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When the U.S. came to South Korea's assistance, during the Korean War, America had no permanent hospitals where wounded troops could be treated. A MASH (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital) unit substituted as the place to care for people. This image depicts the the 8076th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital at Kunr-ri, Korea as it appeared on November 27, 1950. Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

The Truman Administration was immediately informed of the invasion. Hesitant to get involved unless South Korea could not defend itself, the President decided to assist when the Republic of South Korea asked for America's help. By the 26th of June, General MacArthur received new orders from the commander in chief and on June 30 was authorized to send in combat troops.

Truman advised the American public of his intention to intervene on June 27. (Later, he said it was the toughest decision he ever made in his life; for years he kept a letter from a bereaved father in his desk drawer.)

Although welcomed by South Korea, American military assistance was, at first, not as far-reaching as the

Republic of Korea had hoped it would be. Nor was it without lingering controversy (especially for events such as those which occurred at No Gun Ri).

For starters, the US had no airbases in Korea. Air raids, at the beginning of the conflict, were often carrier-based. And when Americans were first placed in harm's way, there was only one evacuation hospital and one Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (M\*A\*S\*H) unit to support all American forces in Korea.

Additionally, U.S. involvement was viewed as "U.S. aggression" by North Korea and China.

By September, the combined efforts of the U.S. and South Korean Armies, aided greatly by air and naval superiority, held the North Koreans in check at the Pusan Perimeter. On the 29th of September, 1950, Seoul was officially reestablished as the Republic of Korea's capital city. By October, the North had sustained heavy equipment losses.

The conflict, however, was far from over.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/AMERICA-INTERVENES-Korean-War>

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## Media Stream



### Carrier Airstrike Photo

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives and Naval History & Heritage Command.  
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### U.S. Troops in Korea

Image online, courtesy the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum.

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### USS Valley Forge

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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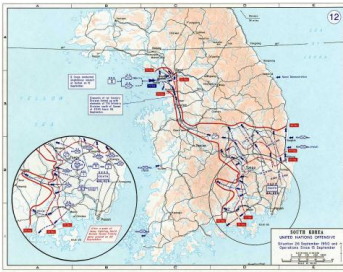
### Wonsan Refinery Under Attack by Carrier Planes

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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### South Korea - Theater of Operations - Map

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Military Academy.

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### Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) Unit

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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### American Forces - Scenes From Korea

Korean-War image montage, online courtesy U.S. National Archives via Wikimedia Commons.

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### Heavy Equipment Losses - Korean War

This image depicts a scene from the Korean War during October of 1950.

The U.S. National Archives, where this picture is maintained, provides this description:

*This photograph, taken in Pyongyang, N.W. marshalling yards, Korea, illustrates the aftermath of a bombing raid by B-29s of the Far East Air Force. Wrecked locomotive, twisted trackage, and shattered roundhouse attest to the effectiveness of interdiction. (October 25, 1950)*

*Click on the image for a better view.*

*Image online via U.S. National Archives. Public Domain.*

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Photo # 80-G-479409 Waterfront at Pusan, Korea, April 1953

### Pusan, Korea

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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### Saddle Ridge, at the 1950 Taegu Battleground, Korea

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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### US Army M105mm Howitzer Crew in Action

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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### Wonsan Oil Refinery After the Attack

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

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