just to Korea but to other allies, that the status quo won't do."

The standoff is straining the long-standing alliance as Trump plans a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to renew the U.S. push for elimination of Pyongyang's nuclear arsenal, and South Korean President Moon Jae-in is pursuing his own rapprochement with Kim.

South Korea is anxious about a potential withdrawal of U.S. troops if an agreement can't be reached, and umbrage over hardest bargaining from its closest ally since the Korean War, which ended 66 years ago.

"If it was reasonable, we'd go along," said Song Young-gil, a member of the National Assembly. "But the Trumpian way of ... accusing us of free riding – we can't cave to that. ... Whether it's Korean money or American money, it's taxpayer funds."

Song, who belongs to the same party as Moon and supports engagement with North Korea, said he believed that threats to remove U.S. troops are a negotiating tactic and would not happen given America's broader strategic interests in northeast Asia.

Bruce Klingner, a former CIA analyst on Asia at the Heritage Foundation, a Washington think tank, called the dispute "worrisome."

"President Trump could again threaten to reduce troops, either as a negotiating tactic or to fulfill his campaign promise that Seoul has to pay 100 percent of U.S. troop costs or he would remove them," Klingner said.

"Conversely, President Moon could insist he won't pay any higher reimbursement costs even if it means ... fewer U.S. forces." Either scenario could lead to "a premature reduction of U.S. forces in South Korea," he said.

Trump's ability to withdraw troops is limited, however. Congress last year passed a law barring the Pentagon from reducing troop levels in Korea below 22,000 unless the president certifies to Congress that doing so is in U.S. national security interest.

Negotiators are considering various ideas to break the impasse, including having South Korea pay a portion of the U.S. cost of joint military training exercises, or to help defray costs of deploying U.S. bombers, warships, missile defense batteries and other military assets when tensions with North Korea are high, according to one of the U.S. officials.

A commitment by Seoul to pick up some of those costs could help Trump claim that he succeeded in forcing a key ally to pay more for the cost of U.S. military protection.

But major U.S.-South Korean military drills have been suspended since June, when Trump stopped them after his first summit with Kim in Singapore. In addition, the cost of such exercises is tiny compared with what South Korea pays every year for hosting U.S. troops.

The last funding agreement, signed in 2014, increased Seoul's contribution to more than \$830 million a year. That's about half the annual cost of keeping 28,500 U.S. troops in South Korea, not counting salaries and other personnel costs the Defense Department pays no matter where the troops are posted.

The money doesn't go to Washington, however. It's used to pay salaries of Koreans working on U.S. bases in South Korea, or is in the form of noncash contributions of services and construction at U.S. installations there.

South Korea also is funding more than 90 percent of a \$10.8 billion construction project that will allow U.S. troops to move from bases near Seoul and the Demilitarized Zone along the border with North Korea to new installations farther south.

Song, the South Korean legislator, said that such favorable terms ensured that Trump would not pull out in the end.

"The U.S. will never give up a base they're keeping under these great terms," he said. "They won't be able to give it up."

Song said he viewed the haggling over cost-sharing as a practical matter that wouldn't influence the U.S.-South Korean alliance.

Many conservatives in South Korea, though, worry that the stalled talks are signs of a fraying relationship.

Park Hwee-rhak, a Kookmin University professor who has researched military cost-sharing agreements, said the dispute was "threatening the foundation of the alliance."

He said South Korea could easily pay the increase given that its defense budget tops \$42 billion this year.

Park said he believed that Trump was seriously considering removing the U.S. troops in Korea while Moon was forced to cater to a political base that includes student activists who have historically opposed U.S. military presence in Korea.

In a news conference this week, Moon said he believed that Kim Jong Un understood that the presence of U.S. troops on the Korean peninsula was not directly tied to whether North Korea gives up its nuclear arsenal.

"U.S. troops in Korea, or strategic assets the U.S. has in Guam or Japan, ... don't exist only in relation to North Korea but for the overall security and peace of Northeast Asia," Moon said. "My perspective is that there isn't a high possibility they will be used as a condition in the denuclearization talks between the U.S. and North Korea."

Mike Bosack, a U.S. Air Force captain who worked on cost-sharing negotiations with Japan from 2014 to 2016, said the Trump administration was jeopardizing its alliance with South Korea.

