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INSTRUCTION

J-5

DISTRIBUTION: A, B, C

CJCSI 2015.01B

5 May 2026

UNITED NATIONS COMMAND STRATEGIC GUIDANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

References:

See Enclosure C

1. Purpose. This instruction defines the mission, function, strategic direction, command relationships, and membership process and responsibilities for Headquarters, United Nations Command (UNC).
2. Superseded/Cancellation. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) Instruction (CJCSI) 2015.01A, 6 November 2023 is hereby superseded.
3. Applicability. This instruction applies to the U.S. Joint Staff, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM), UNC, U.S. Forces Korea (USFK), U.S. Forces Japan (USFJ), and the UNC Member States. It is provided to the Services for information only.
4. Definitions. See Glossary.
5. Mission. UNC, as directed by U.S. national authorities through the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), implements, manages, and enforces the terms of the 27 July 1953 Armistice Agreement, deters North Korean aggression, and executes prescribed functions to uphold peace and security on the Korean Peninsula.
6. Functions. To achieve its mission in an evolving security environment characterized by strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific, UNC must maintain its Armistice Agreement responsibilities while strengthening integration with the Republic of Korea (ROK)-U.S. Alliance, Japan, and UNC Member States to support deterrence, stability, and regional security. Commander (CDR), UNC is to:
 - a. Maintain UNC as a separate legal and military entity under the executive leadership of the United States of America.

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- b. Focus on the aggregation and application of military power through persistent strategic engagement and the integration of diplomatic, information, military, and economic means.
- c. Embrace working together with allies, partners, and friends across all domains and organize UNC by employing available ROK, U.S., and UNC Member State resources.
- d. On behalf of the U.S. Government (USG), participate in the development of international agreements and is authorized to enter into non-binding agreements with UNC Member States and Host Nations.
- e. Implement, manage, and enforce the terms of the Armistice Agreement. Maintain direct liaison with the ROK JCS concerning activities along the demilitarized zone south of the Military Demarcation Line, the Northwest Islands, waters of the Han River Estuary, and the airspace over those areas. Manage the Northern Limit Line as an operational control (OPCON) measure for UNC and ROK forces to prevent military tension between opposing forces in the area.
- f. Develop and promulgate regulations and guidelines regarding the implementation and compliance of the Armistice Agreement. Coordinate with and inform both the ROK Ministry of National Defense and JCS of relevant Armistice Agreement implementation and compliance regulations, guidelines, and violations.
- g. Develop and promulgate Armistice-related rules of engagement for all military forces (including those assigned to the ROK, UNC, and United States) to maintain the terms of the Armistice Agreement in coordination with the ROK CJCS.
- h. Exercise operational command and control consistent with national caveats over all forces assigned to the UNC, pursuant to references (f) and (g).
- i. Support coordination and engagement with the ROK, United States, Japan, and UNC Member States to identify approaches on non-combatant evacuation.
- j. Support security cooperation efforts between the ROK, United States, and UNC Member States focusing on training, materiel support, and interoperability.

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k. Strengthen collective readiness and responsiveness of UNC Forces in support of the ROK-U.S. combined defense posture by hosting regular exercises and multinational planning activities.

1. Foster ROK military participation in UNC and offer permanent UNC Headquarters staff positions to occupy.

m. In the event hostilities resume on the Korean Peninsula:

(1) Ensure evacuation of the UNC Component of the Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC), the UNCMAC Secretariat, and the Swiss and Swedish delegations of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC) from the Joint Security Area and NNSC Camp within the Military Armistice Commission Headquarters Area of the Demilitarized Zone.

(2) At the request of the ROK-U.S. Alliance, support the rapid introduction of military power to the Korean Theater of Operations and integrate and employ UNC Forces consistent with national caveats.

n. Maintain United Nations Command – Rear (UNC-Rear) in Japan to support UNC operations and responsibilities under the 1954 *Agreement Regarding the Status of United Nations Forces in Japan* (UN SOFA) (reference j). UNC-Rear will:

(1) Maintain relationships with the Government of Japan (GoJ), USFJ, and those UNC Member States who have acceded to the UN SOFA in Japan.

