

**Changes in the Focus of Education
-Korea National Defense University-**

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Paper for the 2nd Session
The Fifth ARF Meeting of Heads of Defense
Universities/Colleges/Institutions
27-31 August 2001, Tokyo

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On January 1st, 2000, the first day of the New Millennium, Korea National Defense University (KNDU) inaugurated its reorganized system. The project of restructuring the KNDU was carried out as one part of the Defense Reform Projects. For the past 2 years, Ministry of National Defense has been steadily carrying out short- and mid-term defense reform projects which include military organization and structure, force improvement, personnel and education system, and defense management. Through the reform, KNDU reinforced its education program by establishing three colleges, one job training center, and one research institute.

The reasons for this restructuring of KNDU were based mainly on the assumption that the concept of national security has changed. Since the Cold War was over in world politics, the world has turned its attention to a new set of issues. The sources of contention around the globe have multiplied. The diminishing natural resources, the spreading of the protracted social conflicts, and the worsening environment added to traditional problems of military conflicts. Additionally, many countries are feverishly pursuing self-interest and competitiveness, because they recognize that only such a course of action will ensure economic progress in an era of free commerce and rapid technological advancement. Accordingly, the traditional ideas of security revolving around high politics have become obsolete. In other words, politics and military affairs are no longer exclusively critical to national defense, while trade, finance, information, welfare, technology, resources, environment, and culture have increased in importance.

As a logical consequence, problems in the domestic area such as political instability, economic recession and financial crisis, and unconventional problems such as WMDs, terrorism, drug-trafficking,

environmental pollution, and illegal cyber activities pose serious threats similar to military tensions. Being affected in this process are not only the individuals but also nations as a whole, and ultimately the entire global community. Therefore, it was the right time for KNDU to change its focus of education towards the comprehensive security affairs.

Another reason that we had to change our educational focus was the need for defense digitization for the 21st century. Defense digitization is the process of transforming the overall defense structure into an information and knowledge-based one using the latest information technology consisting of software, computers, and high-tech communications equipments. The ultimate goal of defense digitization is to support command and control and bring about quick victory by providing real-time battlefield intelligence, and to guarantee the economical operation of the military via efficient defense resource management in peace time. To fulfill these goals, the KNDU is exerting substantial efforts to create an atmosphere for defense digitization.

Last, but not the least important issues that KNDU had to focus on was reflecting the changes in security environment of the Korean peninsula. Even though we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, in which many brave native and foreign soldiers sacrificed their lives to safeguard democracy and freedom on the Korean peninsula, both Koreas are still technically engaged in war. Many analysts insist that the symptoms of Cold War were still hovering over the Korean peninsula. However, the first North-South Korea summit meeting on June 15th last year in Pyongyang and the resulting Joint Declaration opened a new epoch of the framework for reconciliation, cooperation, and removal of the Cold War structure on the Korean peninsula. Thus, it is time to change the Cold War

oriented educational focus of the KNDU into a new open-minded one.

In order to satisfy these educational demands, Korea National Defense College inaugurated its Reform Committee in April 1998. The Committee, which was under direct control of the Minister of National Defense, was comprised with professors of KNDC, officials from MND, and other ministerial members. After one and a half years' brainstorming, the Committee inaugurated the new KNDU system by incorporating the existing KNDC, Defense Staff College, and National Defense Leadership Institute.

The prime mission of KNDU is two fold. One is to provide education on national security, defense management, and joint staffs affairs for selected military officers and civilian officials from government agencies for command, management, and staff responsibilities in an intergovernmental and joint national security setting. The other is to research, analyze, and develop various policy proposals related to security and military affairs.

To accomplish these missions, KNDU consists of three colleges, one training center, and one research institute: these are the National Security College, the Defense Management College, the Armed Forces Staff College, the Duty Training Center, and the Research Institute on National Security Affairs or RINSA by initials.

The President, Army Lt. General, who reports to the Minister of National Defense, supervises these institutions through his staffs in the Faculty and Academic Board, Office of Planning and Coordination, and Board of Administration. These staffs include professionals with a combination of educational and military experience that enables them to assess ongoing academic programs, to interact with key MND officials, to

maintain liaison with the Service headquarters and other government agencies, and to work closely with civilian academic institutions. The faculties represent a wide range of discipline and combine the diversified experience and technical expertise of the military profession. More than half of the faculty members are military officers who have Ph.D or MA degree, whose credentials reflect specialties relevant to the curricula of the colleges. Most civilian faculty members are eminently qualified professors recruited from the academic community.

National Security College inherits from the tradition of the former National Defense College which was established in 1955. This College has six departments: international relations, domestic policies, unification policies, military strategy, military policies, and comparative military affairs. Currently, the National Security College is in charge of running the Policy Program.

The Policy Program runs for 44weeks. About 2/3 of the students come from the military and 1/3 come from the government and various public and private sectors. The ranks of military students are Colonel and above, while the others have equivalent status to the military ones. The Policy Program is divided into 3 majors: Security policy, Defense Resources Management, Information Resources Management.

