

13th Korea-U.S. Integrated Defense Dialogue Joint Press Statement

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and Republic of Korea (ROK) Ministry of National Defense (MND) held the 13th Korea-U.S. Integrated Defense Dialogue (KIDD) on March 19-20, 2018, in Washington, D.C. The talks were led by Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Affairs Randall Schriver and ROK Deputy Minister for National Defense Policy Yeo Suk-joo. They were joined by key U.S. and ROK defense and foreign affairs officials, including Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asia Brigadier General Roberta Shea, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy Robert Soofer, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Korea Mark Lambert, and ROK Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director General for North American Affairs Kim Tae-jin.

The U.S. and ROK delegations assessed that close cooperation between the two military authorities contributed to the peaceful and successful hosting of the PyeongChang Winter Olympics and set the conditions for inter-Korean and U.S.-North Korea dialogues at the appropriate time. They committed to strengthen cooperation to ensure the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization (CVID) of the Korean Peninsula.

U.S. and ROK officials concurred that North Korea's nuclear tests, ballistic missile launches and development, as well as other destabilizing actions, are a serious threat to the East Asia region and the world. Both sides reaffirmed the mutual objective of peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and shared the understanding that it is necessary to strengthen dialogue to draw sincere change in North Korea's behavior, while maintaining sanctions and pressure with the international community.

At the Security Policy Initiative session, the United States and the ROK pledged to strengthen coordination on North Korea policy and committed to expand cooperation across various domains. Both sides resolved to continue to strengthen the strong, effective, and credible combined defense posture to underpin ongoing diplomatic efforts towards the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The U.S. DoD and ROK MND resolved to strengthen U.S.-ROK-Japan trilateral and multilateral security cooperation to fully implement sanctions on North Korea in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions. The two sides noted that bolstering the ROK military's defense capabilities enhances comprehensive Alliance capabilities, and committed to strengthen cooperation on defense industry, defense science and technology, and the protection of defense technologies. In addition, both sides resolved to continue to deepen cooperation in the cyber and space fields.

At the Conditions-Based Operational Control Transition Working Group meeting, both sides recognized the significant progress towards meeting the objectives of the conditions-based OPCON transition plan. Both parties reaffirmed the commitment that after the OPCON transition, a combined command structure will be maintained, led by a ROK commander, and subject to the joint direction of both U.S. and ROK national command and military authorities. The U.S. and ROK continue to coordinate closely on acquiring the necessary capabilities and defining command structures to enhance the Alliance's ability to defend the ROK. Both sides committed to pursue establishing Alliance Guiding Principles on combined defense posture post-

OPCON transition, updating the conditions-based OPCON transition plan (COTP), approving the draft organization of Future Combined Forces Command, and reaching an agreement on key strategic documents.

At the Deterrence Strategy Committee plenary session, the two sides discussed various cooperative measures to enhance substantive Alliance deterrence capability against North Korea's nuclear and missile threats. The United States reaffirmed its commitment to defend the ROK against North Korean threats through its extended deterrence capabilities, to include conventional, missile defense, and nuclear capabilities. Both sides pledged to continue multifaceted discussions regarding various cooperative measures to strengthen the implementation of the U.S. extended deterrence commitment to the ROK.

Both sides assessed that the 13th KIDD reaffirms the close bonds of the Alliance, bolsters bilateral coordination toward the peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and develops the Alliance in a mutually reinforcing manner. The U.S. DoD and the ROK MND look forward to holding the 14th KIDD in Seoul, ROK, at a mutually appropriate time in the second half of 2018.