UNDERSTANDING KOREA

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1. Military Ideas and Theories

The DPRK upholds the man-centred military ideas and theories that embody the Juche idea and the Songun idea created by President Kim Il Sung (1912-1994), founding father of socialist Korea.

These ideas and theories consist of the principles that will serve as guidelines in carrying on different types of revolutionary wars, army building and military actions, and also the theories and methods to be applied in crushing the enemies that are boasting of their numerical and technological edge, by dint of politico-ideological, strategic and tactical superiority, in conformity with the characteristics of modern warfare and the actual conditions of the country.

They are Juche-oriented military ideas and theories that enable the Korean people to develop their self-defensive military capability by themselves in line with the requirements of the Korean revolution and the specific situation in the country, and they constitute an encyclopedia giving comprehensive and scientific answers to all the theoretical and practical problems arising in army building and military actions in the present era.

Since they have been guided by these original military ideas and theories, the Korean army and people

won the fierce wars against the US and Japanese imperialists that were incomparably superior in numerical and technological terms, and have achieved one victory after another in the decades-long military confrontation with the United States.

2. Major Military Line

The major military line of the DPRK is to make its defences impregnable by turning the entire army into a cadre army and modernizing it, arming all the people and fortifying the whole country.

3. Turning the Entire Army into a Cadre Army

Turning the entire army into a cadre army means training the service personnel politically and ideologically, militarily and technologically to make them all, from privates to generals, capable of discharging the duties of the next highest rank in the event of an emergency.

This helps towards preparing a large contingent of commanding officers who can lead all the armed people militarily in case of emergency. And it significantly raises the combat efficiency of the army, making it possible to maintain at a fixed number the standing army for national defence and socialist economic construction

in peaceful days, and to preserve the high qualitative standard of the army in step with its sudden numerical increase in the event of an emergency.

An important factor in turning the entire army into a cadre army is to prepare all its officers and men politically and ideologically, militarily and technologically so that they can carry out their duties with credit, however complex the circumstances may be.

4. Modernizing the Entire Army

Modernizing the entire army means building up the army in conformity with the demands of modern warfare by equipping it with the latest military hardware and raising its level of military science and technology.

Essential in this regard is to upgrade and increase the power of the weaponry on the basis of the rapidly-developing military science and technology, and to train all the service personnel to be skilful at handling the latest weapons and well-versed in modern military science and technology.

5. Arming All the People

Arming all the people is aimed at making all the working people, including workers and peasants, maintain their readiness all the time to annihilate the enemy anywhere they may attack, while at the same time

accelerating socialist construction, with a hammer or a sickle in one hand and a rifle in the other.

What is important in arming all the people is to train them militarily on the basis of firm political and ideological preparedness. In particular, it is crucial to encourage all of them to learn military affairs in earnest and take an active part in combat and political training.

In the DPRK the work of arming all the people has been carried out successfully on the basis of the solid political and ideological unity of the entire population and the self-sufficient national economy.

6. Fortifying the Whole Country

Fortifying the whole country means setting up impregnable defence facilities all over the country to turn it into a military stronghold so that the aggressors will be defeated at a single stroke at any time and anywhere they may attack.

In order to fortify the whole country, it is necessary to make it an impregnable fortress with strong defence facilities and, in particular, to strengthen the areas of strategic importance, develop munitions industry and prepare plenty of reserve materials. And in the event of an emergency the economic system as a whole should be reorganized according to wartime needs, and in peaceful days, munitions factories and other key

production bases should make full preparations to ensure uninterrupted production even under unfavourable circumstances.

All the parts of the DPRK have been fortified by relying on the solid foundations of the self-sufficient national economy.

7. Basic Principles in Building Armed Forces

The basic principles the DPRK maintains in building its armed forces are: first, effectuating the unified leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea and the leader over the entire army; second, applying the principle of self-reliant defence; third, giving precedence to political work and combining it properly with the work related to military techniques; and fourth, ensuring inheritance in building armed forces.

8. View of and Attitude towards War

The DPRK holds that it should believe in its army and people and conduct a revolutionary war by relying on its internal forces.

The Korean service personnel and people are of the view that even though others would not help them in the fight against the imperialist aggressors, they are capable of winning victory on their own.

They are certain that they will have to fight the

enemy at any time and, should the latter dare to invade their country, they will resolutely defeat the reckless aggressors and exalt the honour of heroic Juche Korea.

It is quite natural that they retain such view of and attitude towards war, because they have yet to reunify their country and hostile forces persist with their schemes to start a war.

For this reason close concern is paid to ridding the service personnel and people of all undesirable tendencies such as war-phobia, war-weariness and peaceful mood, making politico-ideological, military and material preparations to cope with possible war, and encouraging them to work and live in a state of constant alertness.

9. Policy on Defence Industry

An important aspect of the DPRK's policy on defence industry is to build the national defence industry by relying on its internal resources on the principle of self-reliance.

When building munitions factories following their country's liberation from the Japanese military occupation (1905-1945), the Korean people suffered an acute shortage of technological data, equipment, materials, funds, technicians and skilled workers.

However, they overcame all manner of difficulties and trials and implemented to the letter the Juche-oriented policy on defence industry on the principle of self-reliance, thereby producing military hardware needed for army building without depending on other countries.

Another aspect of the DPRK's policy on defence industry is to develop the defence industry in a modern fashion.

Great efforts have been directed to modernizing the defence industry, as well as to making it fend for itself to meet the domestic demands for military hardware independently. As a result, the country is now capable of manufacturing even nuclear weapons, strategic rockets and other state-of-the-art hardware whenever they are needed. This provides a sure material and technological guarantee for strengthening the country's defence capability.

10. Line of Simultaneously Developing Economic Construction and Defence Upbuilding

The Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Fourth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, held in December 1962, set forth the line of simultaneously developing economic construction and defence upbuilding so as to successfully propel socialist construction while

reliably defending the gains of the revolution against the imperialists' aggressive manoeuvres.

At that time the United States orchestrated the Cuban Missile Crisis, escalated the war in Vietnam and stepped up preparations to unleash another war against the DPRK by reinforcing armed forces in south Korea. This precipitated a touch-and-go situation in the Korean peninsula.

The above line reflected the requirements of this tense situation.

Simultaneously developing economic construction and defence upbuilding means promoting economic construction and defence upbuilding in parallel without neglecting either of them.

This was an original line that made it possible to resolve the problem of combining socialist economic construction with defence upbuilding on the principle of giving priority to national defence, and a revolutionary line that enabled the Korean people both to defend the gains of the revolution and to advance socialist construction successfully by relying on their own efforts.

11. Line of Economic Construction in the Songun Era

The DPRK set it as its line of economic construction in the Songun era to develop the defence industry on a

priority basis while developing light industry and agriculture simultaneously.

An essential aspect of this line is to develop the defence industry on a priority basis.

By the close of the 1990s, the allied imperialist forces went frantic in their bid to stifle the DPRK, clamouring about the "end of socialism." In order to safeguard socialism of the Korean style, the DPRK laid the greatest emphasis on developing the defence industry and carried on all undertakings on the principle of giving priority to military affairs.

Another aspect of the line is to radically improve the people's living standards by developing light industry and agriculture simultaneously.

Incorporated in this line is the objective of Songun politics–building a powerful socialist country, whatever the situation, to provide the people with a happy material and cultural life–as well as the intrinsic requirements of socialist economic construction.

12. Line of Simultaneously Conducting Economic Construction and Building Up Nuclear Forces

The line of simultaneously conducting economic construction and building up nuclear forces was advanced at the March 2013 Plenary Meeting of the

Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. It is a strategic line aimed at accomplishing the cause of building a powerful socialist country by directing more efforts to economic construction while strengthening national defence through nuclear forces upbuilding.

It is not a temporary countermeasure adopted to cope with the rapidly-changing situation, but a strategic line that will be maintained permanently in view of the supreme interests of the Korean revolution. It is a brilliant inheritance and in-depth development of Kim Il Sung's line of simultaneously developing economic construction and defence upbuilding and Kim Jong Il's line of economic construction in the Songun era.

It embodies the firm faith and will of the Korean service personnel and people to achieve the final victory of the cause of the Juche revolution following the road of independence, Songun and socialism.

13. System of Commanding the Army

The DPRK's system of commanding the army is, first of all, the one of revolutionary discipline and order whereby the entire army moves as one under the unified leadership of its supreme commander. In essence, it means establishing the unified leadership

system of the leader and the Workers' Party of Korea across the army.

Next, it is a command system in which soldiers act according to their officers' orders and directives.