(2) Maintain, facilitate access, and exercise UN forces' access to all bases in Japan designated under the UN SOFA.

(3) Coordinate ship, aircraft, and personnel access requests in accordance with (IAW) the UN SOFA.

(4) Support coordination and planning with the United States, ROK, Japan, and UNC Member States regarding contingency activities requiring access to facilities in Japan. Facilitate information sharing and coordination with the GoJ, USFJ, and UNC Member States regarding UNC activities conducted under the UNC-GoJ SOFA in Japan and related contingency planning.

(5) Support planning for reception, staging, onward movement, and integration of UNC forces in the event of a contingency on the Korean Peninsula.

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o. Submit reports to the U.S. Joint Staff for coordination with the U.S. interagency regarding activities conducted. The USG may, as appropriate, transmit such reports to the UN through established diplomatic channels, IAW reference (f).

7. Strategic Direction. UNC is to:

a. Advance integration (personnel, processes, systems, and information) between UNC, ROK, Japan, and UNC Member States to maximize operational effectiveness.

b. Strengthen the role of UNC as a multinational mechanism that supports deterrence and stability on the Korean Peninsula and contributes to broader regional security through enhanced integration, interoperability, and engagement with UNC Member States and partners.

c. Broaden the UNC membership IAW Enclosure B to include former and new UNC Member States who can provide military or non-military contributions to maintain peace and security on the Korean Peninsula. The U.S. Joint Staff, after completion of coordination with the ROK Government, while respecting the sovereignty of the ROK, will administer formal designation of new UNC Member States on behalf of the USG.

d. At the request of Host Nations and/or the USG, provide military advice to support diplomatic efforts to secure status protections for UNC forces.

e. In conjunction with the U.S. Joint Staff, build closer relationships with UNC Member State operational commands, ROK Ministry of National Defense, JCS, and ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC).

f. Align all UNC activities to support the objectives of the United States as articulated in the *National Security Strategy*, *National Defense Strategy*, and *National Military Strategy*.

8. Channels of Communication and Support

a. Directives from the USG acting pursuant to UN Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs) to the UNC will be transmitted by the Secretary of War (SecWar) through the U.S. CJCS, while keeping CDRUSINDOPACOM informed.

b. CDRUNC will communicate with the U.S. CJCS on all matters concerning the plans for assigned missions, functions and tasks, strategic

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guidance and direction, OPCON of forces, and the conduct of military operations, while keeping CDRUSINDOPACOM informed.

c. CDRUNC may coordinate directly with Commander, U.S. Army Pacific on all administrative and logistical support matters. Headquarters, Department of the Army is the Executive Agent responsible for providing administrative, financial, and logistical support to UNC and delegations comprising the NNSC, in compliance with U.S. statutory authorities and DoW implementing regulations.

d. CDRUNC will communicate with Host Nations and UNC Member State designated representatives on matters related to UNC and its activities.

e. CDRUSINDOPACOM will support CDRUNC with U.S. forces, facilities, and coordination through subordinate unified commands—USFK and USFJ.

9. Supported and Supporting Relationships

a. UNC is the supported command for the implementation, management, and enforcement of reference (h). UNC coordinates this with the ROK JCS during Armistice, the supported command for the defense of the ROK. The ROK-U.S. CFC and USFK are supporting commands.

b. When crisis is declared and during wartime, ROK-U.S. CFC and the ROK JCS are the supported commands for the defense of the ROK. UNC and USFK are supporting commands.

10. Summary of Changes. The revision updates administrative data, adds clarity on UNC-Rear responsibilities, and adds a flowchart to Enclosure B to illustrate the UNC Member Accession process.

