

## UPF Geneva, Switzerland - Observer Gives View of Koreas as Seen from DMZ

Chantal Chetelat Komagata  
June 10, 2021



Geneva, Switzerland - Neutral nations' efforts to keep peace on the Korean Peninsula were the focus of a UPF webinar.

UPF of Europe and the Middle East held the online conference "Korean Peninsula: Armistice and Effect of the NNSC (Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission)" on June 10, 2021.

The keynote speaker was Major General Patrick Gauchat, the head of the Swiss delegation to the NNSC at the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) near Panmunjom. General Gauchat presented an inclusive report on the reality of the armistice on the Korean Peninsula, how it evolved from 1953 until now, the situation in the DMZ, as well as the role and impact of the NNSC in contributing to peace across the demarcation line.

The respondents were Dr. Claude Béglé from Switzerland and Dr. Marek Aleksander Czarnecki from Poland, two members of the recently launched UPF initiative Think Tank 2022, a worldwide group of experts in politics, academics, religion, business and the media that contribute to Korean reunification.



[Mrs. Chantal Chételat Komagata, UPF coordinator for Europe, Switzerland](#)

Chantal Chételat Komagata, the coordinator of UPF for Europe, was the moderator. She mentioned the hundreds of conferences that UPF has organized around the world focusing on the reunification of Korea, which UPF believes is central to peace and security in Northeast Asia.

Mrs. Komagata hinted at a new paradigm in which the people of North and South Korea, independent of their increased economic and cultural gap, would cooperate with one another and share mutual prosperity based on common values. She then introduced the keynote speaker, Major General Patrick Gauchat.



[Major General Patrick Gauchat, head of the Swiss delegation to the NNSC at the Korean Demilitarized Zone](#)

General Gauchat gave a very precise presentation explaining many details unknown to most people. He pointed out that the initial separating line drawn after World War II between the United States and the Soviet Union was exactly on the 38th parallel but that this line was changed after the Korean War to what it is now.

The general pointed out that as the Korean Peninsula is surrounded by superpowers and has many territorial issues, particularly small islands, "Whatever is happening on the Korean Peninsula has an effect on disputes." He said that Northeast Asia "doesn't have a de-escalation system, [unlike] Europe with OECD [the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development]."

In a diagram highlighting tensions between the parties, the year 2017 showed a peak related to North Korean nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests and sanctions from the United Nations Security Council. The level of tensions decreased in 2018 through a summit policy starting with North Korean President Kim Jong-un's speech at the United Nations on January 1, followed by meetings with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump. The Sept. 20, 2018, agreement signed in Pyongyang brought comprehensive military arrangements and some new confidence-building measures (CBMs).

Unfortunately, General Gauchat said, after the Hanoi Summit of February 2019, the talks stopped and the liaison office at the North Korean town of Kaesong was destroyed. However, the tensions felt now at the border between South and North Korean soldiers are less than in 2017 and have stabilized. Also, due to the pandemic, things have slowed down.

General Gauchat explained that it took 18 months for the Korean People's Army (North Korea), the People's Volunteer Army (China) and the United Nations Command, led by the United States, to sign the Armistice Agreement (AA) on July 27, 1953, during which time many more lives were lost. This established a ceasefire on the military level as a basis for a political discussion that would achieve a peace treaty. The Military Demarcation Line defined a 2-kilometer buffer zone on each side to avoid local confrontation.

However, General Gauchat said, "what was not described in the armistice documents became a source of tension." The five islands off the West coast were defined as belonging to the United Nations Command (UNC) in the AA, but the Northern Limit Line (NLL) in the ocean was decided by the UNC in 1954. As it was a unilateral decision, it was challenged by the DPRK with another line including the five islands in its territory. That's where 130 lives were lost in incidents.

The general described the NNSC as neutral and independent, with all published reports and discussions limited to the parties without involvement of other governments. From the four European nations chosen to secure the positions at the DMZ from August 1953, the two former satellites of the Soviet Union on the North Korean side of the line, Czechoslovakia and Poland, were dismissed in the 1990s, and only the Swiss and Swedish delegations remained. Although the NNSC proposed that two other nations replace them, this hasn't been realized yet.

He emphasized the growing number of confidence-building measures (CBMs) undertaken on the military side as the basis to achieve a peace treaty on the political level. Among the CBMs, he mentioned increased distance between the parties, removal of mines in the DMZ, joint recovery operations, demolition of guard posts and technical agreements on maintenance - all of which are reported to both parties in order to diminish tensions and transform the DMZ into a peace zone.

The NNSC also proposed different CBMs to the parties, such as increased joint exercises, depth of observation, check of absence of weapons and decreased numbers of US troops. General Gauchat said that the added value of the NNSC is appreciated by all the parties as the "only neutral body contributing to diminishing the risk on the DMZ."

He compared the NNSC with a referee who only intervenes if needed. The NNSC wouldn't "want to survive as a remainder of the armistice," the tactical military level serving as support for the discussion on the political level.

(See below for [Major General Patrick Gauchat's PDF presentation](#).)

After General Gauchat concluded his presentation, the two Think Tank 2022 experts offered comments based on their own experience and viewpoints.



[Dr. Claude Béglé, Swiss entrepreneur, founder and president of the investment company Symbioswiss](#)

Dr. Claude Béglé, an entrepreneur and former Swiss MP who has visited North Korea, expressed that the problem is not just between Seoul and Dr. Claude Béglé, the founder and president of Symbioswiss and former member of the Swiss Parliament, had been at the DMZ with a team of parliamentarians just before 2017. Although the border remained sensitive because of the importance of DPRK land armed forces and the proximity of Seoul, he said that - contrary to the situation in 1953 - a military offensive through the DMZ was not likely to happen, and the threat now was mainly nuclear and in the field of cyber-attacks.

Dr. Béglé described North Korea as an "enigma not to be underestimated," the Kim regime's survival being at stake, and said that the "transition should be acceptable to the DPRK leaders." He affirmed that the nuclear threat had opened Kim Jong-un's seat at the negotiation table with President Trump and that dialogue needed to be reopened, offering perspectives to a DPRK becoming gradually open to the rest of

the world, becoming a complementary partner and by no means capitulating.