In the DPRK the officers' command system is aimed at effectuating the WPK's unified leadership; it is a system of acting under the collective leadership of the relevant committees of the WPK and of realizing the officers' coordinated direction through the sections of staff officers.

14. Idea of Attaching Importance to Arms, to Military Affairs

The idea of attaching importance to arms, to military affairs, is, in essence, the one that the revolution should be waged by relying on arms, i.e., on the army.

The principle of regarding armed struggle as the only way to defeat the armed enemy and liberate the country was advanced in the early days of the Korean revolution; accordingly, an army was proclaimed first and, after national liberation, the Workers' Party and the state were founded.

And in the whole period of building a new Korea and socialism the idea and line of attaching importance to arms, to military affairs, were maintained; the greatest efforts have been channelled into strengthening the

country's defence capability by developing the army into an invincible force, and the revolution and construction pushed forward by relying on it.

15. Principle of Giving Priority to Military Affairs

The principle of giving priority to military affairs is, in a nutshell, the one of giving definite precedence to military affairs over all other affairs and laying the greatest emphasis on developing them, in the course of pushing ahead with the revolution and construction.

First of all, this principle demands that definite precedence be given to military affairs over all other affairs.

There are numerous affairs to be tackled in conducting the revolution and construction but top priority must be given to military affairs–this is an essential feature of the principle of giving priority to military affairs.

Next, it demands that coordinated and balanced development be ensured in other sectors of the revolution and construction on the basis of the successes achieved in military affairs.

This principle is not biased towards military affairs. It is aimed at developing the economy, culture and other sectors of the revolution and construction on the basis of

great military might so as to realize all dreams and ideals of the people.

16. Composition of Armed Forces

The DPRK's armed forces can be divided into two categories–regular and paramilitary.

The regular armed forces comprise the Korean People's Army and the Korean People's Internal Security Forces.

They have all arms and services, and are equipped with modern weaponry and underpinned by latest military science and technology. They are regulated by a well-knit organizational and command system that conforms with the requirements of modern warfare. All their actions, as well as the service personnel's living, are regularized and standardized on a high level. They are standing armed forces that are provided with weapons and various other supplies by the country's own defence industry and economic sectors. As the hardcore armed forces in the country, they play a leading role in defending it.

The paramilitary forces are made up of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the Young Red Guards.

They are non-standing, irregular forces which are composed of workers, peasants and other working people, and youths and students. They constitute a

supplement to the regular armed forces and assist them in performing operational and combat duties. They are voluntary forces of the working people who carry out military tasks when needed, while working at their jobs. Unlike a regular army, they are organized and act mainly with production base or residential area as a unit.

17. Korean People's Army

A component of the revolutionary armed forces of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Korean People's Army was founded on April 25, 1932 and developed into a regular army on February 8, 1948 under the leadership of Kim Il Sung.

It is a revolutionary armed force that has inherited the glorious traditions of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, and a people's army formed with the sons and daughters of the working people.

It is a revolutionary army that fights against imperialist aggressors for the complete liberation of the Korean nation and the reunification and independence of Korea, and for the security of the country and people. It struggles to achieve the victory of socialist construction in Korea and to realize the cause of independence of mankind by liquidating all exploiting systems in the world.

Having been strengthened and developed under the leadership of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il and now being led by Kim Jong Un, it demonstrates its might as a matchless, elite armed force equipped with modern means of attack and defence with which to defeat any aggressors in one stroke.

18. Korean People's Internal Security Forces

As another component of the revolutionary armed forces of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Korean People's Internal Security Forces safeguards the WPK and the leader, defends the socialist country and the gains of the revolution against the enemies at home and abroad, and protects the people's lives and security.

19. Worker-Peasant Red Guards

As a non-standing paramilitary force, the Worker-Peasant Red Guards is a voluntary armed force of workers, peasants and other working people who are taking part in socialist construction.

It was founded in January 1959 on the initiative of Kim Il Sung.

It is an indispensable component of the DPRK's revolutionary armed forces, whose mission is to defend

the socialist country and the gains of the revolution from enemy encroachment while accelerating socialist construction with a rifle in one hand and a hammer or a sickle in the other.

With a well-regulated military organizational and command system set in place across the country, it has been prepared politically, ideologically and in military techniques so that it can defeat imperialist aggressors at any time and in any place, be it on the ground, on the sea or in the air.

20. Young Red Guards

As a voluntary paramilitary organization of students, the Young Red Guards is an armed force whose members perform their duties for national defence, as well as their basic duty of learning.

It was founded in September 1970 on the initiative of Kim Il Sung.

Its important duty is to defend the home front with the Worker-Peasant Red Guards, in case aggressors unleash a war.

With the development of the Young Red Guards, the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea of arming all the people has been implemented in greater depth and the country's self-defensive capabilities strengthened further.

21. Services and Arms of the Korean People's Army

The services of the KPA comprise ground, naval, air and anti-aircraft, and strategic forces.

The ground force includes such arms as infantry, artillery, tank and corps.

The naval force is equipped with ships including submarines.

The air and anti-aircraft force is armed with interceptors, bombers, helicopters and other types of aircraft.

22. Strengthening the Korean People's Army

The DPRK lays great stress on training the KPA soldiers politico-ideologically and physically and developing it in military techniques.

To this end, it directs close concern to strengthening the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea over the KPA, combining politico-ideological work closely with the work related to military techniques and ensuring inheritance in army building.

As a result, the KPA has become an elite revolutionary army that is unfailingly faithful to the leadership of the WPK and the Supreme Commander, brimming over with revolutionary faith and

revolutionary soldier spirit, and equipped with up-to-date military hardware, and in which strict military discipline is established.

23. Red Flag Company Movement

The Red Flag Company Movement is a mass innovation movement conducted by the service personnel of the KPA.

It is aimed at developing the KPA into a solidly united force by educating all the service personnel in an unfailing loyalty to the Workers' Party of Korea and the leader and making it a-match-for-a-hundred armed force.

The flames of this movement spread rapidly to all sectors, units and posts of the KPA, developing into twice and thrice Red Flag Company, Red Flag Battalion and Red Flag Regiment movements.

24. Slogan "A-Match-for-a-Hundred"

Kim Il Sung advanced the slogan "A-match-for-a-hundred" on February, 1963, when he was inspecting a unit of the KPA.

This slogan reflects the military idea of preparing each soldier to be capable of matching a hundred foes by training him politically and ideologically, militarily and technologically, and of consolidating the self-defensive

capabilities of the country, not by increasing its numerical strength but by turning the whole army into a cadre army and modernizing it.

Upholding the slogan, the KPA has been developed into an invincible combat force, every one of whose soldiers is capable of matching a hundred foes.

25. Building a Politically and Ideologically Strong Army

Building a politically and ideologically strong army means developing the KPA into an army strong in ideas and faith, the core of which is the spirit of defending the leader unto death, and into an army that wins victory by relying on the service personnel's spiritual strength, maintaining ideology as an effective means of its building and activities.

The DPRK set this as one of its key lines for increasing its military might and is developing the KPA into a force that follows its Supreme Commander only and defends him unto death with absolute trust in him, and into an invincible force that is capable of defeating any formidable enemy on the strength of ideology.

26. Building a Morally Sound Army

Building a morally sound army means developing the KPA into a revolutionary army whose soldiers are

possessed of spotless loyalty to the Workers' Party of Korea and the leader and are morally sound and win victory on the strength of morality.

The DPRK defined this as one of its important lines for increasing its military might and is developing the KPA into a revolutionary army that supports the WPK and the leader with pure conscience and obligation, and into a force of comrades-in-arms possessed of sound morality.

27. Strengthening the Korean People's Army in Military Techniques

The work of strengthening the KPA in military techniques is twofold: one is to train the service personnel into a-match-for-a-hundred combatants who have acquired modern military science and technology, accurate marksmanship, and adroit and singular tactics; and the other is to equip the army with modern weaponry and other combat and technical equipment.

According to the four major principles and five-point policy for intensive training, all the units of the KPA intensify combat and political training in every way possible, and step up such mass movements as the Movement for Winning the Title of O Jung Hup-led 7th Regiment and arrange shooting competitions on a number of occasions.

On the basis of the specific situation in the country and the experiences gained in the anti-Japanese armed struggle and the Fatherland Liberation War, the state directs great efforts to updating military science and technology and developing cutting-edge military hardware. By relying on the self-supporting, modern defence industry it produces plenty of weapons and other combat and technical equipment needed for strengthening the armed forces. In this way it strives to develop the KPA onto a higher level in military and technical terms.

28. Physical Training of the Service Personnel

The KPA defined physical training of its service personnel as an important task for improving its fighting efficiency, and has paid close concern to equipping every one of them with a sturdy physique.

