

The 5th ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus Republic of Korea-U.S. Defense Ministerial Meeting

ROK Minister of National Defense Jeong Kyeong-doo and the U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis convened a bilateral defense ministerial meeting in Singapore on October 19 on the margins of the 5th ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting – Plus (ADMM-Plus), and held discussions on coordination towards denuclearization and peace on the Korean Peninsula as well as other key Alliance issues.

Minister Jeong and Secretary Mattis welcomed the results of the September 19 Pyongyang Summit and pledged to strengthen cooperation between the two defense authorities in order to support diplomatic efforts towards the common objectives of complete denuclearization in a final, fully verified manner and lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. In particular, the Minister and the Secretary committed to maintain close communication and coordination in order to ensure effective implementation of the inter-Korean *Agreement on the Implementation of the Historic Panmunjom Declaration in the Military Domain*, while cooperating to maintain a robust combined defense posture.

Minister Jeong and Secretary Mattis recognized that significant progress has been made in various domains following the 2017 Summit understanding to enable conditions-based operational control (OPCON) transition expeditiously and pledged to cooperate closely to meet the necessary conditions for OPCON transition expeditiously.

Minister Jeong and Secretary Mattis look forward to the 50th Security Consultative Meeting (SCM), scheduled on October 31 in Washington D.C., where they will reaffirm the robust ROK-U.S. Alliance, assess the achievements of the Alliance cooperation in the past half-century, and look forward to the next 50 years.