FIRES IN THE SKY
US - ROK troops hone sling-loading skills
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MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD
Army recognizes its youngest troopers
pages 8 & 9

KATCHI KAPSHIDA
Warrior Friendship Week kicks off April 16
page 5
Warriors, the message below was recently released by the Army to inform Soldiers and leaders of the new enlisted “Qualitative Service Program” that will be used beginning this month in conjunction with the upcoming DA boards. It is important that all Soldiers understand this process.

The QSP is a new performance-based, force-shaping process to identify the very best NCOs for continued service leading and training our Soldiers in an all-volunteer Army.

The QSP includes three specific processes. They are:

**Qualitative Management Program Board:** This board considers senior NCOs for denial of continued service whose performance, conduct or potential for advancement may not meet Army standards.

**Over-Strength Qualitative Service Program Board:** This board considers NCOs (E6-E9) for denial of continued service in specific MOS/grades where the Army 12-month operating strength projection exceeds its goals.

**Promotion Stagnation Qualitative Service Program Board:** This board will consider denial of continued service for NCOs (E6-E9) in select MOS/grades where promotion stagnation exists at NCO levels within the MOS.

This program will also consider early release for the following NCOs:

**QMP Board:**
- NCOs (E9) with a minimum of 19 years active federal service and no more than 31 years of AFS.
- NCOs (E8) with a minimum of 19 years AFS and no more than 28 years of AFS.
- NCOs (E7) with a minimum of 19 years AFS and no more than 25 years of AFS.
- NCOs (E7) with at least four years in grade and less than 28 years of AFS.
- NCOs (E8) with at least four years in grade and less than 28 years of AFS.
- NCOs (E7) with at least four years in grade and less than 25 years of AFS.
- NCOs (E8) with at least four years in grade and less than 21 years of AFS.

This board considers senior NCOs (E6-E9) for denial of continued service based on material error, newly discovered evidence or the subsequent removal of documents from the Soldier’s OMPF, or request voluntary retirement in lieu of the QSP.

**OS-QSP and PS-QSP Boards:**
- NCOs (E9) with at least three years in grade and less than 31 years of AFS.
- NCOs (E8) with at least four years in grade and less than 28 years of AFS.
- NCOs (E7) with at least four years in grade and less than 25 years of AFS.
- NCOs (E7) with at least four years in grade and less than 21 years of AFS.

In all cases, a staff sergeant confirmed with a denial of continued service may seek voluntary reclassification into a shortage MOS, within 30 days of the notification memorandum.

The decision of involuntary early separation is based on an NCO’s performance in their current grade and potential for future contributions. These Soldiers will be honorably discharged or released from active duty effective the first day of the seventh calendar month following the date the board results are approved.

In lieu of involuntary discharge, within seven days of formal notification, Soldiers may elect to indicate their intent to appeal the decision for denial of continued service based on material error, newly discovered evidence or the subsequent removal of documents from the Soldier’s OMPF, or request voluntary retirement in lieu of the QSP.

Soldiers selected for involuntary separation who have 18 years of AFS can be retained on active duty until eligible for retirement. Those Soldiers involuntarily separated with more than six but less than 20 years of AFS can apply for involuntary separation pay.

I hope this clarifies the QSP program for the Warrior NCOs. It is important as we move forward to retain our best leaders. Effective performance counseling and accurate evaluations are the key for our NCOs to better position themselves for future service.

For more information, log onto www.hrc.army.mil and view the MILPER message next to your upcoming NCO promotion board. “Second to None!”
The first thing you noticed in the rooms, if you could see through the gray, smoky air, was the blood. The minute you stepped in the room you were standing in it. You could feel it, see it, smell it, and the dark, red pool left a feeling in the pit of your stomach that you couldn’t shake. There was blood on the floors, bloody handprints on walls, blood on the guns, and blood on the bodies. There was someone screaming for help. The sound of explosions and flying bullets made it hard to hear anything or anyone else.

Bodies drained like broken dykes, forming a river across the floor. Some were missing legs, others were missing arms. They were wearing camouflage Army fatigues, and if they were still squirming, they were still alive.

The rooms could have been in Iraq, Afghanistan or any other country involved in a conflict in recent years. The rooms described above were real, but the bodies were not. The bodies were computerized mannequins that bleed and breathe by remote control. The sound of loud explosions and firing bullets were being played from loud speakers hidden in rocks. The room, the dark red blood, the guns, and the bodies were all part of an exercise at the Medical Simulation Training Center near Rodriguez Live Fire Complex.

“Hellraiser” medics from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, partnered with Republic of Korea army Special Forces Warfare Command last month to train on their yearly required medical training at the MSTC. The trauma rooms create a realistic medical situation to train, teach and evaluate the medics.

“We train the medics all week in the classroom,” said Eric Ironsmith, a technical instructor at the MSTC. “The Soldiers experience the trauma rooms where they must endure loud noises and fake blood to evaluate and treat the moving robotic bleeding-breathing mannequins.”

The Soldiers, wearing full combat load and carrying medical gear, must secure the room, prioritize the simulated injured personnel, and then apply medical aid.

The MSTCs are designed to train medical and non-medical personnel. The MSTC’s goal is to improve medical knowledge and skills that can later be used under combat conditions.

“The rooms are pretty intense,” said Sgt. Christopher Green, a 22 year-old medic from Millington, Mich. “The trauma rooms give the chaos that goes down in battle. My adrenaline was definitely pumping.”

The MSTCs provide classroom and hands-on instruction using multiple, advanced training systems and simulations.

“We don’t have these kinds of facilities available to us,” said 1st Sgt. Sung Kyun Lee, senior enlisted medic for the ROK army unit. “This place makes for a very realistic situation.”

Hellraiser and ROK SF medics worked side-by-side for the duration of the training.

“It is critical for our units to train with our ROK counterparts as we prepare to Fight Tonight,” said Capt. Michael B. Kim, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn., 9th Inf. Regt. “This was a great training event with the ROK special forces and we look forward to building upon this relationship.”

At the end of the week, both groups qualified on their medical tasks.

“It was a great opportunity, and we look forward to training with them again,” said Lee.

Hellraiser, KSF medics get bloody together

2 CAB practices aircraft decontamination
Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Vince Abril
2nd CAB Public Affairs

The UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters descended as Soldiers were waiting below. They endured hurricane-force winds and flying ground debris, as small rocks, dirt, and sand ricocheted past them like pellets from a shotgun. American and Republic of Korea Soldiers stood strong, bearing the unforgiving winds as the helicopters made the critical pick-up.


