



Spc. Bekele Cherinet, an automated logistical specialist, and Sgt. Richard Firestone, a wheeled-vehicle mechanic, both assigned to Company F, 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery (F/6-52 ADA) Regiment, confront U.S. and Republic of Korea Air Force (ROKAF) troops acting as enemy special forces trying to infiltrate their position during a combined base defense exercise at Suwon Air Base on Nov. 12, 2013.

## U.S. & ROK TROOPS TRAIN IN COMBINED DEFENSE EXERCISE

Article by Cpl. Park Chun-il and photos by Sgt. Song, Sung Geun both assigned to 6-52 ADA, Civil Affairs

**SUWON AIR BASE, Republic of Korea** – Nearly 100 service members from Company F, 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery (F/6-52 ADA) Regiment and the Republic of Korea's (ROK's) 10th Fighter Wing (FW) came together to practice base defense here, on Nov. 12, 2013.

This defense exercise, the first of its kind between the "Iron Horse" battalion and the 10th FW, was intended to hone the troops' skills and to help set the standard for future such events here.

The daytime portion saw both nations' warriors train on disaster control, evacuation, and decontamination procedures in response to a simulated enemy-missile launch.

The 10th FW provided emergency response and the units provided decontamination and firefighting support throughout the exercise.

During the night, the focus shifted to defending Company F's location against the infiltration of enemy special forces. With limited visibility and complex tasks, communication was extremely important.

Soldiers assigned to F/6-52 ADA, wear chemical protective gear, responding to a simulated enemy-missile attack on Nov. 12, 2013.



“This was the first time these two units worked together on this type of mission,” said 1st Lt. Michael Clark, F/6-52 ADA’s executive officer, “we [plan to develop] standards for future exercises.”

Despite some drawbacks, the air defenders surely learned how to cooperate with the ROK forces to successfully defend the peninsula against enemy attacks. The exercise helped clarify each unit’s roles and responsibilities during a wartime mission, Spc. Randall Moore, a chemical specialist assigned to F/6-52 ADA, said.

It also served to strengthen the partnership between the two nations’ militaries, teamed up to provide security in the region.

“I was proud to contribute to keeping the peace on the Korean peninsula, and the U.S. - ROK alliance,” said Moore.

“The exercise served as a foundation,” said Capt. Hwang Kyung Il, inspection officer with the 10th FW. “We were pleased to see the possibility for future development.”



At left, Airmen with the ROKAF’s 10th Fighter Wing (FW) detonate smoke grenades to simulate real engagements for combined base defense exercise training on Nov. 12, 2013.

At right, ROKAF 10th FW chemical specialists practice decontaminating vehicles belonging to F/6-52 ADA, during a base defense exercise at Suwon Air Base on Nov. 12, 2013.



At left, Pvt. Anthony Powell, a chemical specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB)/6-52 ADA, is checked for chemical contamination by a ROKAF 10<sup>th</sup> FW airman during a combined base defense exercise on 12 November 2013.