It ensures that they build up their bodies through combat training, defence sports and mass-based sports activities.

29. Military Discipline of the Korean People's Army

The KPA's military discipline assumes a voluntary and revolutionary character.

It set military rules and manuals in conformity with the essential features of a revolutionary army and the law-governed requirements for building revolutionary armed forces, ensures that the soldiers' service is put on a regular footing, and maintains rigid military discipline based on their self-consciousness.

As a result, it has established the military discipline whereby the soldiers receive constant education and observe rules on a voluntary basis, unlike the armies of other countries that are usually controlled by such coercive methods as disciplinary punishment and detention in a guardhouse.

30. Idea of Army-People Unity

The idea of army-people unity is the one of the unity between the army and the people in ideology and fighting spirit, based on the revolutionary soldier spirit. It demands that the revolutionary soldier spirit of the KPA be popularized throughout society and all its members live and work in that spirit.

By realizing the unity between the army and the people in ideology and fighting spirit, the DPRK has consolidated in every possible way the single-hearted unity of the WPK, the KPA and the people around the leader and, by relying on it, built up its overall national strength.

The single-hearted unity of the Korean army and people in ideology and fighting spirit is indestructible.

31. Line of Anti-Japanese Armed Struggle

The line of anti-Japanese armed struggle was advanced at the meeting of leading cadres of the Young Communist League and the Anti-Imperialist Youth League held in Kalun, Northeast China, between June 30 and July 2, 1930.

Presiding over the meeting, Kim Il Sung set forth the line of waging an organized anti-Japanese armed struggle.

He defined organizing and conducting an armed struggle against the Japanese imperialists as the major line of the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle and the foremost task facing Korean revolutionaries, and presented the line of the Songun revolution to achieve national independence and liberation by force of arms.

32. Launch of the Anti-Japanese Armed Struggle

The anti-Japanese armed struggle was launched according to the policy of waging an organized armed struggle against the Japanese imperialists without delay, which Kim Il Sung advanced at the meeting of

party and Young Communist League cadres held in December 1931 in Mingyuegou, Yanji County, Northeast China.

At the meeting he called upon the entire nation to turn out in the sacred struggle for national liberation and set out strategic and tactical principles–organizing and waging guerrilla warfare as the main form of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, founding the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army as the standing revolutionary armed force, establishing guerrilla bases, laying the mass foundation for the armed struggle and forming a united front with Chinese anti-Japanese armed units.

The meeting declared a war against the Japanese imperialists under the slogan "Oppose arms with arms, and oppose counterrevolutionary violence with revolutionary violence!"

33. Founding of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army

On April 25, 1932 Kim Il Sung founded the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army on the tableland of Tuqidian, Xiaoshahe, Antu County, Northeast China.

The AJPGA was a revolutionary armed force whose mission it was to achieve national liberation by driving out the Japanese aggressors and to build

socialism by abolishing all types of class exploitation and oppression.

A genuine people's armed force, it was the pivotal force of the Songun revolution. The founding of the AJPGA made it possible to propel the overall Korean revolution on the principle of Songun. This marked the start of Kim Il Sung's Songun-based revolutionary leadership.

The AJPGA was reorganized into the Korean People's Revolutionary Army in March 1934 and developed into the Korean People's Army, a regular revolutionary armed force, in February 1948 after Korea's liberation.

In the DPRK, April 25, the founding day of the AJPGA, is celebrated as the Day of Army Founding.

34. Major Military Operations during the Anti-Japanese Armed Struggle

Noteworthy in the history of the anti-Japanese armed struggle are the military operations whose main form was guerrilla warfare.

Typical examples include battles in defence of guerrilla bases, operation of advance to a vast area, operation of advance to the Mt Paektu area, operation of advance into the homeland centred on the Battle of Pochonbo, Arduous March, operation of advance into

the Musan area, small-unit actions and operation for final offensive.

35. Operation of Advance into the Homeland by a Large Unit

In the middle of 1937 a large unit of the KPRA advanced into the homeland under the command of Kim Il Sung, dealing a heavy political and military blow to the Japanese imperialists.

In this period they won victories in such battles as those of Pochonbo, Kouyushuishan and Jiansanfeng. Thus they shattered the myth of the "matchless imperial Japanese army" and demonstrated the might of the KPRA, fully convincing the Korean people that they would emerge victorious if they fought against the Japanese aggressors.

36. Operation of Harassment of the Enemy's Rear

In the wake of the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War in July 1937 the KPRA harassed and attacked the rear of the Japanese army, constantly moving in the vast areas including those near the Amnok and Tuman rivers.

The units of the KPRA struck a hard blow at the Japanese aggressors in such battles as the assault on the

walled town of Xigang in Shisandaogou, ambush in the area between Fusong and Xigang and attack on the Huinan county town.

37. Operation of Advance into the Musan Area

In the spring of 1939 the KPRA under the command of Kim Il Sung conducted positive counteroffensives against the enemy and advanced again into the homeland.

It dealt a heavy political and military blow to the Japanese aggressors in many battles including those of Shiwudaogou, Banjiegou and Taehongdan.

It thereby demonstrated its might at home and abroad.

38. Operation of Circling by a Large Unit

From the autumn of 1939 to the spring of 1940 the main unit of the KPRA under the command of Kim Il Sung conducted an operation of continuously circling the vast region northeast of Mt Paektu.

Unlike the conventional military and political activities based on secret camps, it was a mobile warfare in which a large unit continuously circled a vast area along the designated secret routes and attacked the enemy by employing various tactics.

At many battles such as those of Liukesong, Jiaxinzi, Damalugou and Hongqihe the KPRA demonstrated its strength once again, thus making the Korean people realize that the gleam of national liberation was dawning.

39. Small-Unit Actions

In August 1940 the KPRA switched over to small-unit actions.

Small units and groups of the KPRA conducted various military and political activities in the vast area of Northeast China and deep in the homeland. This made it possible for the KPRA to preserve and build up its forces and make full preparations for the great event of national liberation.

40. Three-Point Line for National Liberation

In late February 1943 Kim Il Sung called a meeting of commanding officers and chiefs of small units and groups of the KPRA and heads of revolutionary organizations at the Tumubong secret camp in Sogok-ri, Sinhung County, South Hamgyong Province.

At the meeting he advanced the three-point line for national liberation, which set the direction of the final operations for the anti-Japanese war to liberate Korea by the Korean people themselves.

This line was to deal a crushing blow at the Japanese aggressors through a general offensive of the KPRA, to hasten the defeat of Japanese imperialism by launching an all-people revolt in step with the KPRA's general offensive, and to organize joint operations behind enemy lines by all-people resistance groups in combination with the KPRA's general offensive.

41. Key Tactics Created during the Anti-Japanese Armed Struggle

In the period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle the KPRA defeated the enemy, which were boasting of their numerical and technological edge, by means of strategic and tactical, as well as political and ideological, superiority.

The tactics created and employed by the KPRA include assault, ambush, harassment in the enemy's rear, luring, sudden attack, "telescope" tactic and the tactic of marching a long distance at a go.

42. Major Battles during the Anti-Japanese Armed Struggle

During the anti-Japanese armed struggle the KPRA dealt a severe political and military blow to the enemy in numerous battles, inspiring the people with confidence in the certainty of victory in the revolution.

Typical examples are the battles in defence of the Xiaowangqing guerrilla base and others in Xiaoyingziling, Dongning and Fusong county towns, Xigang, Hongtoushan, Limingshui, Pochonbo, Jiansanfeng, Taehongdan, Yushidong, Hongqihe, Bairiping, Dashahe-Dajianggang, on the outskirts of Dashahe and at the edge of Heixiazigou.

43. Battles in Defence of the Xiaowangqing Guerrilla Base

In the period between early 1933 and February 1934 the KPRA unit and the people in the Xiaowangqing guerrilla base, under the command of Kim Il Sung, frustrated the enemy's large-scale "punitive" operations.

The soldiers of the KPRA and other people in the guerrilla base made an all-out defence against the Japanese troops who were attacking in waves. They put the latter on the defensive by such adroit tactics as luring, ambush, sniping, assault on enemy bivouacs and harassment of the enemy in their rear.

The victory in these battles was attributable to Kim Il Sung's original guerrilla tactics and the all-people defence system set up in the guerrilla base.

44. Battle of Pochonbo

On June 4, 1937 the main unit of the KPRA, under

the command of Kim Il Sung, made an assault on the then township of Pochon Sub-county, Hyesan County, South Hamgyong Province, (today's Pochon township, Pochon County, Ryanggang Province) in the northern border area of Korea.

At 10 p.m. Kim Il Sung fired a shot as a signal to launch the attack.

