

# **NEUTRAL NATIONS SUPERVISORY COMMISSION**

The Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC) was established by the Korean Armistice Agreement, signed on 27 July 1953. It is an independent and impartial body that performs and develops Armistice Agreement activities in the interest of all parties involved.

# **ABOUT NNSC**

At the end of the war on the Korean peninsula, the three military commanders of respectively the United Nations Command (UNC), the Korean People's Army (KPA) and the Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) signed an Armistice Agreement on 27 July 1953.

The signed agreement established the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC) consisting of four nations that had not taken part in the Korean War with combat troops. The KPA and the CPV nominated Czechoslovakia and Poland, the UNC nominated Sweden and Switzerland.

The dissolution of Czechoslovakia and its partition into two independent countries, the Czech Republic and the Slovakian Republic,

led to the withdrawal of the Czech delegation in 1993. In 1995, Poland withdrew their delegation and stopped carrying out any operational activities.

The Swedish and Swiss delegations have been – since 1953 – permanently present at NNSC's headquarters in Panmunjom.
The two delegations perform and develop Armistice Agreement activities contributing to stability on the Korean Peninsula in the interest of all parties involved. Today, both delegations are represented by five officers which are each led by a two-star general.







#### **NNSC TASKS**

#### **Original Tasks**

Since its establishment in 1953, the NNSC has been active with three original tasks as defined by the letter of in the Armistice Agreement (AA).

Between 1953 and 1956, NNSC's key task was to supervise and inspect the rotations of units and personnel and the replacement of military equipment at the five northern and the five southern ports of entry. Today, in this first area of activities, the NNSC still registers on the South side the number of military personnel throughout the year (Sub-paragraphs 13c and 13d AA).

Secondly, NNSC has been conducting special observations and inspections by invitation of one of the parties to the Armistice Agreement at places outside the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) where violations have been reported (Art. 28 AA).

Making recommendations to the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) with respect to amendments or additions to the Armistice Agreement to ensure a more effective armistice has been the third original task being conducted by the NNSC (Art. 49 AA).

## **Expanded Contributions**

The signatories of the Armistice Agreement foresaw the requirement of observance of both the letter and the spirit of the provisions of the Armistice Agreement (Art. 17 AA).

In this regard, the original tasks of the NNSC have evolved significantly over time. In 2010, they were further developed and formalized into nine Expanded Tasks by agreement between the NNSC and the Commander UNC.

In 2016, these nine tasks were reaffirmed and re-categorized into four mission sets, including at total of 13 tasks. These four mission sets take place on invitation from the United Nations Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC) and are defined as follows:

- Observe UNCMAC's Armistice Operations,
- Observe and augment UNCMAC's Armistice Education and Orientation Outreach,
- Observe Military Exercises,
- Observe UNC/USFK forces deployment activities.

Today, the performance of these Expanded Contributions and the making of corresponding recommendations to UNCMAC form the main operational activities of the NNSC. They are solely conducted in the southern part on the Korean Peninsula.

# **Development of Armistice Agreement Activities**

In order to enhance the stability on the Korean Peninsula, NNSC continues to develop Armistice Agreement activities in the interest of all parties involved. This includes the development of operational tasks as well as diplomatic initiatives. One such initiative is to revitalize communication between the involved parties of the Armistice Agreement.

## **Capital Level Consultations**

Representatives of the three member states meet annually for government level consultations. During these so-called Capital Level Consultations (CLC), discussions about the situation on and around the Korean Peninsula, about the NNSC and its impact on the Korean Peninsula as well as its role as the sole independent and impartial institution of the Armistice Agreement, take place.



