

Birth of Regular Armed Force

On February 8, 1948, the Korean People's Army, a regular armed force of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, declared its founding.

The Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army, the predecessor of the KPA, was founded on April 25, 1932 by Kim Il Sung, eternal President of the DPRK, when Korea was under the Japanese military occupation (1905-1945). Under his command, the AJPGA, without backing of a state and support of a regular army, waged bloody guerrilla warfare against the one-million-strong Japanese Kwantung Army which had been posing as the "Leader" of Asia and liberated the country on August 15, 1945.

Immediately after the liberation, Kim Il Sung vigorously pushed ahead with the building of a regular army on the basis of the precious experience of army building gained in the flames of the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

Building a regular national army was an indispensable requisite under the prevailing situation in Korea which was striving to build an independent and sovereign state. Moreover, it emerged as an urgent task, as the United States had stationed its aggressor troops in the southern half of Korea in its attempt to realize its wild dream of world domination.

Kim Il Sung started the building of a regular army with the training of military and political officers.

With a keen insight into the necessity of leading commanders for the regular armed force, he assigned most of the anti-Japanese guerrilla fighters to the regular army building to constitute the backbone of the regular army to be built and play the leading role in the training of military cadres.

He also set up institutes of military education and developed them on an expansion basis.

He initiated the establishment of the Pyongyang Institute, the first regular institute of military education and the first base for training political and military officers for the building of a modern regular armed force, and personally chose the site for it. Early in January 1946 he went to the institute to give its instructors and cadets the first lecture of the first term, and the following month made a congratulatory speech at the opening ceremony of the institute. As an honorary headmaster he directed its military educational work and took care of living of the cadets.

In order to train the military officers of all services and arms he separated from the Pyongyang Institute the training of military officers and established the Central Security Officers School in July 1946. He visited the school several times and ensured that it conducted its military education in the Korean way, without following the examples of other countries. He also set its educational period as one year, instead of three years in other countries, so as to meet the requirement of the situation and actual condition in Korea.

He made sure that an air force training class, a parent body of the Korean air force, was formed at the Pyongyang Institute in March 1946, and in July the following year the Naval Security Officers School was set up to train naval officers in a far-sighted way.

In this way, the issue of military and political officers which posed as one of the most difficult problems in the building of a regular armed force in Korea was brought to a brilliant settlement.

Kim Il Sung organized core detachments of the modern regular armed force and, on the basis of this, expanded them into necessary units of services and arms.

In mid-August 1946, he elucidated the need of organizing core detachments, organizational principles, their scale and locations and named them the security officers training centres. Therefore, the security officers training centres were organized with the anti-Japanese fighters and graduates from the Pyongyang Institute as their backbone, and with the public-security corps, railway guards and frontier guards organized in different parts of Korea right after its liberation as their parent body.

Kim Il Sung also paid deep attention to the organization of the units of services and arms necessary for the building of the regular armed force.

He made sure that local branches were organized in many parts of the country by recruiting aviation technicians and young people of worker and peasant origin to be amalgamated into the Korean Air Society in December 1945. In August 1947 he organized an aviation corps at the Pyongyang Institute, first of its kind in Korea, with graduates from the air force training class formed in the institute and air technicians.

He also exerted great efforts to the building of the naval force. He ensured that the Maritime Security Force was formed in 1946 for coastal defence, and set up similar organizations in the eastern and western coastal areas by combining the local forces.

He vigorously pushed ahead with the preparations for organizing the artillery, military engineering, signal corps and other main units of the services.

Kim Il Sung paid close attention to laying the foundations of an independent armaments industry.

Although there were many places and units for him to visit soon after the liberation, he, first of all, visited a munitions manufactory in Pyongyang early in October 1945.

At that time, Korea had no foundation for the munitions industry. It lacked technology, equipment and funds, as well as technicians and skilled workers, needed for building a munitions factory.

However, by overcoming difficulties of all descriptions, he set up from scratch the first munitions factory with a plan to equip the regular armed force with modern weapons and technical equipment.

Under his guidance the working class produced munitions and grenades as well as modern naval vessels by their own efforts.

Finally, on February 8, 1948, a grand military parade was held in Pyongyang to declare the founding of the Korean People's Army, a regular armed force. It was the event of great significance in the shaping of the destiny of socialist Korea and its development.

Two years after its founding, the KPA defeated the US, who had been boasting of the "strongest" in the world, in the Korean war (1950–1953) and honourably defended the sovereignty and dignity of Korea.

After the war it has always smashed military threats and acts of provocation by the US in the decades-long showdown with it, thus demonstrating to the world its might as an ever-victorious army.

The Korean People's Army is now prevailing over the US and its followers who are hell-bent on provoking war in all parts of the world, while winning one victory after another in accomplishing its socialist cause and reliably securing the peace on the Korean peninsula.

Along with the invincible KPA, February 8, 1948 will remain etched in history.