The objective of Security Policy majors is to enhance planning, execution, and evaluation ability in the fields of security policies and military affairs. Thus, the curricula focuses on both the grand strategy such as the integration of all elements of national power and specific fields such as national security policy, the theory and practice of war, the domestic and international context of national security strategy, contemporary military strategy, and joint and combined warfare.

Defense Resources Management major intends to develop professional management ability in the areas of defense resources, military build-ups, and operations and maintenance. Thus, the curricula focuses on the theory and practice of defense management, defense economics, and defense administration.

Information Resources Management major intends to enhance the utilization and application ability in the field of information resources and scientific skills. Thus, the curricula emphasizes on contemporary information management and a wide selection of intensive courses relating to the acquisition and application of information resources in both management and operational settings.

A fundamental strength of the Policy Program is its joint environment and approach. Students and faculty are drawn from the Armed Services, government departments, and other agencies concerned with national security. This Program stresses "jointness" in military planning and operations and the interrelationship of domestic, foreign, and defense policies. This program also places a great deal of emphasis on practical application by synthesizing theory and experience in the fields. Thus, guest lecturers from various social sectors are invited, including prominent scholars, ministers, defense experts, and foreign ambassadors.

Defense Management College inherits from the former Management Course of NDC in the 1960s to early 1970s. The initial role of this College was designed to educate senior students with special emphasis on the issues of defense management. Thus, the faculty forms six academic departments: Defense Management, Defense Economics, Defense Administration, Operations Research, Computer Science, and Weapon Systems. However, the importance of jointness and integration of the Policy Program was so

strong that KNDU postponed DMC's activation for the time being.

Currently, Defense Management College is only in charge of running the Master's Degree Program, which started in 1979. The majority of students in this Program range from Lieutenant to Majors in rank. About 10 percent of the students are civilian officials who are closely related with national security affairs. The objective of the Master's Program is to enhance the attitudes and ability to become a future policy-makers and staff officers through the acquisition of professional knowledge and related methods and techniques in the field of international relations, military strategy, defense management and defense science. After the two-year's intensive coursework and thesis writing, KNDU confers MAs to national security and defense management majors, MSs to defense science majors.

Armed Forces Staff College inherits the Defense Staff College which was established in 1990. The mission of AFSC is to educate staff officers and other leaders in joint operation planning and warfighting in order to instill a primary commitment to joint and combined teamwork, attitudes, and perspectives. This College runs two program : the regular and the OJT. The Regular Program runs for 44 weeks. 90 percent of student are from the military while 10 percent are from the civilian sector. The ranks of military students are mostly Lt. Colonels or the equivalent. The objective of the regular program of AFSC is to educate and nurture officers who can carry out combined/joint operations in the future warfare. The OJT Program consists with courses for combined jobs and PKO dispatchers.

The research function of Armed Forces Staff College is carried by the Joint Doctrine Research Center. As the name suggests, this center, conducting research on combined/joint operational doctrine, plays the role of a think tank to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Duty Training Center focuses mostly on short term training and special courses. Currently there are 5 courses: Advanced Management Course for retired generals, High Policy Decision Making Course for newly-selected generals and flag officers, Project Management Course for various types of project managers, Information Training Course for CIOs and CEOs, and Defense Duty Training Course for the officials who work in MND. This Center is designed to provide a dynamic educational forum where students interact with the faculty and experts not only to gain knowledge, qualifications, and competencies for each areas, but also to share the experience they acquired.

The Research Institute on National Security Affairs (RINSA) plays a leading role in conducting research on security affairs. In fact, RINSA has successfully carried out the MND's think tank role since it was added in 1972. With the inauguration of KNDU, the organization of RINSA was enlarged. There are six research divisions in RINSA: Office of Security Strategy, International Affairs; North Korean Affairs; Military Affairs; Defense Management and Science, and Defense Spirit. The results of RINSA's research works are presented in various publications such as "The Study of Defense," "KNDU Review," and other periodic materials. It also hosts numerous academic activities that include symposiums, seminars, and workshops.

Perceiving the trend of globalization, KNDU emphasizes active exchange with foreign National Defense Universities and security related institutions. For example KNDU expanded student field trip countries from 20 to 24. This year, we are plan to send 9 groups of Policy Program students and 5 groups of Armed Forces Staff College students. We also expects more than 650 visitors from 15 countries. Domestically, KNDU

made ambitious exchange agreements with 6 leading universities in Seoul, 1 research Institute, and the Library of National Assembly. Now KNDU can exchange professors, students, credits, and academic activities with other universities. We are planning to make exchange agreements with other foreign National Defense University in coming years.

To facilitate and help academic and research activities, the KNDU Library has built up a data base system in the field of national security. It is one of the first library system ever built in Korea, which connect almost all libraries and research institutions. It will surely take less time for professors and students to search relevant materials.

Finally, the roles and status of the KNDU is enlarging and improving. KNDU is moving towards three goals : First, at a military level, KNDU is directing as a final and required school for educating defense policy managers and plays the key roles of a think tank in the defense area. Second, at a national level, KNDU breeds leaders who can lead the national security affairs in an era of comprehensive security. Third, for preparation of the future, KNDU plans to develop the education and research institute which can leads the age of information.