

9th Korea-U.S. Integrated Defense Dialogue Joint Press Statement

The U.S. Department of Defense and Republic of Korea (ROK) Ministry of National Defense held the 9th Korea-U.S. Integrated Defense Dialogue (KIDD) on May 9-10 in Washington, D.C. ROK Deputy Minister for Defense Policy Yoo Jeh Seung was hosted by Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Affairs Amb. David B. Shear, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asia Abraham M. Denmark, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy Elaine M. Bunn. They were joined by key U.S.-ROK defense and foreign affairs officials such as the ROK Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director General for North America Yeo Seung Bae, and U.S. State Department Special Representative for North Korea Policy Sung Kim and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear and Strategic Policy Anita Friedt.

Both sides agreed that the U.S.-ROK alliance remains strong and committed to closely coordinating efforts to deter and defend against North Korean aggression. The United States emphasized that the alliance is critical to maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, across the Asia-Pacific, and around the world.

Both sides reaffirmed that North Korea's continuing provocations, such as its fourth nuclear test, multiple ballistic missile launches, and submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) test launches are a serious threat not only to the U.S.-ROK Alliance, but also to regional and global peace and stability. Both sides renewed their call on North Korea to abandon its nuclear program in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner.

The 9th KIDD included a meeting of the Executive Plenary Session of the Deterrence Strategy Committee (DSC). The U.S. reiterated its ironclad commitment to the defense of the ROK and underscored that it would draw on the full range of its military capabilities to continue to provide and strengthen extended deterrence. The DSC attendees committed to continue exploring a range of measures, utilizing all aspects of national power, to enhance the Alliance's ability to deter North Korean provocations and aggression.

During the Security Policy Initiative (SPI) session, the two sides discussed ways to improve bilateral defense technology cooperation, and enhance collaboration on space and cyber. Both sides also discussed efforts to enhance trilateral security cooperation with Japan, reinforce maritime security, combat terrorism and violent extremism, and contribute to stability in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

The 9th KIDD also marked the inaugural meeting of the Conditions-based OPCON Transition Working Group (COTWG), which succeeded the Strategic Alliance Working Group. Both sides reviewed the progress of COTP implementation, and agreed to continue to make progress toward OPCON transition.

Both sides agreed that the 9th KIDD served to further bolster and improve the U.S.-ROK alliance and reinforce the nations' close bilateral defense relationship. The U.S. and ROK look forward to holding the 10th KIDD in Seoul in September 2016.