The police sub-station, sub-county office and other Japanese repressive organs were wrapped in flames by the KPRA soldiers' brave and prompt actions.

With the fire blazing high into the air, political operatives conducted various activities, scattering in the street such appeals and leaflets as the Proclamation and the Ten-Point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland.

The local people warmly welcomed the KPRA, shouting, "Long live General Kim Il Sung!" and "Long live the independence of Korea!"

In front of the welcoming crowd Kim Il Sung made a speech, in which he called upon the people to strive hard for the liberation of the country.

The victory in the Battle of Pochonbo dealt a heavy political and military blow at the Japanese aggressors, shook their colonial ruling system to its foundations and provided the impetus for the people to rise up against Japanese imperialism with full confidence in national

liberation. It also had a considerable impact on the anti-imperialist, anti-fascist struggle of the world's revolutionary peoples who were fighting for national independence, freedom and justice.

Mass media of several countries reported the news of the KPRA's advance into the homeland under such headlines as "Guerrilla Warfare in the Northern Area of Korea" and "Guerilla Activities on the Korean Border."

45. Battle of Jiansanfeng

On June 30, 1937 the KPRA defeated a large unit of the Japanese aggressors on Jiansanfeng.

After sustaining a hard blow in the Battle of Pochonbo, the enemy mobilized a huge force to chase the KPRA.

On Jiansanfeng the units of the KPRA under the command of Kim Il Sung made full preparations to destroy the pursuing enemy.

Around 8 a.m. the enemy launched an attack under cover of thick mist.

The KPRA soldiers waited with patience until the enemy were a stone's throw from their positions, and then hit hard at them. The unit in front volleyed at the enemy, driving them into a valley, and those in both flanks made a counterattack, putting them on the

defensive. The enemy soldiers who narrowly escaped death ran away as dusk fell.

Through this battle the KPRA struck another severe military and political blow at the Japanese aggressors and demonstrated its strength once again. The victory in the battle was significant in consolidating the successes gained in the operation for advance into the homeland and convincing the people of the triumph of the revolution.

46. Arduous March

From early December 1938 to March the following year, the main unit of the KPRA under the command of Kim Il Sung made a trek from Nanpaizi in Northeast China to the border area near the Amnok River.

Called the Arduous March, it was an expedition fraught with unheard-of, unimaginable trials, a bloody march in which fierce battles were fought day and night for more than 100 days.

By achieving brilliant victory in the Arduous March the KPRA dealt a hard blow at the Japanese aggressors and demonstrated its might, thereby inspiring the people with confidence in the victory of the revolution and opening up a new phase in effecting an upsurge in the overall Korean revolution centred on the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

47. Battles in the Musan Area

In May 1939, after winding up the historic Arduous March, the main unit of the KPRA advanced into the homeland again and fought battles in Taehongdan and other parts of the Musan area. At these battles the soldiers of the KPRA hit hard at the enemy, inspiring the compatriots in the homeland with confidence in sure victory and zeal for struggle. This was a severe political and military blow to the Japanese aggressors.

Along with the Battle of Pochonbo, these battles were quite great in scale and significance among the military operations the KPRA conducted in the homeland.

48. Final Offensive for National Liberation

On August 9, 1945 Kim Il Sung ordered the units of the KPRA to launch a final offensive for the liberation of the country.

According to his order the units of the KPRA switched over to a final offensive and pushed into Korea, crushing the Japanese aggressors in cooperation with the Soviet army that was involved in the anti-Japanese war.

In response to this final offensive the small units, groups and political operatives of the KPRA, local people's armed units and armed revolt groups, all active

in the homeland, as well as the broad sections of the people, harassed the enemy's rear in all parts of the country and rendered support to the advancing units of the KPRA.

The KPRA's fierce attacks and the all-people resistance dealt a devastating blow to the Japanese imperialists. On August 15, one week after the launch of the KPRA's final offensive, Japan announced its unconditional surrender.

In this way the historic cause of Korea's liberation was accomplished and the KPRA won a brilliant victory in the 15-year anti-Japanese armed struggle.

49. Building a Regular Army after National Liberation

After the country's liberation the KPRA was developed into the Korean People's Army, a modern regular army, the hardcore of which was the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters who had been tempered in the flames of the anti-Japanese armed struggle. This work was carried out by relying on the country's internal forces.

The KPA was proclaimed on February 8, 1948.

The development of the KPRA into a regular revolutionary force was another brilliant fruition born of the Juche idea and the Songun idea created by Kim Il Sung

and their embodiment in the Songun-based revolutionary line.

50. Pyongyang Institute

Pyongyang Institute was the country's first school for training military and political officials who would render services to building a new Korea and revolutionary armed forces.

The institute was founded in mid-November 1945 under the guidance of Kim Il Sung. Its first graduation ceremony was held in late April 1946.

51. Central Security Officers Training School

The Central Security Officers Training School was a base for training military officers needed to build regular armed forces.

The training school was founded in July 1946 under the guidance of Kim Il Sung. Its first graduation ceremony was held in late October 1947.

It trained officers for such arms as infantry, artillery and engineering.

52. Security Officers Training Centres

The security officers training centres were set up in August 1946 under the direction of Kim Il Sung in different parts of the country, including Pyongyang,

Kaechon and Ranam. They were the country's first regular army units that were organized as part of the preparations for building regular armed forces.

These training centres had branches, under which there were battalions, companies, platoons and squads.

As the core units of the future regular army, they were genuinely people's armed units composed of the sons and daughters of workers, peasants and other working people.

53. Outbreak of the Fatherland Liberation War

The Fatherland Liberation War broke out at the early dawn of June 25, 1950, when the troops of the Syngman Rhee puppet clique, at the instigation of the US imperialists, launched an all-out invasion against the northern half of Korea.

The US imperialists engineered the war with an aim to stamp out the DPRK, which was proclaimed on September 9, 1948, at its burgeoning stage and make the whole of Korea a colony and military bridgehead for invading the Asian continent and realizing their ambition of world domination.

In actual facts, there was a "small war" before the outbreak of the all-out war.

From 1947 the US imperialists persisted in armed

provocations against the northern half of Korea, expanding the scope of their military actions on a yearly basis. This local war did not escalate into an all-out war. It was entirely attributable to the peace-loving stand and utmost patience of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the DPRK.

However, the US imperialists responded with an all-out war to the Korean people's sincere attitude towards peace.

Now the Korean service personnel and people found themselves at the crossroads of whether to become imperialists' colonial slaves again or to defend their dignity as citizens of an independent and sovereign state.

They turned out as one in the Fatherland Liberation War to repulse the invasion by the US imperialists and their vassal forces, reunify the country and safeguard its sovereignty, freedom and democratic system.

54. Stages of the Fatherland Liberation War

The Fatherland Liberation War can be divided into four strategic stages.

55. Strategic Policy for the First Stage of the Fatherland Liberation War

The strategic policy for the first stage of the Fatherland Liberation War was to frustrate the

enemy's invasion, swiftly switch over to counteroffensive, annihilate the enemy's main force in a short period with great manoeuvrability and successive blows before the US imperialists could bring in massive reinforcements, and liberate the southern half of Korea.

This stage lasted from June 25 to September 15, 1950.

During this period the units of the KPA conducted five operations in a row, including the operations to liberate Seoul and Taejon, the battle to seize Andong, advance to the Raktong River line and naval engagement in the sea off Jumunjin.

They won numerous battles, routing the "ever-victorious" US 24th Infantry Division and the 2nd, 5th and 7th infantry divisions of the "ROK army," dealing a heavy blow at the US 1st Cavalry Division and 25th Infantry Division, and the 1st, 3rd, 6th and 8th infantry divisions and the Metropolitan Division of the "ROK army." The sailors hit hard at the US Far East Fleet, and the airmen shot down or damaged such enemy planes as the "flying fortress" B-29.

In a matter of one and a half months after the outbreak of the war the KPA liberated more than 90 per cent of the territory of south Korea and over 92 per cent of its population.

56. Strategic Policy for the Second Stage of the Fatherland Liberation War

The strategic policy for the second stage of the Fatherland Liberation War was, on the one hand, to slow down the enemy's advance and thus gain time to rescue the main force of the KPA from encirclement in the southern half and, on the other, to muster new reserve units for a powerful counteroffensive and make a planned retreat.

Around mid-September 1950 the tide of the war was turning against the DPRK.

The US imperialists had been in danger of being expelled from Korea owing to the KPA's strong counterattack. In a bid to make up for their repeated failures and occupy the whole of Korea at all costs, they brought in huge forces to the Korean front–ground, naval and air forces in the Pacific, part of the Mediterranean Fleet, ground forces from the US mainland and even troops of 15 vassal states including Britain, Canada, Turkey, Australia, Thailand, the Philippines, France, Greece, New Zealand and Colombia. They were attempting to conduct a large-scale landing operation at Inchon with a huge force.

