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**STATEMENT OF  
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COMMANDER, REPUBLIC OF KOREA-UNITED STATES COMBINED FORCES COMMAND;  
AND COMMANDER, UNITED STATES FORCES KOREA  
BEFORE THE  
SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**8 March 2005**



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Mr. Chairman, and distinguished members of the committee, I am honored to appear before you today. Moreover, it is a privilege to represent the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Department of Defense civilians who serve in the Republic of Korea. On behalf of these outstanding men and women, thank you for your sustained commitment towards enhancing the warfighting capabilities of our Nation's armed forces and improving the quality of life of our service members and their families. Your support allows us to protect the security of the Republic of Korea while promoting stability in the region. I appreciate this opportunity to report on the state of the Command and the status of our "Enhance, Shape and Align" initiatives, which are enabling our military transformation while strengthening the Republic of Korea - United States Alliance.

Much has changed in the more than half-century of the Republic of Korea - United States Alliance, change quickened by the events of September 11, 2001 and the emergence of a new and far more volatile security environment. These changes have resulted in increased security responsibilities for the United States, and increased interdependence with our allies and coalition partners throughout the world. A new generation of South Koreans, cognizant of their national achievements, and taking an increasingly active role in regional affairs, are eager to achieve more constructive relationships with their neighbors in North Korea. At the same time, while still dependent on international aid for economic survival, North Korea has continued to defy international conventions through its declared

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possession of nuclear weapons, presenting a threat to the region and potentially the world.

While the dynamics of the security environment have changed and our security relationships continue to mature, the fundamental purpose of the Republic of Korea - United States Alliance remains unwavering: deter and defend against the North Korean threat; and sustain a mutual commitment to regional security and stability. Together, we continue to steadfastly oppose North Korea's efforts to divide the alliance and to threaten peaceful nations. Together, we are working to transform the Republic of Korea - United States Alliance into a stronger, far more capable alliance, while setting conditions for an enduring United States military presence in Korea. This military transformation will bolster the United Nations Command and the Republic of Korea - United States Combined Forces Command, as the guarantors of regional security and stability.

### **I. Northeast Asia Security Environment**

The United States has significant, long-term interests in Northeast Asia to include promoting economic cooperation, mitigating threats to regional stability, and fulfilling our commitments to allies and friends. United States trade in the region accounted for about one-fourth of our nation's total international trade in goods for the first ten months of 2004, exceeding the share of goods traded with the European Union and second only to our trade with the countries of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Bilateral United States - Republic of Korea trade exceeded \$59 billion through the first ten months of 2004, while United

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States - Japan trade exceeded \$152 billion over the same time period. In addition, the United States' direct investment in Northeast Asia totaled \$109 billion at the end of 2003. With trade and investment in the region likely to expand in the future, the health of economies in this region are essential to the vitality of the global markets upon which the prosperity of the United States also depends.

While economic cooperation and interdependence within Northeast Asia represent a positive trend toward encouraging stable relations, our military presence remains essential in a region that includes five of the world's six largest militaries, three of the world's major nuclear powers, and one self-declared nuclear state -- North Korea. Historical enmity amongst nations, coupled with the continuing upward trend in regional military expenditures, present the potential for large-scale military competition and corresponding instability. Over the last decade, while average global defense spending has declined, defense spending in Northeast Asia has increased by twenty-four percent.

The long-standing presence of United States forces and the strength of our strategic partnerships provide the foundation for stability and the catalyst for continued cooperation and prosperity in the region. Forward-deployed United States forces demonstrate our resolve to strengthen and expand alliances, counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, work with partners and friends to defuse regional conflicts, and stand with our partners to oppose threats to freedom wherever they arise. United States forces based in South Korea, along with the military forces from the Republic of Korea and other regional

partners, continue to deter an increasingly manipulative and provocative North Korea while promoting long-term regional stability.

## **II. North Korean Challenges to Regional and Global Security**

North Korea poses a variety of threats to regional and global stability. North Korea maintains large conventional and special operations forces, sustains an active chemical and nuclear weapons development program, and is also a major proliferator of missiles and related technologies. In addition, the regime relies on illicit activities, such as drug trafficking and counterfeiting to generate hard currency while demonstrating little regard for international conventions or agreements. The regime's recent official statement concerning its possession of nuclear weapons and unilateral suspension of Six-Party Talks, continued proliferation of missiles, and repeated threats of large-scale war as a means of extorting concessions from the international community are an ever-present threat to the security of the Republic of Korea and stability in the region.

While reunification of the peninsula under North Korean control remains the primary stated purpose of North Korean regime, Kim Jong-Il's immediate overriding concern is to remain firmly in control of his country. At the center of all aspects of North Korean society, Kim occupies all key leadership positions and retains control through a highly effective state security apparatus and a core cadre of elites well-rewarded for their loyalty. At present, with Kim Jong-il firmly in control of all political, military and governmental entities, there is little evidence to suggest that any significant threat to the regime exists from within.

### **North Korean Economy**

Severe economic problems remain the most pressing threat to the viability of the Kim regime. Although the North's economic deterioration has slowed over the past few years, the leadership is still struggling with the cumulative impacts of a decade of economic decline. Despite limited experiments with free-market reform, total economic output has dropped nearly fifty percent since 1992 and factories operate at less than twenty-five percent capacity. The nation's power and transportation infrastructure are in need of massive overhaul and agricultural output can only feed two-thirds of the population. Despite these difficulties, the regime's "Military First" Policy directs approximately one-third of the limited domestic output to the military, thus severely restricting resources required for the welfare of its people. While North Korea's social policies, mismanagement, under-funding and corruption have all contributed to its economic decline; the regime's high rate of military spending remains the major impediment to long-term recovery. North Korea is dependent on significant aid from the international community; profits from regime directed illicit activities such as drug trafficking, smuggling and counterfeiting; as well as from the proliferation and international sale of missiles and conventional arms to raise hard currency.

### **North Korean Military**

The world's most militarized nation in proportion to population, North Korea has the world's fourth largest armed force with over 1.1 million active-duty personnel, and more than five million reserves. With more than seventy percent

of its active duty combat forces deployed south of the Pyongyang-Wonsan line, and approximately 250 long-range artillery systems within range of Seoul from their current locations, North Korea poses a significant and present danger to the security of the Republic of Korea. While qualitatively inferior, North Korea's air force and navy, with nearly 1,700 aircraft, and 800 ships and submarines, are also postured to launch operations against the Republic of Korea with little or no warning.

While North Korean economic difficulties have impaired the readiness, modernization and sustainability of its conventional forces to some degree, North Korea has continued investment in its asymmetric capabilities that includes special operations forces, ballistic missiles, and chemical, biological, and nuclear programs.

*North Korean Asymmetric Threats: Special Forces, Missiles, and WMD*

North Korea's asymmetric capabilities are substantial and represent a significant threat to the Republic of Korea and the region. North Korea's 122,000-man special operations forces are the world's largest and enjoy the highest military funding priority for the regime. Tough, well-trained, and profoundly loyal, these forces are engaged daily in strategic reconnaissance and illicit activities in support of the regime. During conflict, these forces will direct long-range missile and artillery strikes against key facilities, attack to disrupt command facilities of the Republic of Korea - United States Combined Forces

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Command, and seek to destroy the Alliance's ability to generate combat power and to reinforce from off-peninsula.