11. Releasability. UNRESTRICTED. This directive is approved for public release; distribution is unlimited on the Non-classified Internet Protocol Routing Network. Department of War (DoW) Components (to include the Combat Commands (CCMDs)) and other Federal agencies may obtain copies of this directive through the Internet from the CJCS Directives Electronic Library at <<https://intelshare.intelink.sgov.gov/sites/jointstaff/sjs/imd/directives/default.aspx>>. Joint Staff activities may also obtain access via the SECRET Internet Protocol Router Network directives Electronic Library web sites.

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12. Effective Date. This INSTRUCTION is effective upon signature.



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Vice Director, Joint Staff

Enclosures:

- A – United Nations Command Member States
- B – United Nations Command Membership
- C – References

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ENCLOSURE A

UNITED NATIONS COMMAND MEMBER STATES

1. In 1950, there were 14 founding members of UNC: Australia, Canada, France, Greece, India, The Netherlands, New Zealand, The Philippines, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In 1951, Belgium, Colombia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Italy, Luxembourg, and Norway joined the UNC.
2. The following UNC Member States have either withdrawn their membership or are not active: India (1954), Luxembourg (1955), Sweden (1957), and Ethiopia (1965).
3. At present, UNC has 18 active members: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, New Zealand, The Netherlands, Norway, The Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
4. At present, UNC has nine members who have acceded to the UNC-GoJ SOFA in Japan: Australia, Canada, France, Italy, New Zealand, The Philippines, Thailand, Türkiye, and the United Kingdom. The government of any state not signatory to the UNC-GoJ SOFA that has sent or may hereafter send forces to Korea pursuant to UNSCRs 82–84 may, subject to the consent of the GoJ, accede to the UNC-GoJ SOFA by depositing an instrument of accession with the GoJ.
5. At present, there are seven U.S. bases in Japan that are designated under the UNC-GoJ SOFA for use by UNC: Yokota Air Base, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Kadena Air Base, Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Fleet Activities Sasebo, Fleet Activities Okinawa (White Beach Naval Facility), and Camp Zama.
6. Refer to UNC for the most current lists of active UNC members, UNC members who have acceded to the UNC-GoJ SOFA in Japan, and U.S. bases in Japan for use by UNC

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ENCLOSURE B

UNITED NATIONS COMMAND MEMBERSHIP

1. Purpose. This enclosure prescribes the requirements, responsibilities, processes, and procedures for UNC membership. This CJCSI does not alter requirements and responsibilities for the assignment of forces.

2. Policy

a. The U.S. DoW supports the addition of new members in UNC as UNC Member States to carry out applicable UNSCRs and the terms of the Armistice Agreement.

b. Membership in UNC is within the discretion of the USG. No official or unofficial commitments will be made to prospective UNC Member States except as communicated by the U.S. CJCS, after approval by the SecWar, in consultation with the U.S. Department of State (DOS).

c. Designation of new UNC Member States will only be made after USG completion of coordination with the ROK Government.

d. UNC Member States (including those who wish to join) are to possess the capability, competence, and resources to further the principles of the UN Charter, the applicable UNSCR, and the Armistice Agreement. They are to be committed to the defense of the ROK.

3. Responsibilities. Upon USG receipt of a request by a UN Member State to join UNC, the U.S. Joint Staff will staff the request within the USG and provide its military advice on whether the candidate meets the established criteria. Once a country is approved, the U.S. Joint Staff will manage its designation as a UNC Member State.

4. Criteria for Accession

a. Any UN Member State is eligible. Listed are factors for consideration for designation as a UNC Member State. These criteria are not all-inclusive.

(1) UN membership status.

(2) Adherence to international norms and rule of law.

(3) UN peacekeeping mission experience.