In this critical situation the KPA was compelled to make a strategic temporary retreat.

The second stage of the Fatherland Liberation War

lasted from September 16 to October 24, 1950.

During this period the units of the KPA won a brilliant victory in many operations and battles–the operations in defence of the Inchon-Seoul area, the Raktong River line, the area along the 38th Parallel and the area north of it, and the defensive battle on Wolmi Island. These operations dealt a heavy blow at the US 1st and 9th army corps and the 1st and 2nd army corps of the "ROK army" and frustrated the adventurous "general offensive" of the enemy to swallow up the northern half of Korea in one single gulp.

And the second-front units of the KPA engaged the enemy actively and struck them hard from behind.

57. Strategic Policy for the Third Stage of the Fatherland Liberation War

The strategic policy for the third stage of the Fatherland Liberation War was to frustrate the enemy's attack and switch over to a counterattack as soon as possible to drive the enemy to the south of the 38th Parallel and debilitate their forces through incessant battles, while making full preparations for final victory in the war.

The third stage of the Fatherland Liberation War lasted from October 25, 1950 to June 10, 1951.

During this period the units of the KPA conducted five large-scale operations in succession.

The counterattack in the area north of the Chongchon River, stubborn defensive battles on the eastern sector of the front, encirclement on the Chongchon River line, encirclement of an army corps at Lake Jangjin, active harassment of the enemy's rear by the second-front units–these operations and battles inflicted a crushing blow on the US 1st, 9th and 10th army corps and the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd army corps of the "ROK army." As a result, the area in the northern half of Korea, which had been under the enemy's temporary occupation, was liberated and the enemy were driven to the south of the 38th Parallel.

58. Strategic Policy for the Fourth Stage of the Fatherland Liberation War

The strategic policy for the fourth stage of the Fatherland Liberation War was to maintain the existing front line and ceaselessly strike at and wipe out the enemy forces by launching an active positional defence battle, while preparing all conditions necessary for ultimate victory in the war, by gaining time to further increase the fighting capacity of the KPA and consolidate the rear.

The fourth stage of the Fatherland Liberation War

lasted from June 11, 1951 to July 27, 1953.

During this period the units of the KPA waged several defensive operations and battles including the summer and autumn defensive operations in 1951, the battles in defence of Height 1211 and the attack on Height 351. By so doing, they frustrated the enemy's adventurous offensives and aggressive plots such as "summer and autumn offensive," "strangling operation," "scorched-earth operation," "new offensive" and germ warfare, all of which were committed behind the screen of the armistice talks.

In this way they dealt a severe political and military blow to the enemy and won final victory in the war.

59. Operation to Liberate Seoul

In the period of the initial operations for the first stage of the Fatherland Liberation War the combined units of the KPA, which had switched over to a counterattack, conducted a general offensive to seize Seoul.

The general offensive started at 05:00 a.m. on June 28, 1950.

Followed by a powerful artillery barrage, the tanks made a breach and the combined infantry units attacked the enemy from the front, flanks and rear. The KPA soldiers charged into the streets and took such important

organs as the “capitol building,” radio station, army headquarters, MP headquarters, Sodaemun Prison, Mapho Prison, central telegraph office and Kyongmudae (Syngman Rhee’s residence).

Seoul fell at 11:30 a.m. on the same day, the flag of the DPRK fluttering on the roof of the “capitol building.” It was just three days after the outbreak of the war.

In this operation the KPA killed or wounded or captured over 21 000 and destroyed or captured many combat equipment including guns, small arms, armoured vehicles, trucks and planes.

The victory in the operation was a brilliant result of Kim Il Sung’s operational plan to launch an immediate counterattack. A model of modern warfare, the operation demonstrated the superiority of his outstanding strategies and tactics, such as correct definition of the direction of the main attack, continued strikes and annihilation through encirclement, high mobility and flanking.

60. Battle of Osan

On July 5, 1950 the combatants of the tank and infantry units of the KPA engaged the advance group of the US 24th Infantry Division in the Osan area, south of Suwon.

Composed of one battalion and one field artillery battalion of the 21st Regiment of the division, the advance group was called Smith detachment or Smith commando, (named after the battalion commander Lieutenant Colonel Smith). The detachment took up a position in the Osan area at 03:00 a.m. that day, waiting for the KPA units marching southward.

At the outset of the battle a tank unit of the KPA broke through the enemy's heavy barrage and sped up its advance. Another tank unit wiped out the enemy's field artillery battalion from the flank, thus completely isolating the infantry. Then the combatants of the KPA infantry regiment encircled and annihilated the enemy troops at a go. Thus the advance group of the US army met a tragic end.

61. Naval Battle of Jumunjin

In early July 1950, in the period of the second operations for the first stage of the Fatherland Liberation War, the sailors of the 2nd Torpedo Boat Fleet of the KPA sank the heavy cruiser *Baltimore* (17 300 ton-class), which the US imperialists had boasted about as a "moving island," and damaged a light cruiser (12 000 ton-class), with four torpedo boats in the sea off Jumunjin. This miraculous feat was unprecedented in the world history of naval battles.

62. First Air Battle

The pilots of the KPA achieved a brilliant victory in the first air battle during the Fatherland Liberation War.

In early July 1950 the KPA pilots, onboard propeller planes, engaged the jet aircraft of the US 5th Air Force. They shot down 13 planes, including B-29, and damaged more than ten.

This added a brilliant page to the world history of air battles.

63. Operation to Liberate Taejon

The KPA conducted the operation to liberate Taejon in the period of the third operations for the first stage of the Fatherland Liberation War.

Kim Il Sung advanced an operational plan of encircling the Taejon area in a short period and annihilating the enemy promptly.

According to this plan, the combined units of the KPA succeeded in encircling the city through swift mobility and sudden attack. One of those units blocked the enemy's retreat by making a 40km-long rush march through rugged mountains overnight.

The general offensive began on July 20, 1950.

The combined units of the KPA launched an all-out attack from north, northwest and west of the city. By dint of close cooperation and singular tactics, they

vanquished the US 24th Infantry Division, the "ever-victorious division," arrested its commander Dean and annihilated the soldiers of the "ROK army."

Taejon fell by noon.

It was a model of modern encircling operation, in which large enemy force was encircled and defeated in one stroke by employing various tactics.

The victory in this operation put an end to the myth of the US imperialists' "mightiness."

64. Defensive Battle on Wolmi Island

The sub-units of the KPA on Wolmi Island waged a heroic battle to frustrate the US forces' massive landing at Inchon.

For the landing operation the US imperialists mobilized over 50 000 troops, hundreds of warships and some 1 000 aircraft, as well as the forces of the former Japanese army.

At that time, on Wolmi Island, there were a coastal artillery battery with four guns and an infantry company of the KPA.

The battle on the island lasted from September 13 to 15, 1950.

The combatants of the KPA fought death-defyingly to the last man, delaying the enemy's landing operation for three days. They sank or damaged 13 vessels

including three destroyers. Thanks to their heroic struggle, the units in defence of the Inchon-Seoul area gained time. It was a great contribution to implementing the strategic policy for the second stage of the war.

65. Second Front in the Enemy's Rear

The second front formed by the units of the KPA during the Fatherland Liberation War was a new type of front in the enemy's rear never witnessed in the world history of human warfare. It was an operation by a regular army, which differed from guerrilla warfare. Under the unified direction of the Supreme Headquarters the KPA units involved took hold of wide areas in the enemy's rear and liberated the local people.

They seized wide areas in Hwanghae, Kangwon and South Phyongan provinces in the central part of the country and launched brisk military actions in the enemy-held areas from mid-October 1950. They delayed the enemy's advance as much as possible, created conditions favourable for the counteroffensive of the KPA and enhanced the striking power of the KPA both at the front and in the rear, so as to liberate the enemy-held areas at the earliest possible date.

66. Battle at Lake Jangjin

The KPA combined units waged the battle at Lake

Jangjin from November 27 to December 6, 1950. They annihilated the main force of the US 10th Army Corps by encircling it near the lake along the scores-of-kilometres-long line. Consequently, the lake and nearby valleys were covered with the corpses of enemy soldiers and wrecked guns, tanks and trucks.

Commander Smith of the 1st Division of the US Marine Corps, later nicknamed the "grave general," fled at Hungnam Port in the east coast of Korea. Onboard a ship, he said that in the 175-year history of the US Marine Corps had not been recorded such a commander who departed leaving behind so many corpses of his soldiers. On the spot American journalists described it as the first retreat in the history of the US Marine Corps.