The North Korean ballistic missile inventory includes over 500 SCUD missiles that can deliver conventional or chemical munitions across the entire peninsula and within the region. North Korea continues to produce and deploy medium-range No Dong missiles capable of striking cities and military bases throughout the region with these same payloads, including Japan. Press reports indicate North Korea is also preparing to field a new intermediate range ballistic missile. If true, this missile could be capable of reaching United States facilities in Okinawa, Guam and possibly Alaska. The regime's continued development of a three-stage variant of the Taepo Dong missile, which could be operational within the next decade, could also provide North Korea the capability to directly target the continental United States, or provide the regime's clients with an intercontinental capability that could undermine the stability of other regions. As the world's leading supplier of missiles and related production technologies, North Korea contributes to the destabilization of the regions where it sells these commodities, including the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia.

The size of North Korea's chemical stockpile probably is significant. At its peak, North Korea's production capability included the ability to produce bulk quantities of nerve, blister, choking, and blood agents. It is assessed to be capable of weaponizing such agents in a variety of delivery means that would include missiles, artillery, bombs, and possibly unconventional means. While unsubstantiated, Pyongyang is assessed to have an active biological weapons

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development program, with an interest in developing biological agents. We assess North Korea's missile, chemical, and biological weapons programs complement its conventional military capabilities to contribute to its security, providing deterrents to external intervention, as well as providing resources for clients interested in acquiring some of these capabilities.

On the nuclear front, North Korea's abandonment of the 1994 Agreed Framework and International Atomic Energy Safeguards Agreement, withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, restart of the Yongbyon nuclear reactor and declarations that it has reprocessed 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods indicate intent to pursue additional nuclear weapon production. These issues, along with the regime's recent refusal to continue the Six-Party Talks and its claim that North Korea possesses nuclear weapons, clearly indicate Kim Jong-il's desire to retain nuclear weapons for defense and political advantage. Although there is no direct evidence confirming North Korea's weaponization of nuclear materials, despite their own claim, the Kim regime clearly intends to continue to increase its "nuclear deterrent capability" unless it receives significant economic assistance, security guarantees, and political concessions from the international community. In this context, proliferation of North Korean advanced weapons and related technologies remains a significant concern to the United States and its allies.

*Assessment of the North Korean Threats*

Despite its apparent economic decline and political isolation, North Korea continues to pose a dangerous and complex threat to regional and global peace and security. The Kim regime maintains a delicate balance of threats to ensure its survival and to retain the world's attention. The regime supports a massive, offensively postured, conventional force that far exceeds its defensive requirements and maintains an expansive weapons of mass destruction program, both of which present a substantial threat to its neighbors. Despite increased international engagement, we see little to suggest the regime will abandon its "Military First" Policy, provocative diplomacy, nuclear challenges, missile proliferation and illegal activities for a more constructive approach to others in the international community. North Korea will continue to maintain its bellicose stance to the rest of the world, implementing limited policy and economic changes, while subjecting its people to continued repression. For now and into the foreseeable future, it will remain a major threat to global peace, stability and security in Northeast Asia and the world.

**III. Republic of Korea - United States Alliance**

In the face of these threats, the Republic of Korea - United States Alliance -- a security partnership forged during the Korean War and exemplified today through the United Nations Command and the Combined Forces Command -- has for the past fifty years guaranteed the security of the Republic of Korea against the threat of North Korean aggression, while enhancing peace and

stability in the region. While much in the global security arena has changed in the past half-century, the Republic of Korea - United States Alliance has remained stalwart in its mutual and enduring commitment to the security of the Republic of Korea and stability in the region. The Republic of Korea has been and remains a reliable ally to the United States, promoting peace and stability in the region and around the world.

### **Republic of Korea Today**

Throughout more than fifty years of economic and security cooperation, the Republic of Korea has emerged as one of the leading economic powers and one of the preeminent democracies in the region. In 2004, the Republic of Korea became the world's tenth largest economy, achieving a gross national income of \$606 billion; exceeded in the region only by Japan and China. With economic growth fueled by global exports of high technology and consumer goods, the Republic of Korea is a major economic partner for the United States, ranking as our seventh-largest trading partner, sixth-largest export market, and an important investment location for American companies.

While the Republic of Korea has firmly secured its place as an independent force in the global economy, 2004 has not been without challenges. Declines in domestic consumption have slowed the growth of its economy over the past few years. High household debt, rising unemployment, increasing individual and corporate bankruptcy and disruptive labor strikes have combined to slow its economic growth. While most forecasts indicate recovery through

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2005, the effort to recover the strength of its export economy, while improving employment at home will remain a top priority for the Roh administration. This recovery is essential to transforming the Republic of Korea into the transportation, financial and information technology hub of Northeast Asia, and in improving the quality of life for all of its citizens. Politically, the Republic of Korea enjoys a vibrant democracy and is increasingly taking a role on the international stage. The presidential elections in 2002 marked the eighth transition of a new government, and ushered in a new level of participation among its citizens. While older, more conservative South Koreans continue to support a strong United States military presence on the peninsula and a pragmatic approach to North Korea; the younger generation now seeks a more independent role in world affairs, and in their relationship with North Korea. This generation advocates domestic and foreign policies based on national interests. Impassioned debates and public demonstrations, regarding the Republic of Korea's dispatch of troops to Iraq and resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue, exhibit the strength of their views and the dynamics of domestic South Korean policy. These events clearly demonstrate the health of the Republic of Korea democracy, and its ability to manage change through peaceful constitutional processes.

Generational perspectives also impact the Republic of Korea government's view of the threat posed by North Korea, which at times also impacts the South Korean perception on the importance of our long-standing alliance. While older South Koreans with memories of the Korean War continue

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to view North Korea's regime and military with concern, many younger South Koreans see the threat posed by North Korea as more benign, and are doubtful North Korea would ever use its military or asymmetric capabilities against the Republic of Korea. While these differences have contributed to the rise of diverging views within South Korea on how best to deal with North Korea, most South Koreans share the same view on two important issues: first, a nuclear armed North Korea is an intolerable threat to stability in the region; and second, a catastrophic failure within North Korea would destabilize the entire region and have extremely adverse consequences for South Korea. To avoid these consequences and to accommodate domestic views, the Republic of Korea government has adopted a long-term engagement approach toward inter-Korean relations.

Since assuming the presidency, the Roh administration's "Policy for Peace and Prosperity" has guided South Korea's approach to inter-Korean relations. This policy formally opposes North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons while continuing efforts toward inter-Korean rapprochement through humanitarian assistance, family reunions, tourism and trade.

As a result of this policy, inter-Korean commerce has grown to more than \$700 million per year; growth the South Korean Ministry of Unification plans to expand through increased access to North Korea's Mt. Kumgang tourist resort, investment in the Kaesong Industrial Complex, and expansion of the inter-Korea transportation corridors. Through this policy, Seoul hopes to promote gradual economic integration and reconciliation, providing the catalyst for a formal peace

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agreement to replace the Korean Armistice Agreement. While this is the intent, full implementation of this policy is predicated on resolving the North Korean nuclear issue on favorable terms for the region.

