

# THEME OF THE QUARTER

a closer look at...

## JOINT U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE GROUP-KOREA (JUSMAG-K)



### JUSMAG-K HEADQUARTERS

The Joint U.S. Military Assistance Group-Korea (JUSMAG-K), the largest overseas U.S. security assistance organization, has had a long and fruitful history in providing assistance and advisory services to the Republic of Korea (ROK). In addition to the security assistance management responsibilities common to all such U.S. organizations, JUSMAG-K is unique in its responsibilities for advising and assisting the ROK government in the development of its armed forces and ROK defense industries. The following article, prepared by JUSMAG-K, traces the fascinating history of Korea and the evolution of U.S. security assistance programs in Korea.

#### History of Korea

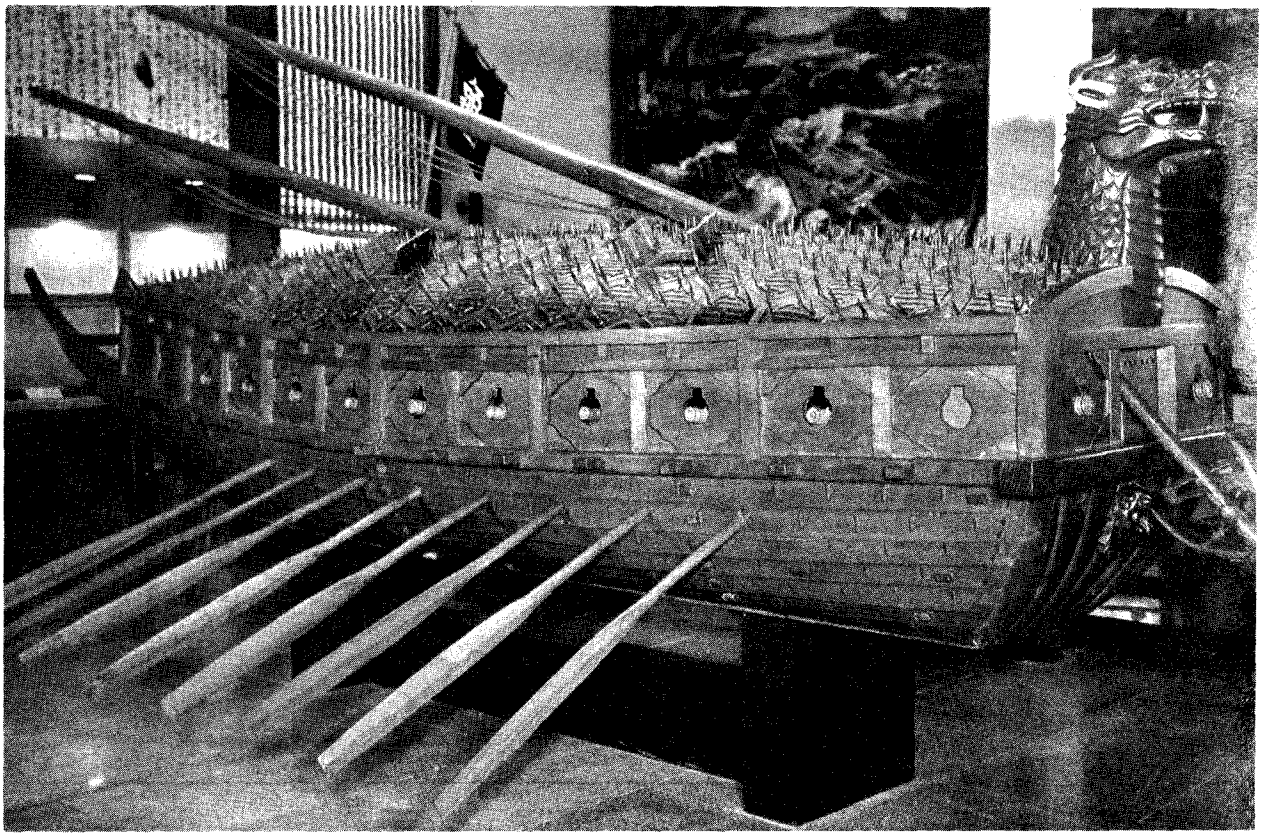
1982 marks the 100th anniversary of relations between the United States and the Republic of Korea (ROK). On May 22, 1882, the American-Korean Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce, and Navigation was signed in Korea. Although 100 years is a relatively long time when viewed from the perspective of United States' history, it is a small portion of Korea's rich heritage. As with other ancient lands, Korea's early history is shrouded in myth. According to popular folklore, the founder of Korea was a figure named Tangun, who in 2333 B.C. descended from heaven to unite nine aboriginal tribes into a tribal state, with its capital near the city of Pyongyang. More historically valid is the premise that the earliest Koreans were migrants from central Asia who wandered through present day China, Mongolia, and Manchuria before settling on the Korean peninsula.

