

Joint Communiqué
The 45th ROK-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting
October 2, 2013, Seoul

In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Republic of Korea-United States (ROK-U.S.) Alliance, the ROK Minister of National Defense Kim, Kwan Jin and the U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel expressed that the ROK-U.S. Alliance is stronger than ever before, and they committed to further advancing the Alliance into the future based on the experiences and lessons of the past 60 years.

Forged during the Korean War and founded on the 1953 ROK-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty, the ROK-U.S. Alliance has successfully deterred North Korean aggression and provocation, and played a critical role in the development of free democracy and economic prosperity in the Republic of Korea. Today, based on robust security cooperation, the Alliance continues to serve as a linchpin of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, and is evolving into a global partnership that contributes to the peace on the Korean Peninsula and across the globe.

1. The 45th ROK-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) was held in Seoul on Oct. 2, 2013. Minister Kim and Secretary Hagel led their respective delegations, which included senior defense and foreign affairs officials. Before the SCM, the ROK Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Jung, Seung Jo and the U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Martin E. Dempsey presided over the 38th ROK-U.S. Military Committee Meeting (MCM) on Sept. 30, 2013.
2. The Minister and the Secretary reaffirmed the commitment of the ROK and U.S. 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. Furthermore, reflecting on the 60th anniversary of the ROK-U.S. Alliance, the Minister and the Secretary requested that a study on the defense vision for the future of the ROK-U.S. Alliance be completed by 2014.

3. The Minister and the Secretary reiterated the firm view of the Republic of Korea and the United States 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 Minister and the Secretary strongly condemned North Korea's Dec. 12, 2012 long-range missile launch and its February 2013 nuclear test, which constituted serious violations of numerous United Nations (UN) Security Council resolutions. The Minister and the Secretary also reaffirmed that North Korea should fulfill its commitments under the Sept. 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, uranium enrichment, and construction of a light water reactor. The Minister and the Secretary also reaffirmed that the Republic of Korea and the United States would continue to cooperate closely to implement fully all UN Security Council resolutions concerning North Korea.
4. The Minister and the Secretary 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 ROK-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty. The Minister and the Secretary 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 Minister expressed his appreciation for the participation of U.S. strategic assets in the KEY RESOLVE and FOAL EAGLE exercises in March 2013. The Minister and the Secretary reaffirmed that any North Korean aggression or military provocation is not to be tolerated and that the Republic of Korea and the United States would work shoulder-to-shoulder to demonstrate our combined resolve. They also reaffirmed that the ROK-U.S. 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. 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.

5. The Minister and the Secretary 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. In particular, the Minister and the Secretary praised the two militaries for completing the “ROK-U.S. Counter-Provocation Plan” in March 2013, which enables the two countries to respond jointly and effectively to North Korean provocations, and reaffirmed that the plan would be crucial in enabling the Alliance to respond firmly to any North Korean provocation. The Minister and the Secretary 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 nearly 60 years, the Minister and the Secretary 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 enhance effective deterrence options against North Korean nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD) threats, the Minister and the Secretary formally endorsed a bilateral “Tailored Deterrence Strategy Against North Korean Nuclear and other WMD Threats.” This strategy establishes a strategic Alliance framework for tailoring deterrence against key North Korean nuclear threat scenarios across armistice and wartime, and strengthens the integration of Alliance capabilities to maximize their deterrent effects. The ROK and the United States are committed to maintaining close consultation on deterrence matters to ensure that extended deterrence for the ROK remains credible, capable, and enduring.
7. The Minister and the Secretary decided to continue developing a comprehensive Alliance counter-missile strategy to detect, defend, disrupt, and destroy missile threats and reaffirmed their commitment to develop further the Alliance’s deterrent capability for the defense of the Korean Peninsula. The Minister reaffirmed that the ROK would continue to build reliable interoperable response capabilities and to develop the Korean Air and Missile Defense (KAMD) system. To this end, the Minister and the Secretary also decided to enhance further the interoperability of the Alliance’s command and control system. The ROK and the United States are committed to maintaining close consultation to develop comprehensive Alliance capabilities to counter North Korean nuclear, other WMD, and ballistic missile threats.