Not long after the counterattack the KPA units under the wise leadership of Kim Il Sung struck hard at the enemy that intruded into the northern half of Korea and liberated the whole part north of the 38th Parallel.

67. Battles in Defence of Height 1211

During the fourth stage of the Fatherland Liberation War the KPA units waged fierce battles in defence of Height 1211, a key defence point in the eastern sector of the front.

The enemy poured 30 000 to 40 000 shells and bombs every day on the height and launched massive attacks in waves scores of times a day.

However, the KPA soldiers and the local people repulsed the enemy's attacks and defended the height, thus frustrating their "summer and autumn offensive."

At the battles, they killed, injured or captured over 29 000 soldiers, shot down over 40 aircraft, and captured or destroyed many weapons and other combat and technical equipment including about 60 tanks.

The enemy soldiers would call the height "heart-breaking ridge" or "punch bowl" as no one could come out alive after entering the valley in front of it.

68. Battle on T-Shaped Hill

In late January 1953, an artillery unit and an infantry sub-unit of the KPA defended T-shaped Hill against the US imperialists' large-scale offensive.

At that time the enemy prepared a massive attack on the hill in a bid to fathom the feasibility of their success in the "new offensive" and bring in more forces by raising the sagging morale of their allied states. They mobilized huge forces and combat equipment and invited the UN Press Corps and an inspection group, taking their victory as a fait accompli.

However, the carefully-prepared “exemplary battle” ended in a fiasco by the KPA units’ unexpected powerful gunfire and counterattack. This ignominious defeat augured ill for the enemy’s “new offensive.”

They lamented that they did not seize the hill even after suffering over 6 000 casualties, which had been estimated to be about 200. An American publication said that Mark Clark and Van Fleet had 300 000 shells poured on the hill on a daily basis and the elite mechanized units mobilized to conquer the hill of tactical importance, and their operation proved a complete failure.

69. Attack on Height 351

The KPA soldiers launched a sudden attack on Height 351 on the night of June 2, 1953 in the last period of the fourth stage of the Fatherland Liberation War.

The enemy described the height as an “impregnable fortress” and “line of no retreat,” saying that they might give up Seoul but not Height 351.

The KPA combatants seized it in a matter of 15 minutes. Subsequently, they repelled the enemy’s attacks for more than 50 days and defended the height to the end; the enemy suffered 8 500 casualties.

After the battles 14 combatants of the KPA were honoured with the title of Hero of the DPRK.

These battles added another brilliant page to the records of the Fatherland Liberation War. Driven into a predicament by the continued strikes of the KPA, the US imperialists signed the Armistice Agreement on July 27, 1953, which, in effect, meant a surrender to the Korean people.

Thus, the three-year-long Fatherland Liberation War ended in a great victory for the DPRK.

70. Factor in Achieving Victory in the Fatherland Liberation War and Its Significance

The factor in achieving victory in the Fatherland Liberation War is twofold–the wise leadership of Kim Il Sung, the ever-victorious, iron-willed commander and outstanding military strategist; and the gallant spirit of the Korean service personnel and people of defending the country and their unyielding fighting mettle.

The victory was significant in that the DPRK defeated US imperialism for the first time in history and safeguarded its national sovereignty and dignity, that it smashed the myth of the US imperialists' "mightiness" and brought about the beginning of a decline for them, and that, by prevailing over the allied imperialist forces, it contributed greatly to promoting the cause of independence against imperialism.

71. War Results Achieved by the Korean People's Army

During the three-year-long Fatherland Liberation War, the KPA killed, wounded or captured over 1 567 120 enemy soldiers, including more than 405 490 US imperialist aggressor troops, and seized or destroyed enormous amounts of combat equipment and war materiel, including 12 220 planes, 564 vessels, 3 250 tanks and armoured vehicles, 13 350 trucks, 7 690 guns and 925 150 small arms. The loss sustained by the US imperialist aggressors was nearly 2.3 times what they had sustained in the four-year-long Pacific War.

The US journal *U.S. News & World Report* said that the loss sustained by the United States on the Korean front was more than twice what it had sustained during the previous five big wars–the War of Independence, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, Spanish-American War and the war in the Philippines.

72. Major Military Tactics Created during the Fatherland Liberation War

Kim Il Sung created unique military tactics during the Fatherland Liberation War, and the combatants of the KPA achieved brilliant results by employing those tactics.

Typical examples include tunnel tactic, aircraft-

hunting team movement, tank-hunting team movement, sniper team movement and separate heavy machine-gun team movement.

73. Tunnel Tactic

The tunnel tactic was a combat method of striking the enemy by building defensive positions centred on the underground tunnel connected to such field positions as pillboxes and trenches for personnel and communications.

The tactic was highly effective in that it reliably protected service personnel, weapons, and other combat and technical equipment against modern means of strike and made it possible to prepare for such combat actions as charge, countercharge and assault, thus providing a guarantee for strong defence and active attack.

As for this combat method, Commander Van Fleet of the US 8th Army said that even the Maginot Line of France and the Siegfried Line of Germany, widely known as the strongest defence lines during the Second World War, would not match the KPA's defence line with tunnels built along the 250km-long front.

74. Aircraft-Hunting Team Movement

The aircraft-hunting team movement was a combat action of shooting down enemy planes with small arms.

The aircraft-hunting teams, wherever they went, shot down planes with rifles, light and heavy machine-guns, anti-tank guns, etc., according to their actual conditions.

A combined unit of the KPA defending the west coast shot down 106 planes in 1952 alone, thereby frustrating the US imperialists' "air supremacy" and "air strategy" and contributing to achieving victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

75. Tank-Hunting Team Movement

The tank-hunting team movement was an action of destroying tanks by making effective use of the characteristics of mountainous regions and weak points of enemy tanks.

The tank-hunting teams destroyed not only the tanks and armoured vehicles of the enemy in the defence line but also those in the depth of their tightly-guarded positions.

In November 1951 alone, a team in the eastern sector of the front destroyed 29 tanks, and an army corps in the front line organized about 109 tank-hunting teams in 1952.

76. Separate Heavy Machine-Gun Team Movement

The separate heavy machine-gun team movement

was an action of checking the mobility of enemy scouts and soldiers by deploying heavy machine-guns near the front.

The principle of this movement was that one or two teams should be organized by every infantry company in the first echelon and each team should move secretly near the enemy's defence line, carrying one heavy machine-gun, some rifles, submachine guns, etc.

By shooting the enemy whenever they appeared, these teams helped towards restricting the activities of enemy scouts and soldiers, striking terror into their hearts and providing a guarantee for active defence.

77. Units Honoured with the Title of Guards during the Fatherland Liberation War

Thirteen units and combined units of the KPA were awarded the title of Guards for their outstanding exploits in the Fatherland Liberation War.

Among them were Seoul Guards 3rd Infantry Division, Seoul Kim Chaek Guards 4th Infantry Division, Seoul Guards 105th Tank Division and Guards 18th Infantry Regiment, which distinguished themselves in many battles including the operations to liberate Seoul and Taejon; Guards 2nd Torpedo Boat Fleet which sank a heavy cruiser and damaged a light cruiser with four torpedo boats in the sea off Jumunjin; and Guards 56th

Interceptor Regiment which shot down and damaged scores of US jet aircraft in the operation to liberate Taejon and many other battles.

78. Heroes Produced during the Fatherland Liberation War

A large number of service personnel and people were honoured with the titles of Hero of the DPRK and Labour Hero of the DPRK for their distinguished services to winning victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

586 were awarded the title of Hero of the DPRK (five of them were twice Heroes) and 20, Labour Hero of the DPRK. Besides, over 809 000 service personnel and people received various kinds of official commendations.

Examples are Ri Su Bok who blocked an enemy pillbox with his body and made a breakthrough for his charging unit in the battle on Height 1211; Jo Kun Sil who repelled the enemy's attack by pressing the trigger of the heavy machine-gun with his chin after being seriously wounded in his two arms and left leg and thus contributed to defending the hill; and Kang Ho Yong who, seriously wounded in his two arms and two legs, rolled down into a group of the enemy with a grenade in his mouth.

79. Defending Socialism after the War

The US imperialists suffered a severe political and military defeat during the Fatherland Liberation War. Instead of drawing a serious lesson from it, they have resorted to vicious schemes to stamp out socialism of the Korean style.

There has been no let-up in their anti-DPRK, anti-socialist schemes since the ceasefire, and the enemy have grown more desperate in their aggressive manoeuvres. The situation in the Korean peninsula has teetered on the brink of war, and, consequently, the Korean people face serious challenges and threats in their efforts for socialist construction.

