

Foreword

This three-disc CD-ROM brings together, in a compact and searchable form, almost all of the U.S. Army Center of Military History's various works on the Korean War. The CD has evolved and grown since the first version was issued in 2000. This Version 2 has been upgraded in its software and search capability, and the Center has added five new titles. The publication of the first version of *The United States Army and the Korean War* marked the beginning of the fiftieth anniversary of that conflict. Our hope is that this new version will continue to prove useful in supporting ongoing commemorative events and displays, and that it will also encourage further study and interpretation of this critical period in the history of both the U.S. Army and the nation.

The Korean War erupted on 25 June 1950 when North Korean tanks and troops attacked across the 38th Parallel, driving the forces of the Republic of Korea before them. U.S. Army forces entered the conflict in early July as part of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur's United Nations Command. The fighting raged up and down the Korean peninsula, with the entry of Communist Chinese forces in late October 1950 marking a dramatic turning point. When the Chinese were finally driven out of the south, stalemate resulted, and armistice negotiations began in July 1951. As the negotiations dragged on, limited attacks and counterattacks continued as both sides attempted to improve their positions. On 27 July 1953 the adversaries finally signed an armistice agreement that recognized the boundary between North and South Korea as the existing front lines—the demilitarized zone that remains with us today.

The CD opens with the four large volumes in the Center's official series on the Korean War that provide a definitive account of combat operations, from initial planning to the armistice. The first book on Disc 1, *Policy and Direction: The First Year*, by James F. Schnabel, examines the major policy decisions and plans made in Washington and Tokyo through June 1951. The next three titles on the disc tell the combat story in chronological order: *South to the Naktong, North to the Yalu*, by Roy E. Appleman; *Ebb and Flow*, by Billy C. Mossman; and *Truce Tent and Fighting Front*, by Walter G. Hermes.

These highly detailed, reference-type volumes are followed on Disc 2 by five smaller, monographic studies. *Combat Support in Korea*, by John G. Westover, is based on interviews with several hundred officers and enlisted soldiers. *Combat Actions in Korea*, by Russell A. Gugeler, is a classic account, written in 1954, of nineteen small-unit combat actions. *U.S. Army Mobilization and Logistics in the Korean War: A Research Approach*, by Terrence J. Gough, provides a detailed chronology of mobilization and logistics during the war and a bibliographical survey of secondary and primary sources for further research. *Military Advisors in Korea: KMAG in Peace and War*, by Robert K. Sawyer, explores the role of U.S. military advisers as they tried to help create an effective Republic of Korea Army both before and during the war. Finally, *Black Soldier/White Army: The 24th Infantry Regiment in Korea*, by William T. Bowers, William M. Hammond, and George L. MacGarrigle, is a complex study of the performance of the 24th Regiment from its occupation duty in Japan through its inactivation in October 1951, with particular reference to the effects of segregation on that performance.

Disc 3 then presents a wealth of illustrative material. *Korea, 1950*, and *Korea, 1952–1953*, are companion volumes that provide a comprehensive overview of the Korean War in photographs, contemporary cartoons, and brief narratives. These two pictorials

contain over 600 photographs, and each volume includes an appendix listing the Signal Corps number or other source of each image to assist users in ordering copies from the National Archives and Records Administration. These collections of historical photographs are followed by the five commemorative historical map posters that the Center of Military History published for the fiftieth anniversary: *The Korean War: Phase 1, 27 June–15 September 1950*; *The Korean War: Phase 2, 16 September–2 November 1950*; *The Korean War: Phase 3, 3 November 1950–24 January 1951*; *The Korean War: Phase 4, 25 January–8 July 1951*; and *The Korean War: Phase 5, 9 July 1951 - 27 July 1953*.

The *Phase 5* poster was not on the first version of the CD. Also new to this Version 2 are the five commemorative pamphlets that the Center also published for the fiftieth anniversary. These pamphlets, which conclude Disc 3 and the CD, and which parallel the posters in the time periods they cover, include: *The Korean War: The Outbreak*, by William J. Webb; *The Korean War: The UN Offensive*, by Stephen L. Y. Gammons; *The Korean War: The Chinese Intervention*, by Richard W. Stewart; *The Korean War: Restoring the Balance*, by John J. McGrath; and *The Korean War: Years of Stalemate*, by Andrew J. Birtle. On the other hand, one volume that was on the first version of the CD is not on this Version 2. Albert E. Cowdrey's *The Medics' War*, which describes the unstinting efforts of Army doctors, nurses, and enlisted medics to save lives and ease pain through such innovations as MASH units, is currently under revision. It will appear again in the next version of this CD.

The Korean War still has many lessons for today's Army leaders and planners in such areas as training and readiness, the rapid movement of forces to distant places, the logistical support of deployed forces, joint service and multinational cooperation, and the impact of a complex international environment on strategic planning. This CD-ROM contains yet another and perhaps most important lesson: ultimately it is the American soldier, in harsh conditions and in the test of battle, who gives true meaning to this nation's commitment to freedom and world peace. *The United States Army and the Korean War* is dedicated to those who served.

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