He emphasized that the major risk factor is coming mainly from tensions between the United States and China, especially with the rise of Asia's new economic and technological powers. Finally, he suggested that the task probably would require the participation of more neutral observers to help both parties reach a federal state with a balanced outcome, not with "a winner and a loser." Thus, the NNSC is keeping the front calm, he said, with the hope that one day the politicians finally will negotiate real peace.



[Dr. Marek Czarnecki, Lawyer and former Member of the European Parliament, Poland](#)

Dr. Marek Aleksander Czarnecki, a lawyer and former Polish member of the European Parliament, explained the role of Czechoslovakia and Poland on the side of North Korea, but only until the 1990s, due to "the changes in the political landscape after the fall of the Berlin Wall." It was the dissolution of Czechoslovakia that initiated the withdrawal of Czech representatives to the NNSC at the northern side of the Military Demarcation Line.

Dr. Czarnecki said that "aiming at dissolving the inconvenient NNSC, North Korea used very effective means to limit abilities of presence and work of Polish representatives," who, "as a result of enormous pressure, were forced to leave the dislocation area in the northern part of the Joint Security Area in Panmunjom." Since that time Polish representatives have not been able to observe North Korean movements but occasionally take part in the work of NNSC by arriving at Panmunjom from the southern side.



[Ms. Mélanie Komagata, Postgraduate student in East Asian studies at the University of Geneva](#)

Mélanie Komagata, a post-graduate student of East Asian studies at the University of Geneva, presented questions from the audience.

She mentioned the historic crossings at the demarcation line, by Micheline Calmy-Rey, a member of the Swiss Federal Council, and the presidents of the ROK and the US.

General Gauchat said that the Swiss federal councilor had been the last person to cross the border in 2003 before the presidents crossed it 15 years later. The NNSC had prepared for security, welcome and comprehension. Major General Adrien Evéquo, head of the Swiss delegation to the NNSC at the time, had gone to the North to welcome her and crossed with her before guiding her to the Swiss camp. Also for the meetings of President Kim Jong-un with Kim Jae-in and Donald Trump, the NNSC was present; the parties had prepared all in good collaboration without any provocation. Thus, the summits went well, and one couldn't see any military presence on either side.

To the question of the establishment of a Peace Park and a fifth United Nations office at the DMZ, as was discussed at UPF events at the UN office in Geneva, he answered that the beautiful nature was ideal for a peace park and meeting place, and many projects could be realized by both Koreas together in the future.

Asked about South Korea's expectations of the NNSC, the general mentioned that the ROK is not a signatory to the armistice but recognizes it and sees the NNSC as a tool of stabilization, expecting it to stick to the armistice and be available to the parties, especially when incidents happen, to edit a neutral

report and recommendations with the aim of reducing risk.

Concerning the length of mission and highlights in the DMZ, General Gauchat spoke from a perspective of two to eight years, not knowing how much longer he will be staying. He spoke of the very interesting four years starting in 2017 with very high tension and an unbelievable summit policy in 2018, followed by the amazing confidence-building measures.

Asked about the prospects of the DMZ being opened for the free passage of people, he explained that suddenly in 2018, some crossings had taken place - for example, a North Korean official from Pyongyang, for the Winter Olympic Games that were held in South Korea's Pyeongchang county. He said that both North and South Korean military were working together in the middle of the DMZ, that many discussions had taken place at Panmunjom and that things can go fast once the political level finds some agreement, as in the past two years.

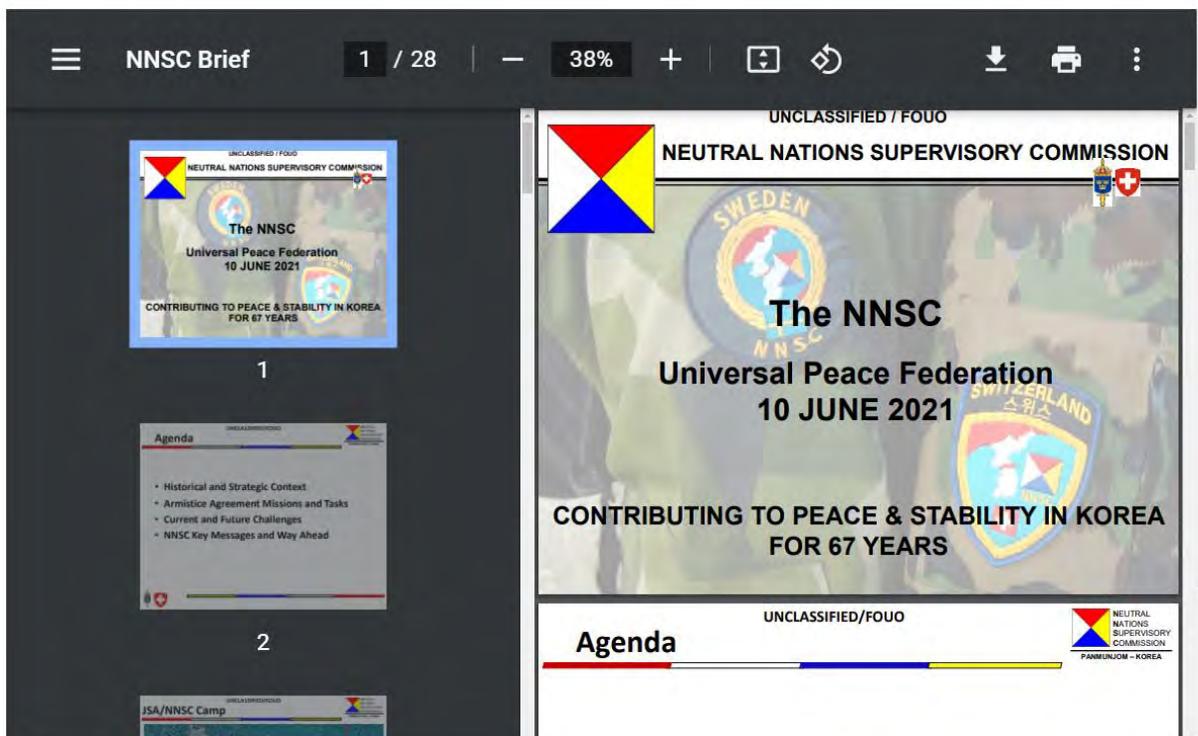
He explained that the military is like a sensor. He observed that everything goes well when there are talks and projects, and that when the stop in discussions, as in Hanoi, puts an end to the CBMs, then everyone waits for the political level to continue.