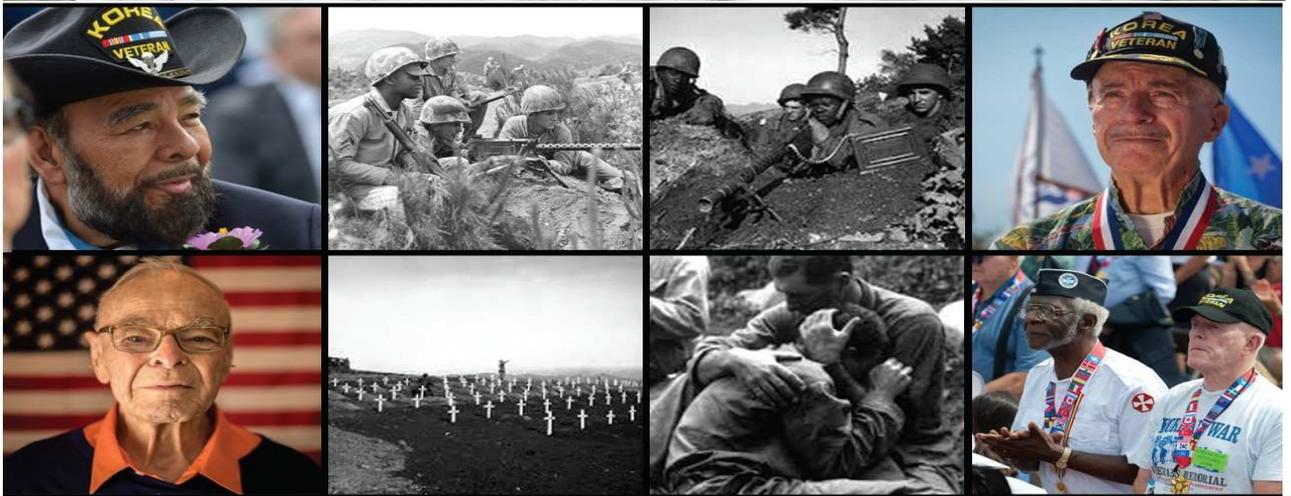
Bosack said the brinkmanship would benefit North Korea by potentially making the U.S. military less popular in South Korea and driving a wedge between Washington and Seoul.

"If the two allies are not in lockstep, they could undermine each other or rush into agreements with the Kim regime that have negative long term outcomes," he wrote in an email. "North Korea would be foolish not to exploit this seam."

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 December 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.



MIA UPDATE: This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced new identifications. Returning home with full military honors are:

—**Army Cpl. John G. Krebs,** killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on Dec. 17, 2018.

On July 11, 1950, Krebs was a member of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, engaged in combat operations against the North Korean People's Army south of Chonui, South Korea, when he was declared missing in action.

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

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

—**Army Pfc. James C. Williams,** killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on Dec. 20, 2018.

On July 20, 1950, Williams was a member of Medical Company, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, when he was killed in action near Taejon, South Korea. Multiple eye witnesses stated that shortly after Williams had been sent to collect wounded Soldiers with a litter jeep, he was killed while trying to transport patients from the Taejon Air Strip. Fellow Soldiers returned Williams' remains to the collection point, however after his death, the 34th Infantry Regiment's Medical Company was ordered to withdraw, and his remains were left behind.

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

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

--**Army Sgt. Frank J. Suliman,** killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on Jan. 15, 2019.

In late 1950, Suliman was a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, fighting against members of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in North Korea. On Dec. 1, 1950, the convoy of trucks Suliman was riding in was halted by a roadblock south of Kunuri, North Korea, and the Soldiers were commanded to abandon the vehicles and attempt to get through the road block on foot. Fellow Soldiers reported that Suliman was captured and taken to the CPVF prisoner of war camp at Pukchin-Tarigol, North Korea, where he reportedly died in March 1951.

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

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

Suliman's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his

name to indicate he has been accounted for.

• AS THE AMERICAN LEGION TURNS 100, ENROLLMENT IS TRENDING DOWNWARDS

The Issue: *The American Legion is celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2019, but enrollment is down dramatically over the last decade. ***The Impact:*** *With declining numbers and current members getting older, there is a concern that the legion will struggle to continue to serve veterans and the communities.**

When World War I came to an end and the European front was in shambles, the bulk of American soldiers who had been instrumental in the Allied victory were still in France, waiting to be shipped home. Their desire to return home would lead to the formation of The American Legion, a service for veterans of the war, with the first chapter being founded in Paris in March 1919.