Because of its strategic location, Korea was destined to be invaded and occupied by its Asian neighbors for a large portion of its history. The earliest recorded Korean history can be traced to the second century B.C. The Chinese Emperor, Han Wu Ti, colonized Korea in 108 B.C. and initiated a period of Sino-Korean association which would continue, despite interruption, for twenty centuries. In 313 A.D. the Chinese were expelled from Korea. Three distinct kingdoms replaced the Chinese commandery: Koguryo in northern Korea and southern Manchuria, Paekche along the Han River in the southwest, and Silla in the southeast. For a period of over 300 years, each of these fiercely independent kingdoms struggled to achieve supremacy. Finally, in 668 A.D., Silla aligned itself with China and unified the country with essentially the same borders it has today. The unified Silla period lasted until 918 A.D. and was rich in cultural achievements.

The Koryo Dynasty, from which the name Korea was derived, began with the overthrow of the Silla kingdom. During the Koryo rule, movable type was developed and in use two centuries before Gutenberg's invention. From the outset, the Koryo Dynasty was harassed by Tartar and Mongol tribes from the north. In 1231, Mongol hordes under the leadership of the Great Khan, overran the country and decimated the populace, but the invaders were unable to capture the government which had taken refuge on an off-shore island. Despite this, the Mongols soon made the Koryo rulers mere puppets through a series of intermarriages, and forced Korea into a disastrous war with Japan, the ultimate Mongol objective. The Mongol Dynasty in China faded in the mid-fourteenth century, but Mongolian influence over the Koryo rulers remained strong until the latter part of the century.

In 1392, when the Koryo court attempted to aid the Mongols in their battle with the Chinese Ming Dynasty, an anti-Mongol general, Yi Song Gay, revolted and seized the Korean throne. The Yi Dynasty was to last until 1910. Yi Korea became a mirror of its neighbor, China. A civil service bureaucracy based on the Confucian system emerged, and Buddhism was outlawed, never to regain its former prominence in national affairs. During the reign of the most noted of the Yi Dynasty rulers, King Se Jong, the Korean system of writing, Hangul, was invented. This phonetic alphabet has the distinction of being the only known form of writing in common usage today to be devised by scholars for that specific purpose. Although Hangul remains the official alphabet of Korea, the many years of Chinese association have also contributed to Korea's current dialect.

Factionalism characterized much of the era of the Yi Dynasty. Purges and counter-purges were common until the late seventeenth century. It was during this period that Korea's most famous naval hero, Admiral Yi Sun Sin, rose to prominence. Between 1592 and 1598, Japan twice invaded Korea in an attempt to conquer China. These invasions were unsuccessful due to Japanese logistics difficulties and the genius of Admiral Yi. Admiral Yi successfully used iron-clad "turtle ships" to interdict Japanese supply lines and defeat the Japanese armada. The use of iron-clad ships by Admiral Yi was nearly 300 years before the battle between the Monitor and the Merrimac.



ADMIRAL YI SUN SIN'S IRON-CLAD TURTLE SHIP

In 1636, Korea was invaded by the Manchus from the North. These repeated incursions prompted Korea to adopt an isolationist policy, sealing its borders until 1876 when Japan again invaded. During this period of isolation, Korea became known as the "Hermit Kingdom."

