

**The 36th United States-Republic of Korea
Military Committee Meeting Joint Communiqué**

General Martin E. Dempsey, Chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, and General Jung, Seung Jo, Chairman of the Republic of Korea Joint Chiefs of Staff, presided over the 36th United States - Republic of Korea Military Committee Meeting on October 23, 2012. Both Chairmen reaffirmed that the United States - Republic of Korea Alliance is stronger than ever. They underscored the need to further strengthen the Alliance's capabilities and commitment to the defense of the Republic of Korea, particularly in a time of new and emerging challenges on the Korean Peninsula and in the region.

After conducting a joint assessment of North Korea's recent coercive trends, both Chairmen reaffirmed the unwavering Alliance commitment 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 together to demonstrate our combined resolve. Against this backdrop, both Chairmen reiterated their commitment to further strengthen the Alliance's deterrent capabilities and discussed issues pertaining to the stable transition of wartime operational control (OPCON) to the Republic of Korea. They emphasized the agreement reached by the United States and the Republic of Korea governments, that the OPCON transition will be completed by December 2015. They agreed that the tasks specified in Strategic Alliance 2015 (SA 2015) are on track. In particular, both Chairmen recognized the importance of the certification plan for the theater commands in the aftermath of OPCON transition and reiterated the certification guidance specified in SA 2015.

Both Chairmen affirmed that the discussions at the 36th United States - Republic of Korea Military Committee Meeting have made a significant

contribution to strengthening the United States - Republic of Korea comprehensive strategic alliance and agreed to convene the Military Committee Meeting on a more frequent basis to assess and review the implementation of the Strategic Alliance 2015. Both Chairmen agreed to convene an additional Military Committee Meeting in an appropriate manner to continuously discuss key enduring issues.