



U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys

Dec. 15, 2021

The Army's Home in Korea

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Combined training gets hot

By Sgt. Courtney L. Davis, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Public Affairs Office

CAMP HUMPHREYS, Republic of Korea – U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Fire and Emergency Services conducted live fire training with Cheonan Northwest Fire Department and Asan Fire Department Nov. 23 at the FES training area.

According to Rucci Hung-pyo, assistant chief of training for Humphreys FES, this event was an important step forward after the pandemic forced a pause in training with off-post partners.

After a two-year break, the three fire departments re-established their collaborative training with the intent to plan more combined exercises in the future. Cheonan Northwest and Asan Fire Departments arrived ready to observe and execute real-world fire emergency scenarios.

"We came to observe new training facility and see if they have a different technique we can take back home," said Dong Il, Cheonan Northwest Fire Department assistant chief of special operations. "We just wanted to see the culture of the fire department here and basically to see what the other side is doing."

The live fire training included how to handle the fire hose in a team stack, how to extinguish a class A fire from both inside and outside a window, and how to properly enter a burning building. In six man teams, the firefighters navigated through fiery stairwells and confined spaces to extinguish 1,200-degree -Fahrenheit flames. A team waited outside the building with a hose, ready to spray anyone who emerged with ash-covered coats and pants. Teams discussed strategy and techniques as they awaited their turn.



Rucci Hung-pyo, assistant chief of training for U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Fire and Emergency Services, explains fire extinguishing techniques during a joint live fire training exercise at Humphreys Fire and Emergency Services training area Nov. 23, 2021. (Photo by Sgt. Courtney L. Davis)

"It is important that we learn from each other," said Marcus L. Shepard, the deputy fire chief for Humphreys FES. "On post we have strength in numbers, which means everyone has a very defined role when it comes to emergencies. The local partners are not as heavily staffed as we are, so they have ingenious ways to accomplish some of the same goals we accomplish with less people. We learn a lot from each other as we establish teamwork."

Rucci led the training and also gave the firefighters

instruction on several pieces of equipment. He demonstrated how to effectively wear personal protective gear, operate the breathing apparatus, and test the personal alert safety

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US veterans of Korea reflect on past, push toward future

By Sgt. Courtney L. Davis, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Public Affairs Office

CAMP HUMPHREYS, Republic of Korea – The ROK Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs hosted former U.S. service members for a Revisit Korea program orientation and base tour at Camp Humphreys Dec. 3.

While the program previously was dedicated to service members who served during the Korean War, it now welcomes all former U.S. Forces Korea service members and honors their contribution to the ROK-U.S. alliance.

“I served from 1986-1987 with the 51st security police squadron in Osan, and I worked with the ROK military on the gates at the air base,” said Mark McCraw. “I have had many people who have served in the military. My wife was in the navy, and my grandfathers were in the Korean War, so I am really excited to be here for the revisit tour.”

George Kranske, administrative officer executive assistant from USFK’s transformation and restationing office, painted a vivid picture of Camp Humphreys before 2007. It began as a sea level base with just an air strip surrounded by rice paddies and several Korean villages. For three to four years, 5,000-pound trucks dumped dirt on the land every day to create a high foundation, he explained.

Several veterans’ faces lit up as they remembered what it was like to be stationed on a peninsula as rural as Korea was decades ago.

“I was actually up north near the DMZ. We were a hot missile battalion. It was



Claire Chiofar, U.S. Forces Korea veteran (front left), Tim Whitmore, director of the Korean War Veterans Association (front right), David Beam, U.S. Forces Korea veteran (back left), and his wife Katherine Abbott-Beam (back right) listen to a briefing about the relocation from Yongsan to Camp Humphreys during the Republic of Korea Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs Revisit Korea program Dec. 3, 2021. (Photo by Sgt. Courtney L. Davis)

five miles from the Imjin River. We did air defense for the DMZ area. We were embedded with the 2nd Infantry Division,” said Paul Mallory. “I am just very interested in seeing what the Korean people have done. It’s very interesting to see how they have grown, and how they have built up the whole area is different from when I was here. There were dirt roads and grass shacks and just little huts. From when I was here it is quite a bit of difference.”