Following the Japanese invasion, Korea became the center of political rivalry between China, Russia, and Japan, as each sought to control the strategic peninsula. In 1894 the Yi Dynasty ruler requested assistance from China to quell a revolt. China responded by sending troops to Korea. Japan, not wishing China to gain an advantage, also dispatched a force to Korea, and this led to the Sino-Japanese War of 1894 and 1895. Japan emerged the victor, ending the era of Chinese influence in Korea. Although Japan nominally recognized Korea's independence, Japanese occupation troops remained in Korea. This action led to a war between Russia and Japan, as Russia feared that Japan would attempt to further expand its sphere of influence to the mainland. Again, Japan was successful, defeating Russia in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904 and 1905. A peace treaty was signed and Korea was declared a Japanese protectorate in 1905. A treaty of annexation was signed in 1910 making Korea a Japanese colony, and a Japanese Governor General replaced the Yi Dynasty ruler. During the 36 years of Japanese domination which followed, Korea served as a source of supply of raw materials and food for Japan's growing industries and population. Korean culture and customs were vigorously suppressed to the extent that even the Korean language was outlawed.

At the Cairo Conference of 1943 during World War II, China, the United Kingdom, and the United States asserted that Korea, in due course, would

become an independent state. It was further agreed at the Potsdam Conference in August 1945 that Korea would be reestablished as an independent nation after a period of trusteeship by the United States, China, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union. With Japan's collapse, the allies established a Korean demarcation line at thirty-eight degrees of latitude (the 38th Parallel), with the U.S. responsible for the surrender of Japanese forces south of the line and the Soviet Union responsible for the surrender north of the line. Occupational forces of both countries remained in Korea while efforts were made to unify Korea. However, political agreement was not forthcoming. When the U.S.S.R. prevented United Nations officials from entering the north in 1948 to supervise national unification elections, the UN proceeded with the elections in the South. As a result, Syngman Rhee was elected as President of the newly-established Republic of Korea (ROK). The communist forces north of the 38th Parallel rejected the ROK elections, and formed the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, with Kim Il Sung designated as Premier. In late 1948 and 1949, Soviet forces left North Korea, and United States forces, with the exception of a small training contingent, left the ROK.

In June 1950, North Korean forces invaded the ROK. United Nations forces responded, and, when these forces approached the Yalu River in October 1950, Chinese Communist forces intervened. Eventually, in July 1953, an armistice agreement was signed which established a demilitarized zone (DMZ) 4,000 meters wide, bisected by a Military Demarcation Line near, but no longer precisely at the 38th Parallel. Kim Il Sung remained in power in the North and Syngman Rhee in the South. The 1953 armistice agreement and the division of the country remains in effect, since a formal peace agreement has never been concluded. The ROK and the U.S. signed a Mutual Defense Treaty in October 1953.

Corruption in the ROK government, rigged elections, and poor economic policies produced massive student demonstrations and finally led to the resignation of Rhee in April 1960. General elections were held and the Democratic Party, led by Chang Myon, was victorious. Chang Myon attempted to reorganize the government into a parliamentary system, but this reorganization failed in the face of the economic chaos left by the Rhee regime. In May 1961, Major General Pak Chung Hee headed a military junta which overthrew the incumbent government in a bloodless coup. The following year General Pak retired and was elected President of the ROK in 1963. President Pak was subsequently re-elected in 1967, 1972, and 1978. The Korean Constitution was revised in 1972, elevating the President above the other branches of government, extending the President's term from four to six years, and allowing the President to restrict civil rights if required in the interests of order, public welfare, or national security. In the ensuing years, President Pak acted numerous times to restrict civil rights, using decrees termed Presidential Emergency Measures. These actions led to widespread public discontent, and on October 26, 1979, President Pak was assassinated.

Following Pak's assassination, martial law was imposed and a caretaker president was appointed. In late 1979, Major General Chun Doo Hwan began his rise to power when he led a shakeup of the ROK Army, bypassing several senior officers. Chun consolidated his power and, on May 17, 1980, decreed the imposition of extraordinary martial law, arrested opposition leaders and dissidents, and began a series of purges of public officials suspected of corruption, incompetence, or abuse of authority. Chun retired from the Army as

a four-star general, a rank he held for three weeks, in August 1980. Five days later, Chun was elected President by an electoral college vote. In October 1980, the fifth ROK constitution since 1948 was overwhelmingly approved by a national referendum, with over 90% of the eligible electorate participating. This latest constitution prescribes a presidential government system, election of the president by an electoral college composed of at least 5,000 popularly elected delegates, and a single seven-year presidential term. President Chun was re-elected on February 25, 1981, capturing over 90% of the electoral votes.

