

**Joint Communiqué**  
**The 46<sup>th</sup> ROK-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting**  
October 23, 2014 Washington D.C.

1. The 46th United States-Republic of Korea (U.S.-ROK) Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) was held in Washington D.C. on October 23, 2014. U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and ROK Minister of National Defense Han Min-koo led their respective delegations, which included senior defense and foreign affairs officials. Before the SCM, the U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Martin E. Dempsey, and the ROK Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Choi Yoon-hee, presided over the 39th U.S.-ROK Military Committee Meeting (MCM) on October 22, 2014.
2. The Secretary and the Minister reaffirmed the commitment of the U.S. and ROK Presidents to continue to build a comprehensive strategic Alliance of bilateral, regional, and global scope based on common values and mutual trust, as set forth in the June 2009 “Joint Vision for the Alliance of the Republic of Korea and the United States of America” and reiterated in the May 2013 “Joint Declaration in Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States of America.” They also reaffirmed that the scope and level of Alliance cooperation should continue to broaden and deepen by strengthening the combined defense posture on the Korean Peninsula and enhancing cooperation for regional and global security in the 21st century, as reflected in the “ROK-U.S. Defense Cooperation Guidelines” signed at the 42nd SCM in 2010. Against this backdrop, the Minister and the Secretary noted that the efforts of the “Korea-U.S. Integrated Defense Dialogue (KIDD)” significantly advance Alliance objectives by providing high-level political oversight and coordinating and integrating various defense consultation mechanisms between the ROK and the United States, including the Security Policy Initiative, Extended Deterrence Policy Committee, Strategic Alliance Working Group, and Counter-Missile Capabilities Committee. Consequently, they decided to pursue more active bilateral security consultation centered around the KIDD in the future.
3. The Secretary and the Minister reiterated the firm view of the United States and the Republic of Korea that North Korea’s policies and provocations, including its nuclear and ballistic

missile programs and proliferation activities, pose a serious threat to regional stability and global security, as well as to the integrity of the global nonproliferation regime. The Secretary and the Minister strongly condemned North Korea's recent ballistic missile launches, which constituted serious violations of numerous United Nations (UN) Security Council resolutions, and expressed grave concern over North Korea's March 30, 2014 statement announcing that it would consider conducting a "new form of nuclear test". The Secretary and the Minister also reaffirmed that North Korea should fulfill its commitments under the September 19, 2005 Joint Statement of the Six Party Talks and abide by its obligations under UN Security Council resolutions 1718, 1874, 2087, and 2094. They also urged North Korea to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner and to cease all activities related to its nuclear programs immediately, including its nuclear activities at Yongbyon such as the restart of the 5MW graphite moderated reactor, uranium enrichment, and construction of a light water reactor. The Secretary and the Minister also reaffirmed that the United States and the Republic of Korea would continue to cooperate closely to implement fully all UN Security Council resolutions concerning North Korea.

4. The Secretary and the Minister reaffirmed the two nations' mutual commitment to the fundamental mission of the Alliance to defend the Republic of Korea through a robust combined defense posture, as well as to the enhancement of mutual security based on the U.S.-ROK Mutual Defense Treaty. The Secretary and the Minister reaffirmed the need to continue to conduct combined exercises on the Peninsula to demonstrate Alliance readiness, particularly given the security environment since the sinking of the ROK warship CHEONAN and the artillery shelling of Yeon-pyeong Island in 2010, the North Korean long-range missile launches in April and December 2012, and the third nuclear test in February 2013. The Secretary and the Minister reaffirmed that any North Korean aggression or military provocation is not to be tolerated and that the United States and the Republic of Korea would work shoulder to shoulder to demonstrate our combined resolve. They also reaffirmed that the U.S.-ROK Alliance remains vital to the future interests of both nations in securing peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia, and stressed their determination to ensure sufficient capabilities of the combined forces for the security of the Republic of Korea. The Secretary reiterated the firm and unwavering U.S. commitment to the defense of the ROK using capabilities postured on the Korean Peninsula and globally available U.S. forces and capabilities. In particular, the Secretary and the Minister reaffirmed