For the final statements, Dr. Béglé summarized the steps to reconciliation, starting with a ceasefire, followed by re-creation of trust between the partners, which is possible only with a new mindset without a winner or a loser - "partners looking each other in the eyes and building a new future."

Dr. Czarnecki deplored the fact that for some, the NNSC remains a façade and reassured the audience that "Poland supports the peaceful reunification of Korea and the six-party talks on Korean denuclearization."

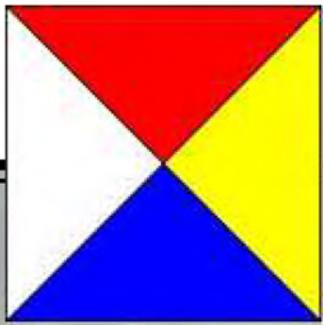
General Gauchat concluded by appreciating peacekeeping as an opportunity to do good and for the peacekeepers to learn a lot.

The MC thanked the keynote speaker and the two respondents for their great contributions as well as the participants and the UPF staff. She said she hoped that many will support Think Tank 2022 and the envisioned goal of a unified Korean family as a step toward world peace.



Major General Patrick Gauchat's PDF presentation

**NEUTRAL NATIONS SUPERVISORY COMMISSION**



**The NNSC**

**Universal Peace Federation**

**10 JUNE 2021**

**CONTRIBUTING TO PEACE & STABILITY IN KOREA  
FOR 67 YEARS**



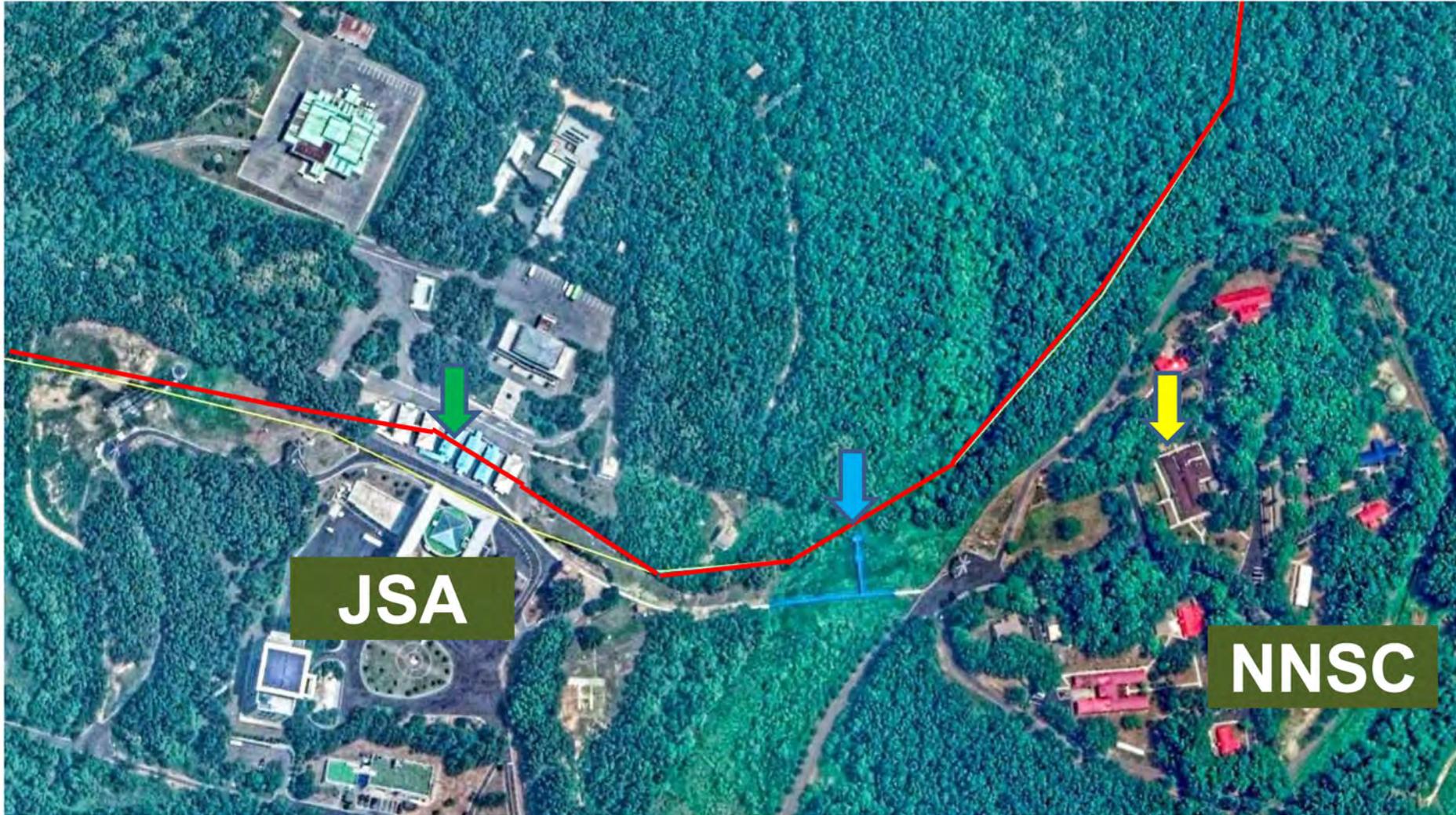
# Agenda

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- **Historical and Strategic Context**
- **Armistice Agreement Missions and Tasks**
- **Current and Future Challenges**
- **NNSC Key Messages and Way Ahead**



# JSA/NNSC Camp



# The NNSC Delegation

## The Swedish Delegation to the NNSC



**Member**  
MG Anders B.  
CALLERT



**Alternate Member**  
COL Christer  
ERIXON



**Ops Officer**  
LTC Per  
NORELL



**Secretary**  
MAJ Peter  
INGVARSSON



**Quartermaster**  
CPO Alexander  
MALMGREN

## The Swiss Delegation to the NNSC



**Member**  
MG Patrick  
GAUCHAT



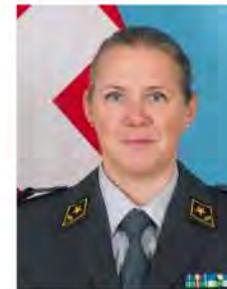
**Alternate Member**  
COL Christine  
HEGGLI