### JUSMAG-K History

Although the Joint United States Military Assistance Group-Korea (JUSMAG-K) can trace its history only to 1948, the first U.S. military advisors were dispatched to Korea 60 years before the Provisional Military Advisory Group (PMAG) was organized. Following the ratification of the U.S.-Korea Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce, and Navigation in 1883, King Kojong requested the United States send a military advisory mission to train the Korean armed forces. Despite its desire to avoid involvement in internal Korean politics, the U.S. agreed to send a detachment of non-regular officers to Korea in 1888, one of the first government-sponsored military assistance groups.

Brigadier General William M. Dye, a West Point graduate and U.S. Civil War hero, accompanied by two other non-regular officers, arrived in Korea in April 1888. At that time fewer than 80 Americans, mostly missionaries, were in Korea. Dye's efforts were hampered by internal intrigues and attempts by both Japan and China to subvert his training mission. Nevertheless, Dye became a confidant to the royal family. In 1894, when Japan defeated China in the Sino-Japanese War, all U.S. advisors except Dye returned to the U.S. Dye remained as an advisor on agricultural matters. Failing health, coupled with Japanese pressures, forced his departure in May, 1899.

After the capitulation of Japan in 1945, the United States Army Military Government was established in Korea. This occupation government came to an end on August 15, 1948, following the election of President Rhee. All U.S. advisory personnel in Korea were assigned to the Overstrength Detachment, Headquarters, United States Armed Forces in Korea (USAFIK), and organized as a Provisional Military Advisory Group (PMAG). In 1948 the PMAG grew from 100 persons to 241. Pursuant to the withdrawal of USAFIK, the U.S. authorized the transfer of infantry-type weapons and equipment for 50,000 men to the ROK. Additional transfers were authorized in 1949.

On the same day that USAFIK received orders for the withdrawal of its remaining forces from Korea, April 2, 1949, PMAG received orders to expand its organization. A military ceiling of 500 spaces was established. On July 1, 1949, with the departure of Headquarters, USAFIK, the PMAG emerged as an official entity named the United States Military Advisory Group to the Republic of Korea (KMAG), with 186 officers, a warrant officer, a nurse, and 288 enlisted persons assigned. KMAG operated under the operational control of the American Ambassador in Seoul, but reported directly to the Pentagon on military command and administrative matters.

Initially, Korea was not a popular assignment for U.S. Army personnel. KMAC was a small outpost, far removed from what Americans termed "civilization," in a country where high prices, substandard housing, limited transportation, and political disturbances were common. To partially offset these disadvantages, a tour in Korea for unaccompanied personnel was limited to 18 months, while those assigned with dependents served only 24 months. Additionally, all KMAC personnel were paid a per diem station allowance. KMAC's goal was to have an officer in each ROK Army (ROKA) division, regiment, and battalion. ROKA staff and the Ministry of National Defense (MND) staff also had U.S. counterparts. Due primarily to the rapid increase in the size of the ROKA, KMAC was never able to attain the comprehensive counterpart coverage dictated in its charter. Under this system, KMAC advisors exercised no direct authority over ROKA forces. They were expected to direct ROKA training and operations by influence, suggestion, and guidance. In May 1950, the Department of the Army allocated 27 spaces in U.S. service schools to the ROKA to be used in FY 1951 under the Mutual Defense Assistance Program.