Over the years the Legion expanded into America, with membership peaking after World War II with an estimated 3.3 million members. Today, nearly 100 years later, enrollment is just under 2 million veterans, something that is of concern to Legion executives.

“In Massachusetts we are down to 295 posts and about 35,000 members, which is down from about 80,000 just 10 years ago,” said Milton Lashus, an adjutant for the American Legion Department of Massachusetts. “A lot of World War II veterans are gone, Korean War vets are getting up there, Vietnam vets now are in their 60s and 70s. We need to recruit and welcome the vets from Bosnia, Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan.”

Lashus said that he first became involved with the American Legion in 1971 after he finished his service. He was attracted to the group because veterans that he knew before he enlisted were also members, and he could be a part of the Legion’s color guard. Lashus said that today, young people are busier and it’s harder for them to dedicate the time to become a Legion member.

“A lot of young guys have a lot more responsibility. They probably have a spouse who works, they have children and activities, some of them work two jobs. It’s not like it was 50, 60 years ago,” Lashus said.

Lashus said the recruitment process begins when a member of the military is first deployed, noting that they are willing to offer whatever support they may need.

“If you are being deployed, and you have a pregnant wife at home, and you need someone to go out and mow your lawn, or shovel your walkway, that’s all part of our community service,” Lashus said. “The Legion has been here for 99 years serving veterans, and we will continue to support them however we can.”

Lashus said a key part in recruiting is marketing the Legion as an important part of the community and not simply as a bar where people share war stories.

In Maynard, American Legion Post 235 was formed in 1919 with headquarters in Riverside Hall. It was named the Frank Demars Post in honor of the first Maynard man to fall in the war.

Today, The American Legion Post 235 has about six active members, according to Marge Iannuzzo, past commander, although on paper they have some 60 or 70 members. Most of those members are from the Korean War or Vietnam era, she said.

About 16 of the Legion’s members are life members, she said.

“You are granted life membership in the American Legion for the services you have provided to your community or your state,” Iannuzzo said. “It’s an honor that you are given. It defines people who have worked diligently for the organization.”

She said they are not trying to recruit new members.

“We are just trying to maintain the post,” she said.

About two years ago, they sold the American Legion building on Summer Street, she said, because it was too expensive to maintain. The infusion of cash from the sale helps pay for the Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades in Maynard, run by the Legion. They also recently donated a new flag and flagpole, which is placed at Alumni Field in Maynard.

Iannuzzo, who, like all the members of the American Legion, is a veteran herself, said they no longer meet on a regular basis, reserving meetings to plan events, such as the parades.

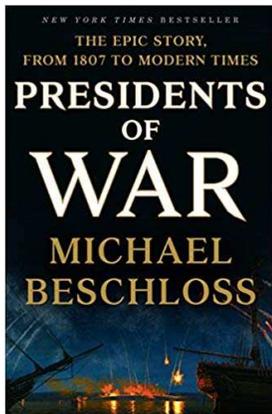
“I’ve enjoyed serving the veteran community in the town of Maynard over many years and I think it’s a wonderful organization in support of our troops,” she said.

- **VETERANS IN 116TH CONGRESS:** A total of 96 military veterans were sworn in yesterday as members of the 116th Congress. According to an Army Times article, 19 are serving in the Senate and 77 in the House, for an overall veteran percentage of 17.9 percent. Four decades ago the percentage of military veterans in Congress exceeded 70 percent. Other demographics:

- 48 served in the military after the year 2000;
- 30 are Democrats and 66 are Republicans;
- 19 are first-time lawmakers; and
- 7 are women

[Read the Army Times article here.](#)