As for its national security aims, the Roh administration published its first-ever national security strategy in May 2004 outlining its plan for the peaceful unification of Korea and for common prosperity in Northeast Asia. In this plan, the administration restates its opposition to North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons, while stating its "plans to first resolve the North Korean nuclear issue through dialogue based on a firm national defense posture."<sup>1</sup>

This strategy also outlines the Roh Administration's plan for a more self-reliant defense posture, advocating the continued transformation of the Republic of Korea - United States alliance, the promotion of security cooperation with other nations, and the enhancement of its own capabilities to assume greater responsibility for the defense of Republic of Korea. This "Cooperative Self-defense Pursuit Plan" accommodates the reduction of United States military forces in Korea, the relocation of United States forces to the South of Seoul, and the transfer of a number of military missions from United States forces to Republic of Korea forces as the first of many steps toward a more cooperative and self-reliant defense posture.

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<sup>1</sup> Republic of Korea National Security Council, *Peace, Prosperity and National Security: National Security Strategy of the Republic of Korea* (Seoul, Cheongwadae, 1 May 2004), 21. In November 2004, President Roh stated that "there is no other means than dialogue [to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue]." Roh Moo-hyun, "Speech by President Roh Moo-hyun at a Luncheon Hosted by the World Affairs Council of the United States," (13 November 2004).

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To accommodate these changes, the Ministry of National Defense has requested a budget of \$92 billion over the next four years, requiring an increase in defense funding from 2.8 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) to 3.2 percent by 2008. In December 2004, the National Assembly provided \$19.83 billion for defense -- a 9.9 percent increase over the 2004 budget.<sup>2</sup> While this defense budget increase shows growth, additional funding will be required to reach a sustained funding rate of no less than 3.2 percent of GDP, to enable the Republic of Korea to achieve its stated national defense objectives.

South Korea's efforts toward a greater self-reliance and improved capability are consistent with the United States' aims of encouraging our allies to assume greater roles in regional security. Peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue, enhanced Republic of Korea military forces, and greater regional cooperation -- key elements of Republic of Korea national security strategy -- are congruent with United States' policies, and the United States Forces Korea fully supports the realization of such initiatives.

### **Growth in the Republic of Korea - United States Alliance**

During the 34th Security Consultative Meeting in December 2002, the United States Secretary of Defense and the Republic of Korea Minister of National Defense established the Future of the Alliance Policy Initiative (FOTA), a two-year dialogue designed to develop options for modernizing and strengthening the alliance. Under FOTA, many positive alliance-strengthening

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<sup>2</sup> Republic of Korea's 2005 Defense Budget was approved at 20.8 trillion won or about \$19.83 billion calculated at an

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initiatives were agreed upon, including efforts to enhance combined capabilities, transfer military missions, and realign United States forces in Korea. These on-going initiatives have appreciably strengthened the alliance while adapting it to changes in the global security environment.

Following the conclusion of the FOTA dialogue in late 2004, the Republic of Korea - United States Security Policy Initiative (SPI) was established as a high-level consultative forum to address the broader, long-term issues of the alliance, and to monitor the successful implementation of the initiatives that were begun during FOTA. A key agenda item for this year's SPI talks is the "Joint Study on the Vision of the Republic of Korea - United States Alliance." The "Joint Study" is a bilateral, interagency project that will develop the vision of a broad, comprehensive alliance based upon guiding principles that underpin our two nations. This vision will look beyond potential threats from North Korea, and produce a robust view of what the alliance stands for, showcasing the alliance as the embodiment of our common values, including democracy, open markets, nonproliferation, counter-terrorism, human rights, rule of law, civilian control of the military, and freedom of worship.<sup>3</sup>

### **Republic of Korea's Support of Global and Regional Security**

Consistent with this spirit of mutual cooperation, the Republic of Korea continues to assist United States' efforts to promote global and regional security

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exchange rate of \$1 to 1,050 won.

<sup>3</sup>Richard P. Lawless and Ahn Kwang Chan, "Joint Study on the Vision of the ROK-U.S. Alliance Terms of Reference," 21 August 2004.

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through active support to the Global War on Terrorism, support for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and increasing participation in United Nations' peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief missions.

A stalwart contributor to the Global War on Terrorism, the Republic of Korea has provided contingents to support stability operations in Afghanistan and Iraq since 2003, and donated millions of dollars for reconstruction projects. Over the past three years, the Republic of Korea has pledged over \$260 million in aid for reconstruction and provided over 4,000 troops to support operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Last year, the Republic of Korea National Assembly authorized the military deployment of South Korea's Zaytun<sup>4</sup> Unit to assist with stability and reconstruction efforts in Iraq. In August 2004, the Republic of Korea deployed this unit to Iraq, where it joined the ranks of its previously deployed advance contingent of medics and engineers at Irbil in Northern Iraq. On October 1, the Zaytun Unit assumed operational command for the Raskin District from the Multi-National Corps in Iraq. Ten days later, the United States Secretary of Defense visited the Republic of Korea troops in Irbil, a symbolic gesture that recognized South Korea for its generous contributions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In November, Seoul dispatched an additional 800 troops, increasing the Zaytun Unit's strength to 3,600 personnel, becoming the third-largest force provider after Great Britain. In December 2004, the Republic of Korea National Assembly approved a one-year extension of the Zaytun Unit in Iraq, testimony to the

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Republic of Korea's active support to the Global War on Terrorism, its commitment to the democratization of Iraq, and its commitment to the Republic of Korea - United States Alliance.

At the same time, the Republic of Korea continued its third year of troop and financial support to operations in Afghanistan. Throughout 2004, the Republic of Korea provided a 58-member medical unit -- originally deployed to Kyrgyzstan as part of a level-II mobile army surgical hospital -- and a 147-man engineer construction unit. Republic of Korea contributions to Afghanistan, valued at more than \$155 million, included transportation support, radios for two newly formed Afghan National Army battalions, and in-kind military contributions to stability and reconstruction. Additionally, in the 2002 to 2004 period, the Republic of Korea provided \$45 million in reconstruction funds focused on Afghan vocational-technical education and medical assistance, \$150,000 for Interim Afghan Administration expenses, and \$12 million for regional humanitarian aid to Afghanistan's neighbors.

Most recently, in response to the December 2004 tsunamis in South and Southeast Asia, the Republic of Korea government joined the international community's assistance efforts by pledging \$50 million for relief and reconstruction, and by deploying military logistics support assets.

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<sup>4</sup> Zaytun is Arabic for olive branch, which is a symbol representing peace.