The Soldiers worked closely together and perfected their skills, sling-loading M-105 towed Howitzers and moving them to a fictitious combat zone. The exercise solidified a cohesive working relationship between the two units, which would foster effective operations if ever needed.

Training for this event began weeks earlier as Co. A and their Korean counterparts learned how to sling-load artillery pieces. The two-day training exercise consisted of a dry run the first day, followed by the execution the second day.

New to the Army, Louisville, Ky., native Pvt. Benjamin Witt with Co. A said the training was important and valuable, as this was his first time training with foreign soldiers.

"This is a new experience for me. When I joined the Army, I didn’t think anything about training with Korean soldiers. [But, then] I came to Korea and was told I would be working hand-in-hand with them," Witt said.

Soon after Soldiers finished rigging the artillery pieces, the cannons lined the landing zone, ready for pick-up. In the distance, the Black Hawk helicopters could be heard approaching from behind the mountains and city apartments. When in sight, Soldiers from both units readied themselves for the sling-loading process.

Soldiers readied the landing zone and could be seen from afar, with their bright orange vests, as they guided the helicopters to their pick-up points.

The ROK soldiers kneeled in a straight line, with each placing their hand on the shoulders of the person in front of them, until they were called forward.

Once called forward, they worked diligently as the aircraft hovered over them. Within a few seconds, the lead soldier hooked the load, the signal was given, and the aircraft lifted the nearly 4,000-pound artillery piece, and flew away to a nearby location.

The commander of Co. A, Capt. Stephen Abrams was enthusiastic about the outcome of this training.

"The best part of all of this was seeing our Soldiers training with their ROK counterparts and, at the same time, sustaining and perfecting our own skill sets necessary for our unit to carry out its mission," Abrams said.

As training came to an end, Soldiers from both units were left with an experience that will certainly enable them to "Fight Tonight," while fostering a good U.S.-ROK relationship.

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Vince Abril
2nd CAB Public Affairs

On a cool, crisp winter morning, Soldiers from two aviation battalions prepared for an in-flight training scenario at a breathtaking mountain valley in South Korea.

A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter sat on a landing pad, its crew anticipating a new mission amid a picturesque backdrop.

Last month, during a capabilities exercise at Bisong Range, near the city of Yangpyeong, Sgt. Christopher Butts, a Black Hawk crew chief with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Aviation Regiment, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, put his skills to work on the M-139 Air Volcano Mine Dispensing System, a system designed to disrupt enemy movement.

A native of Birmingham, Ala., Butts joined the National Guard in 2001 as a Chinook helicopter crew chief straight after high school. In 2004 he decided to take his commitment to the next level. He enlisted full time on active duty as a Black Hawk crew chief.

Eight years later, he found himself as a subject-matter expert in the Army’s only unit actively training on the Volcano system.

"Being able to turn wrenches and fly is great, but maintaining and operating a weapon system such as the M-139 is an awesome experience," said Butts.

The Volcano is unique system with important capabilities, said the unit commander.

"[W]e’re the only battalion in Army aviation actively training with these systems, and we are constantly developing tactics, techniques and procedures for its employment," said Lt. Col. Erik D. Gilbert, commander, 2nd Bn., 2nd Avn. Regt.

As the battalion’s mission is unique to the Army, Butts understands its importance and takes his responsibilities as the master trainer seriously.

“I show Soldiers what ‘right’ looks like, in a controlled environment, and ensure they can do what’s expected of them, because it is a matter of life and death,” Butts said.

The training objectives went without a hitch, due to teamwork and professionals like Butts. The hard work and efforts of the battalion did not go unnoticed by anyone in the chain of command.

“What 2CAB has done here, especially 2-2, is put together a task force concept that’s leading the way for the Army on how to employ these assets and really give us a viable option against a real threat," said Maj. Gen. Edward C. Cardon, 2nd Infantry Division commanding general.

Cardon watched the Warriors showcase the Volcano system and was pleased with their performance.

“I’m really proud of these Soldiers for what they have done to lead the way for the Army," said Cardon.
Iron Brigade’s foremost ground troops prepare to ‘Fight Tonight’

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Aird
1st BCT Public Affairs

Soldiers from the Combat Observation Lasing Team, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, trained and validated their standing operating procedures and their tactics, techniques and procedures in the first week of March during a training exercise at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex, dubbed COLT PENTOMIC.

The COLT platoon operates in small teams far from friendly forces, said 1st Lt. Colin Marcum, COLT platoon leader, and its mission is to venture beyond friendly lines to identify enemy Soldiers and equipment, without being detected. Once enemy Soldiers or equipment are identified, the COLT team guides indirect fire and bombs onto the enemy.

“Being on a COLT team is a great opportunity to enhance my skills as a forward observer,” said Pvt. Justin Bradford, a 20-year-old from Grand Rapids, Mich.

Compared to other Soldiers, COLT teams have a higher probability of capture or death. However, they have the ability to destroy an entire mechanized battalion, their capacity to achieve battlefield results is phenomenal, said Marcum.

The COLT teams spent five days at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex, training as if they were forward of friendly lines. The COLT teams — and Soldiers pretending to be the enemy — used the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System, a high-end military version of Lazer Tag, to enhance the training.

While at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex, the COLT platoon spent two nights braving the elements, establishing observation posts to detect enemy movement, evading opposing forces, and trying to stay awake.

“We spent two nights outside,” said Sgt. Kyle Koch, a 27-year-old team leader from Fremont, Neb. “We slept in shifts to mimic how we would sleep during combat.”

During the night the COLT teams endured temperatures that hovered below freezing, and visits from the wildlife.

“It was definitely a learning experience to stay outside over night and endure the cold,” said Bradford.

The COLT PENTOMIC training exercise not only provided realistic training for the Soldiers, but also prepared them for the months ahead, said Marcum.

“We have numerous training exercises coming up,” explained Marcum. “We will not only be training within 1st Brigade Combat Team, but also with the [Republic of Korea] Army and National Guard units from the [United] States.”

Volunteers give back to children in Dongducheon schools

By Capt. Veronica Finch
210th Fires Public Affairs

Every Thursday at 3:30 p.m., a selection of 210th Fires Brigade’s finest Soldiers log off their computers, hop into their vehicles and head off post.

But, they’re not getting a head start on happy hour. In fact, this elite group is embarking on a weekly mission to educate the children participating in the Dongducheon “Hi, English” Program.