However, the KPA has safeguarded the country's national sovereignty and socialism, thwarting the enemy's aggressive schemes and military provocations at every step.

80. *PCE-56* Incident

On January 19, 1967 the south Korean puppet clique, hell-bent on igniting a new war under the aegis of the US imperialists, sent *PCE-56* into the territorial waters of the DPRK. While committing acts of hostility, the escort ship was sunk by the fire of a coast artillery unit of the KPA.

The incident showed that aggressors will meet a tragic end.

81. *Pueblo* Incident

On January 23, 1968 the naval vessels of the KPA, during a routine patrol, captured the US armed spy ship *Pueblo*, as well as over 80 of its crew, which intruded into the territorial waters of the DPRK and was committing acts of espionage 7.6 nautical miles from Ryo Island near Wonsan.

The armed spy ship dispatched by the CIA was furnished with various items of espionage equipment and the crew had a map marked with the DPRK's military bases and detailed records collected through several rounds of their espionage acts.

In capturing the spy ship the DPRK was exercising its sovereign right.

However, the United States claimed that the ship had been in international waters and had not committed any acts of espionage, clamouring that it would retaliate by military means unless the DPRK released the ship and its crew.

It concentrated huge forces in and around the Korean peninsula, bringing the situation to the brink of war.

At this critical juncture Kim Il Sung declared that the DPRK would retaliate against the "retaliation" and return all-out war for the "all-out war." The Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the DPRK stated that if the US imperialists, despite this serious warning,

plunged the situation into a highly volatile state and dared to ignite a war, they would suffer a more ignominious defeat.

All the service personnel and people in the country made full combat preparations with a firm resolve to repulse the enemy's attack at a stroke.

Frustrated by this resolute stand and surging morale, the United States had no option other than to sign a letter of apology in which it solemnly apologized for the espionage activities and hostile acts by the *Pueblo* against the DPRK and gave firm assurance that no US ships would intrude again in the future into its waters.

Through this incident the Korean service personnel and people demonstrated to the whole world their firm unity around the WPK and the leader and the validity of their country's self-defensive military line.

82. EC-121 Incident

Far from drawing a lesson from the *Pueblo* Incident, the US imperialists persisted in conducting aggressive military exercises and, at the same time, reinforced their armed forces and "ROK" forces and brought in larger amounts of latest weapons and war materiel. On April 15, 1969 they sent the spy aircraft EC-121 to the territorial airspace of the DPRK on reconnaissance missions.

The pilots of the Air Force of the KPA shot down the spy plane while it was committing acts of espionage inside the airspace of the DPRK.

This was a self-defence measure that conformed with international law and a due punishment to the intruders.

83. Panmunjom Incident

The Panmunjom Incident, also called August 18 Incident, was a premeditated scheme that the US imperialists orchestrated in the joint security area at Panmunjom, in a bid to make an excuse for another aggressive war against the DPRK.

Their military provocations against the country continued into the 1970s.

On August 18, 1976, 14 enemy soldiers turned up with axes to fell a tree in the joint security area at Panmunjom along the Military Demarcation Line. Felling a tree in this area without agreement between the two sides was an undisguised act of provocation. A fierce scuffle followed.

Obviously, it was a prearranged provocation to ignite a new war in Korea.

The Ford administration immediately ordered all its aggressive forces stationed in south Korea to be put on full combat readiness. It reinforced state-of-the-art military hardware and troops on a large scale,

threatening “retaliation” against the DPRK.

This precipitated a hair-trigger situation in the Korean peninsula.

The Korean service personnel and people, single-heartedly united around the leader and the Workers’ Party of Korea, strove together to thwart the enemy’s aggressive acts.

In this showdown they reliably defended the security of their country and the gains of the revolution by strengthening its defences and pushing forward socialist construction with a rifle in one hand and a hammer or a sickle in the other.

84. DPRK-US Nuclear Stand-Off in the Early 1990s

In the early 1990s there was a stand-off between the DPRK and the US-led allied imperialist forces over the DPRK’s “nuclear issue” concocted by the US imperialists.

Availing themselves of the collapse of socialism in the former Soviet Union and East European countries, the US imperialists clamoured about the “end of socialism” and directed the spearhead of their attack to socialist Korea. In 1993 they instigated the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to force upon the DPRK a “special inspection” of some military sites “suspected

to be related with nuclear activities" on the pretext of their suspicions concerning its nuclear development. They even fixed the time limit, threatening that they would not rule out preemptive military strike if the DPRK did not accept the demand for the inspection and making public their aggressive war plans. To coincide with this, the Team Spirit 93 joint military exercise of the US and the south Korean puppet army was resumed, and various means of nuclear strike, including latest type of fighter planes and naval vessels loaded with nuclear weapons, and 200 000 soldiers were deployed in the Korean peninsula and its surrounding seas.

The situation in the Korean peninsula was driven to the brink of a nuclear war.

At this juncture the order of the Supreme Commander of the KPA on declaring a state of semi-war for the whole country, all the people and the entire army was issued (March 8, 1993), and the DPRK government issued a statement on its withdrawal from the NPT (March 12, 1993).

To the world, this was a bolt from the blue. It demonstrated the courage and mettle of the Korean service personnel and people who always counter the imperialists' and provokers' hard-line policy with a harder-line policy.

Overawed by this resolute response, the US and its

followers were compelled to announce the ending of the Team Spirit 93 joint military exercise ahead of schedule, and the IAEA gave up the "special inspection."

85. US Helicopter Shot Down

On December 17, 1994 a US helicopter, which intruded into the territorial airspace of the DPRK, was shot down at a single shot by the self-defence measure of the KPA.

The incident was part of a series of the hostile acts the US imperialists committed behind the curtain of the DPRK-US talks.

It proved that the DPRK's declaration that it would never pardon anyone who violated its territory, airspace or waters was not a bluff. It was a severe punishment meted out to the aggressors that were hell-bent on the manoeuvres to start a new war against the DPRK behind the curtain of bilateral talks.

The US President dispatched his special envoy to make a formal apology to the DPRK government and sign a memorandum of understanding which guaranteed that the US would take measures to prevent a recurrence of such incident.

86. Skirmishes on the West Sea

From June 1999 the naval vessels of the "ROK"

army, at the prompting of the US imperialists, would intrude into the DPRK's side of the demarcation line on the West Sea of Korea and provoke the patrol boats of the KPA. There were three rounds of skirmishes between both sides, in which many south Korean ships and crew were sunk.

This was a just, self-defence measure and a due punishment to the intruders.

87. Yonphyong Island Bombarded

In the afternoon of November 23, 2010 the artillery unit of the "ROK" army on Yonphyong Island opened fire towards the territorial waters of the DPRK under the pretext of "naval firing exercise." This was a premeditated act of provocation the south Korean warmongers committed at the instigation of the US imperialists.

As the enemy ignored the DPRK's repeated warnings, the KPA ground artillery unit's multiple launch rocket systems fired back by volleys, turning the island into a lake of fire.

88. Nuclear Tests

In order to cope with the US imperialists' frantic schemes to ignite a nuclear war, the DPRK built up its own nuclear deterrent and conducted underground nuclear tests three times and its first H-bomb test.

Since the mid-1950s, in violation of the Korean Armistice Agreement, the US shipped more than 1 000 nuclear weapons to south Korea and conducted joint nuclear war games with the "ROK" army on a yearly basis.

Worse still, it ratcheted up its nuclear threats against the DPRK, drafting secret nuclear war plans during the Fatherland Liberation War and on later occasions, and designating the country as one of the targets for its preemptive nuclear strike.

In February 2005 the DPRK announced that it manufactured nuclear weapons for self-defence and, according to its plans to strengthen its nuclear deterrent, conducted underground nuclear tests in October 2006, May 2009 and February 2013, and its first H-bomb test in January 2016.

This was a declaration that it ranks among nuclear powers and any force which dares to provoke it is doomed.

89. Test-Firing of Super-Precision Tactical Guided Rockets

In late June 2014 there was a test-firing of a super-precision tactical guided weapon system, which the military scientists and technicians and the workers in the munitions industry had developed at the proposal of Kim Jong Un and under his meticulous guidance.

The test-fire proved that the new system's scientific and technological performance is excellent with no slightest deviation. It enabled the KPA to put all of its strike mechanisms including short-, medium- and long-range guided weapons on a super-precision basis at the world level and improve the accuracy and power of their strikes as much as possible.

As the test-fire was conducted at a time when the US and its vassal forces, including the south Korean puppet clique, were running most desperately to isolate and stifle the DPRK and ignite an aggressive war, it marked a signal victory in strengthening the country's self-defensive capabilities and thus encouraged its service personnel and people with great courage and confidence.

