



# Association of the United States Army

*Voice for the Army—Support for the Soldier*

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## The U.S. Army in Korea

*Strategic Landpower at the Forward Edge of Freedom*

*The key to readiness is ensuring that U.S. and Republic of Korea forces are properly trained and equipped and that follow-on forces are fully trained and capable of deploying on a tight timeline. Failure to maintain a high level of readiness leads to strategic risk against a well-armed North Korea possessing asymmetric capabilities.*

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### Introduction

The United States Army has maintained a constant presence in the Asia–Pacific theater for more than 100 years. Strategic landpower—Army, Marines and special operations forces—is the most tangible and enduring measure of America’s commitment to defend its vital interests, protect its friends and defeat its enemies. Security and war are fundamentally about people, culture and decisions—the human domain of conflict—and strategic landpower exists to shape this domain and prevail throughout it. Since 1950, the United States’ alliance with South Korea has been evolving to meet the mutual security interests of both nations. The relationship continues to grow—standing as a critical deterrent to the dynamic North Korean threat, supporting regional engagement with partners and enhancing responsiveness to contingencies through rotational deployments and multinational training exercises.

U.S. Forces Korea (USFK)—a subunified command under U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM)—supports the United Nations Command and the United States–Republic of Korea (ROK) Combined Forces Command as the joint headquarters through which U.S. combat forces are provided to the theater. Eighth Army is an integral part of USFK, the alliance and the United States’ national security strategy. Constituting the largest U.S. military contribution to the alliance, Eighth Army provides 22,000 of the 28,500 American servicemembers stationed in South Korea. America’s only field army, it is forward deployed to promote regional security and deter North Korean aggression. Investment in Eighth Army demonstrates support for the alliance and long-term resolve to protect the nation’s interests now and in the future.



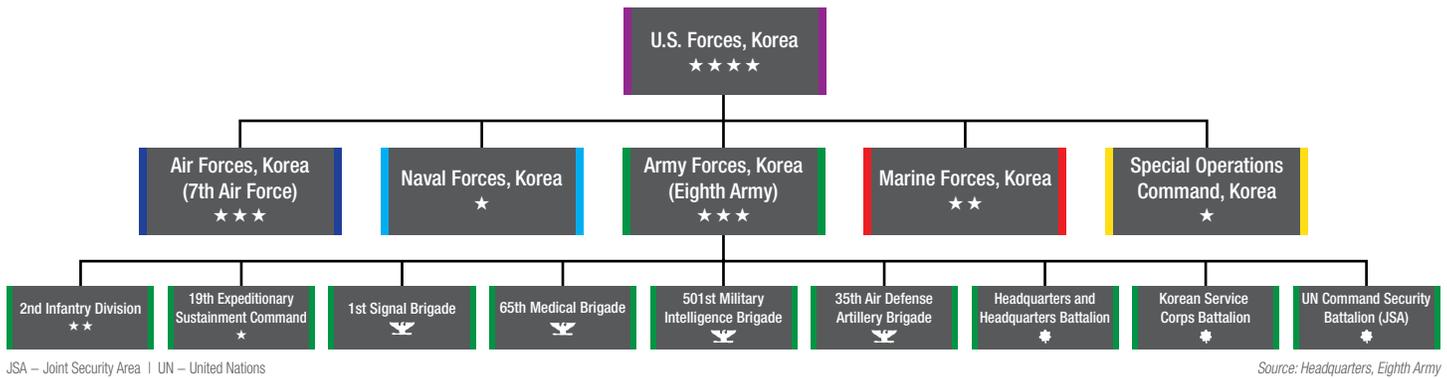
### Did You Know?

- Northeast Asia generates 25 percent of global economic activity and accounts for \$100 billion in trade.
- Northeast Asia is home to four of the world’s six largest militaries.
- North Korea maintains the world’s fourth-largest military, largest artillery force, largest special operations force, third-largest chemical stockpile and an offensive biological weapons program.
- Eighth Army is the U.S. Army’s only operational-level combat formation that trains within enemy artillery range.

### Background

The North Korean regime remains dangerous and unpredictable, and the nature of the threat it poses to international security underscores the importance of a strong U.S.–South Korean alliance and ready U.S. forces. The regime has recently continued its decades-long provocation cycle. In the past four years, it has executed its third nuclear test, attacked and sunk ROK navy ship *Cheonan*, attacked Yeonpyeong Island (these resulting in the deaths of 50 South Korean military and civilian

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personnel), conducted cyberattacks and electronic jamming attacks, test-launched ballistic missiles and sustained its bellicose harassment and rhetoric against the United States, South Korea and other nations in northeast Asia.

