
U.S. Troops in South Korea

— U.S. and Asia Relations —

Why are U.S. Troops in South Korea?

- After the end of the 1950-1953 Korean War, the U.S. began stationing troops in South Korea, forming an alliance that has now lasted over 70 years.
- The U.S. and South Korea signed the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) in 1966. The SOFA is an agreement between the Republic of South Korea and the U.S. allowing the U.S. to operate in South Korea under specific terms.
- Both countries agreed to have U.S. troops stationed in South Korea.

The Cost of U.S. Troops

- Since 1991 the U.S. and South Korea have signed more than 10 SOFA agreements.
- Since their last SOFA agreement in 2019, South Korea supplied the U.S. with \$927 million (an increase of 70.3 million from the previous deal).
- In past cost-sharing agreements, South Korea paid for three categories - personnel costs of South Korean workers hired by U.S. troops, military construction costs such as building facilities within U.S. bases, and military assistance expenses, such as for services and materials.
- Under the Trump administration, the U.S. began demanding an increase in financing from South Korea, stating that current amounts aren't sufficient enough to cover costs.

U.S. Troops Withdrawal from South Korea

- While the Pentagon has drawn plans to reduce soldiers in South Korea, no reduction has taken place yet.
- Along with increased funding demands from South Korea by the Trump administration, the U.S. is citing the need to place soldiers in other areas, such as Russia and China.
- The Pentagon overall is reviewing the structure of U.S. forces in South Korea as part of a broader re-examination of how to reposition and potentially reduce military deployments world-wide.

Sources

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Research and Materials prepared by Michelle Reyes, Intern, Asia Society Texas Center