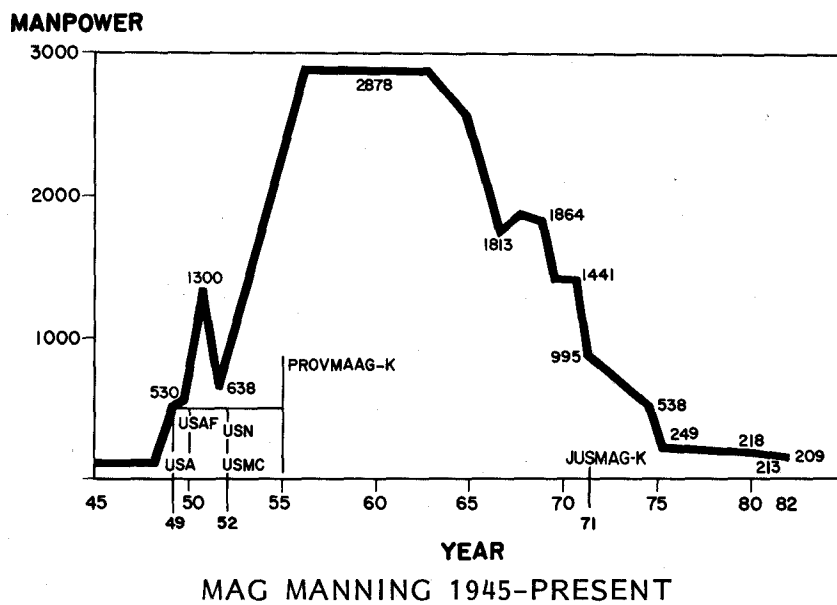
Prior to the Communist invasion in June 1950, U.S. military assistance to the ROK was predicated on the policy that the ROK military was an internal security force. Equipment furnished by the U.S. was to facilitate the development of an organization that could maintain security within the borders of the ROK while, only incidentally, deterring attacks from the north along the 38th Parallel. By the end of 1949, approximately \$57 million (original cost) of equipment had been transferred to ROK forces. At this point, the U.S. National Security Council concluded that legislative authority should be sought for continued American military aid to the ROK. Therefore, Korea was included in the Mutual Defense Assistance Act of 1949. A total of \$10.2 million was earmarked for the ROK for 1950, mainly for maintenance and supply equipment. KMAC, in consultation with the ROK Government and the U.S. Embassy, prepared the initial military aid program to Korea, and a subsequent request raised the dollar value of the 1950 program to \$10.97 million. On January 26, 1950, the ROK and the U.S. signed a formal agreement establishing KMAC. Today, this 1950 Memorandum of Agreement serves as the basis for many of JUSMAG-K's roles and missions.

Early on the morning of June 25, 1950, North Korean forces attacked across the 38th Parallel. KMAC personnel were confronted with a dilemma. The terms of reference furnished a year earlier by the Department of the Army did not specify a wartime mission for KMAC. Three alternatives surfaced early on: to bear arms and actively help ROK forces to repel the invaders; to advise the ROKA in combat operations; or to leave Korea. These alternatives involved questions of U.S. national policy and had to be decided at the highest levels of the U.S. Government. In the absence of guidance from Washington, U.S. women, children, and nonessential KMAC personnel were evacuated to Japan on 26 and 27 June. The remaining KMAC personnel formed a small headquarters detachment and continued to advise ROKA units. On 27 June, KMAC was notified that the Joint Chiefs of Staff had directed General Douglas MacArthur to assume operational control of all U.S. military activities in Korea, including KMAC. Thus, the troublesome problem of a wartime mission for KMAC was overtaken by events. KMAC personnel continued to advise their ROK counterparts, while some officers were appointed as special or general staff officers on the staffs of Major General William F. Dean, Commander of the 24th Division, or Lieutenant General Walton H. Walker, Commander of the Eighth United States Army in Korea (EUSAK). Six weeks

after the initiation of hostilities, ROK and U.S. forces, including KMAG, had retreated to the Pusan Perimeter in southeast Korea.

After U.S. forces landed at Inchon, and EUSAK and ROK forces broke out of the Pusan Perimeter, KMAG advisors assumed responsibility for planning, requisitioning, allocating, storing, shipping, and related functions for the ROK logistical system. KMAG personnel also began assisting in reorganizing surviving ROKA forces, and organizing, equipping, and training newly-organized units. It was apparent that without significant increases in personnel, KMAG could not fulfill its advisory responsibilities once Korean units were activated. From July 1950 to September 1951, KMAG increased in size from 470 personnel to 1,308 and became a major subordinate command of EUSAK. On October 15, 1950, General MacArthur met President Truman at Wake Island and stated that the advisory group "should be continued indefinitely." In the last two years of conflict, with battlelines fairly static along a ten-mile-wide strip of land that straddled the 38th Parallel, KMAG personnel concentrated their efforts on improving the ROKA school system, strengthening ROKA support effectiveness, and enhancing the training of ROKA combat units.