The increasing lethality and reach of North Korean weapons is making an already uncertain Asian security environment even more volatile. Boasting the fourth-largest military in the world, the regime deploys more than 70 percent of its ground forces forward near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas. Its long-range artillery (the world’s largest artillery force) can strike targets throughout the Seoul Metropolitan Area—where more than 23 million South Koreans and nearly 50,000 Americans live. The regime possesses long-range missile systems and technology that already have the ability to reach U.S. allies and U.S. territories in the region. Further, North Korea maintains the world’s largest special operations force, the third-largest chemical weapons stockpile and an offensive biological weapons program.

These acts of provocation and the large-scale regional instability they cause—not to mention the potential for political or humanitarian crises within North Korean borders—demand the capabilities of robust American strategic landpower. U.S. Army forces on the Korean peninsula are required to remain vigilant and ready to act with little or no advance warning—poised to deter North Korean aggression and prepared to fight alongside South Korean allies at any time. If deterrence against the threat fails, Eighth Army stands ready to execute noncombatant evacuation operations (NEO) and generate combat power for USFK, United Nations Command and Combined Forces Command, integrating U.S. forces on the peninsula and incorporating ground forces from coalition partners.

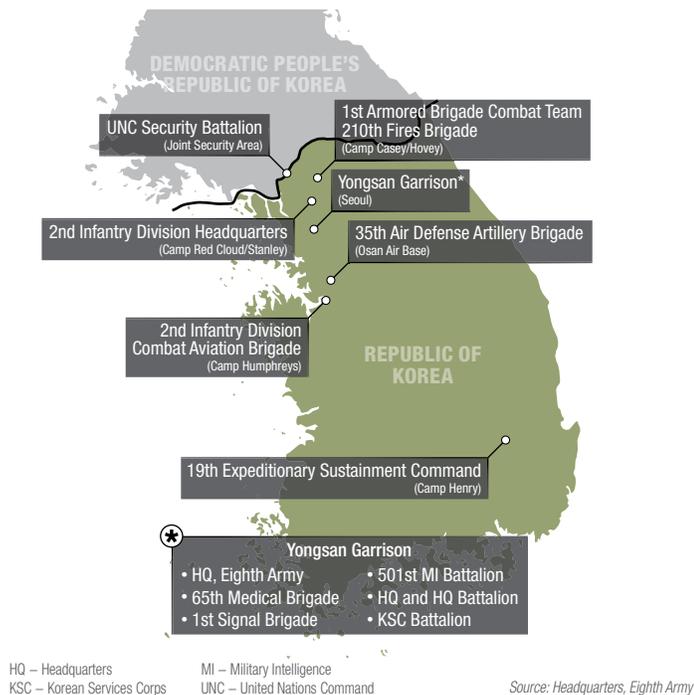
### Transformation to a Warfighting Command

In 2009, USFK and Eighth Army commanders recognized the need to establish a field army capable of providing mission command over multiple U.S. and multinational corps. In response, the Army assigned U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) as the sole Army service component command (ASCC) in theater and converted Eighth Army into a warfighting field army headquarters. This move greatly streamlined the command of Army forces in the region. As a result, Eighth Army

is able to focus its assets fully on operational requirements and leave to USARPAC the execution of Title 10 functions.

USARPAC has developed specific capability to support Eighth Army in the event of war—just as it is responsible for meeting Title 10 requirements for all Army forces in theater—facilitated by a liaison element in Korea. A USARPAC Coordination Element (UCE) recently deployed to Korea to establish a forward presence to advise, assess, coordinate and assist in planning for the Korea Theater of Operations. In direct support of USFK, the UCE comprises 26 Soldiers engaged across the peninsula and coordinates directly with Eighth Army to support operations in the rear area with a focus on reception, staging, onward movement and integration (RSOI), sustainment and noncombatant evacuation operations during armistice and contingency operations. These organizational changes strengthened the projection of U.S. military power in the region and improved its deterrence against volatile threats.