90. Manufacturing Nuclear Weapons

Scientists and technicians of the DPRK achieved great successes in installing nuclear warheads in various types of tactical and strategic ballistic rockets.

In March, 2016, Kim Jong Un gave field guidance over the manufacturing of nuclear weapons.

He learned in detail about the proud successes the nuclear scientists and technicians achieved, upholding the WPK's line of promoting the two fronts

simultaneously, in national defence science and research work to strengthen the country's defence capability and consolidate its self-defensive deterrent. He said that the nuclear warhead designed to use mixed charge that was built in a Korean style was really great as it had been manufactured in a rational structure whereby thermonuclear reaction could develop in a moment. He continued that nuclear warheads were lightened and standardized in line with ballistic rockets, describing this as a real nuclear deterrent. He stressed that the Korean people can do what they are determined to do.

Now the DPRK ensures the regular operation of nuclear facilities at a higher level; it produces necessary materials, develops the nuclear weapons technology uninterruptedly to manufacture more powerful, precise and miniaturized nukes and their carriers in larger quantities, and takes sustained steps to upgrade the means of nuclear strike already deployed for action.

91. Ballistic Rocket-Launching Drill

In March 2016, in a critical situation in which a nuclear war was about to break out on the Korean peninsula, a ballistic rocket-launching drill of the KPA Strategic Force was conducted in combination

with the mobile operations for judging its actual capability of fighting a war.

Kim Jong Un oversaw the drill.

Western-front strike units, led by the commander of the KPA Strategic Force, moved swiftly to a launching site upon a sudden order by the Supreme Headquarters and demonstrated their constant readiness for action and mobility.

At the commander's order to fire, ballistic rockets blasted off with thunderous explosions breaking the silence.

The rockets struck the virtual ports of the enemy where the foreign forces of aggression would land, by blasting at a fixed height over the target.

Through this drill, the combat efficiency of the Western-front strike units of the Strategic Force was clearly demonstrated. This showed what the KPA's military countermeasure would be like.

92. Concentrated Long-Range Artillery Fire Drill

In March 2016, a frontline large combined unit of the KPA staged a concentrated long-range artillery fire drill to destroy the Blue House and other reactionary government organs in Seoul.

The largest-ever long-range artillery fire drill

was aimed at turning Seoul into a lake of fire, the citadel of the south Korean puppet clique who dared to openly stage a “precision strike drill” targeting the supreme leadership of the Korean revolution, and thus showing the resolve for revenge of all the service personnel and people. It demonstrated once again to the world the might of the KPA that is determined to make the US imperialists and south Korean group of traitors meet the most miserable doom.

Involved in the drill were well over a hundred long-range guns of various calibres including Juche guns of the crack artillery units.

Kim Jong Un climbed to the observation post and listened to the report on the plan for the drill. Upon his order, the guns opened fire striking the virtual targets mercilessly.

The enemy’s “strongholds” were reduced to rubble.

93. SLBM Test-Firing

In May 2015 Kim Jong Un saw the test-firing of a strategic submarine-launched ballistic missile.

The strategic submarine sank to the depth of firing in the waters far away from the land and, after a while, a ballistic missile soared out of the surface into

the sky, emitting red flame.

The test-fire proved the SLBM launch fully satisfied the requirements of the latest military science and technology such as noise level inside the submarine, recoiling power, speed of the ballistic missile appearing on the surface of the water and its angle.

In April 2016 another test-firing of SLBM was conducted under the guidance of Kim Jong Un.

The test-fire was aimed at verifying the stability of the cooling launch system at the maximum depth underwater, the dynamic features of the vertical flight of a missile propelled by a newly developed high-powered solid motor, the reliability of the thermal segment detachment, and the accuracy of operation of the nuclear detonator of warhead at a preset altitude. It proved that the Korean-style underwater launch system is completely reliable with all technical indexes satisfying the requirements of the Juche-based underwater offensive operations.

The completion of the SLBM technology enabled the DPRK to possess a world-class strategic weapon with which to strike and destroy the hostile forces in any waters if they attempt to undermine the sovereignty and dignity of Songun Korea, and to stage underwater operations at will.

94. Military Hardware Museum of the Korean People's Army

The Military Hardware Museum of the Korean People's Army was inaugurated in April 2012. It embodies the great exploits Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il performed in their lifelong, strenuous struggle to make the country's armed forces invincible, as well as the achievements of Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un.

It also demonstrates the national defence capability of the DPRK.

The museum houses thousands of weapons and other combat and technical equipment including small arms, guns, tanks, armoured vehicles, ships, planes and strategic rockets, all produced by the munitions factories of the country.

95. Military Parades of the Korean People's Army

In the DPRK there have been held grand-style parades of armed forces on important occasions, the first one being the parade of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army.

The parades of the KPA involving many units, service personnel and modern hardware, are festivals of great political and military significance.

These events are arranged to add brilliance to the

imperishable exploits Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il and Kim Jong Un performed in building up the armed forces. They greatly encourage and inspire the Korean people and the progressive peoples of the world with confidence in the certainty of victory in the cause of anti-imperialist independence.

Also, they instil terror into the US and other imperialists, giving an implicit warning that anyone who dares to violate the sovereignty of the DPRK and impair its national dignity will meet a tragic end.

96. Services Rendered to the Cause of Global Independence against Imperialism

The DPRK disseminated the practical experience it had gained in the anti-imperialist national liberation war among the armies and peoples of many countries struggling for national independence and the building of a new society, and gave an active encouragement to them so that they could step up the anti-imperialist, anti-US struggle with confidence.

It also offered selfless military assistance to the countries, which embarked on the road of building a new society after being liberated from imperialist colonial rule, in the efforts to build their own military forces.

Besides, it trained military experts with utmost sincerity by request from many countries.

It rendered active help to the peoples of several countries in their struggle to frustrate the subversive schemes by imperialists and reactionaries and safeguard national independence.

97. Support to the Chinese Revolution

The DPRK rendered active support to the Communist Party of China and the Chinese people in their fight to liberate the whole territory of China. Its military assistance, as well as political and material support, was significant in the latter's fight to liberate Northeast China and the rest of the country from September 1945 to February 1950.

In those years competent military and political cadres and about 250 000 young people of Korea fought together with the service personnel of the People's Liberation Army, performing distinguished feats in the operations to liberate the whole of Northeast China, among them the battles to seize such cities as Siping, Jilin, Changchun, Jinzhou and Shenyang.

Koreans' units also took part in the southward march of the PLA, making a breach for the main thrust in the operation to cross the Chang River. After the battle in Guilin, Guangxi Province, they pushed to Hainan Island.

The sons and daughters of Korea fought death-defyingly in the hundreds of big and small battles that

lasted for four to five years in the vast region extending from Northeast China to Hainan Island.

98. Assisting the Vietnamese People in Their Revolutionary War

In the mid-1960s, when the Vietnam War broke out, the DPRK government rendered unstinting political, military and material support to its Vietnamese counterpart, after declaring that it was ready to send volunteers to fight with the Vietnamese people at any time when the latter requested it.

It dispatched competent engineers' units to help the Vietnamese people in their tunnelling work. The Korean fighter pilots shot down over 100 enemy planes, including the "flying lion" F-4, and held supremacy in the air over strategic points.

Additionally, it sent millions of uniforms and other war supplies gratis to the Vietnamese army and people.

99. Assistance to the Arab States during the Yom Kippur War

In March 1973 the DPRK government, at the request of its Egyptian counterpart, dispatched many pilots and military experts.

During the Yom Kippur War the Korean pilots performed with credit the duty of air defence near the

Red Sea coast, the weakest point on the front, clipping the feathers of the enemy pilots by displaying matchless courage and employing adroit tactics from the initial period of the war.

The US and Israeli planes did not dare to appear around the Red Sea coast throughout the war.

On the other hand, the DPRK's military advisory group worked out a novel tactical plan of combining flank, rear and frontal attacks, and had some planes fly to the Mediterranean Sea for a surprise attack on the Israeli army's rear, thus making a remarkable contribution to putting the enemy on the defensive.

100. Support to the Cuban Revolution

At the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis between October and November 1962, the staff of the DPRK embassy stated that they would take up arms and fight alongside the Cuban people to the end. Then, dressed in Cuban military uniforms, they turned out in the showdown with the US aggressors, to the admiration of the world's people.

Moreover, after the victory in the Cuban revolution, the DPRK sent large quantities of weapons to the country. In the 1980s, for example, it sent 100 000 weapons as a gratis material aid. In subsequent years it spared nothing if it was a request from the Cuban government.

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(DEFENCE)

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