

# KOREA

## THEN AND NOW



Story by Capt. Joseph Agius, 293rd Signal Company  
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**D**AEGU, Korea – Senior Leaders from the 36th Signal Battalion had the honor of conducting a Staff Ride to Pork Chop Hill with William James (Jim) Hosking, an 83 year old Korean War Veteran from Ferndale, Michigan, May 18. Hosking returned to South Korea on May 14 for the first time in over 60 years in order to share his experiences and see what's changed since serving.

Jim referred to his first trip as, "My Korean Vacation."

"I would not take a million dollars to relive the experience but would not trade the experience for a million dollars as well," stated Hosking.

Hosking landed in Inchon Dec. 5, 1951 as a 60mm mortar Infantryman serving in "F" Co of the 180th Infantry Regimental Combat Team, under the 45th Infantry Division.



Photos Courtesy of William J. Hosking. Bottom photo from left to right Lt. Col. Name, Jim Hosking and Lt. Col. Kim Song Kak

Their area of operation was nicknamed "Pork Chop Hill," "T-bone Hill" and "Old Baldy." While on combat control, Hosking's mortar team was digging

a new mortar pit and came across a frozen Chinese Soldier. After excavating the frozen earth they found a whistle around his neck and a compass in his hand, both made in the United States. They also found a wallet with money and photos of his family. It made the men realize that their enemy was not too dissimilar to themselves. Only a few years prior, Hosking said, "the Chinese were on our side and now they faced off against us just hoping to make it home to their families, just like us."

According to Hosking, it gave the men a certain respect for their enemy

but did not change their mission. Hosking shared many stories of bloody battles and sacrifices that painted an unfortunate but necessary picture of recent history in Korea.

After so many years away, Hosking said he was amazed to see the wonderful progress and modern way of life that now exists in Korea. Whether grocery shopping at Hyundai Department

Store or visiting Lt. Col. Kim, Song Kak, ROKA 5th ID, 36th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion Commander, Hosking said everyone has been extremely kind and generous to him. "I now see the labors of my blood, sweat and tears in the optimistic faces of our South Korean friends and know we made a difference by our actions 60 years ago," said Hosking.



VIEW OF THE T-BONE HILL