This initiative, an extension of the Good Neighbor Program, is comprised of Service members and Korean Augmentees to the U.S. Army who volunteer their time each week to give back to the Dongducheon community.

These Soldiers teach English to Korean students between 8 and 9 years old. The mission of the after-school program is to teach language skills to 20 Korean students each week.

“The program is a great tool to both help build the South Korean-U.S. alliance and to provide service to the community,” said 2nd Lt. Alexander Ameter, the brigade’s civilian affairs officer.

However, leading Soldiers is quite different than motivating a platoon-sized element of Korean youth, said volunteer instructor Maj. Michael Healy, the brigade S1.

“Because each student has varying level of command of the English language, it’s a challenge to balance the needs of every child,” said Healy.

Some of the weapons employed by the volunteers are a positive attitude and the occasional bag of candy, where the approach is to keep the students engaged, entertained and motivated.

“So far, the program has yielded results. The students have increased their confidence in speaking English, often clapping, dancing and singing answers aloud,” said Ameter. “But, the benefit is not limited to the children only; the volunteers have experienced the reward of serving others and the unique kind of satisfaction that comes from helping kids.”

The program’s success has already secured its re-implementation at the end of April, giving volunteer instructors just enough time to refill their candy caches.
Allies celebrate
Warrior Friendship Week

Story by Pfc. Kim Myung-in
Staff Writer

Warrior Friendship Week is an annual opportunity for 2nd Infantry Division Soldiers and Korean Argumentee Troops to the United States Army to celebrate the bond of an alliance spanning the last 61 years.

This year’s WFW is from April 16 through April 20. Festivities will include a variety of sporting events, such as soccer, basketball and taekwondo tournaments. The winners of these events will be recognized in an award ceremony at the end of the week.

If a day on the links is closer to your idea of a good time, there will be a golf scramble held at Camp Red Cloud.

Additionally, a number of cultural events and static displays have been planned on Camp Casey during the sports finals.

This is an excellent opportunity for 2ID U.S. and KATUSA Soldiers and Families to experience a fun, entertaining and educational week.

In an effort to recognize their work, a KATUSA Hall of Fame induction dinner will also be held.

Warrior Friendship Week is a great time to meet the families of your KATUSAs, as they are encouraged to attend the event.

It is truly a ‘Katchi Kapsida’ experience. Don’t miss out! Come join us!

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>4/16/2012</td>
<td>6:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Warrior 5K race</td>
<td>Camp Casey</td>
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<td>4/15/2012</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Taekwondo preliminary bouts</td>
<td>Casey Fitness Center</td>
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<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Division sporting Events</td>
<td>Unit Areas</td>
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<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td>Taekwondo smoker finals</td>
<td>Casey Fitness Center</td>
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<td>4/16/2012</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>2ID golf scramble</td>
<td>CCK golf course</td>
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<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>KATUSA Hall of Fame Dinner</td>
<td>Warrior Club</td>
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<td>4/19/2012</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Sporting event semifinal competition</td>
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<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>Schoonover Bowl exhibits</td>
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<td>4/20/2012</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Division sports competitors seated</td>
<td>Schoonover Bowl</td>
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<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>2ID Taekwondo team demonstration</td>
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<td>9:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Soccer finals</td>
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<td>Juku finals</td>
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<td>11 a.m.</td>
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<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>Basketball finals</td>
<td>Hansen Field House</td>
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<td>Kimajun finals</td>
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<td>1:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Relay race finals</td>
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<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>Honor guard demonstration</td>
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<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Awards ceremony</td>
<td>Schoonover Bowl</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Gyeonggi-do Province Governor’s Concert</td>
<td>Casey Gymnasium</td>
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League of
Extraordinary Gentlemen

Competitors from all U.S. military services compete at Yongsan’s Collier Field during a practice session. The USFK Rugby League started in December of last year.

The sport of rugby football is played with little fanfare. There are no cheerleaders, no agents with endorsement deals waiting in the wings. Those who play don’t expect anything in return, but still pour all of their heart and soul into the game every time they take the field. Blood is spilt, tears are wept and sweat is poured. But, in the end, a very real sense of brotherhood is formed. For, the game, nicknamed “the Sport of Gentlemen,” is about tradition and integrity, despite its brutal nature.

Even with the quiet brilliance of the game, rugby has never really broken into the American sports landscape. Throughout the sport’s humble history, it has routinely played second-fiddle to American football in the U.S. However, most rugby competitors will tell you the sport is more exciting and builds better relationship than its American cousin.

In an attempt to break through preconceived notions of football’s superiority, Capt. Severo Palacios, 2nd Assault Battalion, 2nd Aviation Regiment, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, started a United States Forces Korea Rugby League in December and since then, the league has grown “exponentially”. “When I started the league back in 2011, we only had three ex-patriot teams and no military-sponsored teams,” said Palacios. “Today there are four military teams with players from all four sister service components and five ex-patriot teams ranging from Seoul to Busan.”

For Palacios, the success of rugby here is a direct result of the sport’s ability to develop relationships amongst its competitors.

“Playing rugby creates an atmosphere of fellowship and brotherhood,” Palacios said. “Rugby players and supporters come from all walks of life and commiserate as one large Family.”

While Palacios admits there is trash talk on the pitch during match play, once the game is over, both teams traditionally enjoy each other’s company at pre-planned, post-match social events later that evening. “This is why the sport is dubbed ‘the Sport of Gentlemen.”

The lack of attention rugby has received over the years from the American public doesn’t seem to discourage Palacios, who believes rugby is making a comeback in popularity.

“Rugby used to have a great history in the U.S. in the early 1900’s, but since the introduction of American football, rugby lost its popularity,” said Palacios. “However, I believe that rugby is making a comeback in grand fashion. It will not be too much longer until there is a U.S. national Rugby League. Some are speculating that this concept will come to fruition within the next two or three years.”

The league in South Korea is steadily growing and those interested in joining the Rugby League should talk to their post Morale, Welfare and Recreation coordinator, or visit the Rugby League’s Facebook page at U.S. Army Rugby-Korea.
Interview with The UFC Zombie

When it comes to combat sports, Korea has traditionally been strong in the lighter weight divisions.

In professional boxing, Korea has produced former WBC and WBA champion Sung-gil Moon, former WBC champion Jeong-gu Jang and former WBC Champion In-jin Jee. Korea has also earned Olympic gold in wrestling, judo and taekwondo.

Carrying on that tradition is an up-and-coming UFC fighter in the featherweight division, Jung Chan-sung, the “Korean Zombie.”

