

## 8<sup>th</sup> Korea-U.S. Integrated Defense Dialogue

The U.S. Department of Defense and Republic of Korea (ROK) Ministry of National Defense held the 8th Korea-U.S. Integrated Defense Dialogue (KIDD) on Sept. 23-24 in Seoul, ROK. The talks were led by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asia Abraham M. Denmark, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy Elaine Bunn, and ROK Deputy Minister for Defense Policy Yoo, Jeh-Seung.

The two sides resolved to maintain close coordination in advance of potential North Korean provocations and agreed that any North Korean launches using ballistic missile technology would be in violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions. Both sides renewed their call on Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear programs in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner.

The two sides assessed that they have made progress toward concluding the jointly developed Strategic Alliance 2015 replacement plan to effect the conditions-based approach to the transition of wartime operational control. The two sides reaffirmed the commitment made at the 46<sup>th</sup> Security Consultative Meeting with regard to the replacement plan. The two sides also discussed cooperation on regional and global security issues, countering weapons of mass destruction and proliferation, and space and cyber initiatives. The two sides agreed to strive to complete currently delayed projects as early as possible in accordance with the YRP/LPP timeline established within Strategic Alliance 2015. The two sides also discussed establishing a ROK-U.S. combined alliance database to support defense operations.

This KIDD marked the first meeting of the executive plenary session of the Deterrence Strategy Committee, which succeeded and combined the former Extended Deterrence Policy Committee and the former Counter-Missile Capabilities Committee. The new committee enables the alliance to enhance its ability to deter North Korean provocations and aggression, particularly WMD and ballistic missile use, as well as defenses and responses should deterrence fail. During this session, the two sides agreed to develop the alliance's 4D capabilities (detect, defend, disrupt, destroy) against the North Korean ballistic missile threat.

The 8th KIDD served to fundamentally strengthen the U.S.-ROK alliance and reinforce the nations' close bilateral defense relationship.