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DEFENSE
WHITE PAPER



Message from the Minister of National Defense

The year 2010 marked the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War. Since the end of the war, the Republic of Korea has made such great strides and its economy now ranks among the 10-plus largest economies in the world. Out of the ashes of the war, it has risen from an aid recipient to a donor nation. Korea's economic miracle rests on the strength and commitment of the ROK military.

However, the threat of war and persistent security concerns remain undiminished on the Korean Peninsula. North Korea is threatening peace with its recent surprise attack against the ROK Ship *Cheonan* and its firing of artillery at Yeonpyeong Island. The series of illegitimate armed provocations by the North have left a fragile peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Transnational and non-military threats coupled with potential conflicts among Northeast Asian countries add another element that further jeopardizes the Korean Peninsula's security.

To handle security threats, the ROK military has instituted its Defense Vision to foster an 'Advanced Elite Military,' which will realize the said Vision. As part of the efforts, the ROK military complemented the Defense Reform Basic Plan and has revamped its weapon procurement and acquisition system. In addition, it has revamped the educational system for officers while strengthening the current training system by extending the basic training period and by taking other measures. The military has also endeavored to invigorate the defense industry as an exporter so the defense economy may develop as a new growth engine for the entire Korean economy. To reduce any possible inconveniences that Koreans may experience, the military has reformed its defense rules and regulations to ease the standards necessary to designate a Military Installation Protection Zone.

Considering the current strategic environment, we reached an agreement to adjust the date of Wartime OPCON (Operational Control) transition with the U.S. In addition, we succeeded in holding the first ever ROK-U.S. Foreign and Defense Ministers' Meeting, which is a testament to both nations' dedication to have a strong alliance. At the Meeting, the two nations agreed to sustain and further develop a future-oriented strategic alliance. The 42nd ROK-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) held in 2010 resulted in critical agreements concerning the Strategic Alliance 2015, the Guidelines for ROK-U.S. Defense Cooperation, and the Strategic Planning Guidance (SPG). The ROK's overseas troops, including the *Dongmyeong* Unit in Lebanon, the *Cheonghae* Unit in the Gulf of Aden, the *Danbi* Unit in Haiti and the *Ashena* Unit in Afghanistan, have contributed to world peace through successful local operations.

However, further reform remains to be achieved in many areas. The ROK Ship *Cheonan* incident and the North's provocative artillery firing at Yeonpyeong Island brought dishonor and indelible scars to the ROK military. Furthermore, these incidents caused many Koreans to question the ROK military's immediate response to these threats.

The ROK military will continue its commitment to a high readiness posture to exact swift, immediate punishment against the North for any provocative act it may seek to perpetrate. In addition, we will set conditions that only allows for a military that is respected by its combat skills and operational results through the elimination unnecessary administrative elements, bureaucratic cultures, and mannerism prevailing throughout all corners of National Defense. Also, we intend to equip a 'Combat Oriented Military' armed with highly proficient warfighting capabilities, and a 'Warrior of Warriors Ideal' filled with the willingness to fight in a well disciplined manner.

We will upgrade our combat capabilities that set forth conditions suitable for effectively executing Network Centric Warfare (NCW), and will establish an advanced warfighting system that practically indoctrinates jointness across the services in any impending situations.

Within the framework of the Strategic Alliance 2015, we will closely cooperate with the U.S. on major issues between the two countries, while endeavoring to achieve a stable and sustainable ROK-U.S. alliance. We will also involve ourselves in military diplomacy and Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) as part of the efforts to lift the nation's prominence and increase national interest. Moreover, the ROK military will take a leading role in accomplishing 'a Fair Society' moving toward 'a Greater Korea,' which is the core policy slogan of the ROK Government.

The *Defense White Paper 2010* will discuss the defense policy directions designed to realize the National Security Strategy (NSS), while providing up-to-date and candid information about the progress and plans of the policies. This Defense White Paper will also deal with major defense issues in great detail, with appendices on defense-related data, including a memoir of the Korean War, the North's attack against the ROK Ship Cheonan and the North's firing of artillery at Yeonpyeong Island.

We hope that the *Defense White Paper 2010* will deftly guide you through the ROK military's moves as a peace keeper on the Korean Peninsula, in the Asia-Pacific region and in the entire world. From this time forward, the ROK military will try with utmost sincerity to establish 'a strong military capable of gaining victory in any immediate skirmishes' by 'reshaping itself for victory.' We look forward to the continued attention and support of Korean readers.

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The First Nuclear Security Summit (Washington D.C., April 2010)