Today, Eighth Army (in support of USFK and Combined Forces Command) provides vital and unique contributions to the joint force, including intelligence, air and missile defense, theater communications infrastructure, sustainment and ground combat forces. Its major subordinate commands consist of the 2nd Infantry Division, 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, 1st Signal Brigade, 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, 501st Military Intelligence Brigade, 65th Medical Brigade and the Korean Service Corps Battalion (comprised of 2,200 personnel). U.S. Army forces in Korea also provide critical counter-weapons of mass destruction (counter-WMD) capabilities to prevent the proliferation of North Korea’s known nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and technology. Subordinate organizations, logistics hubs and sustainment networks are strategically aligned to deter aggression and enable resolute coalition response to crises. Eighth Army—in complete partnership with the South Korean Army—is a fully modern combat force; some of its advanced equipment includes M1A2 System Enhancement Package V2 Abrams tanks, M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, AH-64D Longbow Apache Block II attack helicopters with improved sensor suites, UH-60L Black Hawk general-purpose helicopters and CH-47F Chinook heavy-lift helicopters.



Operationally, Eighth Army provides mission command for U.S., South Korean and coalition partner forces. It also supports the theater counterfire mission, helps provide ballistic missile defense and executes counter-WMD operations with combined and joint enabler units. With the threat only miles away from one of the world’s largest economies and population centers, Eighth Army deters and defends against North Korean aggression in the face of continued instability and provocation.

### Rotational Units

More than 12 years of sustained conflict in Afghanistan and Iraq transformed the U.S. Army into an expeditionary force capable of deploying assets rapidly around the world. To help retain this perishable deployment expertise, the Army has initiated the deployment of rotational units to Korea as a part of its regionally aligned forces initiative. Rotational forces are fully manned, trained and combat-ready—underscoring U.S. commitment to the region and directly bolstering the operational readiness of Eighth Army. The regionally aligned forces initiative gives joint commanders better and more versatile options to confront crises with trained and ready units.

Among the first units to rotate to Korea under the initiative, the 4th Attack Reconnaissance Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, recently deployed to U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Humphreys, Korea, from Joint Base Lewis–McChord, Washington, with 260 Soldiers and 30 OH-50D Kiowa Warrior aircraft. In addition, the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment—a combined-arms battalion—deployed from Fort Hood, Texas, to Camp Casey/Hovey and Camp Red Cloud/Stanley, Korea, providing a third maneuver battalion to the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division (according to the Army’s new structure for brigade combat teams).

These rotational assets are modular and multifunctional; they contribute to the full range of military operations—improving Eighth Army’s readiness, interoperability with South Korean partners, deterrent value and flexibility to respond to crises. They enhance the Army’s ability to sustain a diverse mix of rapidly deployable capabilities, adapt to meet a broadening range of requirements and provide scalable options in defense of South Korea. It is vital that the Department of Defense sustain the rotation of forces to satisfy global operational demands in today’s resource-constrained environment.

### Relocation and Stationing

Eighth Army is implementing two bilateral agreements between the United States and South Korea—signaling the beginning of a new era in their alliance. The Yongsan Relocation Plan and the Land Partnership Plan are ongoing efforts that will consolidate the American “footprint” on the peninsula and relocate the majority of USFK and United Nations Command headquarters from Seoul in accordance with the Strategic Alliance 2015 agreement.

These two initiatives are useful for many reasons. Remarkable improvements to South Korean defense capabilities over time have enabled U.S. forces to relocate to two main enduring hubs south of Seoul without diminishing the effectiveness of their deterrent posture. By moving into less congested southern areas, Army forces will improve readiness and efficiencies and further enhance partnerships with local communities. Realigning these forces also resolves many enduring facilities shortfalls, helps meet storage-space requirements driven by the transformation of Army prepositioned stocks in the region and improves the protection of U.S. citizens. South Korea benefits from these changes by having valuable land returned to its possession and by enhancing the alliance’s combined defense capability through the allocation of training time for U.S. forces on Korean ranges and training areas.

Although the 2nd Infantry Division will relocate south of Seoul to USAG Humphreys, Eighth Army will maintain the Rodriguez Live Fire Complex and Warrior Base near the DMZ to ensure the combat readiness of permanent and rotational units. The USAG Humphreys expansion is a \$10.7 billion investment—with dual funding from the United States and South Korean governments—and will significantly improve the quality of life for Soldiers and families assigned to Korea. In addition, the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (headquartered at USAG Daegu) provides a critical role in the RSOI of all units, maintains equipment and wartime stocks on the peninsula and supports theater logistics in coordination with USARPAC and USFK.