BOOK REVIEW



BOOK REVIEW: Did Pres. Truman call the early days of the Korean War a “police action?” Did he really say it? Historian Michael Beschloss clears it up in his best-seller book. For historians or for anyone with an interest in the events behind the presidents who had to deal with a conflict in which the United States became engaged, *Presidents of War* by Presidential historian Michael Beschloss has the story. The book is heavy, being over 700 pages, but it is a historian’s dream. From James Madison and the War of 1812 to recent times, we see them struggling with Congress, the courts, the press, their own advisors and antiwar protesters; seeking comfort from their spouses, families and friends; and dropping to their knees in prayer. Readers will understand how these presidents were able to withstand the pressures of war—both physically and emotionally—or were broken by them. Pres. Harry S. Truman and his “police action” remark

With the case of President Harry Truman and the infamous line he is accused of saying, Historian Beschloss straightens out that also. He writes that during a session with Congressional leaders and the press, as U.S. troops were arriving on the Korean peninsula, a member of the press asked Truman, “Would it be correct, against your explanation, to call this a police action?” The president’s response was: “Yes, that’s about what it amounts to.” Headlines after the press conference touted the President’s impromptu endorsement of the term “police action.” Emphasis definitely there. So, while the term “police action” did not actually emit from the president’s mouth, the emphasis was definitely there. And as U.S. soldiers arrived in Korea to face the Communist invasion and heard the definition of “police action,” they wondered “if it’s a police action, where are all the cops?”



Pres. Harry S. Truman and his “police action” remark

The author also covers some of the “smaller” conflicts such as the Mexican War of 1847. What was that all about? Or the story behind President James Madison and the War of 1812 who vacated the White House and retreated across the Potomac to Virginia in rapid speed to escape the advancing British. More of interest to Korea War veterans is of course, the section on Korea. Beschloss devotes some 100 pages to the “conflict” as it was called in the early days. Beschloss’s interviews with surviving participants in the drama and his findings in original letters, diaries, once-classified national security documents, and other sources help him to tell this story in a way it has not been told before. Well written, full of engaging footnotes and excellent detail, it’s the kind of book that keeps our history vibrant and meaningful. It also contains a number of pictures to accompany the sterling dialog. (Note: I realize this is a long piece for a book review, but it’s a big book and certainly noteworthy of a few paragraphs in my view –B.R.). Did Pres. Truman call the early days of the Korean War a “police action?” Did he really say it? Historian Michael Beschloss clears it up in his best-seller book. For historians or for anyone with an interest in the events behind the presidents who had to deal with a

conflict in which the United States became engaged, *Presidents of War* by Presidential historian Michael Beschloss has the story. The book is heavy, being over 700 pages, but it is a historian's dream. From James Madison and the War of 1812 to recent times, we see them struggling with Congress, the courts, the press, their own advisors and antiwar protesters; seeking comfort from their spouses, families and friends; and dropping to their knees in prayer. Readers will understand how these presidents were able to withstand the pressures of war—both physically and emotionally—or were broken by them. Pres. Harry S. Truman and his “police action” remark with the case of President Harry Truman and the infamous line he is accused of saying, Historian Beschloss straightens out that also. He writes that 2 during a session with Congressional leaders and the press, as U.S. troops were arriving on the Korean peninsula, a member of the press asked Truman, “Would it be correct, against your explanation, to call this a police action?” The president's response was: “Yes, that's about what it amounts to.” Headlines after the press conference touted the President's impromptu endorsement of the term “police action.” Emphasis definitely there So, while the term “police action” did not actually emit from the president's mouth, the emphasis was definitely there. And as U.S. soldiers arrived in Korea to face the Communist invasion and heard the definition of “police action,” they wondered “if it's a police action, where are all the cops?” The author also covers some of the “smaller” conflicts such as the Mexican War of 1847. What was that all about? Or the story behind President James Madison and the War of 1812 who vacated the White House and retreated across the Potomac to Virginia in rapid speed to escape the advancing British. More on Korea Of more interest to Korea War veterans is of course, the section on Korea. Beschloss devotes some 100 pages to the “conflict” as it was called in the early days. Beschloss's interviews with surviving participants in the drama and his findings in original letters, diaries, once-classified national security documents, and other sources help him to tell this story in a way it has not been told before Well written, full of engaging footnotes and excellent detail, it's the kind of book that keeps our history vibrant and meaningful. It also contains a number of pictures to accompany the sterling dialog. (Note: I realize this is a long piece for a book review, but it's a big book and certainly noteworthy of a few paragraphs in my view –B.R.).

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." 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

James R. Fisher
National Executive Director
Korean War Veterans Association, USA