8. The Minister and the Secretary 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 through tri-lateral or multi-lateral cooperation. As expressed in the “Joint Statement on Syria, adopted on Sept. 6, 2013, on the margins of the G20 Leader's Meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia,” the Minister and the Secretary shared concerns about the Syrian government’s chemical weapons attack on Aug. 21. The Minister and the Secretary also expressed concerns about North Korean chemical weapons. The Secretary expressed appreciation for the ROK’s contributions to the reconstruction and stabilization of Afghanistan, including the deployment of a Provincial Reconstruction Team and the Ashena Unit, as well as ROK financial support. The Secretary also praised the ROK’s contributions to counter-piracy efforts in the Gulf of Aden, the UN peace-keeping mission in Lebanon, and reconstruction efforts in the Republic of South Sudan. He also expressed appreciation for the ROK Government’s continued active participation in the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI).
9. The Minister and the Secretary 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. Since the signing of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for bilateral military space cooperation at the previous SCM, the ROK and the United States have consulted on issues of mutual interest, including enhanced combined exercises and more active information sharing, and are working to continue cooperation on issues such as improving space situational awareness. Taking note of the second ROK-U.S. Cyber Policy Consultations held in Washington D.C. in July 2013, the Minister and the Secretary welcomed the signing of the TOR for the Cyber Cooperation Working Group on Sept. 5, 2013 in Washington D.C. 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 Minister and the Secretary received a report on the results of the ROK-U.S. Military Committee Meeting from the Commander of the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC), General James D. Thurman, 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. The Minister and the Secretary acknowledged their comprehensive strategy to strengthen the Alliance in years to come, including achieving the transition of wartime operational control (OPCON) for the combined warfight to the ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff based on Strategic Alliance 2015 (SA 2015). The transition of OPCON should sustain and enhance the Alliance’s combined defense posture and capabilities, and support both the Alliance’s bilateral defense priorities and its future development. The Minister and the Secretary,

paying particular attention to the dynamic security environment on the Korean Peninsula including the intensifying North Korean nuclear and missile threats, decided to regularly assess and review the security situation on the Korean Peninsula in the context of an evaluation of the implementation of SA 2015 at the annual SCM/MCM, and to continue consultations on this issue. In this regard, they further noted the importance of a conditions-based OPCON transition and the OPCON Certification Plan in ensuring that the combined defense posture remains strong and seamless. The Secretary reaffirmed the continuing U.S. commitment to provide specific bridging capabilities until the ROK obtains full self-defense capabilities, and further noted the U.S. commitment to contribute enduring capabilities for the life of the Alliance. Similarly, the Minister reaffirmed that the Republic of Korea is committed to developing or acquiring the critical military capabilities necessary to assume the lead of the combined defense. Furthermore, the Minister and the Secretary decided to continue to refine the future command structure to maximize the military effectiveness of the Alliance after the transition of OPCON.

12. The Minister and the Secretary acknowledged the importance of U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) base relocation and camp returns, and committed to work closely together to complete these efforts successfully. The Minister and the Secretary pledged to minimize challenges and strive for completion, as planned, of the Yongsan Relocation Plan (YRP) and Land Partnership Plan (LPP). The two also concurred to make continuous efforts to closely consult on camp return issues through the Joint Environmental Assessment Procedure (JEAP).
13. Secretary Hagel expressed sincere appreciation to Minister Kim for the courtesy and hospitality extended to him and his delegation by the ROK Government, and for the excellent arrangements that contributed to the success of the meeting. The Minister and the Secretary affirmed that the discussions during the 45th SCM and 38th MCM contributed substantively to strengthening the ROK-U.S. Alliance and further enhanced the development of the bilateral defense relationship into a comprehensive strategic Alliance. Both sides expect to hold the 46th SCM in Washington D.C., U.S. at a mutually convenient time in 2014.

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