that the rotational deployments of the U.S. forces with complete combat capabilities demonstrate the U.S. defense commitment to the security of the Republic of Korea and also contribute to enhancing the U.S.-ROK combined defense posture on the Peninsula. The Secretary also reiterated the commitment to maintain the current level of U.S. military personnel in the Republic of Korea and to enhance combat readiness. The Secretary and the Minister noted that the two militaries have decided to organize a U.S.-ROK Combined Division in wartime with a functioning combined staff during armistice and shared an understanding that the Combined Division would serve to enhance the combined combat posture at the tactical level. In order to respond more effectively to the intensifying North Korean long range artillery threat, the Secretary and the Minister decided that U.S. counter-fires forces will remain in their current location north of the Han River until the ROK forces' counter-fires reinforcement plan is completed and certified, upon which the U.S. counter-fires forces will relocate to Camp Humphreys. The Minister committed to completing by around the year 2020 the reinforcement of ROK counter-fire forces capable of executing the mission during the early phases of war.

5. The Secretary and the Minister noted that the two militaries have made substantial progress in the development of military preparation plans related to a range of situations on the Korean Peninsula and that these military plans are to ensure an effective Alliance response to potential crises. The Secretary and the Minister reaffirmed the need to continue promoting combined exercises and training events and to enhance combined capabilities in order to be prepared for any North Korean provocation in the vicinity of the Northwest Islands and the Northern Limit Line (NLL). Moreover, noting that the NLL has been an effective means of separating the ROK and North Korean military forces and preventing military tension for more than 60 years, the Secretary and the Minister urged North Korea to accept the practical value of and abide by the NLL. Additionally, the Minister and the Secretary reaffirmed that the Armistice Agreement and the United Nations Command remain crucial instruments in maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.
6. The Secretary reaffirmed the continued U.S. commitment to provide and strengthen extended deterrence for the ROK using the full range of military capabilities, including the U.S. nuclear umbrella, conventional strike, and missile defense capabilities. To ensure that extended deterrence for the ROK remains credible, capable, and enduring, the Secretary and the Minister decided to periodically review the implementation progress of the bilateral

“Tailored Deterrence Strategy Against North Korean Nuclear and Other WMD Threats.” In addition, the Secretary and the Minister noted that the Tailored Deterrence Strategy TTX contributed to enhancing the Alliance's understanding of the Tailored Deterrence Strategy and to preparing political and military response procedures for various situations. The United States and the ROK are committed to maintaining close consultation on deterrence matters to achieve tailored deterrence against key North Korean threats and to maximize its deterrent effects.

7. The Secretary and the Minister reaffirmed their commitment to reinforce the Alliance's deterrence and response capabilities against North Korean missile threats through the establishment of “Concepts and Principles of ROK-U.S. Alliance Comprehensive Counter-missile Operations” to detect, defend, disrupt, and destroy missile threats including nuclear and biochemical warheads. The Minister reaffirmed that the ROK will seek to develop by the mid-2020s its own Kill-Chain and Korean Air and Missile Defense (KAMD) systems, which will be critical military capabilities for responding to the North Korean nuclear and missile threat as well as interoperable with Alliance systems. To this end, the Secretary and the Minister also decided to enhance information sharing on North Korean missile threats. The U.S. and the ROK are committed to maintaining close consultation to develop comprehensive Alliance capabilities to counter North Korean nuclear, other WMD, and ballistic missile threats.
8. The Secretary and the Minister pledged that the ROK and the United States would continue to enhance close Alliance cooperation to address wide-ranging global security challenges of mutual interest, including through peacekeeping activities, stabilization and reconstruction efforts, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief. In addition, the Secretary and the Minister emphasized that the Alliance's joint response capabilities against various biological threats including disease and terrorism have been continuously enhanced through the Able Response Exercise (AR) and decided to pursue even more active bilateral cooperation on this issue. The Secretary praised the ROK's contributions to counter-piracy efforts in the Gulf of Aden, UN peace-keeping mission in Lebanon, and reconstruction efforts in the Republic of South Sudan. Moreover, the Secretary expressed appreciation for the ROK government's continued active participation in the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI).
9. The Secretary and the Minister reaffirmed the need to strengthen cooperation with respect to