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- (4) Participation/experience in international coalitions.
- (5) Existence of current classified/sensitive information-sharing agreements.
- (6) Existence of or declared willingness to enter into an acquisition and cross-servicing agreement with the United States.
- (7) Availability of military or interagency personnel, forces, or capabilities and intent to potentially enhance the ability of UNC Forces.
- (8) “National caveats” that might impact the ability to participate in UNC activities and integrate into operations of the ROK-U.S. Alliance.
- (9) Status of formal diplomatic relations with other Northeast Asian States.
- (10) Impact of admission of the candidate Member State on UN Member States and Host Nations.
- (11) Relationship implications with other U.S. CCMDs in the candidate Member State’s geographical region.
- (12) Implications for other collective security organizations in which the candidate maintains membership.
- (13) Declaration of support for UNSCRs 82, 83, 84, and 85, the *Armistice Agreement*, and the *Joint Policy Declaration Concerning the Korean Armistice* signed in Washington, D.C. on 27 July 1953, or its successors.
- (14) Status of diplomatic representation.

6. Procedures

a. A country seeking to become a UNC Member State begins by submitting a formal request to the USG, which should be forwarded to the U.S. Joint Staff for staffing within the USG. The SecWar, Secretary of State (SecState), Ambassador of the United States of America to the Host Nations, and CDRUNC will be notified of the initial request.

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b. The UN Member State is to also advise UNC Member States and Host Nations (as applicable) of their intent to seek UNC membership and request their support for admission.

(1) Requests for admission should indicate the purpose of the national government of the country seeking admission in the UNC, including a clear intent to honor and uphold UNSCRs 82, 83, 84, and 85 and the Armistice Agreement, and a commitment as outlined in the *Joint Policy Declaration Concerning the Korean Armistice* signed in Washington, D.C. on 27 July 1953, or its successors. The national government should also state that it is prepared to contribute defense or interagency staff to UNC.

(2) Requests must be submitted by a competent and duly empowered official of the requesting state (e.g., President, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador to the ROK or UN).

(3) Requests should include the name of an official to be designated as the nation's liaison officer to the UNC—normally the defense attaché in the ROK—who is also to be prepared to participate in the UNCMAC Advisory Group. Countries are to provide a separate Senior National Military Representative posted to Headquarters, UNC, unless granted an exemption by the Commander.

c. Once the formal correspondence is received from the candidate, the CDRUNC will evaluate the request and provide a recommendation to the U.S. Joint Staff through the Joint Staff Directorate for Strategy, Plans, and Policy, J-5. A courtesy copy will be provided to CDRUSINDOPACOM.

d. The Joint Staff J-5 will serve as the Joint Staff office of primary responsibility for coordinating prospective UNC Member State requests, including, but not limited to, performing the following functions:

(1) Coordinating with the Office of the Under Secretary of War for Policy, the Office of the Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness, the Assistant to the Secretary of War for Public Affairs, the U.S. DOS, and other departments and agencies as appropriate to evaluate the candidate's suitability as a UNC Member State.

(2) Coordinating with the U.S. DOS to provide notification to Host Nations (as applicable) to discuss the admission of the candidate UNC Member State.

(3) Submitting a final recommendation to the U.S. CJCS.

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e. The U.S. CJCS will submit a recommendation to SecWar.

(1) SecWar, after consultation with SecState, will provide a decision through the U.S. CJCS to the CDRUNC.

(2) If approved, the U.S. CJCS will notify the U.S. Mission to the UN, which may forward the notification to the UN Secretary General and/or Chair of the UN Security Council, as appropriate. It would also be appropriate for the candidate requesting to become a UNC Member State to provide similar notification.

f. Following coordination with the ROK Government and approval by the USG, the CDRUNC will coordinate with the U.S. DOS to inform the requesting Member State of the decision.

g. Upon approval of a request, UNC is to seek confirmation of the new UNC Member State's personnel contribution.

h. UNC is to coordinate with the U.S. DOS and the Member State's Embassy located in the ROK to arrange a formal UNC Honor Guard induction ceremony to acknowledge becoming a UNC Member State. The U.S. DOS will coordinate with the Member State and the ROK to acknowledge publicly its commitment to UNSCRS 82, 83, 84 and 85, the Armistice Agreement, and the *Joint Policy Declaration Concerning the Korean Armistice* signed in Washington, D.C. on 27 July 1953, or its successors. Membership as a UNC Member State will take effect on the date of the induction ceremony, unless otherwise specified.

i. The process flow described above and a phased timeline are displayed in Figures 1 and 2, respectively.

