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Democratic Progressive Party, Taiwan

Highlights of Taiwan Recent Defense Reforms

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Less than a month after assuming the office of the Minister of National Defense, Wellington Koo introduced a series of reforms aimed at making national defense operations more practical and humane. Many rank-and-file military service members welcomed these changes.

1. Form a Taiwan version of the US Defense Innovation Unit

The military technology development unit aims to integrate research on the development of military and civilian defense technology to boost Taiwan's asymmetrical warfare capabilities.'

2. Abolish the traditional bayonet training drills

With the constantly evolving nature of warfare, traditional bayonet drills have become outdated and are criticized as mere performances. Therefore, Minister Wellington Koo announced the cancellation of bayonet demonstrations and other formalistic activities that are anachronistic.

3. Abolish the bureaucratic practices of self-reporting during leave

The originally well-intentioned mutual assistance reporting system had cumbersome reporting procedures that prevented officers and soldiers from properly enjoying their leave. Minister Wellington Koo abolished the self-reporting requirement during leave, changing it to reporting only if an issue arises.

4. Allow soldiers to arrange individual travel

Previously, military personnel were only allowed to travel abroad with a tour group, which caused inconvenience and did not provide substantial management benefits. Now, the Ministry of National

Defense has revised the regulations to allow independent individual travel, with the requirement that they submit copies of their passports, entry and exit documents, and proof of hotel accommodation.

5. Adopt the US system of security clearance

The ROC Armed Forces will adopt the US security clearance system in lieu of the current rank-based system for security reviews and personnel reassignments to strengthen the protection of classified information.

6. Abolish the practice of goose step in military academy ceremonies

This year, the centennial celebration of the Army Academy canceled the traditional practice of goose-stepping. In future celebrations, academy students will march in step instead.

7. Return the responsibility of tactical and operational command to the Chief of the General Staff

The Defense Minister will focus on defense policy, strategy, net assessment, and force development to improve the professional division of labor and delegation of authority.

8. Return the regulations of chief and deputy commanders' schedules to normal

In response to the Chinese PLA's intensified provocation over the past two years, the ROC military chief and deputy commanders of various military units were not allowed to leave the camp simultaneously. Now that the command mechanism has accumulated substantial response mechanisms, the Ministry of National Defense has decided to return the duty regulations to normal operations. This change allows service members to improve the quality of work-life balance, aiding in the long-term retention and utilization of military talent.

[Link to the related news \(EN\) >>>](#)

[Link to the DPP press release \(CH\) >>>](#)

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