**Ops Officer**  
LTC Adrian  
FREIERMUTH



**Secretary**  
MAJ Victor  
PAZINSKI



**Quartermaster**  
CPT Joelle  
VROLIJK



# Historical Background

**15 AUG 1945**

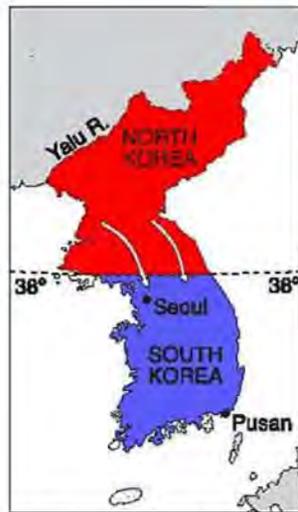
**End of the WWII in Asia  
Pacific**

**1945 Divided Soviet - US  
trusteeship administration  
1948 establishment of two  
separate governments**



# Historical Background: Korean war

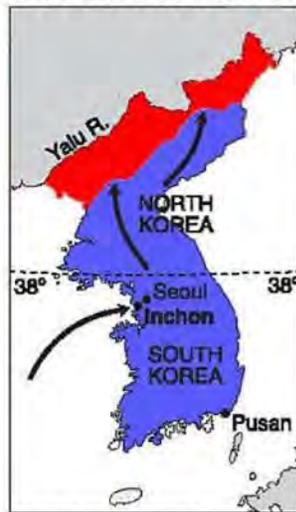
THE KOREAN WAR IN FOUR MAPS



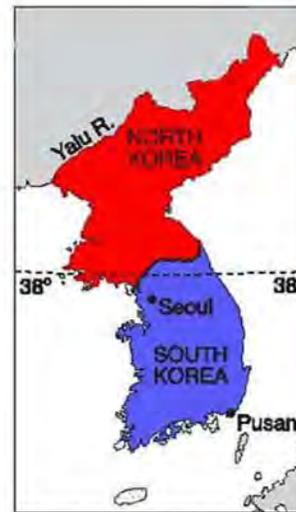
June 25, 1950



Sept. 14, 1950



Nov. 25, 1950



July 27, 1953

**UNSC Res 82, 25 June 1950**  
immediate cessation of hostilities

**UNSC Res 84, 07 July 1950**  
furnish assistance to the ROK (sK)

**UNSC Res 85, 31 July 1950**  
unified command under US command



abs:



**~4 million casualties**



# Strategic Environment

**North East Asia/Korean Peninsula**  
No tangible collective security architecture  
Fastest growing part of global economy  
6 of 13 world's largest economies  
5 of 6 world's largest militaries  
All P5 involved on Korean Peninsula



