

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF KOREA VETERANS ASSOCIATIONS

NEWSLETTER, JANUARY 2010

Commemorations 2010: Formation of Korean Advisory Group

In response to the Council's approach to the Prime Minister, the Department of Veterans' Affairs has initiated discussions with the leaders of a representative group of Korean War veteran associations, formed as a Korean Advisory Group. As soon as we receive formal advice of developments for this and later years of the 60th anniversary commemorations, we will notify our member associations as quickly as possible.

Revisits being offered for 2010 by the Korean Government through KVA Seoul include:

- 12-19 April a major veteran revisit Australian allocation a total of 30 to include veterans and accompanying family members. Current planning includes the unveiling of the RAAF plaque by the Chief of Air force and the Chief of the ROK Air Force on 13 April.
- 22-29 June a minor revisit, Australian allocation of 3.
- 7 days in July Peace Camp for Youth, invitations from the Korean Embassy.
- September a minor revisit to commemorate the Inchon landing, Australian allocation of 3.
- October a minor revisit for air forces Australian allocation of 3.
- November a major veteran revisit Australian allocation a total of 30 to include veterans and accompanying family members.

In addition to the offer of accommodation, food and travel within Korea the air travel is being offered at a 50% discount for veterans and a 30% discount for accompanying family members.

Based on previous Revisits the conditions of eligibility established by the Korean Veterans Association acting on behalf of the Korean Government are:

- UN Korean War veterans of 21 countries are those who served in Korea, on the seas surrounding Korea and in the air above Korea between 25 June 1950 and 25 October 1954;
- A veteran is allowed to bring a family member, either a wife/husband or a son/daughter;
- Priority will be given to veterans who have not previously participated in a revisit program and to their immediate family as described in the previous section;
- If the national quota cannot be met from veterans who have not participated in a Revisit Program, consideration will be given to veterans and immediate family members who have not participated within the last five years;
- There will also be a Korean warship visit in 2010.

It was agreed that the important date for commemoration in Australian in 2010 would be 25 June and this would take the form of a national commemoration at the Australian National Korean War Memorial and there would be state and regional commemorations in the same way that ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day are commemorated throughout the nation. A small committee of Navy, Army and RAAF representatives will be formed to organize commemorative events throughout Australia.

Material for schools will also be provided. The Australian War Memorial

publication Out in the Cold was envisaged to be part of the education pack but because this could not be available until mid-year there would be a program to lead schools to the significance of the Korean War before the 25 June commemoration of Australia's commitment of RAN, Army and RAAF units to the defence of South Korea. It is important to highlight the importance of the Korean War to Australia strategically and economically as well as recalling the experience of Australian sailors, soldiers, airmen and nurses.

Some Veterans have asked if it is necessary to belong to a KVA unit in order to be eligible to participate in one of the 2010 Korean Veteran Revisit programs. The answer is "No." The program is open to all Korean War Veterans, and does not require membership in a veteran's organization. The person to contact in Australia is John Simmons 0404049836 Email: j.m.simmons@hotmail.com

All the best for the New Year,
Ron Perkins, National Secretary