## **RESULTS OF THE SPLIT**



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After Korea was split in two, South Korea adopted this flag. Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. In November of 1948, <u>South Korea</u> created a national department of defense. By June of 1950, the new republic in the south had a very small operational defense force:

- Army: 94,808 soldiers
- Coast Guard: 6,145 sailors
- Air Force: 1.865 members
- National Police: 48.273 constables

The United States Army, at the same time, had a total active-duty strength of about 591,000 men in ten combat divisions:

- Around 360,000 of those troops were home (WWII had ended only five years before);
- The remaining 231,000 were serving in various overseas commands;
- Approximately 108,500 troops in overseas commands were serving in the Far East.

At the end of World War II, after Korea was split in two, North Korea adopted this flag.



According to the U.S. Army History of the conflict, entitled *The Korean War - The Outbreak*:

By late 1949 talk of a <u>North Korean</u> invasion was almost routine in intelligence circles, but it went unnoticed against the background of threatening Communist activities in other parts of the world - Southeast Asia, western Europe, and the Middle East.

In the early summer of 1950 senior American observers discounted the likelihood of a North Korean invasion. Both <u>Maj. Gen. Charles A. Willoughby</u>, the FEC G-2 (intelligence officer), and the American embassy in Seoul opined that an attack was unlikely and that the North Koreans would continue to employ guerrillas and psychological warfare.

The officers of the KMAG felt that an attack by North Korea was not imminent and, if it happened, they thought that the South Koreans could repel it.

Since the United States had no plan to counter an invasion, any debate about an American intelligence failure regarding the North Korean attack was academic.

In June of 1950, "talk" of an invasion became reality.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

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# Media Stream



## South Korea on the World Map

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### North Korea Flag

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