

# U.S., ROK forces train together at Pier 8

Story & photos by Sgt. Sheryl Lawry

Decontamination – when people hear this word, depending on your place of employment, different scenarios come to mind. If you're a chef, you may think of how to properly wash foods before cooking. If you work with radioactive material, you might think about what procedures are used to prevent being contaminated. This is the same with the military.

For soldiers working in chemical units, it is their job to test for and start decontaminate procedures of areas testing positive for Nuclear, Biological and Chemical contaminants.

To ensure soldier skills are to standard, the U.S. Army and ROK Army and Navy joined forces to conduct chemical decontamination training during RSO&I 03 at Pier 8 in Busan.

"We train up to four times a year," said Capt. Steve Nelson, the company command for the 61<sup>st</sup> Chemical Company. His company trains with the ROK force as often as possible, which benefits both militaries.

"Every time we get a change to train with the ROK's 53<sup>rd</sup> Division, we do it," he said. "The ROK military uses different techniques and equipment than the American forces, and because of these differences they have the opportunity to learn a great deal from each other."

"This is my second time working with the ROK Army," said Cpl. Lee, Sang-ho, a KATUSA with the 61<sup>st</sup> Chem. Co. "They have different decon points. They use a rack. I don't know if the U.S. has this type of equipment, but I know our company doesn't. I was really impressed with it."

The joint operation started with both militaries testing the Pier for contaminants after a simulated chemical smoke was set off. After the testing, the U.S. and ROK forces proceeded to simulate washing the pier down with a decontaminant. They used water for the training.

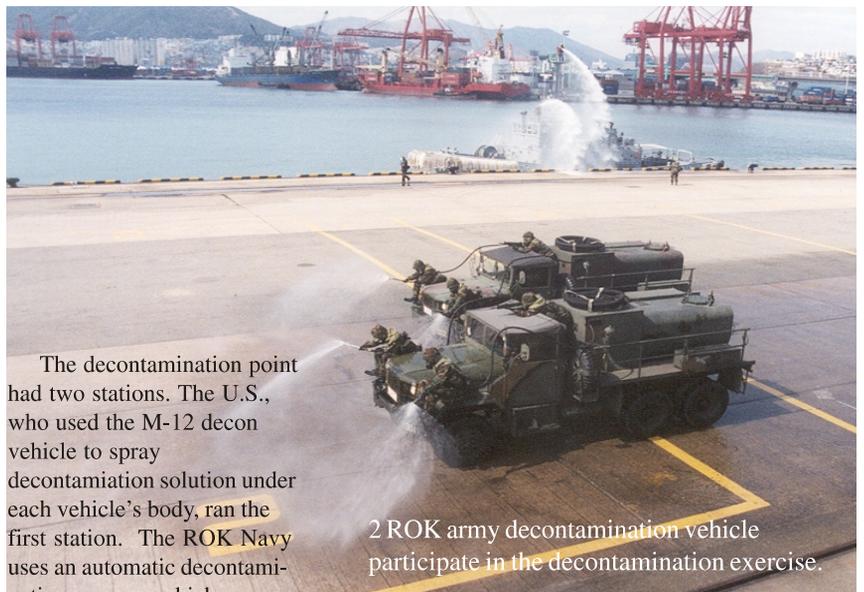
Upon completion of the pier, the vehicles used in the process had to drive through a decontamination point run by both the U.S. Army and ROK Navy.



ROK naval vessel decontaminate Pier 8.



US military decontamination vehicle passes through ROK army spraying device.



The decontamination point had two stations. The U.S., who used the M-12 decon vehicle to spray decontamination solution under each vehicle's body, ran the first station. The ROK Navy uses an automatic decontamination sprayer, which required vehicles to drive through a vertical spraying device at the second station.

At the end of the training, both forces were pleased with the soldiers' overall performances and use of equipment.

"I was really impressed with the U.S. and the way they decon things differently from our way," said Pfc. Kim, Sang-goo, with the ROK

Navy's 3<sup>rd</sup> Chemical Battalion. "Their equipment and MOPP boots are easier to wear." He liked training with the U.S. soldiers because, "when we practice together, we get better."

"I'm proud of them all. They did a great job," said Nelson of his soldiers. "The majority of my company is made up of KATUSAs. If they left, I would not be able to do my job."

"We are fighting in a hectic time with countries with mass destruction capabilities," Nelson said about the need for training. "We need to be prepared."