

THE PACIFIC MEDIC

ISSUE 003

65TH MEDICAL BRIGADE

AUGUST 2025

Pacific Medic Week: Building Teams & Readiness

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competing and working together*

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The Present and Future of NEXT-Alliance

*Uniting U.S. and ROK Army Medical
Operations & Improving Diagnoses with AI*

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THE PACIFIC MEDIC

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The Pacific Medic is a publication of the 65th Medical Brigade. The content of the magazine is provided by the Brigade's headquarters component along with its direct reporting units. The purpose of the magazine is to showcase the mission and vision of the Brigade as well as highlight the Soldiers, Civilians and Family members who work tirelessly to accomplish the mission.



Col. Edgar G. Arroyo
Commander

Earlier this year, Pacific Medic Week brought us together in a meaningful way—honoring our profession, strengthening camaraderie and reminding us of the vital role we play across the theater. Even while celebrating, our teams continued to provide uninterrupted medical support across the region, a testament to your professionalism and dedication.

As we celebrated the Brigade Ball, I reflected on a year of extraordinary accomplishments. I am truly proud of our team. Despite persistent challenges and resource constraints, the Pacific Medics have demonstrated strength, adaptability and an unshakable readiness to answer our nation's call.

Over the past year, our Brigade has made historic progress. This progress is only possible by the talented individuals of this Brigade. As the summer ends, we will see a significant change to our roster as we do each year during the permanent change of station (PCS) season. I know our new teammates will bring a fresh perspective to help this Brigade to succeed in our current challenges and those yet to come.

To every Soldier, leader and support staff member—thank you. Your commitment and excellence have not gone unnoticed. To those that have left, I wish you the best of luck in your career. You will always be a Pacific Medic. To those arriving, welcome to the best medical brigade in the U.S. Army!



Command Sgt. Maj.
Eric N. Price

As we navigate the summer transition season, I want to highlight the steady leadership of our Noncommissioned Officers—the true backbone of our formation. Their commitment ensures continuity, instills discipline and supports our new arrivals while honoring those who depart our ranks. In a time of change, their influence keeps our teams strong and focused.

Now more than ever, maintaining physical fitness must remain a priority. Our operational readiness depends on disciplined, well-conditioned Soldiers who are prepared to meet any mission. Physical readiness is a direct reflection of our professionalism and it starts with consistent standards at the squad and team level.

At the same time, we must continue investing in our partnership with the Republic of Korea Armed Forces. Through shared training, mutual support and daily collaboration, we are strengthening a bond that enhances our combined effectiveness and secures the region.

To every NCO, Soldier and leader—thank you for what you do every day. Your leadership and dedication sustain our momentum. Together, we remain ready, relevant and resilient.

The Present and Future of NEXT-Alliance

KATUSA Healthcare Optimization: Celebrating 75 Years of Alliance with Innovation and Communication



121st Field Hospital
By KATUSA Sgt. Yoonsuk Lim

Two Languages, One Mission

In an era where collaboration defines the strength of military alliances, effective communication and technological innovation are critical assets. Recognizing the growing need to enhance interoperability between U.S. and Republic of Korea (ROK) forces, the Network for Empowering Exceptional Talent–Alliance (NEXT-A) was established.

Founded by KATUSA Sgt. Kim Siyoun and Lim Yoonsuk, with pivotal support from Maj. David A. Tobin, executive officer of the 121st Field Hospital, NEXT-A serves as a dynamic platform designed to harness the diverse talents of Soldiers from both nations—driving mutual growth, skill-sharing and cultural exchange.



Humphreys EMS personnel demonstrate patient transport by loading a Korean Nursing Cadet onto an ambulance.

The mission behind NEXT-A is clear: foster a tightly integrated, efficient and responsive alliance by enabling Soldiers at the grassroots level to contribute actively and innovatively. Through events focused on practical skills and advanced technological integration, NEXT-A aims to consistently enhance the collaborative capabilities of allied forces, ensuring readiness and effectiveness in joint operations.

This vision came to life June 10, 2025, during the landmark “KATUSA Healthcare Optimization Think Tank.” The pioneering event united medical personnel from United States Forces Korea (USFK), KATUSA soldiers and cadets from the Korean Armed Forces Nursing Academy (KAFNA) to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the KATUSA program. The initiative emphasized not only bridging linguistic divides but also strategically integrating advanced technologies into medical practice—highlighting the indispensable role KATUSA soldiers play in strengthening the ROK-U.S. alliance.

Code Switch: Training for Multilingual Care

The event began with a bilingual emergency medical services (EMS) vocabulary workshop, coordinated by Sgt. Kim of the 502nd Field Hospital. Led by U.S. Army Capt. Githinji and ROK Army Capt. Joo, participants immersed themselves in essential medical terminology related to cardiac arrest, blood tests, X-rays and intravenous (IV) insertions—training crucial for effective communication during high-stakes emergencies.

Interactive role-playing exercises further enriched the training with practical, realistic simulations. “Clear com-



Capt. Githinji (US Army) and Capt. Joo (ROK Army) teach foundational medical terminology to soldiers in both English and Korean.

munication and training enhance our collective readiness, enabling us to operate as one team,” said Sgt. Kim.

“Clear communication and training enhances our collective readiness, enabling us to operate as one team”.

Following the vocabulary workshop, paramedics from Camp Humphreys conducted an informative demonstration of ambulance operations and emergency response protocols, offering participants firsthand insights into real-world procedures.

The afternoon focused on technological innovation, with an insightful forum on the use of artificial intelligence in healthcare, presented by Sgt. Lim. Drawing on his background in AI and digital economics, Lim outlined the potential of AI to transform healthcare—improving diagnostic accuracy through advanced imaging, and enabling personalized treatments guided by genetic data.

Distinguished panelists from Johns Hopkins University and the University of Oxford contributed to the discussion, exploring how AI could revolutionize patient care. They examined how automation, continuous monitoring and predictive analytics could streamline healthcare delivery, enhance provider efficiency and improve patient outcomes.



KATUSA-Sgt. Lim leads a discussion during the AI in Healthcare Forum highlighting future improvements and current challenges in the use of AI.

Capt. Watson of the 135th Forward Resuscitative Surgical Detachment emphasized, “KATUSA soldiers uniquely bridge cultural and operational divides, and integrating AI enhances their ability to contribute effectively to our

joint healthcare mission.”

“AI will not replace doctors, but doctors who use AI will replace those who don’t.”



Forum attendees watch a presentation from panelists online of their current experience with AI use in the healthcare sphere.

Panelists also focused on AI’s application in military healthcare, including joint ventures in AI-powered telehealth services, disease prevention through predictive modeling and collaborative genomic research—efforts aimed at bolstering healthcare security within the alliance.

Concluding the event, Sgt. Lim emphasized the need for sustained joint research and regular forums dedicated to bilateral knowledge exchange. Citing AI expert Peter Lee, he said, “AI will not replace doctors, but doctors who use AI will replace those who don’t.”

The event’s success underscored NEXT-A’s vital role in advancing interoperability, fostering mutual understanding and driving the collaborative spirit essential to the future of allied military cooperation. As NEXT-A continues championing these initiatives, the ROK-U.S. alliance stands poised to achieve unprecedented levels of operational excellence—ensuring readiness and resilience in confronting future healthcare challenges together.

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