



“How We Fight”

Eighth Army Commander’s Guidance

Fight Tonight

The United States is a Pacific nation, with our country’s political, economic, and security interests increasingly bound to this dynamic region. Yet today our national commitment to Asia’s prosperity and stability is being challenged by volatile change and growing challenges. The potential for proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the emergence of global competitors, threats to the Global Commons, and of course the provocative and dangerous regime in North Korea, demand that Eighth Army now assume a more prominent ready posture. On duty in the Western Pacific since 1944, Eighth Army’s enduring presence has long signaled US resolve to our regional Allies and potential adversaries alike. It is Eighth Army – America’s Pacific Victors – who today stand ready to defend our national interests and those of our Allies whenever called upon, in Armistice, in contingency, or in war. We are the embodiment of our Army’s military professionalism. We are proud -- We are skilled -- We are tough -- We are ready to Fight Tonight.

A Real and Imminent Threat

The recent sinking of the ROK naval vessel Cheonan, the unprovoked artillery attack on South Korea’s Yeonpyeong Island, and the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile launch in defiance of UN resolutions demonstrate that the North Korean threat is real, is imminent, and challenges Alliance and US regional and global interests. The cycle of North Korean provocation will likely continue, and Eighth Army must be prepared to deter and respond alongside our ROK Ally at any time. We must be prepared to fight in an exceptionally challenging hybrid environment, across some of the most challenging and unforgiving terrain, in extreme weather conditions, against a lethal and dedicated adversary who is a master of his environment. Since North Korea attacked and invaded South Korea in 1950, the Korean people have suffered a divided nation. The people of North Korea are victims of their merciless regime that is a constant source of instability for northeast Asia and the world. This instability cannot endure; peace and security--the right of all peoples – can only come with significant changes in North Korea.



Revolutionary Change in Mission

Eighth Army has fundamentally changed from its previous role as an Army Service Component Command to a headquarters that commands and controls a war-fighting U.S.-ROK Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF). This change is revolutionary in scope and requires significant modifications in how we think, train, maintain and equip our combat force. This transition shapes all aspects of how we think, live and fight. Importantly, Eighth Army now possesses skills, unique capabilities - and a mission - that requires the conduct of decisive land operations in a Chemical, Biological and Nuclear environment; and to combat the threat of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) while simultaneously, serving as the Korea Theater of Operations Army Forces (ARFOR) command.

Readiness

Vigilance and deterrence are our watchwords--and in readiness, lies deterrence. Eighth Army “Fight Tonight” readiness is imperative in Korea’s high-risk environment. The risk of further provocation is high. The North Korean regime’s pursuit of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles poses a significant threat to its neighbors and to the United States. Crisis, when it occurs, will likely confront Eighth Army with sudden regime instability, potential environmental disaster, humanitarian crisis, and the threat of WMD weapons. “Fight Tonight” is a core plank of Eighth Army’s Campaign Plan and represents our determination to be trained, capable, and fully partnered with our ROK ally. The motto embodies Eighth Army’s focus on watchfulness and role in deterring aggression. We must be prepared to execute our mission at all times, if deterrence fails.



Operations in a Complex Environment

The organization and culture of Eighth Army reflects our history in the Pacific and the changes in the Army’s war fighting processes and experiences of the past decade. Eighth Army is preparing itself for the full range of unified land operations. We train to be ready across the spectrum of conflict, to seize the initiative from any opponent under the most challenging conditions, in some of the most rugged, complex terrain in the world. We are able to conduct joint and combined conventional and CBRNE operations. We think and train differently. We do not train exclusively to fight conventional forces in major combat operations but across the full spectrum of threats and conditions.

Regional Stability

As Eighth Army stands ready to defend the Republic of Korea, we also train and prepare to project power across the region in the direct support of our Allies and friends by engaging in Pacific Command and US Army Pacific theater security cooperation efforts. Given the importance of land power to the stability of regional governments, we also seek to help build partner capacities in military professionalism and training. We know that we embody the national will of the United States, and are able to deploy when called upon to serve the range of US national interests.

Disciplined Soldiers

Eighth Army’s Soldiers are disciplined, physically fit, resilient, culturally adept, and tactically and technically proficient in the profession of arms. We are ambassadors for our country and our way of life. We seek to build relationships and share our cultures in a spirit of trust and respect.

Joint and Combined - A Special Alliance

Eighth Army is privileged to be full partners with our sister Services, and with our ROK Ally. The US-ROK military alliance is unique in the world. For more than sixty years, ROK Soldiers known as Korean Augmentees to the United States Army (KATUSA) -- the very best young Soldiers of the ROK Army-- have served within US formations. This remarkable, shared commitment binds us as brothers in arms, in defense of our nations and the values we share as free peoples serving democratically elected governments. We work hard and *Partner with a Purpose* to improve interoperability, and we exercise and train to succeed on the battlefield as a fully integrated force.



“Our Nation Honors Her Sons and Daughters Who Answered the Call To Defend a Country They Never Knew And a People They Never Knew”