**GDP: 8th, Military Size: 5th**  
Increased interest in NE Asia  
Territorial Disputes



**GDP: 2nd, Military Size: 1st**  
Regional development  
Territorial Disputes



**GDP: N.N., Military Size: 4th**  
UN Sanctions, Regime Survival  
Nuclear & Ballistic Capabilities



**GDP: 2nd, Mil Spending: 3rd**  
New Defense Policy,  
History, Territorial Disputes



**GDP: 13th, Military Size: 6th**  
«Power Vacuum», DPRK, BMD  
History, Territorial Disputes

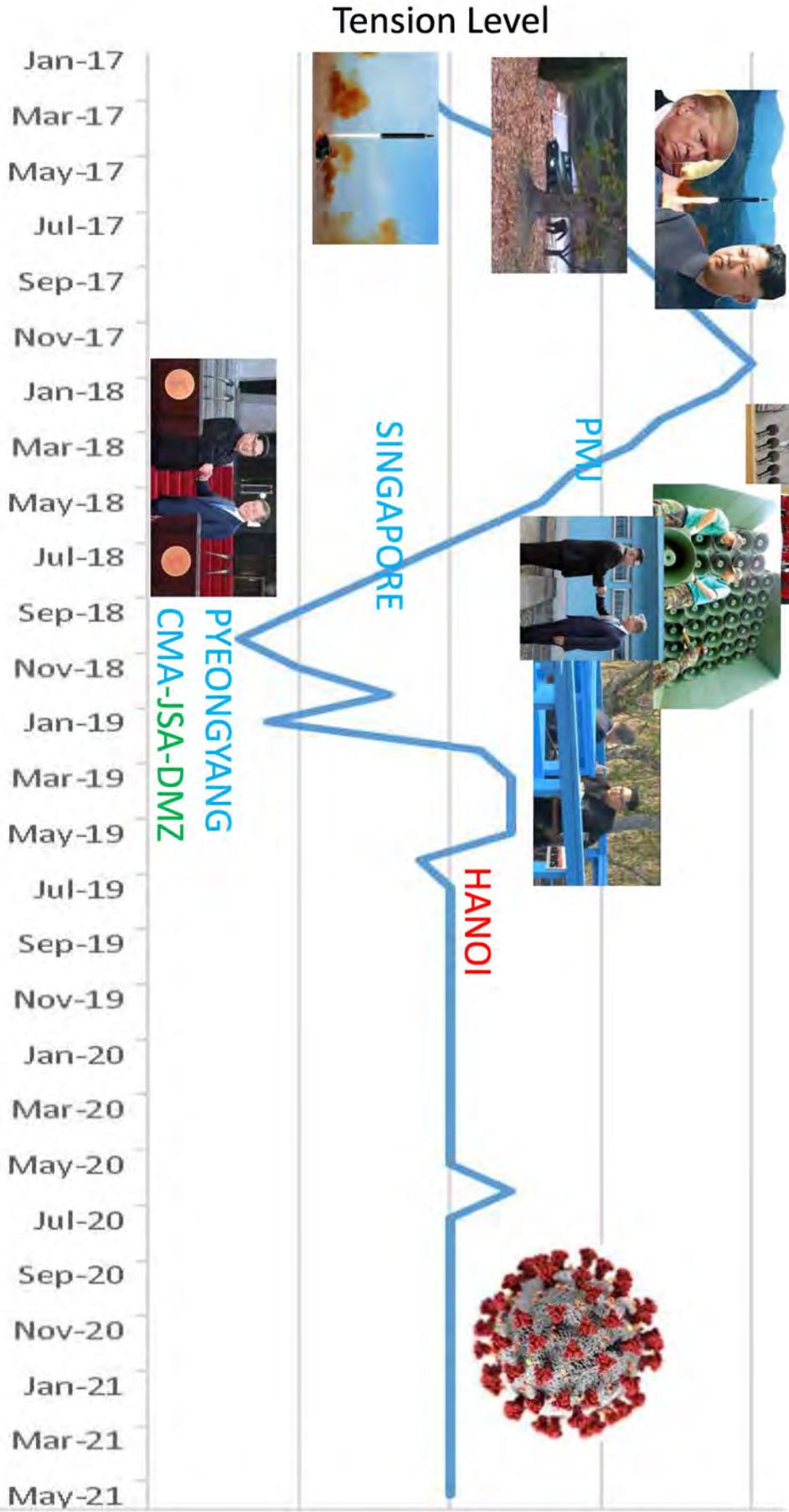


**GDP: 1st, Military Size: 2nd**  
Strategic Alliances  
Pivot to Asia



# Tension

UNCLASSIFIED/FOUO



# TALKS PROCESS

UNCLASSIFIED/FOUO



27 APR 2018



26 MAY 2018



20 SEP 2018



## PANMUNJOM DECLARATION

- Reconnect the blood relation
- Alleviate military tension
- Establish robust peace regime

Keep engine going  
Push for US & North Korea  
talks denuclearization

Agreement on the implementation  
of PANMUNJOM DECLARATION in  
the Military domain (CMA)



12 JUN 2018  
SINGAPORE SUMMIT  
Denuclearization  
FforF



27-28 FEB 2019  
HANOI SUMMIT  
Difficult Discussions



30 JUN 2019  
Panmunjom Meeting  
Restart of discussions



16 JUN 2020  
KAESONG LIAISON  
OFFICE destruction



# Armistice Agreement of 27 July 1953

## ARTICLE V

### MISCELLANEOUS

61. Amendments and additions to this Armistice Agreement must be mutually agreed to by the Commanders of the opposing sides.

The Articles and Paragraphs of this Armistice Agreement shall remain in effect until expressly superseded or modified by mutually acceptable amendments and additions or by provision in an appropriate agreement for a peaceful settlement at a political level between both sides.

63. All of the provisions of this Armistice Agreement, other than Paragraph 12, shall become effective at 2200 hours on 27 JULY 1953.

Done at Panmunjom, Korea, at 1000 hours on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of JULY, 1953, in English, Korean, and Chinese, all texts being equally authentic.



- Establishing security and stability until a final peace regime / peace agreement is reached
- Establishment of MDL, DMZ and three AA Commissions
- NNSC's legal basis and mission (para 36 – 50)

71 01 14 10  
71 7 0 10 14 10

KIM IL SUNG  
Marshal, Democratic  
People's Republic  
of Korea  
Supreme Commander,  
Korean People's Army

PENG TEH-HUAI  
Commander,  
Chinese People's  
Volunteers

MARK W. CLARK  
General, United States  
Army  
Commander-in-Chief,  
United Nations  
Command

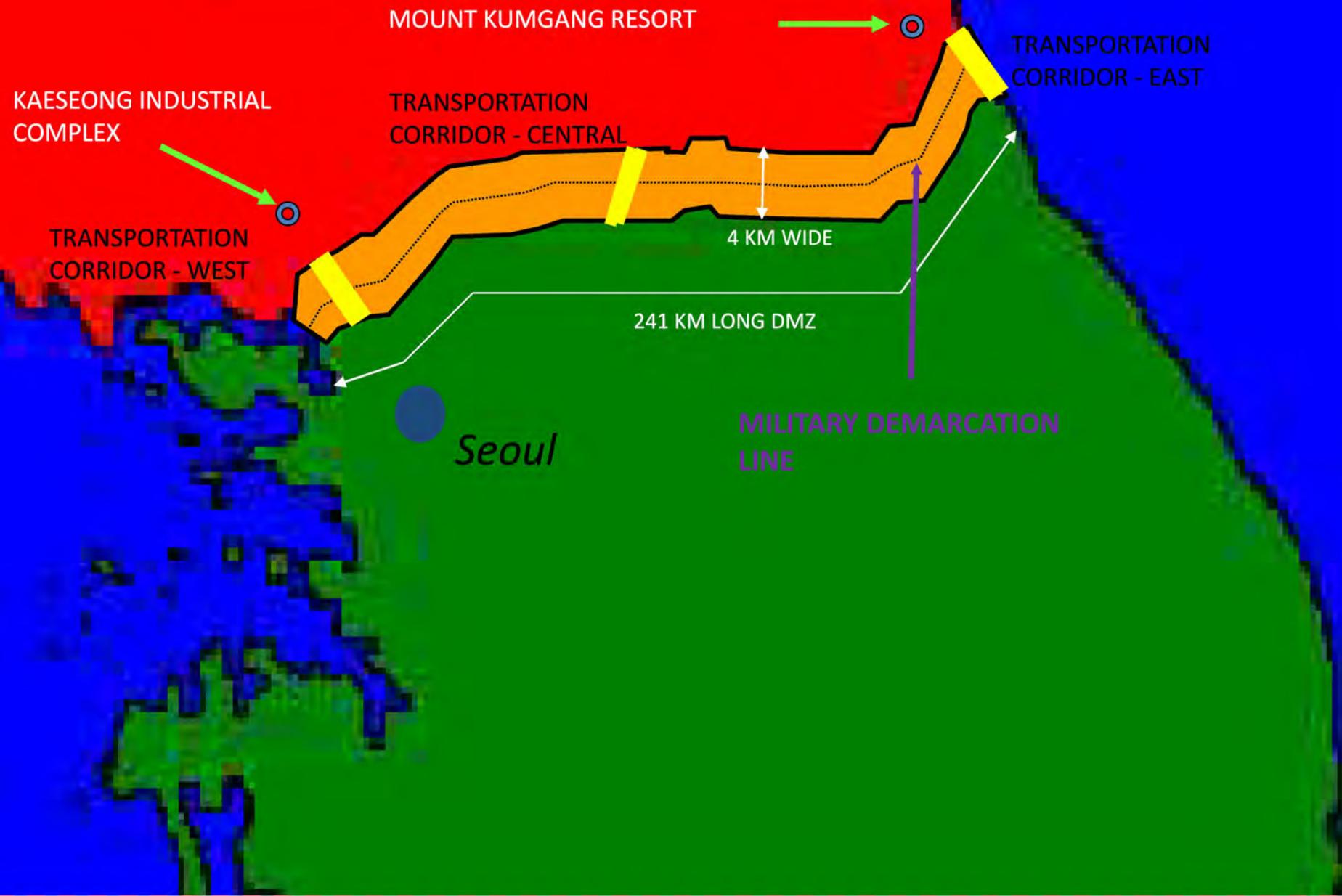
PRESENT

NAM IL  
General, Korean People's Army  
Senior Delegate,  
Delegation of the Korean People's  
Army and the Chinese People's  
Volunteers