### **Republic of Korea's Support to United States Forces Korea**

A dependable ally and friend in the Global War on Terrorism and in response to international crises, the Republic of Korea government continues to support the Republic of Korea - United States Alliance through the Special Measures Agreement. In accordance with the terms of the 2002-2004 Republic of Korea - United States Special Measures Agreement, the government of the Republic of Korea provided support equivalent to approximately forty-one percent of the non-personnel stationing costs of United States Forces Korea last year. Last year's indirect cost sharing contribution was valued at approximately \$540 million and direct cost sharing was \$622 million for a total burdensharing contribution of \$1.162 billion. Special Measures Agreement negotiations for a renewed agreement are on-going.

### **IV. United Nations Command and Combined Forces Command**

The Republic of Korea - United States Alliance, the United Nations Command, and the Combined Forces Command provide the foundation for the security of the Korean peninsula, and peace and stability in the region. Together, the forces of these two commands provide a potent, integrated team with dominant military capabilities to deter any provocation and deter escalation that could destabilize the region.

As the longest standing peace enforcement coalition in the history of the United Nations, the United Nations Command represents the international community's enduring commitment to the security and stability of the Korean

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peninsula. With fifteen current member nations, the United Nations Command actively supervises compliance with the terms of the Korean Armistice Agreement, fulfilling the members' mutual pledge to "fully and faithfully carry out the terms" of the Armistice, and if there is a renewal of North Korean armed attack, to provide a unified and prompt response to preserve the security of the Republic of Korea.

With exclusive authority for the maintenance of the Armistice, the United Nations Command holds meetings with the North Korean People's Army, inspects United Nations units along the Demilitarized Zone and conducts investigations into alleged violations to prevent minor incidents from escalating into destabilizing crises.

With the 2004 opening of two inter-Korean transportation corridors crossing the Demilitarized Zone, the United Nations Command's responsibilities for approving and overseeing movement through the Demilitarized Zone have increased substantially, requiring an internal realignment of the Command.

The Combined Forces Command is the warfighting command supporting the Republic of Korea - United States Alliance. An outgrowth of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the Republic of Korea and the United States, the Combined Forces Command provides the cornerstone of deterrence against North Korean aggression, and if deterrence fails is ready to win decisively. Vigilant, well trained, and ready to fight tonight and win, the Combined Forces Command is the most powerful combined warfighting coalition in the world today.

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An integrated team of nearly 680,000 active duty personnel and three million reservists from the Republic of Korea, combined with 32,500 forward deployed United States military personnel on the Korean peninsula, the Combined Forces Command can be rapidly augmented or reinforced, when required, by regional and strategic capabilities, and is further advantaged by extensive reach-back to United States capabilities resident in the Pacific Command and the continental United States.

Historically, one of the key metrics of combat capability on the Korean peninsula has been the number of troops on the ground and the size of our combined formations. Today, it is the quality of the complementary capabilities and combat power that each nation now contributes that provides the decisive and overriding advantage to the Alliance. Over the past several years, there have been significant improvements in the quality and interoperability of Republic of Korea and United States forces supporting the Combined Forces Command, resulting in greatly enhanced capabilities for strategic deployment, command and control, precision strike, focused logistics and joint and combined operations. These capabilities have allowed the Combined Forces Command to transition to a full dominance, effects-based operational approach to strategic deterrence and warfighting, greatly enhancing our capabilities to deter and, if required, rapidly defeat a North Korean attack.

**Command Priorities**

The United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command and United States Forces Korea will continue to adapt to the changing security environment by leveraging advanced warfighting technologies and far more capable Republic of Korea and United States forces as we strengthen and transform the Alliance. Throughout this process of transformation, my command priorities will remain consistent with my previous testimonies: ensure that the commands are trained and ready to execute their assigned deterrence and warfighting responsibilities; transform the commands into more capable and flexible organizations; strengthen the Republic of Korea - United States Alliance; help set the conditions for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in the region; and make Korea an assignment of choice for all United States service members.

**Training and Readiness**

Training and readiness remain my top priorities; and continue to be the hallmark of the Republic of Korea - United States Combined Forces Command. Adherence to a warfighting ethos of prepared to "fight tonight" permeates every member and every level of our command. The robust annual Combined Forces Command exercise programs ensure that we are trained and ready for contingencies. The theater-level exercises -- Ulchi-Focus Lens; Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, and Integration; and Foal Eagle -- collectively train over 400,000 Republic of Korea and United States active and reserve component personnel in the critical tasks essential to deterring, and if necessary, defeating

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North Korean aggression against the Republic of Korea. These command post and field training exercises use battle simulations technologies to train leaders in battle command, leveraging the significant United States theater-wide investment in Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence (C4I) systems. These combat enablers provide the means to collaboratively plan, execute, and assess effects from distributed locations; allowing the Combined Forces Command to see, understand, and act to dominate the battlespace.

Ulchi-Focus Lens is a simulation-driven command post exercise focused on joint and combined effects-based operations, and sustaining command and control, logistics, and dominant maneuver skill sets. The objective of the Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, and Integration, or RSO&I exercise, is to improve our ability to rapidly reinforce and sustain operations in the Korean theater. Foal Eagle is a tactical-level joint and combined exercise that hones warfighting and interoperability skills. These exercises, supplemented by subordinate command training programs, ensure that the Combined Forces Command remains ready to fight tonight and win decisively, thus deterring North Korean aggression.

Your continued support to our joint and combined training programs and theater exercises are critical to our readiness, as is your support to our capabilities enhancements. Key focus areas for modernization are: joint and combined command, control, communications, and computers (C4); theater missile defense; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR); pre-positioned equipment and logistics; and counterfire and precision munitions.

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With your help, we have made meaningful progress in Joint and Combined C4 integration. We have also improved the survivability of intra-theater communications networks, and established a state-of-the-art Common Operational Picture and Collaborative Planning System that allows us to share information among commanders on the peninsula and within the region, and back to the United States in real time. The next step is the accelerated development of automated data filter devices to expand the real time information exchange between United States and Republic of Korea forces. Your support for these improvements and your assistance in coupling our coalition warfighting C4 systems to hardened, secure long-haul strategic communications networks on peninsula and throughout the region is essential to our continued progress in this important area.

The regional missile threat requires a robust theater missile defense system to protect critical Combined Forces Command capabilities and personnel. PAC-3 Patriot Missile System upgrades and improved munitions have enhanced our posture. Continued production of PAC-3 missiles in the near-term, followed by continued development of the Theater High Altitude Air Defense (THAAD), Airborne Laser and Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) will provide the layered missile defense capability we require in the future. Your continued support to these and other service component programs remains essential to protecting our forces on peninsula, and to our ability to reinforce the peninsula in the event of a crisis.

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Robust ISR capabilities are essential to provide sufficient warning of an impending crisis and to support rapid, decisive operations in the event of a North Korean attack or collapse. The Combined Forces Command's efforts to transform our combined intelligence capabilities are progressing, but require sustained and significant Congressional and Combat Service Agency support if we are to achieve the full spectrum persistent surveillance we require to avoid surprise. Our intelligence transformation efforts are focused in three critical areas: improving our warning posture, modernizing legacy C4I architectures and sensor suites, and improving our ability to discern intent.