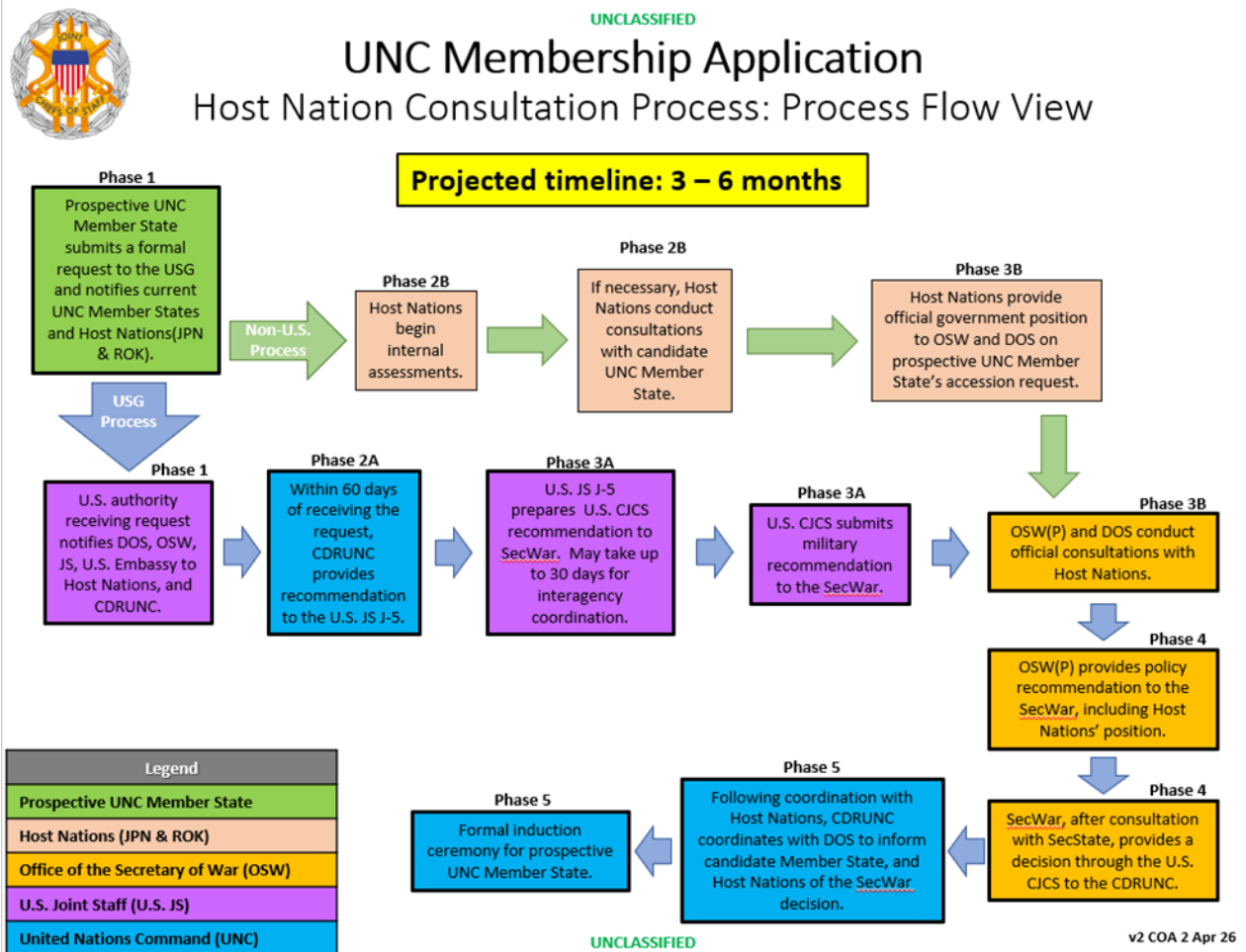
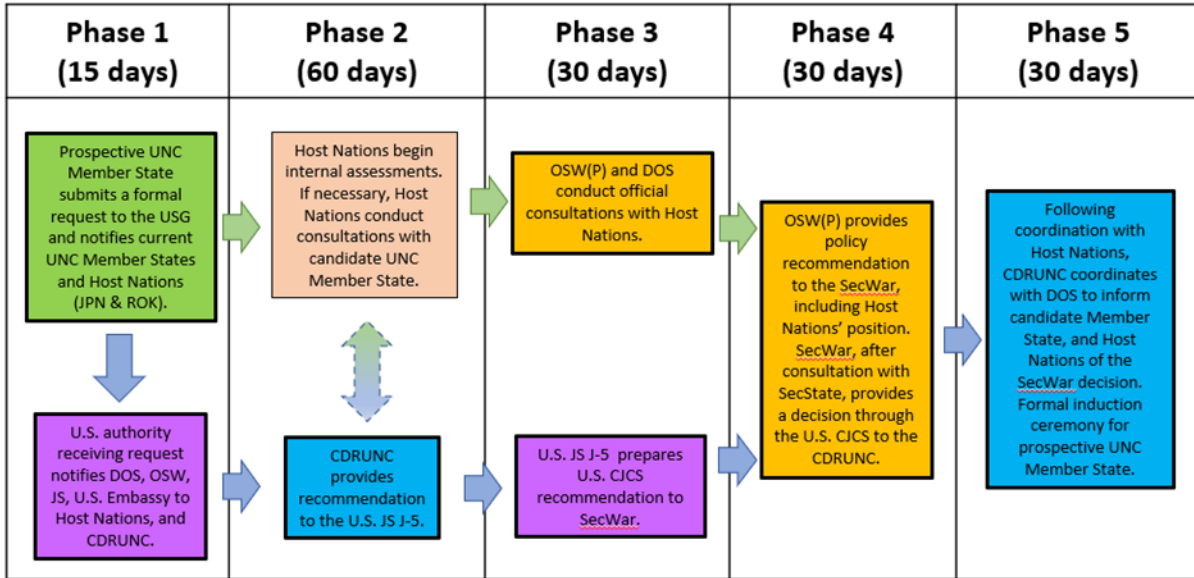