Following the signing of the armistice in 1953, KMAG was redesignated as the Military Advisory Group, Korea (Provisional) (PROVMAG-K). By September 1953, PROVMAG-K had become the Joint U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group, Korea (Provisional) (PROVMAAG-K), and military strength had increased to over 2,000 personnel, peaking at 2,878 from 1956-1963. PROVMAAG-K continued its training and advisory functions and also had primary responsibility for the transfer of equipment to the ROK under the Mutual Defense Assistance Program (MDAP). During this era, PROVMAAG-K was organized with a headquarters element and three service sections, with the U.S. Marine Corps Section included as part of the U.S. Naval Section. Concurrent with the increase in the size of PROVMAAG-K was the withdrawal of other U.S. forces. The Commander-in-Chief, Far East Command, commanded PROVMAAG-K. PROVMAAG-K personnel were scattered throughout the ROK to accomplish their advisory mission.



During the late fifties and early sixties PROVMAAG-K worked with the ROK to rebuild the ROK military establishment. At the same time, momentous efforts were being made to rebuild the civilian sector of the ROK which had been devastated by war. By 1966, both the ROK civilian and military sectors had progressed to the extent that the ROK honored a request from the Republic of Vietnam and dispatched two ROKA infantry divisions and a Marine brigade to Vietnam. The ROK suffered over 5,000 casualties during the six years it had forces in Vietnam.

As the ROK continued to strengthen its defense posture and the ROKA became better trained and equipped in the late sixties, the need for U.S. military advisors declined. PROVMAAG-K's mission shifted from advisory and training, to logistics and implementation of the Military Assistance Program (MAP). Concurrently, the personnel strength of PROVMAAG-K declined from 2,878 in 1963 to 995 in 1970. On April 1, 1971, PROVMAAG-K was reorganized along the lines of other U.S. security assistance agencies and designated as the Joint United States Military Assistance Group-Korea (JUSMAG-K), its present organizational title.

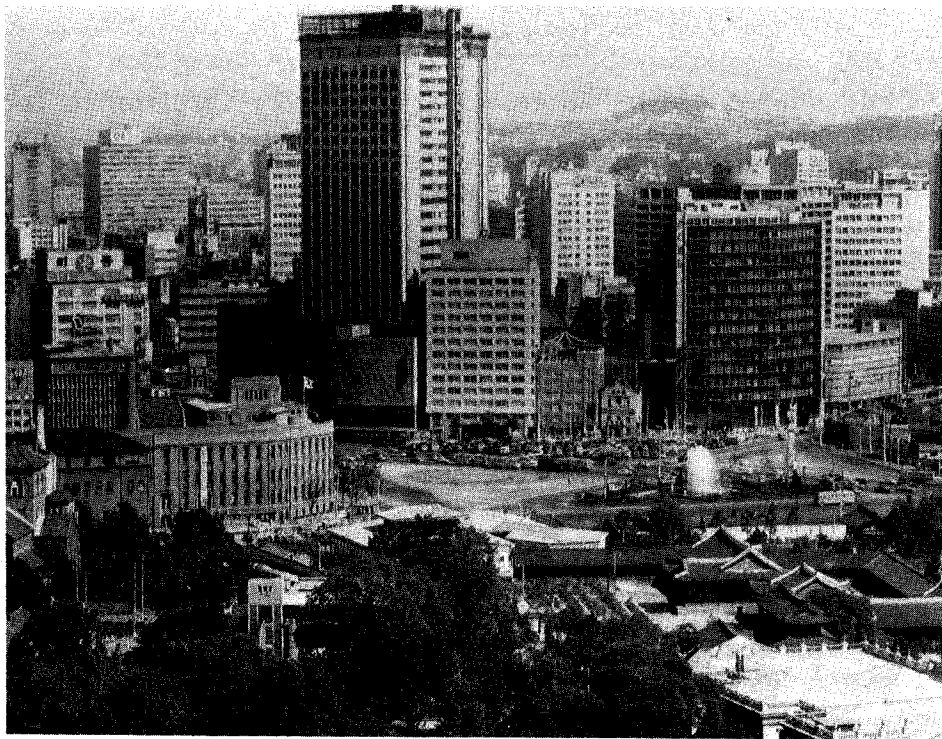
In the early seventies the ROK economy grew at an unprecedented double digit rate. The ROK developed an indigenous defense industry and no longer was dependent on MAP equipment. As the ROK progressed from MAP to FMS credits, and as JUSMAG-K's advisory role diminished, personnel strength continued to decline to the present authorization of 209.

