

MEMORANDUM OF SPECIAL UNDERSTANDINGS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Consistent with Paragraph 2 of the Agreed Minutes to Article III of the US-ROK Status of Forces Agreement,

Recognizing the importance of environmental protection, including the prevention of pollution on facilities and areas granted to the United States Armed Forces in Korea under the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1953 and the United States-Republic of Korea Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) and in the communities adjacent to such facilities and areas,

The Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of Korea, consistent with their policies, have reached the following understandings on governing standards, information sharing and access, environmental performance, and environmental consultation.

Governing Standards

The Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of Korea will continue their efforts to protect the environment through cooperating in a periodic review and update of the Environmental Governing Standards (EGS). These standards will continue to be developed with reference to the more protective standards from relevant United States standards and policy and Republic of Korea laws and regulations as generally enforced and applied within the Republic of Korea, without prejudice to the United States Forces Korea, by undertaking biennial review of the EGS for the purpose of accommodating new rules and standards. The Government of the United States confirms its policy to undertake periodic review of the EGS for the purpose of accommodating new rules and standards. If more protective rules and standards come into effect between reviews, the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of Korea will promptly discuss updating the EGS.

Information Sharing and Access

The Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of Korea shall work together to exchange appropriate information regarding issues that could affect the health and environment of Republic of Korea citizens and United States military personnel, the civilian component, and their family members, through the framework of the Joint Committee established by Article XXVIII of the Status of Forces Agreement. Appropriate access to facilities and areas will be provided in accordance with procedures to be established by the Joint Committee. Through the Environmental Subcommittee of the Joint Committee, the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of Korea will continue to discuss, on a regular basis, environmental issues related to defense activities in the Republic of Korea under the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1953. The Environmental Subcommittee will meet

on a regular basis to review areas for information exchange, appropriate access by Korean officials to facilities and areas, and joint surveys, monitoring, and post-incident evaluations.

Environmental Performance

The Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of Korea will consult on any risks posed by environmental contamination on United States Forces Korea facilities and areas, or in the communities adjacent to such facilities and areas. The Government of the United States confirms its policy to conduct periodic environmental performance assessments that examine, identify, and evaluate the environmental aspects of United States Forces Korea operations in order to minimize adverse environmental effects; to plan, program, and budget for these requirements accordingly; to promptly undertake to remedy contamination caused by United States Armed Forces in Korea that poses a known, imminent and substantial endangerment to human health; and to consider additional remedial measures required to protect human health. The Government of the Republic of Korea confirms its policy to take appropriate measures, in accordance with relevant laws and regulations, to respond to contamination caused by sources outside United States Forces Korea facilities and areas that poses a known, imminent, and substantial endangerment to human health.

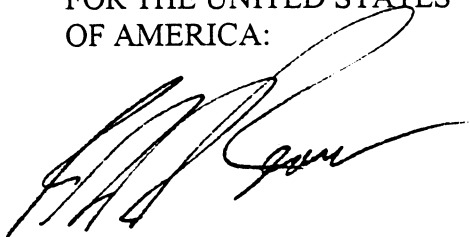
Environmental Consultation

The Environmental Subcommittee and other relevant subcommittees of the Joint Committee will meet regularly to discuss environmental issues related to United States Forces Korea facilities and areas, as well as environmental issues related to the communities adjacent to such facilities and areas.


Through the Joint Committee, the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of Korea will work on appropriate procedures to realize the above understandings on environmental protection.

Signed at Seoul, Republic of Korea, on January 18, 2001.

FOR THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA:

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to a high-ranking official of the United States.

FOR THE REPUBLIC
OF KOREA:

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to a high-ranking official of the Republic of Korea.