Jung, a Korean-born fighter who began his path to the UFC as a teen living in Nam Jang, is scheduled to fight for a chance at the title, May 15.

His past fights have earned him fight-of-the-night, submission-of-the-night, knockout-of-the-night, submission-of-the-year and fight-of-the-year honors. He is also tied for the fastest knockout in UFC history.

Recently, the Indianhead interviewed Jung at the gym of Korean Top Team after he trained with new UFC lightweight champion, Ben Henderson.

By Pfc. Han Chol-hwan
Photos by Pfc. Kim Myung-in
Staff Writer

Why did you start practicing martial arts?

When I was young, I fought a lot. Maybe it was because I had a lot of pride. But, I was pretty skinny and I usually lost. So, my aunt took me to a hapkido gym and that was the first time I was introduced to martial arts.

What were some major hurdles you’ve experienced in your career?

When I got started, I struggled in the ring, but I was also flat broke. My teammates and coaches helped a lot. They are like fathers and brothers to me.

Also, my parents didn’t like the idea of me fighting. But now, they watch my fights live and cheer me on.

It’s been said you’ve pulled off victories against superior opponents. Why do you think that is?

When I was an amateur fighter, I was a complete unknown. I was motivated by the idea that if I could just win those kinds of fights, it would help me get a shot at better opponents. The truth is that I think I just wanted it more.

How do you typically train for a fight?

I run in the morning. I take a nap after lunch, and then I train mixed martial arts for two to three hours, mostly sparring. I lift weights in the evening.

You’ve had some experience training with U.S. Soldiers at the gym Korean Top Team Gym. What was that like?

I think Americans, not just Soldiers, are open-minded. Also, I was impressed by some Soldiers who were good at wrestling.

Now that you’re making a name for yourself, have you noticed any changes in your life?

It changed a lot. Now, there are some people who recognize me and ask for an autograph, but it’s still mostly men. And, I’m not poor anymore.

But, my daily life and training hasn’t changed much. Even with the purse for the fights, it’s not much money after taxes and my gym’s share. So, I still have to save.

Your next scheduled opponent, Dustin “The Diamond” Poirier, called you out on Twitter and you answered right back. Is trash-talking your thing?

I don’t like it. But the UFC wants its fighters to stir up the controversy, a bit. Once he started the argument, I had no reason to ignore or evade it.

What are your thoughts on Ben Henderson, the half-Korean fighter, as the new UFC lightweight champion?

I watched the match at the stadium and I learned a lot that I wouldn’t have learned if I had watched it on TV.

How does it feel to be one of only three Korean fighters in the UFC?

Actually, there are many Korean fighters who are just as good as UFC fighters. I just think I was lucky. Hopefully, our continued success in the UFC will help showcase the talent of fighters in this country.
Two convicted at Camp Humphreys

The case has all the intrigue and twists of a Hollywood movie. The charges brought by the prosecution included aggravated assault, criminal trespass and petty theft.

On trial were a brother and sister accused in the case of the State of Humphreys vs. Hansel and Gretel Schmidt.

The state contended that Hansel and Gretel were not victims of a hideous witch, as the defense insisted, but would, “None of this was scripted. They had affidavits and written statements and had to decide on how they would proceed,” said Dakin.

The kids also had help from Capt. Patrick Sandys, the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade legal advisor, who lent his time and experience to the students who assumed prosecution and defense roles.

“Getting the class ready for the trial took a lot of work on Dakin’s part, as well as the students. None of this was scripted. They had affidavits and written statements and had to decide on how they would proceed,” said Dakin.

“The kids also had help from Capt. Patrick Sandys the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade legal advisor, who lent his time and experience to the students who assumed prosecution and defense roles. Sandys played the role of the judge. He said that being the judge wasn’t easy as he thought it would be, but the kids made his job a lot easier. ‘I couldn’t believe how well they integrated what I’d taught them in only a couple of hours and how realistic they made it,’ said Sandys.

“Learning about social studies and how trials work was an important part of the curriculum, but Dakin said it was much more than that. ‘They had to critically think their way through it and problem solve how they would handle the case. Just like any lawyer would do,’ she said.

Various members of the Camp Humphreys community came out to show their support by being jurors. Col. Joseph Moore, the Camp Humphreys garrison commander, even took time out of his busy schedule to help with the trial.

After all the hard work from the students, Dakin and Sandys, the only thing remaining was the outcome of the trial. Once the closing arguments from both sides were given Sandys excoriated the jury into the deliberation room and gave them instructions. After a short while, Dakin and the jury came back with the verdict.

Hansel and Gretel Schmidt were found guilty on only one count— petty theft.

A student speaks to the judge during a social studies project where children in the gifted program at Humphreys American Elementary School learned about the U.S. legal process. Students played the roles of prosecutors, defense attorneys, defendants and witnesses.

ARTWORK: Children from Camp Red Cloud and Camp Casey visit Uijeongbu city council during an outing organized by the installation Child, Youth and School Services.

ABOVE: During the visit, the students were able to see what a job in the city council is like. The program is part of the Good Neighbor Program established between the city of Uijeongbu and the 2nd Infantry Division.

Month of the military child

According to the Department of Defense website, www.military.mil, “The month of April offers us a special opportunity to acknowledge and honor the service of our youngest heroes — our military children.”

Established by Caspar Weinberger, the Month of the Military Child recognizes the important role military children play in our communities.

Did You Know?

- There are approximately 1.9 million military children, ranging in ages from newborn to 18 years old, of which 1.1 million are school-aged.
- 765,000 of our military children have active duty parents, and approximately 226,000 have a parent who is currently deployed.
- More than 700,000 children have experienced the deployment of one or more parents since 2001.

- More than 700,000 children have experienced the deployment of one or more parents since 2001.

What is your name?
My name is Gavin L. Wells II.

What grade are you in?
I am in third grade.

What school do you go to?
I attend Casey Elementary School.

Which of your parents is stationed in the Army?
My dad is in the Army. His name is Maj. Gavin Wells. He is in the 21st Hore Brigade chief of operations.

Who is your favorite teacher?
Mrs. Austin in Lansing, Kan. is my favorite teacher. If we stayed for the after-school program, she would throw pennies and candy at us as we got answers right.

What is your favorite subject?
My favorite subject is writing.

I want to be a book writer, artist and be on TV.

Have you tried any Korean foods? Do you have a favorite? Yes, I have tried Korean food. My favorite dish is bulgogi and rice.