Col. Seth Graves, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys commander, welcomed the

veterans and gave a windshield tour to show how Humphreys has changed.

“I just want to thank you all for your service. I am very excited to take you on a tour and show you the newest army installation in terms of facilities and the largest OCONUS DoD installation,” said Graves. “We have a very functional state-of-the-art installation here at Camp Humphreys, and we have a lot to show you. I think you will be thoroughly impressed on how the installation has grown from

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Garrison Commander

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Around the Garrison



The U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys community gathered for festive fun and to light the tree in the Downtown Plaza Dec. 3, 2021. ([Photos](#) by Cpl. Quincy Adams)



Humphreys Soldiers kick off the holidays Korean style

By Sgt. Courtney L. Davis, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Public Affairs Office

CAMP HUMPHREYS, Republic of Korea – The holidays can be a joyous time but also hard for Soldiers who are thousands of miles away from family and friends. To beat the blues, they went to the field – the soccer field.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, in collaboration with the garrison's Religious Support Office, hosted a teambuilding soccer game and Thanksgiving luncheon at Four Chaplains Memorial Chapel Nov. 24.

Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army and American Soldiers crowded the middle of the green ready for the kick off. As the ball flew into the air, both teams bolted down the field, leaving their holiday blues behind and working up a hearty appetite.

After the match, Col. Charlie Lee, the garrison chaplain, blessed the food and thanked everyone for coming out for the game and meal. Together KATUSAs, Soldiers, civilians, and Republic of Korea Army Soldiers chowed down on



American and Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys drive the soccer ball down the field during a teambuilding soccer game Nov. 24, 2021. (Photo by Sgt. Courtney L. Davis)

Thanksgiving dinner with a Korean flare, basking in the afterglow of the athletic competition.

"The soccer game was pretty fun," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Dominguez, HHC facility chief. "Our team won. It was definitely a sport to keep us warm with how cold it is outside, and then the food was great. I am very thankful to have a taste of Korean culture, the food and everything, very grateful for the KATUSAs and Soldiers. This was definitely what was needed for the time of the season."

During the luncheon, Pfc. Jordan Nutter, a ground approach controller, talked to his battle buddies about how cool it was to see the KATUSAs and Soldiers playing together.

Pfc. Maeng Chang-yong, from the Department of Emergency Services, said he was happy the KATUSAs and

Soldiers were able to get together as one team. He also likened Thanksgiving to the Korean holiday Chuseok because of the delicious food and feeling of family.

"A lot of us are away from family, and we don't have the opportunity to sit down with our loved ones," said Kalisha Killens, a military personnel specialist. "So we have to gather with our military family and our friends here in Korea."

The participants enjoyed plates filled to the brim with japchae, bulgogi, kimchi, rice and other traditional Korean dishes. At each table, strategically placed six feet apart, conversations included reflections about the game, the meal, and the holiday week.

"Despite the pandemic going on we are able to sit down and have a proper conversation with Soldiers, civilians, Korean counter parts, and taste delicious Korean food," said Racine Gillado, military personnel division site manager. "We share a lot of good stuff while we are all sitting at the table."

Pfc. Reynaldo Sandoval, a postal clerk, and Pfc. Park Chang-jun, with the Department of Emergency Services, agreed it was a good day for the soccer game, with good company.

"I like that the company brought together the KATUSAs and American Soldiers," said Park. "I was excited to eat this delicious food, and I am thankful and blessed for another Thanksgiving."



Service members, civilians, and families from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys line up for a traditional Korean meal during a Thanksgiving luncheon at Four Chaplains Memorial Chapel Nov. 24, 2021. (Photo by Sgt. Courtney L. Davis)



U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Soldiers and Family members prepare to ride a railbike along the scenic rails south of the Sinjungho Lake Park during a tour of Asan City Dec. 4, 2021. (Courtesy [Photo](#))

CAMP HUMPHREYS, Republic of Korea – Twenty-eight U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Soldiers and Family members toured Asan City Dec. 4 and 5.

