

President Barack Obama spoke to American troops in Osan, Korea yesterday, offering praise, thanks, and promises to the members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Assembled with those stationed at Osan Air Base, including Brigadier General Michael Keltz and Ambassador Kathleen Stephens, Obama noted the strength of the bond that the U. S. and the Republic of Korea currently share. He gave credit for the two nations' relationship to those who have served in military capacities in the area.

“It is no exaggeration to say that the progress we've seen not just in Korea but in this part of the world would not have been possible without the security and stability provided by generations of American men and women in uniform,” Obama said. “It has transformed the lives of millions of people.”

He then extended the praise to those who have served around the globe.

“I want to assure you—every American appreciates what you do,” the president said. “I say today, on behalf of the American people: We thank you for your service. We honor you for your sacrifices. And just as you've fulfilled your responsibilities to your nation, your nation will fulfill its responsibilities to you.”

As a result of America's appreciation for the troops' service, Obama assured improvements in emotional care for homeward bound troops. In addition, he promised increases in manpower and pay for each branch of the military. “...You've always taken care of America,” he added, “and America needs to take care of you.”

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After recounting a description of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., the president concluded his address to the troops, adding, “Freedom is not free. And it is paid in the service and the sacrifice of all who wear America's uniform.”

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