Have you learned any cool Korean words? Yes, I have learned a few Korean words. I know how to say hello, thank you and some numbers.

Do you have any friends or family back home you would like to say hello to? Yes, I would like to say hi to my best friend, James Robert, all my family, and friends in the United States.

Uijeongbu rolls out red carpet for 21D military children

On March 6, several children from Camp Red Cloud and Camp Casey’s Child Youth and School Services visited Uijeongbu city hall and city council on invitation from Uijeongbu city mayor, Ahn Dongkeun.

The visit was part of the Good Neighbor Program, an initiative of the 2nd Infantry Division and Uijeongbu city.

In city hall, the children visited the customer service center and disaster situation room. They also visited the mayor and deputy mayor’s offices, where they were welcomed by deputy mayor Kim Dongsoon.

At the city council, they went to the main conference room and tried their hands as counselors, soliciting for both homework and to encourage one another to serve in uniform.

The afternoon concluded with a lunch of bulgogi and a visit to the zoo in Goyang city.
Gyeongbokgung Palace, meaning “Palace Greatly Blessed by Heaven,” was completed three years after the founding of the Joseon Dynasty by Yi Seong-gye. With Mount Bugaksan to its rear and Mount Namsan in the foreground, Gyeongbokgung Palace was constructed in the heart of Seoul, an auspicious location according to the traditional Korean practice of geomancy.

The government ministry district and main building of Gyeongbokgung Palace formed the heart of the capital city of Seoul and represented the sovereignty of the Joseon Dynasty. After all the palaces in the capital were destroyed by the Japanese during the Hideyoshi invasions of 1592-1598, Changdeokgung, a secondary palace, was rebuilt and served as the main palace. Gyeongbokgung Palace was left derelict for the next 250 years. It was finally reconstructed in 1868 by the order of the Prince Regent. However, the palace created by the order was markedly different from the original.

During the Japanese occupation, most of Gyeongbokgung Palace was torn down, again. Gwanghwamun Gate was removed, 85 percent of the restored buildings were dismantled, and an enormous building that housing the Japanese government-general was constructed in front of the main sector of the palace. An effort to fully restore Gyeongbokgung Palace to its former glory has been ongoing since 1998. The colonial government-general building was removed, and Heungnyemun Gate was restored to its original state. The royal quarters and the East Palace for the crown prince were also restored to their original state.

It is place of great significance to the Korean people. It represents some of their greatest achievements and serves as a unique repository of culture, heritage, and national identity.

**Gyeongbokgung Palace**

The First Royal Palace of the Joseon Dynasty, Symbol of 600 years of History

**Story and Photos by PFC. Kim Myung-in**

“*Our suspicions were confirmed when North Korea announced on March 16 that it plans to conduct a missile launch between April 12th and 16th,*” Lavoy told lawmakers. “*This grand launch is highly provocative, because it manifestly North Korea’s desire to test and expand its long-range missile capability.*”

During Thurman’s confirmation hearing before he took command of U.S. military forces in Korea, Congress asked him to assess tour normalization and force relocation, Thurman noted.

“It is my assessment that expanding tour normalization beyond our current authorization of 4,645 Family members is unaffordable under the current construct,” he said.

Defense Department officials have considered “tour normalization” in South Korea for a number of years. Then-Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said in July 2010 that he was considering a two-year tour for single service members and a three-year tour for troops accompanied by their Families.

Gates cautioned at the time, however, that the infrastructure such tours would require, such as schools, hospitals and commissaries, would make the change an expensive one.

Force relocation plans are on track in Korea, Thurman said, adding that he will continue to assess them to ensure they place the right capabilities in the right places to meet operational requirements.

In line with the Strategic Alliances 2015 agreement, U.S. forces will consolidate and relocate from the metropolitan area of the South Korean capital of Seoul to centralized locations south of the city, he said. The move will improve efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance force protection by placing most service members and equipment outside the effective range of North Korean artillery, Lavoy told the committee.

A comprehensive plan under the Strategic Alliance 2015 framework will transition wartime operational control from the U.S.-South Korean combined forces command to the South Korean joint chiefs of staff by December 2015, Lavoy told the panel. The transition will allow South Korea to lead its national defense while maintaining an enduring U.S. defense commitment and capability, he said.

The U.S.-South Korean alliance continues to be a cornerstone of U.S. regional strategy, Lavoy said, adding that U.S. leaders will continue to strengthen that alliance, make U.S. forces there more efficient and effective, and enhance military presence, power projection and deterrence in the Pacific region.
April is best known in the United States for two things: April showers and taxes. Now that you are overseas you will be happy to know that neither of these really applies to April in Korea. That doesn’t mean you don’t have to pay your taxes, or that it won’t rain, it just means those things are a bit delayed in Korea. Let me explain.

There are two important points to be aware of when stationed overseas and filing your taxes. Don’t stop reading after the first one though or you’ll be sorry. Service members stationed overseas have until June 17 to file their taxes. However, if you plan to file after April 17 you must apply for an overseas extension. This application (IRS Form 4868) must be submitted BEFORE April 17. Although you are entitled to a filing extension, if you owe taxes you must pay by April 17 as interest will begin to accrue on April 18 and continue to accrue until paid in full.

Although you are overseas and receiving combat pay, Korea is not considered a combat zone. So for those that have enjoyed the tax-free income from serving in a combat zone, sadly that doesn’t apply while you are here. At least you are not being shot at though! Also keep in mind that your world-wide income must be reported and taxes paid appropriately. So if your spouse works while with you in Korea those funds should be reported on your return.

Coming to Korea is a major move, especially if your Family accompanied you. The IRS does recognize that by allowing you generous deductions for moving expenses. Don’t forget to total any reasonable moving expenses you or your Family may have had coming here that were not reimbursed by the government. These expenses can include reasonable expenses of moving yourself or your personal effects. This may include a checked baggage fee that was not reimbursed, expenses to stay in lodging or a motel while waiting to move to an apartment, and even costs associated with moving your pets to Korea. For non-command sponsored Families these expenses could be substantial so pull out those receipts and make those deductions. Moving expenses are not limited to getting things and people to Korea, they can also include the things left behind. Although the government should have paid for moving and storage of the household items you did not bring, you may deduct the cost of storage of those items the government would not store for you. The most common example of this is a second car. The government often pays to store or move one vehicle but many of us own more than one. If you kept your second car and are storing it on your own dime you can deduct those expenses while in Korea. Did you forget to file for these deductions last year? Sorry, you can’t go back and file for them. Deductions may only be counted in the year they were accrued. Lastly, although you are stationed overseas that does not necessarily mean that you are exempt from filing and paying taxes related to your state of residence. Some states require you to still file and pay taxes at the state and/or local level, including city and county taxes. Even if your state does not require you to pay taxes while stationed out-of-state or overseas, some states still require you to file a return for record keeping. If you need assistance, let one of the trained volunteers help you out at the no-cost tax centers at camps Red Cloud, Casey and Humphreys. For the camps Red Cloud and Casey tax centers, call 730-2568 to set up your appointment. The Camp Red Cloud tax center is open for appointments only and is located in Freeman Hall. The Camp Casey tax center is open Monday to Saturday, please call for hours. For those at Camp Humphreys, call 753-5680.