#### Korea 1982

Korea, known as the "Land of Morning Calm," today might better be described as the "Land of Contrasts." Traditional ethnic and religious beliefs thrive alongside the modern manifestations of a country that is in the forefront of developing nations. The industrial revolution in the last two decades has had dramatic results. Per capita income has risen from \$82.00 in 1963 to \$1,631.00 in 1981. The average annual growth of the gross national product in the same period has exceeded nine percent. The ROK is one of the United States' top ten trading partners, and exports are shifting from labor intensive products to sophisticated electronic equipment, computer software, and other high technology items. Yet, Koreans cling to tradition, retaining ancient values such as respect for the family unit and elders, a strong work ethic, nationalism, and an emphasis on education. The result is a unique combination of the old and the new.

Approximately the size of Indiana, Korea extends 300 miles from north to south, and 185 miles from east to west. Steep-sided hills and sharp-crested mountains dominate the landscape. Flat, rolling plains are prevalent along both coasts. Elevations in the mountains vary from 2,000 to 5,000 feet. The climate is temperate. In the hottest months, July and August, the mean temperature is 77°F. During December and January, the coldest months, the mean temperature is 23°F. Fifty percent of the 40-inch annual rainfall occurs in June and July.





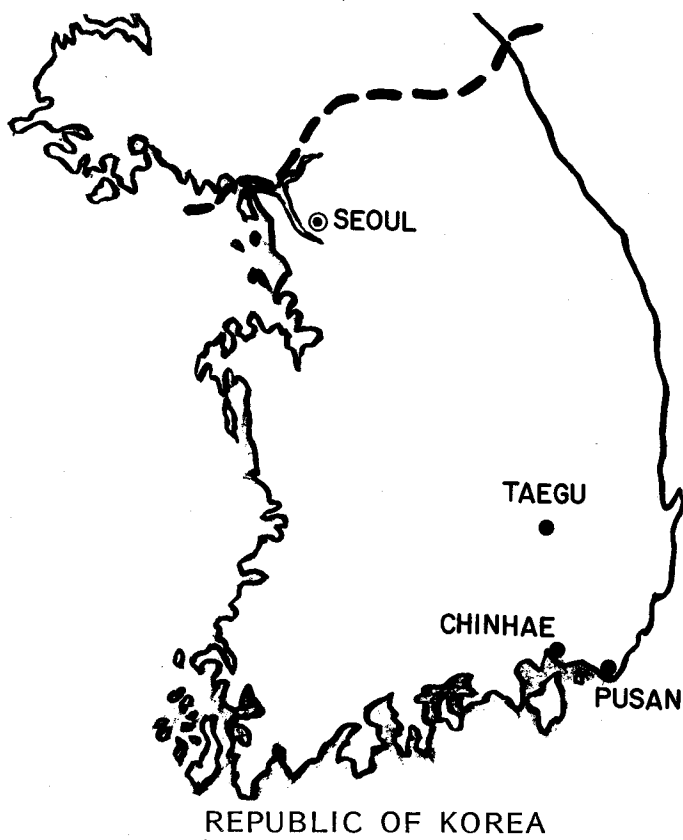
SEOUL, 1982

The best example of the progress the ROK has made from a country decimated by war less than 30 years ago is the capital city, Seoul. This bustling metropolis is currently the fourth largest city in the world, with a population of about 9 million people, representing almost one-quarter of the entire ROK population. Seoul has all of the characteristics of a modern city: tall buildings dot the skyline, traffic congestion is common, and construction is everywhere. The construction boom has been hastened by the selection of Seoul as the host for the 1988 Summer Olympics and the 1986 Asian Games. What distinguishes Seoul from comparable cities is its proximity to communist North Korea, only 25 miles from the DMZ and less than an hour's ride by car. Residents of Seoul are always conscious of the threat from the north, but they pursue life vigorously and with a dedication of purpose, as the ROK continues its mercurial economic development. Koreans look to the future optimistically, but have not forgotten their past. The history of Korea is an account of a people constantly besieged by larger nations bent on domination. Yet, in spite of many years of occupation, Koreans have proudly retained their own distinctive character and culture. Numerous historic sites in Seoul and throughout the ROK have been preserved or rebuilt as a testimony to Korea's past. On weekends and holidays, Koreans flock to these monuments as an overt sign of their respect to their ancestors and the hardships they endured. The publicity associated with the Olympics will introduce millions of people to the ROK and its people, changing many popularly held misconceptions about this historic nation.