The event aimed to foster ready and resilient teams and strengthen the ROK-U.S. alliance through a friendship opportunity with the Good Neighbor Program of Asan.

"This two-day city tour will be a great memory for my family. This trip provided an opportunity to explore nearby destinations that could otherwise be overlooked for foreigners," said Staff Sgt. Lorenzo Gutierrez, an air traffic control equipment repairer who has been stationed in South Korea for one month. "It also provided a well-balanced dive into Korean culture by covering history, art, food, outdoor activities and shopping. We are very grateful for the opportunity to make meaningful memories and connections."

The Asan City Hall sponsored the tour and coordinated with the garrison chaplain's office to make the event available to Humphreys service members and families.

The tour group visited Asan Oeom-Ri Folk Village, Maengssi Haengdan, and made plates out of clay at the Pottery Exhibition Hall. The participants enjoyed

(U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Soldiers and Family members tour Asan City Dec. 4, 2021. The event aimed to foster ready and resilient teams and strengthen the ROK-U.S. alliance through a friendship opportunity with the Good Neighbor Program of Asan. (Courtesy [Photo](#))

Military families experience Korean history and culture in Asan

By Chaplain (Maj.) Christian Bang, Special to U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Public Affairs

the Dogo World Botanical Garden and the railbike ride along the scenic rails south of the Sinjungho Lake Park.

The participants also experienced a 150-meter Asan Ecological Environment Insect Park tower, traditional market, Onyang Folk Village, and a meal at a Korean bulgogi restaurant.

The city tour was a chance for Army Soldiers and Families to share quality time together over the weekend. In addition, the event provided the Soldiers and their Families an opportunity to learn about Korean culture and history and gave the local Korean community time to get to know U.S. Soldiers and their Families stationed on the peninsula.



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system device.

Once the firefighters put on their equipment and entered the burning facility, members of different fire departments worked seamlessly as a team.

"The more and more we do this type of training together it will help both of the communities," said Dong. "We want to have more of this training relationship in the future."

The combined training cemented the interoperability of the partner fire departments, enabling them to serve the Humphreys community more consistently, whether on post or off post, added Shepard.

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what it used to be to where it is today.”

Heads turned left and right as Graves pointed out the garrison’s major buildings and attractions. He explained that Humphreys now encourages Soldiers to bring their families for their tour in South Korea. Many veterans asked how Soldiers get around such a large base without private vehicles, and Graves explained the base’s taxi services and comprehensive public bus system.

Fingers pointed out the windows and cameras flashed when passing the outdoor pool, the Humphreys Downtown Plaza, the schools, and the family housing towers. The veterans looked amazed and proud that their service and sacrifice alongside their Korean counterparts contributed to the growth and prosperity of South Korea today.

“I was stationed at Red Cloud for a year, and it was enough at the time for me. We lived in Quonset huts. There was a lot of dirt roads. We would see women washing clothes in the creek, so it was a cross between ‘Mash’ and ‘China Beach,’ but we had a good time and we loved the people,” said Deirdre Howardson. “It was wonderful to come back to Korea. It is so different. They have grown and prospered so much, and I hope I played a little part in defending their freedom and democracy so they could grow this way.”

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HAPPENINGS AT HUMPHREYS

- [HoHoHoliday Dash](#) from Zoekler Gym Fri., Dec. 17 at 4 p.m.
- [Christmas Cantata](#) at Four Chaplains Memorial Chapel, Sat., Dec. 18 at 6 p.m.
- Christmas meals at the [Flightline Tap Room](#) and [Morning Calm Center](#) Dec. 25.
- New Year's Eve Activities:
 - ♦ Downtown Lanes [Family Extravaganza](#)
 - ♦ [Countdown and Karaoke](#) at First & Ten Restaurant

Click the provided links for more details and information.