Oh, and as for the April showers. It might not rain much in April but I promise you it will. Just wait until July and August – and make sure you buy some cool rubber boots.

By Sgt. Harry D. Simmons Jr.
1-38th FA

I have held some dirty jobs. But, my current position as the battalion retention NCO for 1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery Regiment, 210th Fires Brigade, is one of the most difficult I’ve ever experienced. The dangers of having my own air conditioner unit in my personal office may eventually result in a serious cold-weather injury. Currently, because of the amount of typing I do, I am looking into a 10-finger profile. The truth is, I might even need to request an assistant.

In all seriousness, though, I’m partly responsible for maintaining the strength and balance of Army personnel. The decision to reduce the size of our forces has created a bottleneck in reenlistment opportunity. It’s getting harder to stay in the Army, and it’s getting harder to decide who qualifies for retention. It’s a tough job, and it’s a lot of responsibility, but I wouldn’t feel comfortable passing it off on someone else.

Editor’s Note: While Kelley Scrocca is a military spouse and a licensed estate and tax attorney-at-law. This column is a starting point for personal research and should not be considered legal advice.
Casey School schedule
There will be no classes for students April 6, which will be a teacher work day.
Spring recess begins April 9. Classes resume April 16 as the fourth quarter begins. For more information, call 730-6444.

Tennis, golf camps
Child, Youth and School Services’ Sports and Fitness is offering tennis and golf camps for children 12 years and under from April 9 - 13. The camp runs daily at Camp Casey from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. The cost is $35 per activity; but a $10 discount is being offered for children who participate in both. The cost includes a daily box lunch and T-shirt. The deadline to sign up is April 6. For more information, call 730-3114.

My First Art Exploration
Child, Youth and School Services is offering its SKIESUnlimited “My First Art Exploration” class at Camp Casey in April. The program is a parent and tot activity for children from 18 months to 3 years. Spaces are limited to the first 12 participants. The cost is $40. To register, stop by Parent Central in bldg. 2475 at Camp Casey weekdays from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., or the School Age Center, bldg. 5 at Camp Red Cloud from 2 - 5 p.m., Thursdays only. For more information, call 730-6523 or 732-9141.

Warrant officer recruiting
A Warrant Officer Recruiting Team from the Special Operations Recruiting Battalion, will brief on qualifications and application procedures to service members in bldg. 2 at Camp Red Cloud from 2 - 5 p.m., Thursdays only. For more information, call 732-6016 or 732-6169.

OHA survey
The Defense Travel Management Office is conducting a Overseas Housing Allowance survey for utilities and recurring maintenance expenses incurred by our Soldiers and their Families living in privately leased housing while stationed overseas. The 2012 OHA survey will continue through April 30.
The survey can be accessed at http://175fmc.korea.army.mil. It is recommended that Service members gather their utility and maintenance bills prior to starting the survey in order to facilitate the submission of accurate costs. Those eligible to take the survey are the service members who have been living off-post in privately leased housing for at least three months. DoD civilians are not eligible to participate.

Change to phone procedures
Effective immediately, when calling on phone procedures, callers must use “0503-3,” “drop the 7.”

Military identification cards
Photocopying of U.S. government identification is a violation of Title 18, U.S. code part I, chapter 33, section 701.
It is recommended that military and Department of Defense personnel provide a state drivers license or other form of photo identification to be photocopied if an establishment insists on a photocopy of a traveler’s identification.
This does not apply to medical establishments or government agencies who may require a photocopy for official government or medical business.
Should you witness activity that may be criminal or terrorist in nature, contact the Pentagon Forces Protection Agency at 703-692-6279.

Beware of spam
Some postal customers are receiving emails referencing a package delivery. These emails contain a link that, when opened, installs a malicious virus which can steal private information from your personal computer. Delete the message without taking any further action. The Postal Inspection Service is working to resolve the issue and shut down the malicious program.

Things you can do to prevent child abuse
• Volunteer your time.
• Discourage your children thoughtfully.
• Never discipline when you are upset.
• Examine your behavior, including words.
• Teach children their rights.
• Support prevention programs.
• Know what child abuse is.
• Report abuse. Reporting your concerns may protect a child and get help for a Family who needs it.

For more information or to get involved, visit your Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program.

Chapel service times
For the Camp Red Cloud Chapel hosts a Catholic service Sundays at 9 a.m. A Protestant service follows at 11 a.m. A COGIC service starts at 12:30 p.m., and a KATUSA service begins at 7 p.m. For more information call 732-6073 / 6706.
The Camp Casey Stone Chapel hosts a Protestant service Sundays at 10 a.m. and a KATUSA service at 6 p.m.
The Camp Casey Memorial Chapel hosts a Gospel service at 11 a.m. and their KATUSA service begins at 6:30 p.m.
The West Casey Chapel hosts a Protestant service Sundays at 9:30 a.m. The West Casey Chapel also hosts a Catholic service that starts at 11:30 a.m., an LDS Worship service that starts at 4 p.m., and an LDS Study Institute that starts at 7:30 a.m. and a Korean Protestant service at 10:30 a.m. For more information contact the Memorial chapel at 730-2594 or the West Casey Chapel at 730-3014.
The Camp Hovey Chapel hosts a Catholic service Sundays at 9:30 a.m., and is followed by the Protestant service at 11 a.m. The KATUSA service is held Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
The Old Hovey Chapel hosts an Orthodox service every first and third Sundays of the month at 10 a.m., and the Crusader Chapel hosts their Protestant service Sunday at 11 a.m. For more information call 730-5119.
The Camp Stanley Chapel hosts a Protestant service each Sunday at 10 a.m., and a Gospel service every Sunday at 12:30 p.m. For more information call 732-5238.
The Camp Humphreys Freedom Chapel hosts a Catholic service Sundays at 9 a.m., followed by a Protestant service at 11 a.m., then a Gospel service at 1 p.m., and will have a Church of Christ service at 5 p.m. KATUSA service is held on Tuesday at 7 p.m. For more information call 753-7952.