## JUSMAG-K 1982

JUSMAG-K shares with other U.S. security assistance organizations worldwide those responsibilities defined by legislation. Additionally, by virtue of U.S. geopolitical and military interests, and the uniqueness of the U.S. commitment to the ROK, JUSMAG-K has ancillary responsibilities which make it unique. These include providing advice and assistance to the ROK Government in the development of its armed forces, as agreed to in the January 26, 1950, Memorandum of Agreement; providing advice and assistance in research and development, defense management, and in the development of ROK defense industries, in accordance with agreements reached at annual ROK/US Security Consultative Meetings; and functioning as a staff and action agency for the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Forces, Korea, the U.S. operational command in Korea.

JUSMAG-K is organized with a Headquarters Section; Assistant Chief of Staff (ACofS) for Plans and Programs; ACofS for Management, Development, and Acquisition; ACofS for Logistics; and four Service Sections, all located in Seoul. Service Section headquarters are collocated with their ROK counterparts and serve as the principal points of contact between the ROK services and all U.S. agencies in country. The Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force sections maintain Field Logistics Centers (FLCs) in Pusan, Chinhae, and Taegu. JUSMAG-K also has a small liaison office in the ROK Ministry of National Defense in Seoul. The Chief, JUSMAG-K, is authorized as a two-star Army billet, and is currently filled by Major General Jere W. Sharp. Each staff and service section is headed by an O-6.



Within JUSMAG-K, all staff and service sections perform traditional missions with the exception of the ACofS for Management, Development, and Acquisition which is unique to JUSMAG-K. This section has five divisions and is the largest section within JUSMAG-K. The Acquisition Division assists and advises ROK counterparts charged with the responsibility for developing ROK defense industries and weapons system acquisition. The Development Division interfaces with the ROK Agency for Defense Development and the Korean Institute for Defense Analyses (KIDA). These agencies are responsible for building the ROK technology base and enhancing ROK research, development, test, and evaluation capabilities. The Resource Management Division assists and advises ROK officials at KIDA to foster an exchange of analytical methods and promote joint analyses. The C<sup>3</sup>I Division works with ROK and U.S. agencies in the development and acquisition of interoperable C<sup>3</sup>I systems. The Management Information Systems Division monitors automated systems and advises ROK armed forces within its area of responsibility. In the past 30 years, JUSMAG-K has made a transition from assistance and advice at individual unit levels, to assisting and advising ROK service counterparts at the highest levels in advanced technology areas.

Most personnel assigned to JUSMAG-K serve two-year accompanied tours, with almost fifty percent of those assigned extending for a third year. JUSMAG-K personnel have priority for military housing in the Seoul area, as well as at the FLC locations. Support facilities, commissary, post exchange, hospitals, schools, dental, etc., are excellent. In Seoul, a new Department of Defense high school and junior high school opened this year, and a new elementary school is scheduled for completion in 1984. The literacy rate in the ROK exceeds ninety percent and English is mandatory for all primary school students, so communication is not usually a problem.

Korea is a shopper's delight. Semi-precious jewel stones, ceramics, lacquerware, brassware, and select clothing items are a few of the bargains available. Although ROK per capita income has increased markedly, it is still low compared to U.S. standards. Most assigned personnel can afford the luxury of full or part time household help. Korea is also an excellent starting point for tours of the myriad other interesting attractions in the Far East. Tours are offered by the local USO and Recreation Services Office, and are very reasonably priced. As a gesture of goodwill, many in-country tours for Americans assigned to the ROK are partially funded by Korean businesses. A three-day weekend at an in-country resort, including transportation and first class accommodations, typically costs only \$30.00 per person.

An assignment to JUSMAG-K will be rewarding professionally and personally. Koreans are a proud, delightful people who sincerely appreciate America's past and continuing contribution to the defense of their homeland.