Figure 1. UNC Membership Application Host Nation Consultation Process: Process Flow View



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UNC Membership Application Host Nation Consultation Process: Timeline View



Legend
Prospective UNC Member State
Host Nations (JPN & ROK)
Office of the Secretary of War (OSW)
U.S. Joint Staff (U.S. JS)
United Nations Command (UNC)

Projected timeline: 3 – 6 months



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Figure 2. UNC Membership Application Host Nation Consultation Process: Timeline View

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7. Withdrawal of Membership. A UNC Member State seeking to relinquish their membership with UNC is to submit a formal request to the USG, which should be forwarded to the U.S. Joint Staff for coordination within the USG. The SecWar, SecState, Ambassador of the United States of America to the ROK, and CDRUNC will be notified. The UNC Member State is to also inform current and active UNC Member States and Host Nations (as applicable) of the intent to end their commitment. The U.S. DOS will then submit a formal response to the UNC Member State's Embassy recognizing the state's non-participation in UNC. Once confirming the position of the Member State, U.S. DOS submits a formal letter to the Host Nations affirming the state's withdrawal from UNC. The CDRUNC will send a formal letter to the Member State acknowledging withdrawal.

8. Membership Responsibilities. All UNC Member States are expected to invest in the effectiveness of UNC. UNC Member States are encouraged to actively participate in exercises and training and assign permanent party personnel to either UNC Headquarters in the ROK, UNC-R in Japan, and/or a UNC Component in the ROK or Japan. UNC Member States are to inform the ROK Ministry of National Defense and Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a timely manner to facilitate personnel access to the ROK as part of the ROK's visa application process. UNC Member States are to request ship, aircraft, and personnel access to Japan from UNC-Rear (reference (j)). All press activity relating to UNC activities should be fully coordinated with UNC and, when applicable, with the ROK and Japan.

