

U.S.-KOREA RELATIONS

PROMOTE STRONGER ALLIANCE BETWEEN U.S. AND KOREAN MILITARY FORCES

BACKGROUND

- The United States and the Republic of Korea have shared a strong alliance since the armistice of the Korean War in 1953.
- The U.S. and Korean armed forces together conducted 5 major training exercises every year until the suspension in June 2018.
- South Korea is home to over 28,500 active and reserve American troops, as well as civilian staff, stationed across 61 U.S. military facilities.²⁰
- In 2019, South Korea paid \$925,000,000 to support U.S. troops in Korea. According to the Pentagon, this figure represents 41% of the “day-to-day nonpersonnel-stationing costs” for U.S. Forces Korea.²¹
- South Korea also paid for 92% of the construction costs (\$10.8 billion) of Camp Humphreys, the largest American military base overseas and home to the busiest airfield of the U.S. Army in Asia.²²
- South Korea is one of the United States’ most important strategic partners, bound together by mutual respect, common interests, and shared values—such as freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

CHALLENGE

- The rapid development in the U.S. policy towards the Korean peninsula has presented abrupt changes and uncertain future.
- Policy cooperation between the United States and South Korea has become less consistent than before.



Taco Tuesday at Camp Humphreys: President Trump and President Moon of South Korea speak to both U.S. and Korean troops at Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, the largest American military base outside of the continental U.S.

South Korea paid for 92% of the base’s \$10.8 billion construction costs.⁶ Chosun Ilbo

U.S.-KOREA ALLIANCE IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT FOR REASONS BEYOND THE REGIONAL SECURITY AND IS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH THE U.S. AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

116th Congress **H.R.2500:** National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020
Section 1254 draws the baseline on the minimum total number of members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who are deployed to South Korea at 28,500. The FY 2020 NDAA includes a number of sections to bolster and support U.S.-Korea alliance.

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PROMOTE STRONGER ALLIANCE BETWEEN U.S. AND KOREAN MILITARY FORCES (CONTINUED)

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- 116th Congress**
- H.R.4084:** Otto Warmbier North Korea Nuclear Sanctions Act of 2019
Introduced by Rep. Andy Barr (R, KY-6) in July 2019.
- H.Res.479:** Seeking the return of the USS Pueblo to the United States Navy.
Introduced by Scott Tipton (R, CO-3) in July 2019.
- S.2050:** Leverage to Enhance Effective Diplomacy Act of 2019
Introduced by Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO) in June 2019.
- H.R.3476:** Prevention and Oversight of Intelligence Sharing with Enemies Act
Introduced by Rep. Stephanie Murphey (D, FL-7) in June 2019.
- H.Res.439:** Maintaining North Korea’s seizure of the vessel USS Pueblo and its detention of the crew were in violation of international law and seeking the return of the USS Pueblo to the United States.
Introduced by Rep. Gregory Stuebe (R, FL-17) in June 2019.
- S.1658:** North Korea Policy Oversight Act of 2019
Introduced by Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) in May 2019.
- H.R.2949:** North Korea Policy Oversight Act of 2019
Introduced by Rep. Eliot Engel (D, NY-16) in May 2019.
- S.Res.152:** Expressing the importance of the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea and the contributions of Korean Americans in the United States.
Introduced by Senator James Lankford (R-OK) in April 2019.
- H.Res.301:** Expressing the importance of the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea and the contributions of Korean Americans in the United States.
Introduced by Rep. Thomas Suozzi (D, NY-3) in April 2019.
- S.667:** Otto Warmbier Banking Restrictions Involving North Korea Act of 2019
Introduced by Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) in March 2019.
- H.R.1369:** To prohibit lifting of United States sanctions imposed with respect to North Korea.
Introduced by Rep. Brendan Boyle (D, PA-2) in February 2019.
- H.Res.152:** Calling for a formal end of the Korean war.
Introduced by Rep. Ro Khanna (D, CA-17) in February 2019.
- H.Res.141:** Calling upon the leadership of the Government of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to dismantle its labor camp system, and for other purposes.
Introduced by Rep. Michael Conaway (R, TX-11) in February 2019.
- H.R.889:** United States and Republic of Korea Alliance Support Act
Introduced by Rep. Mike Gallagher (R, WI-8) in January 2019.

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While the conferees support diplomatic efforts to achieve the complete and fully verified denuclearization of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the conferees believe the removal of United States military forces from the Korean Peninsula is a non-negotiable item in such negotiations.