

## **Oppose US Policy of Using Antipersonnel Landmines in Korea**

Whereas, the U.S. and ROK militaries have planted millions of landmines within the DMZ and the area between DMZ and Seoul during the Korean War, as well as in the post-Armistice period (source: *Landmine Monitor*),

Whereas, the U.S. military stockpiles about 1.1 million M14 and M16 antipersonnel landmines in South Korea and abroad, for use in any future war in Korea,

Whereas, counting from the Armistice Agreement of 1953, antipersonnel landmines planted in South Korea have killed or injured some three thousand Korean civilians and soldiers, as well as numerous U.S. soldiers,

Whereas, the Mine Ban Treaty (aka “Ottawa Convention”) went into effect on March 1, 1999, and 162 nations have joined the Treaty so far, banning the use of antipersonnel landmines (“APL”),

However, the U.S. Government announced a new policy on APL in September 2014, that it “will not use APL outside the Korean Peninsula....and undertake to destroy APL stockpiles not required for the defense of the Republic of Korea,”

Whereas, such an exceptional policy of allowing the U.S. military to use APLs in Korea only violates the international humanitarian law prohibiting any use of force that fails to distinguish between civilians and soldiers,

Now, Therefore, Veterans for Peace (VFP), meeting at its national convention in Berkeley, California, August 13, 2016,

- 1) Calls upon U.S. government to discard its discriminatory APL policy of September 2014, and join the Mine Ban Treaty (a.k.a. “Ottawa Convention”) promptly, without further delay or excuse;
- 2) Calls upon U.S. government to remove and destroy all U.S.-owned antipersonnel landmines planted or stockpiled in South Korea; and
- 3) Urges VFP members and local Chapters to send a copy of this resolution to their respective members of Congress.

Co-sponsored by VFP-Korea Peace Campaign; Chapters 34,109, and 113