Throughout these transformation efforts, Eighth Army units have been working side-by-side with their South Korean counterparts—developing skills, strengthening unit cohesion, enhancing force readiness, building community relations and engendering trust and respect. Ongoing collaboration with



## Army Prepositioned Stocks

Strategically postured unit equipment sets, such as the Army Prepositioned Stocks (APS-4) located throughout Korea and Japan, provide responsive and flexible capabilities to meet contingencies across the full spectrum of operations. With more than 4,000 combat and support vehicles and seven million individual pieces, APS-4 is the Army's largest and most complete set of prepositioned stocks. The 403d Army Field Support Brigade, responsible for the maintenance of the equipment set, has streamlined processes and improved quality standards to promote efficient space utilization. To facilitate the APS issue process and readiness, equipment is stored in company sets; batteries remain charged by automated trickle chargers; and routine maintenance tests are performed on the equipment. Basic issue items and unit basic loads are preloaded on all vehicles, fuel levels are topped off at 90 percent and sensitive items are broken out by unit identification codes in a ready-to-issue configuration. In addition, preconfiguring sets using the latest software—the Army War Reserve Deployment System—enhances accountability and maintenance standards in support of the rapid issuance of equipment and mission readiness.

both the South Korean government and local communities has generated indigenous support and advocacy for sustained U.S. presence on the peninsula. In support of the vast relocation and stationing initiatives planned for the future, Eighth Army supports the bilateral processes between the United States and South Korea to contribute to a robust combined deterrence and defense posture.

### The Way Ahead

The U.S. Army in Korea will remain postured to conduct its armistice and wartime missions by maintaining a highly trained and ready forward presence in South Korea. The significance of these missions—particularly the magnitude of the potential threat environment and the consequences for the global economy if a crisis emerges—requires Eighth Army to have access to top-quality Soldiers, highly capable rotational units and cutting-edge equipment.

One challenge is for the command to maintain the highest levels of proficiency and readiness despite high personnel turnover (due to the nature of overseas assignments). It is imperative for the Army to recruit, retain and develop adaptive, resourceful and responsible leaders who are capable of meeting the challenges posed by a dynamic threat in a forward area. Regrettably, the unpredictable fiscal environment in the United States—in particular, the budgeting difficulties created by sequestration—is making execution of this imperative even more challenging.\* The impacts of sequestration are felt most directly in forward areas such as Korea.

The Army's operational requirements in Korea demand sustained investment in modern advanced equipment stationed in theater to cultivate joint and combined integration. Deterrence of rogue regimes requires numerous skills and capabilities resident primarily in the Army such as maneuver support, intel-

ligence, surveillance, ballistic missile defense, force protection, counterproliferation, stockpiled strategic material and engagement with strategic partner militaries. These enduring capabilities for Korea are directly and negatively affected by shifts in priority for modernization—another impact of sequestration.

Eighth Army's training facilities require modernized and fully equipped infrastructure so that both permanent and rotational units can train across the full spectrum of operations for which they are expected to be ready. Eighth Army must be able to field and sustain the instructors, support staff and training equipment to support its readiness goals. Enhancing the Live Fire Complex and surrounding facilities to provide realistic and challenging training opportunities contributes to high levels of force readiness. Developing and maintaining infrastructure to transport forces and equipment among training areas near the DMZ and USAG Humphreys will support the strong and effective deterrent posture of allied forces. Continued long-term investment in the modernization and maintenance of the training grounds provide Soldiers a thorough understanding of the operational environment—enabling preparation for operations in some of the world's toughest terrain.

Given the rebalance of U.S. military posture toward the Asia-Pacific theater highlighted in current U.S. national defense strategy, American commitment to the defense of South Korea and other regional allies and partners is vital. Eighth Army's role is to ensure that forces in Korea are trained and ready, maintaining the highest level of combat readiness to deter aggression in a volatile environment. For more than 60 years, Eighth Army has exemplified the enduring benefits of having strategic landpower positioned to defend U.S. and global interests at the forward edge of freedom. Timely and predictable funding is critical to sustain these forces and continue to strengthen the U.S.–South Korea alliance.

\* See the statement by General Raymond T. Odierno, Chief of Staff, Army, on The Impacts of Sequestration on National Defense, before the Committee on Armed Services, U.S. Senate, First Session, 113th Congress, 7 November 2013, <http://usarmy.vo.llnwd.net/e2/c/downloads/319743.pdf>. See also "Estimated Impact of Automatic Budget Enforcement Procedures Specified in the Budget Control Act," Congressional Budget Office, 12 September 2011, <http://cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/09-12-BudgetControlAct.pdf>.