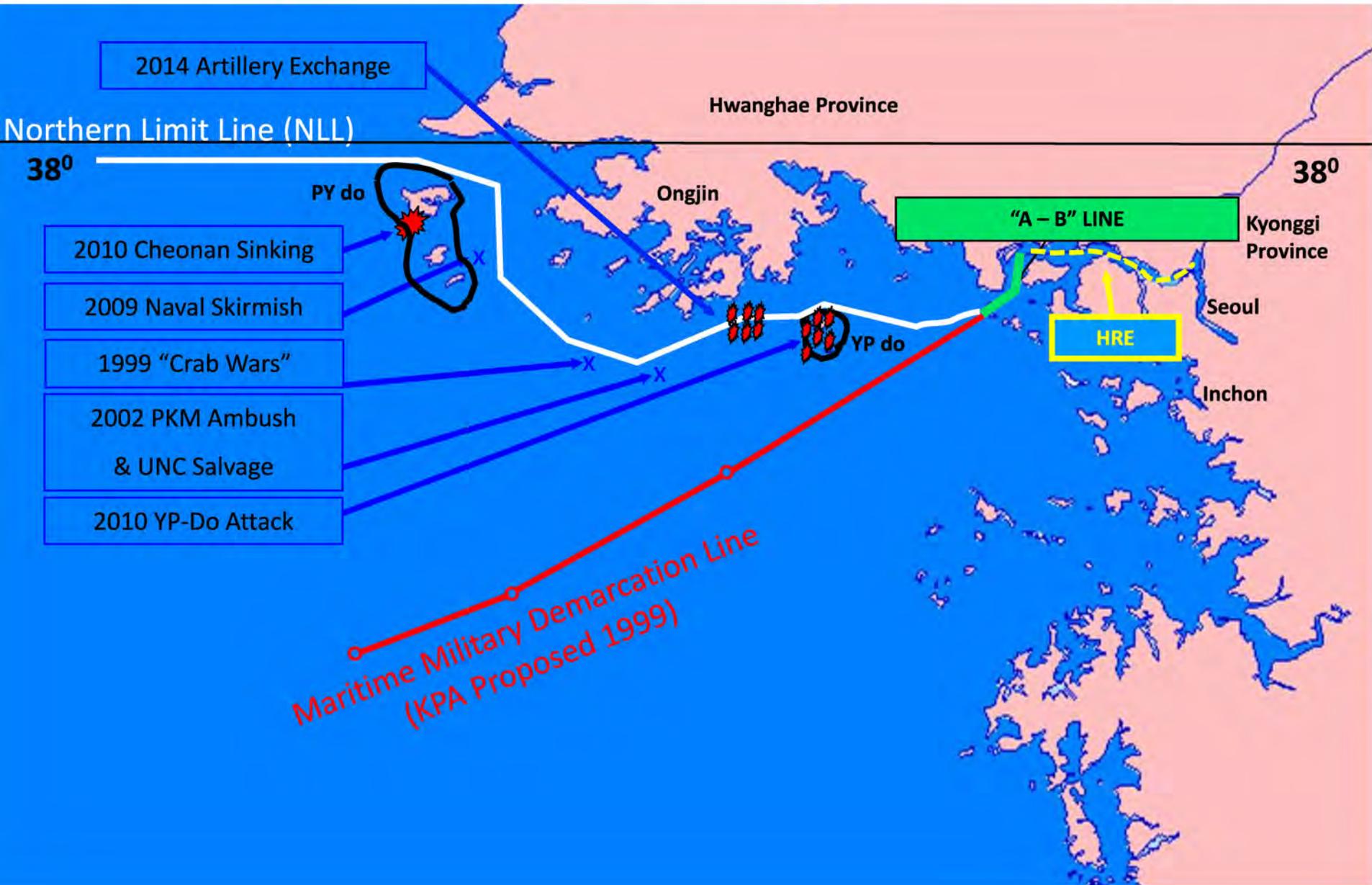
WILLIAM K. HARRISON, JR.  
Lieutenant General, United States  
Army  
Senior Delegate,  
United Nations Command Delegation