the protection of, and access to, the space and cyberspace domains, and to promote the resilience of critical infrastructure, including the security of information and space systems. The U.S. and the ROK have consulted on issues of mutual interest, including enhanced combined exercises and more active information sharing, and decided to jointly respond to the increasing threat of space debris by concluding the “Memorandum of Understanding Between the Department of Defense of the United States of America and the Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Korea Concerning Sharing Space Situational Awareness Services and Information” this year. The Cyber Cooperation Working Group endeavors to strengthen cooperation in information sharing, cyber policy, strategy, doctrine, personnel, and exercise to improve our collective readiness against cyber threats.

10. The Secretary and the Minister received a report on the results of the U.S.-ROK Military Committee Meeting from the Commander of the U.S.-ROK Combined Forces Command (CFC), General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, which highlighted that the combined defense posture is capable and ready to “Fight Tonight,” and that it is prepared to respond effectively to any provocation, instability, or aggression.
  
11. In light of the evolving security environment in the region, including the enduring North Korean nuclear and missile threat, and the need to maintain a strong U.S.-ROK combined defense posture, the Secretary and the Minister decided to implement the ROK-proposed conditions-based approach to the transition of wartime operational control (OPCON) from the U.S. forces-led Combined Forces Command (CFC) to a new ROK forces-led combined defense command. The Secretary and the Minister reaffirmed the commitment of both sides to a stable OPCON transition at an appropriate date and noted that the conditions-based approach ensures that the ROK will assume wartime OPCON when critical ROK and Alliance military capabilities are secured and the security environment on the Korean Peninsula and in the region is conducive to a stable OPCON transition. Based on the SCM’s recommendation, the National Authorities of the United States and the ROK will make a determination on the appropriate timing for wartime OPCON transition. The Secretary and the Minister decided that CFC and its headquarters, including minimum necessary personnel and facilities, will remain at its current Yongsan Garrison location until OPCON transition takes place. The Secretary and the Minister also decided to replace the current Strategic Alliance 2015 Base Plan with a new base plan by the 47th SCM.

12. The Secretary and the Minister acknowledged the importance of U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) base relocation and camp returns, and reaffirmed their commitment to work closely together to complete these efforts successfully. The Secretary and the Minister pledged to maintain the Yongsan Relocation Plan (YRP) and Land Partnership Plan (LPP), minimize challenges, and to strive for completion in a timely manner. The two also concurred to make continuous efforts to closely consult on camp return issues through the Joint Environmental Assessment Procedure (JEAP).
13. The Secretary and the Minister reaffirmed the importance of information sharing on the North Korean nuclear and missile threat between the United States, Republic of Korea (ROK), and Japan. They decided to continue consulting on trilateral information sharing measures as discussed at the Shangri-La Dialogue in May 2014.
14. The Secretary and the Minister welcomed the conclusion of the Special Measures Agreement (SMA) for 2014-2018, and assessed that defense cost-sharing contributes to strengthening combined defense capabilities on the Korean Peninsula. Secretary Hagel offered his appreciation for the ROK's contributions to a stable stationing environment for USFK. Both sides committed to work closely together to implement the recently agreed upon system improvements in order to enhance the transparency and accountability of the SMA implementation.
15. Minister Han expressed sincere appreciation to Secretary Hagel for the courtesy and hospitality extended to him and his delegation by the U.S. Government, and for the excellent arrangements that contributed to the success of the meeting. The Secretary and the Minister affirmed that the discussions during the 46th SCM and 39th MCM contributed substantively to strengthening the U.S.-ROK Alliance and further enhanced the development of the bilateral defense relationship into a comprehensive strategic Alliance. Both sides expect to hold the 47th SCM in Seoul at a mutually convenient time in 2015.