As evident in the intelligence community's recent completion of our Intelligence Campaign Plan, there are a number of intelligence shortfalls in our national and theater coverage that require immediate attention. Chief among these are the need for persistent national and theater surveillance systems that provide continuous multi-discipline baselining of our threat. Central to this is the accelerated fielding and installation of state of the art Signal Intelligence (SIGINT), Imagery Intelligence (IMINT), and Measurement and Signal Intelligence (MASINT) sensors that are relevant to target sets. In addition to the fielding of a long-range unmanned aerial sensor, upgrades for the theater's aerial sensors, and modernization of our SIGINT and Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities (TENCAP) architectures, the theater will benefit greatly from increased access to space systems supporting ISR operations. With these improvements to our collection capabilities, we must also sustain the expansion and modernization of our C4I architectures to improve the theater's reach back to

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the Pacific Command, to provide bridging technology to our host nation's systems, and to enable the horizontal integration of the national to tactical intelligence enterprise that supports our theater.

The Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence and the Joint Forces Command's Information Dominance Center Initiative and Project Morning Calm have demonstrated the technical approaches we require to improve our theater's intelligence architecture and to fuse live intelligence with operational data in a common domain to speed decision making. Continued support for this effort will allow us to expand the fielding of Information Dominance Center technology across our joint and combined components, and to extend a common architecture across the enterprise to enable rapid data sharing and collaboration in near real time. Support to these initiatives will provide us with the timely, accurate assessments we require to establish conditions that enable rapid dominance of the battlespace. Your continued support to modernizing intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities is required and an essential investment for the Alliance.

Logistically supporting United States Forces Korea is a complex, multi-faceted undertaking. The proximity of the North Korean threat, coupled with the long distances from United States sustainment bases, requires a robust and responsive logistics system to support United States forces based in Korea. The capability enhancements currently programmed will significantly improve our core logistics functions through modern pre-positioned equipment, responsive strategic transportation, and modern logistics tracking systems. Pre-positioned

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equipment sets, which include critical weapons systems, preferred munitions, repair parts, and essential supplies, are critical to the rapid power projection to reinforce the Korean theater. Responsive strategic transportation -- fast sealift ships and cargo aircraft -- remains indispensable to rapidly reinforce the Korean theater and sustain United States forces. Expeditious fielding of the Air Force's C-17 fleet, the Army's Theater Support Vessel, and the Marine Corps' High Speed Vessel to the United States Pacific Command area of responsibility remains a high priority to support United States forces based in Korea. Equally important is the ability to maintain in-transit visibility of supplies and equipment with a modernized joint Logistics Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Information system. Lessons from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have highlighted several areas where relatively small investments in asset tracking systems and theater distribution yield significant efficiencies and improves the overall effectiveness of our logistics systems. Your continued support for improved logistics and sustainment programs will ensure that United States forces have the right equipment and supplies at the right time.

Counterfire and precision strike are core capabilities for all of our contingency plans, allowing us to change the dynamics of a conflict and rapidly achieve campaign objectives. Increasing the forward stocks of preferred munitions is critical to operational success in the Korean theater. Our priority ordnance requirements include: the GPS-guided Multiple Launch Rocket System with extended range capability, a ground-launched extended range, all weather capability to defeat hard and deeply buried targets (HDBTs); precision guided

munitions; air-to-ground missiles; and air-to-air missiles. Your continued support to these programs provides the overmatching capabilities to buttress our deterrence.

### **Transforming the Commands**

During the October 2004 36th Security Consultative Meeting, the United States Defense Secretary and Republic of Korea Defense Minister agreed on the importance of adapting the Alliance and transforming the Combined Forces Command to changes in the global security environment. The Secretary and Minister expressed their mutual commitment to coordinate the Republic of Korea's Cooperative Self-reliant Defense Plan with United States' transformation efforts, both of which are intended to continue to enhance, shape, and align the Combined Forces Command to deter North Korea. Briefly stated, the objectives of the "Enhance, Shape and Align" concept are to ensure that we: have the right capabilities on the peninsula to deter and, if necessary, defeat North Korean aggression; assign roles and missions to the appropriate units; and replace the post-Cold War basing plan with less intrusive hubs of enduring installations. The subsequent paragraphs describe how the "Enhance, Shape and Align" concept, supported by command priorities, has strengthened the Republic of Korea - United States Alliance and has contributed to the transformation of the United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, and United States Forces Korea.

*United Nations Command*

The United Nations Command is the exclusive authority for the maintenance of the Korean Armistice Agreement. For many years, Republic of Korea Army units, which operate under the authority of the United Nations Command, have been responsible for the security of ninety-nine percent of the southern half of the Demilitarized Zone. During the November 2003 25th meeting of the Republic of Korea - United States Military Committee, our two nations agreed to transfer the remainder of the Demilitarized Zone security mission to the Republic of Korea Army.<sup>5</sup> In October 2004, the responsibility for the protection of the Joint Security Area at Panmunjom shifted from the United States Army to Republic of Korea forces. The Military Committee agreed that the United States Army would continue to command the United Nations Command Security Battalion - Joint Security Area (UNCSB-JSA) and provide a small nucleus of staff personnel, while the Republic of Korea Army replaced all United States Army personnel directly involved in security patrols, manning observation posts, and base operations support. This mission transfer, which was conducted flawlessly, is part of the comprehensive FOTA agreement that recognizes the increased capabilities of the Republic of Korea military.

While the United Nations Command is a fifteen-member nation, multi-national organization, the United States has historically provided the Command

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<sup>5</sup> The Republic of Korea-United States Military Committee, established by the Combined Forces Command's Terms of Reference and Strategic Directives, includes the Senior United States Military Representative in Korea, the Chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Chairman of the Republic of Korea Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Commander of Combined Forces Command and appropriate members of their respective staffs. The Military Committee holds annual meetings to review combined defense policy issues and act on directives from the Republic of Korea-United States Security Consultative Meeting.

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with a majority of its personnel, while other coalition members have primarily functioned in liaison and advisory roles. Our desire for the future is to expand the roles of member nations and integrate them more fully into the United Nations Command Headquarters staff; thereby, creating a truly multi-national staff focused on integrating the strengths of all fifteen-member nations into our contingency and operational planning and operations. The Coalition's members have embraced this initiative favorably.

Last fall, the United Nations Command hosted its first contingency planners' conference with over thirty representatives from nine coalition nations attending. This year, the United Nations Command is seeking to expand coalition member participation in combined military exercises.

Additionally, the United Nations Command has approached coalition members to augment its staff to assist in the management of the two transportation corridors crossing the Demilitarized zone. Over the past eighteen months, the United Kingdom, France and New Zealand have each provided an officer on a six-month rotational basis for this important mission. The Defense Ministry of New Zealand has agreed to continue to provide an officer for this mission through early 2007. The United Nations Command desires to further expand coalition representation on a full-time basis throughout the United Nations Command staff.

The dedicated personnel of the United Nations Command, backed by its fifteen-member nations and the Combined Forces Command, continue to

guarantee the security of the Republic of Korea, and contribute to improved regional security cooperation and confidence building.