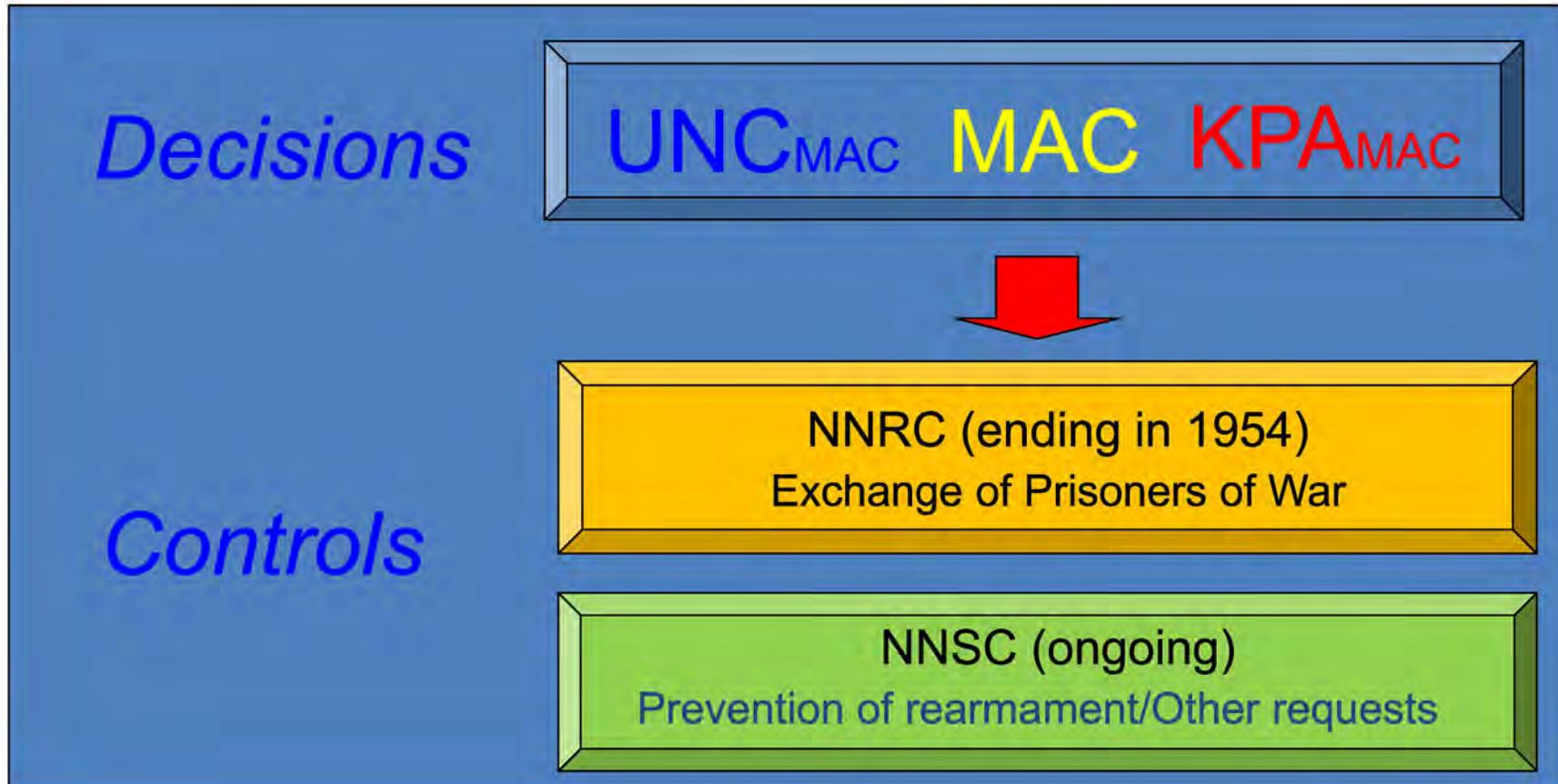
# Armistice Lines - Ground



# Northern Limit Line (West Sea): “Disputed Waters”



# Armistice Mechanisms



# Military Armistice Commission

## UNC



SENIOR MEMBER



MAC MEMBERS



SECRETARY

## KPA/CPV



SENIOR MEMBER



MAC MEMBERS



SECRETARY



# Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission

## “LITTLE SWITCH” APR – MAY 1953

### Repatriated soldiers

- UNC: 684
- KPA/CPV: 6,670

## “BIG SWITCH” AUG – DEC 1953

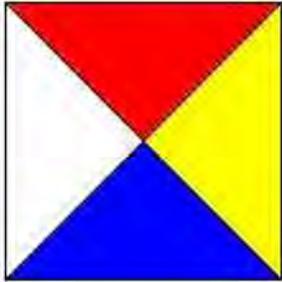
### Repatriated soldiers

- UNC: 12,773
- KPA/CPV: 75,823



# Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission

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- Neutral and independent AA body
- Decisions by consensus
- No executive mandate
- Reporting to the parties only



1<sup>st</sup> Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> AUG 1953  
over 3'780 Meetings thus far



# NNSC Working Relationship

Armistice Agreement, 27 JUL 1953



CDR UNC

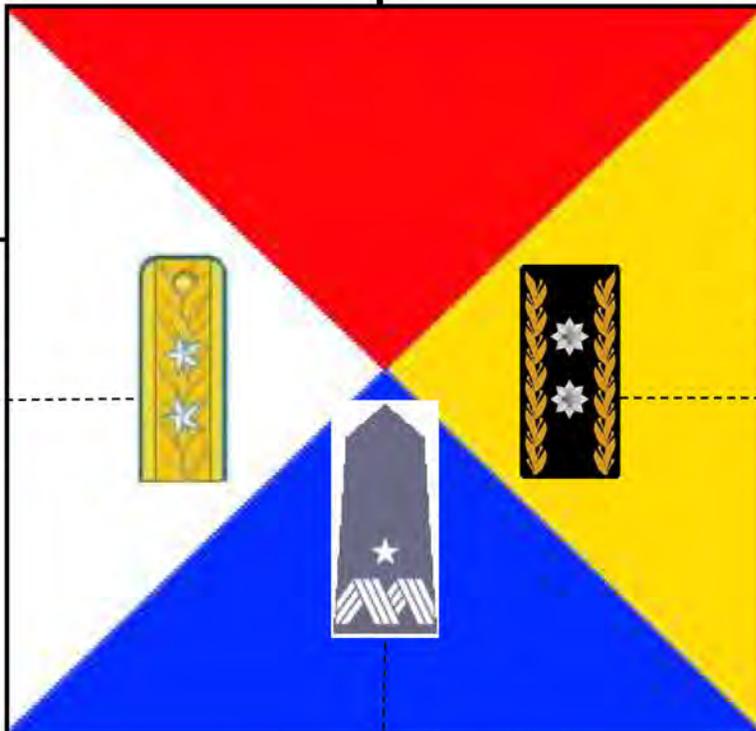


EXCOM



UNCMAC  
Secretariat

KPAMAC  
Secretariat



# NNSC's Key Missions and Tasks

- Supervise, observe, inspect and investigate «to the AA letter» (since 1953)
- Inspect the rotation of personnel, replacement of equipment at the 5/5 ports of entry (cancelled 1956)
- **NNSC Armistice Obligations and Expanded Contribution «in the spirit of the AA» through**
  - Observe UNCMAC's Armistice Operations
  - Observe and Augment UNCMAC's Armistice Education and Orientation Outreach
  - Observe Military Exercises
  - Observe UNC/USFK forces deployment activities



# Observe UNCMAC Armistice Operations



2019 vs 2020 (COVID) Ops		
36	25	Area Inspections
09	02	Special Investigations
09	07	H-128 Right-to-Flight
02	02	Fact Finding Missions



# Observe & Augment UNCMAC Armistice Education & Orientation



2019 vs 2020 (COVID)  
65 VIP Group Visit to PMJ  
(1050 PAX) vs 18 Visits to  
PMJ (175 PAX)