MOVIES

Prices: $5 for first run movies. $4.50 for regular releases. Children 12 and under: be $2.50 and $2.25 respectively. Find the full list of movies online at: http://www.shopmyexchange.com/reeltimetheatres/reeltime-landing.htm
대한민국 특전사 의무사령부와 훈련을 진행한 2-9 보병대대

2면

4.11 총선

3면

지난 3월 1일 로드리게즈 (Rodriguez) 실사격 훈련장 근처 가상 의료 훈련장에서 진행된 훈련 중 제1 전투여단 소속 의무병인 후안 라이스(PFC Juan Rice) 일병과 아담 로페즈(SPC Adam Lopez) 상병이 전자 마네킹을 응급처치하고 있다.

로드 훈련장 근처의 가상 의료 훈련장에서 진행된 훈련 중 제1 전투여단 2-9 보병대대 헬레이저 본부 중대 소속 의무병인 조 카이저(PFC Joe Kaiser) 일병과 조디 로안(PFC Jody Roane) 일병이 전자 마네킹을 응급처치하고 있다.
입대 후 중대원들과 처음으로 축구를 하던 중 골이 아닌데도 불구하고 골을 넣단 듯이 세레모니를 하고 있던 선임에게 흥분한 나머지 "골 아니에요!"라고 외쳤던 순간이 제 군생활의 위기 아닌 위기였던 것 같습니다.
개인적으로 축구를 좋아하여 승부욕이 넘쳐나는 편입니다. 군대의 특성상 말끝은 항상 '다나까'로 끝내야 하지만 그 순간에는 그런 생각을 할 겨를도 없이 입 밖으로 "골 아니에요"라는 말이 튀어 나왔습니다. 선임들은 그 말을 듣고 푸하하 웃었지만 전입한지 얼마 안 됐던 저는 큰 실수를 저질렀다는 생각에 "죄송합니다!"를 외쳤고 "어떻게 흥분되도 지킬건 지켜야지?"라는 선임들의 따뜻한 조언으로 훈훈하게 마무리된 제 군생활에 찾아온 위기였습니다.

태권도 시범단에서 중대 행정병으로 재보직 했을 때였습니다. 멋도 모르고 태권도팀이 멋있어 보여서 태권도 시범단에 지원을 했다가 몸이 따라가질 못해서 한달만에 재보직을 했습니다. 그 때만 생각하면 지금도 아픈 기억이 새록새록 떠오릅니다. 그 당시에 새로운 환경에 적응하는게 무척이나 힘이 들었습니다. 인가된 자리가 없던지라 인사과 선임들에게도 갑작스러웠던 상황이었고 그래서 그런지 처음부터 일을 제대로 못 배웠습니다. 시간이 흘면서 점차 나아졌지만 아직도 작년 이맘때쯤 고생한 걸 생각하면 감회가 새롭습니다. 제가 지금까지 사고 안치고 무사히 버틸 수 있었던 것은 지원대장과 1 전투여단 본부중대 선임병장 포함 중대원들 덕분입니다. 고맙습니다.

"기억나는 군생활 최대 위기는?"
1 전투여단 본부중대 기회균등과 행정/PC운용병 병장 박정민
1 전투여단 본부중대 지원대 화생방작전통제병 일병 조지훈
1 전투여단 본부중대 민사과 행정/PC운용병 이병 유민영
1 전투여단 본부중대 일반 의무병 상병 박종희

저의 군생활 위기는 신병 기간이었던 것 같습니다. 제가 처음 자대에 전입왔을 때는 군대에 대한 막연한 두려움이 앞섰던 것 같습니다. 군대가 옛날에 비해 많이 좋아졌다고는 하지만 군대는 군대인지 뭔가 두려운 것이 있었습니다. 주위에서 군대에 대한 안좋은 소리를 많이 듣고 있었기 때문에 더 두려웠습니다. 하지만 막상 자대에 와보니 모든 것이 듣는 것과 달랐습니다. 선후임간의 분위기는 제가 상상하던 것과는 사뭇 달랐고, 저에게 오자마자 '좀 웃어라', '제발 얼어있지 마라' 등 얘기를 많이 들었습니다. 잔뜩 긴장을 하고 있던 저로서는 처음에는 얼떨떨했지만 속으로는 안심이 되었습니다. 그 이후로 선임들의 그런 반김이 진심이란 것을 느끼게 되었고, 군생활에 빠르게 적응할 수 있었습니다.

미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들과 같이 훈련했던 적이 있어서, 점점 이상했어도 미군들로
이번 2012년은 대한민국의 미래를 결정하는 대단히 중요한 해이다. 국정 전반을 책임지는 통수권자를 뽑는 대통령 선거가 12월에 있고, 이번 4월달에는 19대 국회의원 선거가 있다. 미 2사단에서 근무하는 천여명의 카투사들을 위해 이번 총선의 의미와 투표절차, 그리고 이번 선거를 통해 당선되는 국회의원의 업무를 간략히 요약한다.

이번 19대 국회의원 선거일은 2012년 4월 11일로 국가임시 휴일이다. 국회의원 후보자들의 선거운동기간은 3월 29일부터 4월 10일까지며, 국회의원의 임기는 4년이다. 선거권은 만 19세 이상의 국민으로 미 2사단에서 복무하는 모든 카투사들에게 선거권이 주어진다. 19대 국회의원 총수는 300명이며, 이중 지역을 대표하는 지역구 국회의원은 246명, 비례대표 국회의원은 54명이다.

이번 국회의원 선거는 1인 2표제이다. 흰색 투표용지는 지역에 출마한 후보자에게 한표를 투표하고, 연두색 투표용지는 비례대표 국회의원을 뽑기위해 정당에 한표를 투표한다. 지역구 국회의원은 그 지역에 있는 유권자들에게서 유효투표의 다수를 얻은 자가 당선인으로 결정된다. 여기서 최고득표자가 2인 이상일때에는 연장자가 당선된다.

비례대표는 정당의 득표율에 비례해 당선자 수를 결정하는 선거 제도로써 국민의 의사를 가장 정확하게 의석에 반영하고자 생겨난 제도이다. 비례대표의 방식은 기본적으로 정당을 매개로 하여 정당이 작성한 후보자의 명부에 대하여 투표하는 것을 말한다.