*Combined Forces Command and United States Forces Korea*

The Combined Forces Command continues to adapt to the changing security environment by leveraging a more capable Republic of Korea military force and advancing warfighting technologies. This transformation is taking place through three key initiatives: enhancing combined capabilities; shaping combined roles, missions and force structures; and aligning forces for the future. Close cooperation between the civilian and military leadership of the Republic of Korea and the United States ensures that these changes enhance readiness and combined deterrence.

Enhancing Combined Capabilities

The most visible of these changes are the capability enhancements that we are making through our combined forces' modernization programs, which include more than 340 United States and Republic of Korea enhancements to greatly strengthen our combined deterrence and warfighting capabilities. United States military enhancements include the upgrade of our Apache helicopters to AH-64D Longbows, increasing the combat capability of that weapon system by 400 percent. F/A-18E/F Super Hornets, either carrier- or land-based, provide precision strike capabilities in all weather, day or night. The introduction of High Speed Vessels and C-17's facilitates rapid reinforcement of regionally-focused United States forces, such as Marine Expeditionary Forces or Stryker Brigade

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Combat Teams by sea and air. Additionally, our investment in pre-positioning provides for rapid reinforcement of tailored capability sets. The Republic of Korea is also enhancing its military capabilities with the addition of a second Multiple Launch Rocket System battalion, Army Tactical Advanced Conventional Munitions System (ATACMS) missiles, K-1A1 tanks, K-9 self-propelled howitzers, modernization of its fighter fleet, and the fielding of an evolutionary destroyer program. Future force enhancements will include the F-15K fighter jets, Aegis destroyers, and Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft.

As noted earlier, the Republic of Korea's national defense strategy extends far beyond equipment modernization. In his 2004 National Security Strategy, President Roh declared his intention to promote a "cooperative self-reliant defense posture," where "the Republic of Korea will assume a leading role in its national security." Toward this end, the Minister of National Defense announced the government's plan to restructure the Republic of Korea's armed forces, including the civilianization of the Ministry of National Defense headquarters and its Procurement Bureau, and the reduction of 40,000 troops through consolidation and outsourcing by 2008. Both restructuring initiatives reinforce our mutual confidence in our combined capability enhancements.<sup>6</sup> Our two nations' capitalization of complementary capabilities will continue to take advantage of each nation's strengths and resources.

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<sup>6</sup> Civilianization of the Ministry of National Defense includes a plan to replace five of the nine director-general posts that are currently occupied by general officers and sixteen of twenty-seven colonel-level directors with civilians by 2007. Additionally the ministry will replace 187 of 310 mid-level posts that are occupied by military field grade officers with civilians by 2009. The Procurement Bureau will be replaced in 2005 by a civilian-controlled government agency that will handle the military's arms procurement projects, which account for 33.2% of the annual defense budget. The troop

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### Shaping Combined Roles, Missions and Force Structures

As a result of our combined combat capability enhancements, the Republic of Korea - United States Military Committee agreed to transfer several Combined Forces Command missions from United States forces to Republic of Korea forces over a three-year period. This effort began last year with the successful transfer of the rear area decontamination mission and the Joint Security Area security and support mission. Over the next two years a number of other missions will be transferred from United States forces to Republic of Korea forces, allowing the Combined Forces Command to better leverage each nation's specific strengths, thereby permitting the United States to better tailor its capabilities on the peninsula.

Concurrent to this, the United States and Republic of Korea governments agreed to the reduction of 12,500 personnel from United States Forces Korea over a five-year period. This force reduction is being accomplished in three phases. The first phase reduced 5,000 personnel in 2004, including the U.S. Second Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, which deployed to Iraq in August. During the second phase of the plan, we will reduce 3,000 personnel in 2005 and another 2,000 in 2006; and finally, during the third phase, we will reduce 2,500 personnel between 2007 and 2008.

This reduction plan principally affects the Eighth United States Army, which will reduce its force by forty percent as it simultaneously restructures many

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reduction plan includes the elimination of 2,000 personnel each from the Air Force and Navy, 10,000 from the Army in 2004, another cut of 10,000 in 2005, and the remainder between 2006 and 2007.

of its units as part of the Department of the Army's Total Force Transformation effort. Army-wide, the United States is tailoring its command and control echelons from four headquarters-type elements -- brigade, division, corps, and field army -- to three types of headquarters elements, while forming modular, self-sustaining brigade-level organizations. The Eighth United States Army's transformation efforts align with this, and will complete the transformation of its heavy brigade combat team, while consolidating three helicopter brigades into a multi-function aviation brigade. This multi-function aviation brigade will include two Apache Longbow helicopter battalions, each with twenty-four helicopters, an assault battalion, and a general support battalion. Seventh Air Force, will also reduce, but by a much smaller scale. Seventh Air Force will begin to reduce between the 2006 and 2007 timeframe, completing its redeployments in 2008.

#### Aligning United States Forces Korea

The capabilities enhancements and mission transfers mentioned previously, are key elements of United States Forces Korea transformation. Consolidating the majority of United States forces in Korea into two "enduring hubs" is the final component of our transformation. This effort consists first of the consolidation of forces, and then their eventual relocation to the south away from the Seoul metropolitan area; thereby, creating a less intrusive footprint and increasing the operational mission flexibility of our on-peninsula stationed forces.

In October 2004, the Republic of Korea Minister of National Defense and Commander, United States Forces Korea signed the Yongsan Relocation Plan Agreement, which was ratified by the Republic of Korea National Assembly in

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December. According to the terms of this agreement, the headquarters elements of the United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, and United States Forces Korea will relocate to Camp Humphreys, near Pyeongtaek, in 2007, and all other units at Yongsan will finish relocating by December 2008.

The realignment of the United States Army's Second Infantry Division is part of this alignment plan which, when complete, will allow United States forces to assume a more efficient and less intrusive footprint within two hubs south of Seoul's Han River, significantly improving the quality of life for our service members, while returning valuable land to the citizens of the Republic of Korea.

As planned, the Second Infantry Division realignment will occur in two phases. The first phase -- an extension of the 2002 Land Partnership Plan Agreement -- consolidates the Second Infantry Division into its existing installations while new facilities are prepared south of the Han River for completion and relocation of the units by 2008.<sup>7</sup> This consolidation effort is already underway and is progressing well. In the first quarter of 2005, six Second Infantry Division camps were closed and two United Nations Command camps were returned to the Republic of Korea. By December 2005, United States Forces Korea will close eight more camps and return additional camps to the Republic of Korea. In total, thirty-five camps will be closed by 2008, or about 35,000 acres, which accounts for almost two-thirds of our current total land grant.

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<sup>7</sup> The Republic of Korea ratified the 2002 Land Partnership Plan Agreement in 2003. This plan reduced the number of United States installations in Korea from 41 to 23. The Land Partnership Plan shares relocation costs between both governments -- each nation bearing the costs of the relocations it requested.

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In addition to returning the majority of our dispersed camps, the Republic of Korea government has agreed to purchase 2,746 acres to provide the land needed to expand Camp Humphreys to accommodate our relocation. In 2004, the Ministry of National Defense procured the first 126 acres of new land grants for our use at Camp Humphreys. With the passage of a special compensation law by the National Assembly in December 2004, the Ministry of National Defense is now diligently working to procure all of the required land by the end of 2005, which is needed to expand both Camp Humphreys and Osan Air Base. To date, the Republic of Korea has allocated \$494 million to fund land procurement, project designs and construction projects. While considerable, this amount represents only about fifty percent of the funds required by their government in 2005. This is an issue the United States and the Republic of Korea are working to resolve.

