



# United Nations Command

## *Public Affairs Office*

*Yongsan Army Garrison,  
Republic of Korea*

*Phone DSN (315) 723-4665/4661  
Local 05033-23-4665/4661  
From USA 011-82-2-7913-4668/6029  
Korean Language Speaker 05033-23-4668*

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## News Release

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### North Korean Defection Update, Video Release

U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan, SEOUL— The United Nations Command (UNC) completed its investigation into the Nov. 20 Korean People's Army (KPA) soldier defection at the Joint Security Area (JSA) and released accompanying video today of the incident.

Closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage at the link below shows the following events:

- The KPA defector approaching in a vehicle across the 72-hour Bridge
- The defector getting the vehicle stuck along the row of JSA buildings
- The KPA initial response
- The defector's run south across the MDL as KPA soldiers engage him with direct fire.
- A KPA soldier briefly crossing the MDL before returning back to the north side of the JSA.
- The JSA security battalion's recovery of the defector just prior to his medical evacuation for treatment.

The key findings of the Special Investigation Team include the KPA violated the UN Armistice Agreement twice during the event by firing weapons across the MDL and when one KPA soldier actually temporarily crossed the MDL.

UNC personnel at the JSA notified KPA of these violations today through normal communications channel in Panmunjom and requested a meeting to discuss the investigation results and measures to prevent future such violations.

The investigation team furthermore determined JSA security battalion personnel took appropriate actions during the incident which resulted in de-escalation of tensions and no loss of life.

"After thoroughly reviewing the investigation results, I assess the actions taken by the UNC Security Battalion were in a manner that is consistent with the Armistice Agreement, namely – to respect the Demilitarized Zone and to take actions that deter a resumption of hostilities," said Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, UNC Commander. "The armistice agreement was challenged, but it remains in place."

The UNC Special Investigation Team that conducted the investigation was comprised of personnel from Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, and the United States. Additionally, members from Sweden and Switzerland of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission observed the process in accordance with the standard procedures for these types of investigations.

All additional questions should be directed to the United Nations Command Public Affairs Office.

For CCTV video from the JSA please visit: [www.usfk.mil/media](http://www.usfk.mil/media)

For a copy of the armistice agreement please visit:  
[http://www.usfk.mil/Portals/105/Documents/SOFA/G\\_Armistice\\_Agreement.pdf](http://www.usfk.mil/Portals/105/Documents/SOFA/G_Armistice_Agreement.pdf)

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