

It's my honor and pleasure to formally introduce our guest of honor, General Walter L. "Skip" Sharp, United States Army.

Within my Marine career I spent a year at Fort Moore, the former Fort Benning. So, I am at least a bit bi-lingual between the Army and the Marines.

General Sharp's background prepared him well to be an exceptionally effective Commander in Korea, The United Nations Command, the Combined Forces Command, and U.S. Forces Korea.

As you can see in his biography, he was born in Morgantown, West Virginia. It's a mountainous area, with challenging terrain, much like the Korean mountains. Roads are rarely straight, and always going up or down.

A Class of 74 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, he commanded at every level in that challenging era as we learned how to recruit an all-volunteer force and rebuilt our forces after the Vietnam War.

Of note he commanded in Korea as Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver for the 2d Infantry Division.

General Sharp's command positions include Armor Company Commander with 1st Battalion, 67th Armor, 2nd Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas; Squadron Commander 1st Squadron, 7th U.S. Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood Texas; Regimental Commander 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Polk, Louisiana; Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver [2nd Infantry Division](#), Camp Red Cloud, South Korea; and Division Commander, [3rd Infantry Division](#), Fort Stewart, Georgia. He commanded troops in Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti, and the Stabilization Force's Multinational Division (North) in Bosnia.

All of this was not accidental. It was the result of demonstrated effective leadership from the forward fighting positions in contact with the enemy up through major command levels, and a demonstrated ability to thrive in politically charged positions. A true soldier-statesman.

His supporting establishment duties focused on Army force and doctrinal development. He also had four assignments on the Joint Staff in high positions at the intersections of planning and resources.

Of note, one of those tours was as Director of the Joint Staff, a billet that demands skill and patience. When the heads of various staff sections had good news to report, they would personally deliver the news to the Chairman or high civilian officials. When the news was not good, it would often be forwarded to the Director for action.

Somewhere in all this he managed to marry Joanne Caporaso and to raise three children.

General Sharp commanded the UNC, CFC, and US Forces in Korea from 2008 to 2011. The North Korean challenges are well known. Less well known is the project to consolidate the U.S. presence in Korea to Camp Humphreys. Korea's impressive development made the force disposition that grew from the war increasingly unsuited for the new era, especially our facilities in the middle of urban Seoul, the Yongsan Garrison. The seamless, almost unnoticed beyond the Peninsula in-stride consolidation of our forces with no interruption in capability was a masterstroke of diplomacy and organizational skill.

Thank you all.