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ENCLOSURE C

REFERENCES

- a. *National Security Strategy of the United States of America*, current edition.
- b. *National Defense Strategy of the United States of America*, current edition.
- c. *National Military Strategy of the United States of America*, current edition.
- d. UNSCR 82 (S/1501), 25 June 1950.
- e. UNSCR 83 (S/1511), 27 June 1950.
- f. UNSCR 84 (S/1588), 7 July 1950.
- g. UNSCR 85 (S/1657), 31 July 1950.
- h. *The Korean Armistice Agreement*, 27 July 1953.
- i. *The Joint Policy Declaration Concerning the Korean Armistice*, Washington D.C., 27 July 1953.
- j. *Agreement Regarding the Status of United Nations Forces in Japan*, 19 February 1954 and any subsequent mutual agreements, minutes, and understandings.

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GLOSSARY

PART I – ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CCMD	Combatant Command
CDR	commander
CFC	Combined Forces Command
CJCS	Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
CJCSI	Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction
DoW	Department of War
DOS	Department of State
GoJ	Government of Japan
JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff
NNSC	Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission
OPCON	operational control
ROK	Republic of Korea
SecWar	Secretary of War
SecState	Secretary of State
SOFA	Status of Forces Agreement
UN	United Nations
UNC	United Nations Command
UNCMAC	UNC Component of the Military Armistice Commission
UNCR	UNC Rear
UNSCR	UN Security Council Resolution
USFJ	U.S. Forces Japan
USFK	U.S. Forces Korea
USG	U.S. Government
USINDOPACOM	U.S. Indo-Pacific Command

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Glossary

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PART II – DEFINITIONS

These definitions apply strictly to this document.

Members of the United Nations Command. Defense or interagency personnel assigned to, serving with, or accompanying United Nations Command Forces currently serving in the Republic of Korea and/or Japan.

operational command and control. The operational authority conveyed to the Commander, United Nations Command by a contributing United Nations Member State over its forces and personnel, to issue operational directives within the limits of its mandate, the mission area, and for an agreed period.

Parties to the 1954 Agreement Regarding the Status of United Nations Forces in Japan. Refers to the government of any state that has sent or may hereafter send forces to Korea pursuant to United Nations Resolutions, who may accept the United Nations Command-Government of Japan Status of Forces Agreement, subject to the consent of the Government of Japan.

Host Nation. Any nation that hosts United Nations Command Forces.

United Nations Command Forces. The multi-domain forces from the land, air, maritime, space, and cyber domains contributed by the United Nations Command Member States engaged in activities pursuant to references (a)–(j).

United Nations Command Member State. Any United Nations Member State or Country that is a member of United Nations Command (UNC) and has sent or may hereafter send, subject to approval by the U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under procedures outlined herein, military or non-military contributions to the UNC pursuant to the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 82–85 for the defense of the Republic of Korea. Current UNC membership is listed at Enclosure A.

The term “United Nations Sending State” has been used to describe the countries that sent military and/or non-military capabilities to the 1950–53 Korean War. The official term used today is United Nations Command Member State.

United Nations forces. The United Nations Command-Government of Japan Status of Forces Agreement definition for those forces of United Nations Command Member States who have acceded to the *Agreement Regarding the Status of United Nations Forces in Japan* and that are sent to Japan to engage in action in support of Korea pursuant to United Nations Resolutions.

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United Nations Member State. A state that is a member of the United Nations in accordance with Chapter II of the Charter of the United Nations.

United Nations Command. Also referred to as the unified command created under United Nations Security Council Resolution 84, the United Nations Command is an international military organization established under the United States that is authorized to use the United Nations flag.

United Nations Command – Rear. The forward element of United Nations Command located in Japan responsible for maintaining the legal authorities and operational framework established under the 1954 *Agreement Regarding the Status of United Nations Forces in Japan*.