이렇게 당선된 국회의원에게는 특권과 의무가 부여된다. 국회의원이 가진 특권에는 불체포특권과 면책특권이 있다. 불체포특권이란 국회의원은 현행범인 경우를 제외하고는 국회가 열려있는 기간 중 국회의 동의 없이 체포 또는 구금되지 않는 권한을 말한다. 면책특권은 국회에서 행한 발언과 표결에 관하여 국회 외에서 책임지지 않는 권한을 이어간다.

국회의원이 하는 일은 크게 4가지로 분류된다. 권한에 따라 활동을 분류하면 입법, 재정, 일반국정, 외교로 나눌 수 있다. 다수의 국민들이 알고 있듯이 국회를 흔히 입법부라 한다. 입법과정은 국회의원 한 명이 제안을 하고 10인 이상의 국회의원 찬성이 있어야 한다. 이렇게 찬성을 받은 법안은 본회의에 회부하여 심사과정을 거친후 과반수의 찬성으로 의결된다. 의결된 법안은 정부에 이송되어 대통령의 동의를 구하게 된다.

입법에 관한 활동만큼 중요한 것이 국회의원들의 재정에 관한 활동이다. 재정은 국민의 부담인 조세를 전제로 하고 있으며 규모가 방대하고 다양한 국가기능을 수행하여 국민경제 전체에 미치는 영향이 크기 때문에 이 역시 국민의 대표인 국회의의 활동 방면에 속하는 것이며, 예산은 세출, 세입, 정부의 시정안, 성립,심의,의결을 떠나서 예산안, 예산안 특별위원회 종합심사를 거쳐 마지막으로 본회의 심의, 의결로 결정된다.

대표적으로 알려진 국회의원의 전반적인 견제와 감시 활동으로는 국정감사가 있다. 국정감사는 국정운영의 실태를 정확히 파악하고 입법과 예산심의를 위한 자료를 수집하기 위해 이루어진다. 이 밖에 헌법기간 구성 활동, 탄핵소추권 발동, 일반사면에 대한 동의, 선전포고 및 국군의 해외파견 외국군대 주류에 대한 동의권 등이 있다.

마지막으로 국회의원의 외교에 관한 활동에는 국회의장단, 의회친선협회단, 의원외교협의회단 등을 구성해서 외국을 방문한다. 또 국제의원연맹, 아시아태평양 국회의원 연맹 등의 국제회의에 참석한다.

미국 전 대통령 에이브러햄 링컨(Abraham Lincoln)은 "투표는 탄환보다 강하다"고 말한 적이 있다. 국회의원직은 국민을 대표해 지역사회의, 국가를 위해 막중한 임무를 수행하는 자리이다. 따라서 금배지는 누구보다 국민을 생각하고 적합한 자질을 갖춘 인물이 달아야 할 것이다.

인- 자기소개를 부탁드립니다.
문- 안녕하십니까. 전투여단 본부중대 선임병장 상병 문재현입니다. 1990년 6월 29일 생이며 미국 수도인 워싱턴 DC에 소재한 조지타운대학 경영학부 1학년에 재학 중 10-09기로 입대하였습니다. 전입후 여단 민사과 (S-9)에서 근무하다 작년 12월 말부터 선임병장직을 수행 중입니다.

인- 부대소개를 부탁드립니다.
문- 저희 1 전투여단 본부중대는 크게 본부 소속 참모부서, 중대본부와 인사과 등 3곳으로 이루어져 있습니다. 본부 본부에서는 인사과, 군수과, 장비관리과, 차량관리과, 정작과, 민사과, 기획균등과, 군종과가 있고 중대본부에서는 중대행정실, 화생방작전통제과, 막사관리과, 물자관리과에서 근무하고 있습니다.

인- 가장 기억에 남는 일은?
문- 작년 7월 말에 있었던 경기북부지역 폭우입니다. 당시 본부에서 근무하고 있었는데 갑자기 비상 소집이 발동되더니 곧 매 시간마다 저희 부서가 동두천시 재난대책과에 전화하여 인근 피해규모와 인터넷 뉴스등을 주시하여 여단 참모장에게 보고하였습니다. 또 단수가되어 전우들과 함께 세탁기에 남은 물을 빼내 방까지 물을 길어 낀 것을 생각납니다.

인- 가장 기억에 남는 미군은?
문- 빅터 에그본 (MAJ Victor C. Egbon) 소령님이 가장 기억에 남습니다. 정작장교이었음에도 불구하고 인접한 민사과소속 카투사의 복지까지 신경 써주며 존중으로 대해주니 정말 마음에 들었습니다. 가족이 부산에 거주하여 매주 일주일 동안 통근하고 한국 음식에도 관심이 많았습니다.

인- 전역 후 계획은?
문- 6월 말에 전역 예정인데 8월 말에 출국 전까지 계절학기나 인턴을 통해 복학준비에 매진할 듯 합니다. 전역후에는 복학전까지 어투나 행동을 논산훈련소에서 최대한 빨리 군인화하려 노력할 예정입니다. 복학후에도 군의 생활을 계속해서 하고 싶습니다. 주말에는 가족이나 친구들과 여행을 다니며 아직 가보지 못한 한국의 숨겨진 명소를 가보고 싶습니다.

인- 군 생활 중 아쉬운 것이 있다면?
문- 군생활을 이제 18개월정도 했는데 군입대시 계획했던 학업적 계발이나 체력단련을 못했던 점이 아쉽습니다. 하지만 그 대신 다수의 중대원들과 시간을 많이 보내며 대화를 나누며 성실하게 군 복무에 임한 것으로 생각합니다.

인- 중대원들에게 한 마디 부탁드립니다.
문- 앞으로 제가 선임병장을 할 기간이 4달여가량 남았는데, 지금까지 잘 해 왔듯이, 앞으로도 성실하게 군생활에 임해서 사고없이 잘 지내실 수 있으면 좋겠습니다. 다른 부대원들과 미군들에게 배려하고, 맡은 바 임무에 충실히 다내면 좋은 군생활을 할 수 있을 것이라 생각합니다.
사진: 일병 한철환 / 미2사단 공보실

이번 호의 주인공은 1 전투여단 본부중대 유민영 이병과 여자친구 장다연 양입니다.

인디언헤드는 사랑을 싣고 여러분의 참여로 이루어집니다.

게재를 바라시는 분은 미 2사단 공보실 노진환 상병 jinhwan.ro.fm@mail.mil 또는 732-9518로 연락주시기 바랍니다.