25 vs 08 AA Educations  
(Frontline Units, KNDU, O-5/O-6  
Courses)



# Observe UNC/CFC and ROK-only Exercises



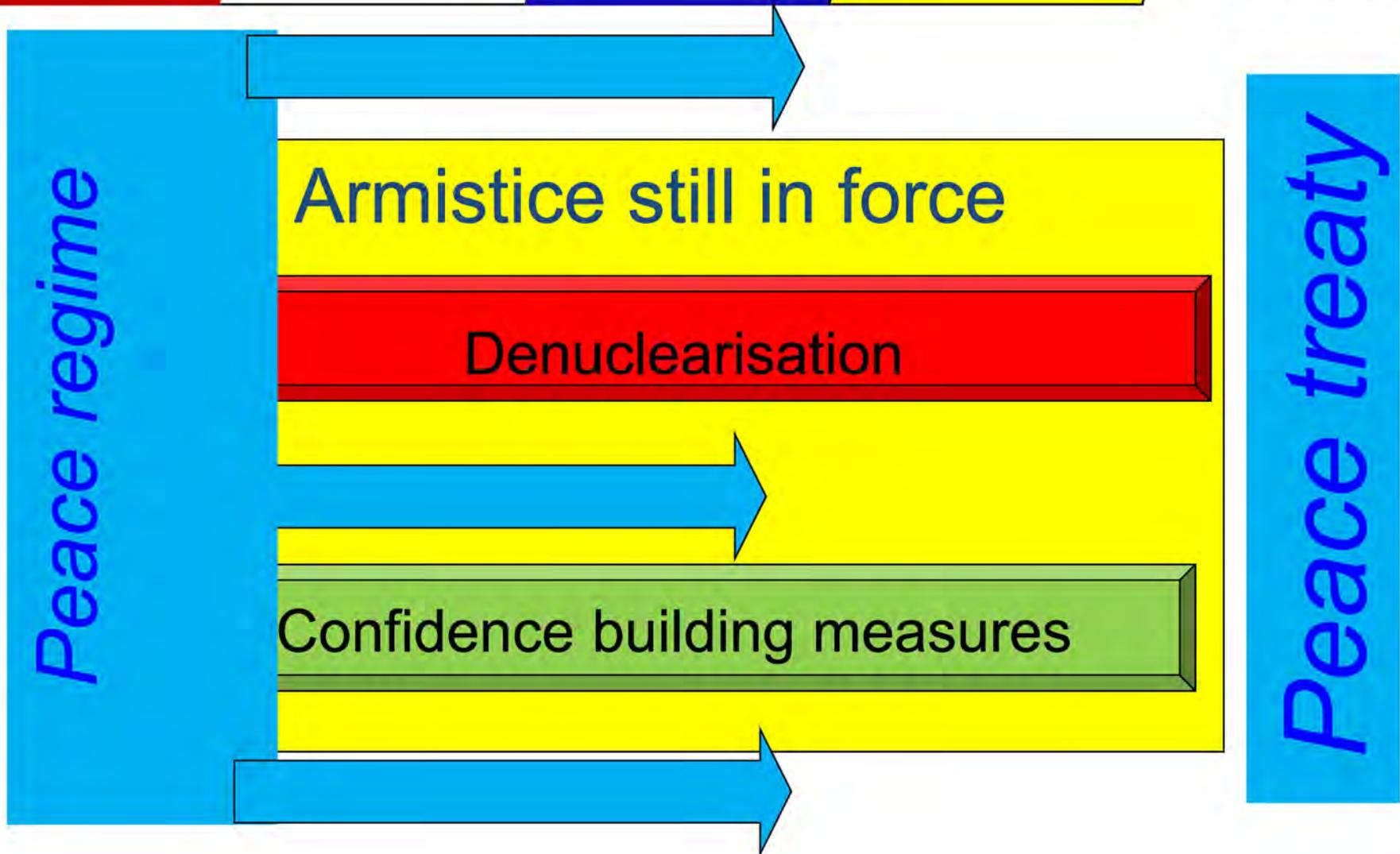
2019 CCPT 19-1 and 19-2 /  
HOGUK 1 part

2020– COVID (CCPT 20-1) / CCPT  
20-2 /HOGUK 2 parts

2021-CCPT21-1 /1st fleet/ 2nd  
fleet, CFC main log



# Usual Way



# NNSC proposed CBMs and tasks (2018)

- Diminution of troops
- Increase of exercise observation
- Verification of weapons
- Embedment of NK officers for EX
- Verification diminution of US troops
- Development of tasks with NK



# Comprehensive Military agreement, CBMs

- Verification of weapons
- Observation of demining
- Observation of joint recovery operations
- Observation of DMZ Gard Post demolition
- Technical agreements on maintenance

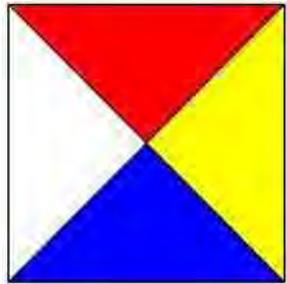


# NNSC's Added Value

- Reliable partner since 1953 (365/24/7).
- Enhanced respect and appreciation by partners.
  - Neutral & independent position.
  - Contribution to risk reduction in DMZ.



# Positioning



- UNHQ NY
- US Pentagon
- South Korea JCS
- North Korea via MFA, UN
- International Community
- Projects (UN DPA, visits)

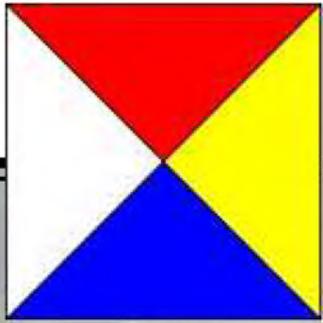


# NNSC Key Messages and Way Forward

- **The NNSC**
  - is the only neutral and independent body of the Korean Armistice Agreement (AA)
  - remains fully committed so long as the AA is in force and its contributions are requested and required.
  - is prepared for any contingency to maintain peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.



# NEUTRAL NATIONS SUPERVISORY COMMISSION



**CONTRIBUTING TO PEACE & STABILITY IN KOREA  
FOR 67 YEARS**



**Thank you for your attention.**