Once construction at Camp Humphreys is complete, actions to relocate Second Infantry Division units into new facilities will begin. Sustained funding of United States military construction projects in Korea in the Future Years Defense Plan, coupled with sufficient host nation-funded construction by the Republic of Korea, will be crucial if this plan is to remain on track.

### **Making Korea an Assignment of Choice**

Recapitalizing the United States Forces Korea infrastructure and establishing a stable stationing environment will enhance readiness, force protection, and overall quality of service. These key actions, along with equitable

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compensation for our service members, are helping to make Korea “an assignment of choice” for United States service members and their families, who are now willing to accept longer tours in Korea. These improvements allow us to continue to recruit and retain the talented, motivated people who assist the Command in accomplishing our mission in Korea. With your assistance, we can continue to build on these initiatives, and will sustain momentum on these recent successes.

### Upgrading and Building New Infrastructure

The consolidation of United States Forces Korea into two enduring hubs will provide a unique opportunity to upgrade our service members’ quality of life while establishing the long-term infrastructure that is required to maintain an enduring presence on the peninsula. While we move forward with our overall construction master plan -- executable with sustained military construction funding under the Future Years Defense Plan and host nation-funded construction -- we will also need to maintain our existing facilities. Your support of our Sustainment, Restoration and Maintenance Program requirements, along with host-nation contributions, will allow us to complete our infrastructure renewal program to enhance our force protection posture and the quality of life for our personnel. The President's Fiscal Year 2006 budget request includes several military construction projects that are essential to our forces in Korea and critical to our overall theater master plan. These projects are summarized in Table 1.

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| <b>Table 1. Fiscal Year 2006 Korea Military Construction Projects</b> |                          |                                |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Project Description</b>  | <b>Location</b>          | <b>Program Authority (\$M)</b> |
| <b>Army Projects</b>  |                          |                                |
| Barracks Complex  | Camp Humphreys           | \$ 28.0                        |
| Barracks Complex  | Camp Humphreys           | \$ 41.0                        |
| Barracks Complex  | Camp Humphreys           | \$ 46.0                        |
| Urban Assault Course  | Yongpyong                | \$ 1.5                         |
|   | <b>Army Total =</b>      | <b>\$116.5</b>                 |
| <b>Air Force Projects</b>   |                          |                                |
| Enlisted Dormitory  | Osan Air Base            | \$ 21.8                        |
| Enlisted Dormitory  | Kunsan Air Base          | \$ 44.1                        |
| Squadron Operations / Aircraft Maintenance Unit Facility              | Osan Air Base            | \$ 19.0                        |
| Consolidated Personnel Processing Center                              | Kunsan Air Base          | \$ 6.8                         |
|   | <b>Air Force Total =</b> | <b>\$ 91.7</b>                 |
| DoDDS Elementary/High School Addition                                 | Taegu                    | \$ 8.2                         |
|   | <b>Total Program =</b>   | <b>\$216.4</b>                 |

Our challenge to recapitalize the infrastructure is substantial and at present, woefully under-funded. Our facilities and infrastructure are old; over one-third of the buildings in the command are between 25 and 50 years old and another one-third are classified as temporary structures. Due to previously under-funded Sustainment, Restoration and Maintenance Programs, many buildings have deferred maintenance, contributing to their continuing deterioration. Over the last four years, funding for these programs has fallen far short of our requirements. Our annual sustainment funding has equaled less than fifty percent of the requirement, and our annual restoration and modernization funding has been nearly eighty million dollars short of the requirement. In 2004, the Army was funded at fifty-eight percent of sustainment

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requirements and at thirty-seven percent of restoration and modernization requirements. Similarly, the Air Force was funded at forty-seven percent of sustainment requirements and at only five percent of restoration and modernization requirements. A robust Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization Profile is absolutely essential if we are to maximize the appropriated military construction dollars we receive. New construction is only a temporary fix to our facilities problems. We must have the funds to sustain, restore and modernize our facilities, or we will constantly find ourselves with a run-down, patched-up infrastructure.

Though there is more to be done, we have made progress. We have begun developing our principal hub in the southwest, which includes Camp Humphreys and Osan Air Base. Your support of the Fiscal Year 2005 Sewer System Upgrade Construction Project at Camp Humphreys will sustain the current population in addition to the expected 18,000 service members and military dependents that will be consolidated into this enduring hub as part of United States Forces Korea's transformation. This project is located on existing land granted for use by the United States Forces Korea, and will comply with United States health and environmental protection standards.

Many of our unaccompanied and accompanied service members continue to live in substandard housing, whether on base or in crowded urban areas outside our installations. Our alignment into two enduring hubs will allow us to focus on improving housing conditions at our enduring facilities, and we will use

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several different funding programs, including military construction, host nation-funded construction and build-to-lease programs.

However, cuts in the Services' 2003 and 2004 military construction budgets have delayed our ability to reach the Department of Defense's goal to house all unaccompanied service members in adequate installation housing by 2007. In 2004, two Army barracks upgrades were awarded for \$5.1 million; however, the Army requires an additional \$25.8 million to renovate eight Army barracks on our enduring installations. Additionally, I am requesting \$115 million in military construction funds for 2006 to build three Army barracks complexes at Camp Humphreys. The Air Force is short over 1,500 adequate billeting spaces and plans to use military construction funds to build six dormitories at Kunsan and three dormitories at Osan Air Base. One hundred percent of our Marines and Sailors assigned to Camp Mu Juk -- in our second enduring hub -- reside in inadequate barracks. We are contracting two host nation-funded construction projects to solve this problem that should be completed by 2008. We also plan to improve the unaccompanied senior enlisted and officer quarters by contracting build-to-lease projects, including a ninety-six space building at both K-16 Air Base and Camp Carroll, and four ninety-six space buildings at Camp Humphreys.

Currently, twenty-three percent of our government family housing units do not meet Department of Defense minimum living standards. The Air Force is using military construction funds to meet its family housing requirements by building 312 new family units at Osan Air Base by 2007. Continued support for

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family housing construction in Korea will ensure quality housing for our service members' families, meeting or exceeding Department of Defense or Service standards.

I want to assure you that we will continue to be good stewards of the appropriations that you give us, which will provide our service members with required working and living facilities.

*Ensuring Equitable Pay*

In 2004, with the authorization for a cost of living allowance, or COLA, we achieved our goal of ensuring equitable pay for our service members in Korea. This allowance incentive significantly eliminated the pay disparity and offset the rising out-of-pocket costs of serving in Korea, and provides continued opportunity for the Services to reduce pay inequities. Additionally, the Army and Air Force implemented the Assignment Incentive Pay Program, authorizing a cash incentive for those personnel who voluntarily extend their tour of duty in Korea. As a result of this program, through which more than 9,500 service members have voluntarily extended their tours, we have greatly reduced personnel turbulence on the total force, increased combat effectiveness, and netted more than \$57 million in savings for the Department of Defense.<sup>8</sup> On behalf of the men and women serving in United States Forces Korea, I extend our sincerest appreciation and ask that you continue supporting Department of Defense efforts

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<sup>8</sup> Average permanent Change of Station cost per person: officers \$16,500 and enlisted \$10,500.

to provide equitable pay for the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines serving in Korea.

*Promoting Dignity and Respect*

Promoting dignity and respect for all individuals are of the utmost importance to the United States and to the Department of Defense, and a mandate we have embraced within United States Forces Korea. I will highlight two areas in which United States Forces Korea has taken the lead and provided a model for the Department of Defense, which are specifically reviewing our programs for preventing sexual assault and combating human trafficking and prostitution.

*Preventing Sexual Assault*

United States Forces Korea shares your concern about sexual assaults involving service members. In 2004, the Command formed the United States Forces Korea Sexual Assault Working Group. Since its formation, this group has developed and implemented an educational program for training our leaders and service members on awareness and prevention of sexual assault. This training stresses sexual assault risk factors and victim care. Concurrently, this group developed a United States Forces Korea Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Training Course. Equally important in preventing sexual assault, we recently changed the legal drinking age throughout the United States Forces Korea from twenty to twenty-one years old, instituted a sexual assault regulation, and

published a sexual assault handbook and a Commander's Sexual Assault Victim Services Guide.

In United States Forces Korea, leaders at all levels are charged with a personal responsibility for rigorously enforcing policies and ensuring that all known sexual assaults are immediately reported to appropriate legal authorities. Additionally, all reported sexual assault victims are treated with dignity and respect as they are immediately provided with a trained victim advocate who is a caring member of a Sexual Assault Response Team. Preventing sexual assault among members of the Command is an important part of making Korea the assignment of choice, and we are working diligently to eliminate any occurrence of this crime within the United States Forces Korea.

#### Combating Human Trafficking and Prostitution

In accordance with the Deputy Secretary of Defense's 30 January 2004 memorandum regarding *Combating Trafficking in Persons in the Department of Defense*, United States Forces Korea has adopted a zero tolerance approach to human trafficking and vigorously prosecutes any such illegal activity within the Command. The Command has developed a supporting four-pronged strategy that focuses on awareness, identification and reduction of illegal activity, combined with continued interaction with the Republic of Korea government and its law enforcement agencies. Our desired end state, as we work with our host nation partners, is the elimination of prostitution and its links to human trafficking

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in the Korea entertainment districts that are adjacent to United States military installations in Korea.

Our first efforts have been to increase awareness of human trafficking and prostitution through regularly scheduled training. We identify known and suspected venues where businesses support human trafficking and prostitution, and place them off-limits to all United States service members, Department of Defense civilians, contract employees, and family members. Unit commanders continue to employ command presence to provide a visible official presence in the entertainment districts near U.S. military installations. The Command's unflagging efforts have been significantly augmented by recent Republic of Korea legislation, which outlaws human trafficking and prostitution, and affixes severe punishment for violators.

We are not finished in our efforts; this is an on-going concern and one that we take very seriously. We fully understand the corrosive effects of sexual assault and human trafficking, and are determined to eliminate these activities within the United States Forces Korea.

### Improving Safety

USFK has just completed its safest year on the Korean peninsula. Across the Command, we have achieved significant reductions in accidental deaths and injuries, and ground and aviation accidents. Recently the Army Chief of Staff recognized Eighth United States Army for its success in significantly reducing accidents. I attribute our tremendous success in safety to a multi-pronged

approach that emphasizes leader involvement at every level, integrates risk management and safety training into every event, and continually reinforces safety awareness. I am very proud of this safety record, which directly contributes to our warfighting readiness and quality of life.

### **Strengthening the Republic of Korea - United States Alliance**

United States Forces Korea efforts to strengthen the alliance begin at the grass-roots level with improving the South Korean people's understanding of the United States forces based in their country. United States Forces Korea's "Good Neighbor Program" at every command level continue to emphasize the importance of reaching out to our South Korean hosts to foster a better understanding of our shared values and interests. To connect directly with the South Korean people, the Command established an interactive Korean-language web site as a source of information on our forces in Korea. More than two and one-half million visits since its inception reveal it as a valuable method of direct communication, independent of news media filters or bias. The addition of a discussion board, which allows visitors to post messages and comments upon issues of concern, provides needed insight into Korean public opinion. Our Korea Advisory Council, which meets quarterly, remains a productive venue for open discussion between senior United States Forces Korea leaders and some of the Republic of Korea's leading citizens, including religious leaders, academics, and government and business officials. The Korea Advisory Council, coupled with the interactive Korean language web site, ensure that our Korean

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hosts have the opportunity to present their views directly to senior leaders at every command level of United States forces based in Korea.

All commanders of United States Forces Korea units have continued their individual Good Neighbor Programs that are centered on community outreach programs in their areas to improve mutual understanding with their local hosts. Throughout the past year, our servicemen and women, and their families have donated over one million dollars and volunteered over one million service hours to children's schools and charities throughout Korea. Adopt-a-school programs with local Korean elementary schools, English-tutoring to South Korean youngsters, installation tours for local citizens, sponsorship of orphanages, restoration of children's parks and recreation sites, and joint band concerts have fostered a deep sense of cultural exchange and contribution to the communities in which our service members and their families live.

These community outreach programs have been accompanied by a measurable reduction in the frequency and intensity of anti-American protest demonstrations in South Korean cities. Our efforts to improve mutual understanding cannot guarantee that the presence of United States forces in Korea will not be manipulated for domestic political purposes. However, we can see the progress that these community outreach programs are having in building individual friendships that strengthen South Korean citizens' understanding of the security and stability that the men and women of United States Forces Korea help bring to the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia.

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### **Fostering Peace and Stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the Region**

Northeast Asia continues to grow in importance for the United States and our partners. The presence of United States forces in Korea demonstrates our commitment to shared interests: regional peace and stability; free trade; and the spread of democratic principles. The Republic of Korea continues to be a valuable ally and partner in the region and around the globe. The United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, and the United States Forces Korea are trained and ready. We remain confident in our ability to deter, and, if necessary, defeat aggression against the Republic of Korea.

Transformation of United States Forces Korea is well under way. Your continued investments in equipment and infrastructure are greatly improving our operational capabilities and the quality of life for United States service members, Department of Defense civilian employees, and family members. This total transformation effort to enhance, shape and align greatly contributes to increased strategic relevance and flexibility for United States forces stationed in Korea. Our transformed forces and improved basing posture enable more rapid reinforcement to the Korean theater in the event of a crisis, and improves deterrence on the peninsula by providing strategically mobile overmatching power to dissuade potential threats to Alliance interests. Your continued support will ensure we achieve our transformation objectives by providing our forces with the resources needed to deter aggression and to foster peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in the region.

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You can be justifiably proud of all the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and civilians in Korea who serve the American people. Their daily dedication and performance continue to earn the trust and support that you have placed in them.