

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM JONG UN

SPEECH AT THE CEREMONY TO WELCOME THE RETURNING OVERSEAS ENGINEERS UNIT OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY

December 12, 2025

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Dear officers and soldiers of the 528th Regiment of Engineers of the Korean People's Army,

I warmly welcome all of you, officers and soldiers of the regiment, back to your country. In performing your overseas mission you demonstrated with credit the heroic spirit of our army and its specialized features, and carried out your combat tasks in a responsible manner.

I am truly grateful that you have come back in good health.

Just as you were yearning, every moment of every day on the foreign battlefield, for all the precious things in your country, so everyone in your country has never forgotten, not for a moment, their beloved sons.

In receiving the daily reports on your combat activities, I was deeply moved by the unyielding mettle you displayed in defying death to execute the orders of your Party and country. Each day my wish grew stronger for every one of you to return safely and gladly.

Looking back, for me this has been a year of longing; to the marrow of my bone, I have felt such a pain of waiting as I have never experienced before.

One hundred and twenty days have passed since the moment when I had to dispatch you, the combatants of this regiment, to the perilous battlefield; every day

of this period seemed like a decade, just as when I had waited for the combatants of the special operations units who had been involved in the liberation battles.

As the days went by, I found myself unable to reconcile with, or get used to, worrying about the safety of the precious sons of this country who were fighting on the foreign battlefield.

Now I feel at ease.

I am relieved to see that you have returned.

Comrades, you fought very bravely.

True to the expectations of the Party, the country and all who are dear to your hearts, you displayed your mettle befitting true combatants, to the admiration of the world. Now you look even more stalwart and dignified, and once again I warmly congratulate you, combatants of the regiment of engineers, for returning home with pride.

Comrades,

The 528th Regiment of Engineers is another proud combat unit that represents the matchless courage and might of our army and its specialized features.

This regiment was formed on May 28, in accordance with the decisions and order of the Party Central Military Commission to build on the valuable victory in the overseas military operations. Early in August you, engineers of the regiment, left for the Kursk region

of the Russian Federation, which your comrades-in-arms had retaken at the cost of their lives, where you achieved brilliant results in the course of performing your combat tasks.

You fought in a life-and-death situation, braving grave invisible dangers, and your faith and willpower were tested every step of the way. Despite the harsh circumstances on the battlefield, the engineers of the regiment never vacillated or hesitated. Rather, you acted at all times with courage and responsibility.

By overcoming unimaginable mental and physical burdens almost every day through a display of mass heroism, you officers and soldiers were able to work a miracle in turning a vast danger zone into a safe and secure one in a matter of less than three months, a task which, it was believed, would be impossible to be carried out in several years.

The overriding importance of the battlefield success the regiment has achieved lies in the fact that it was not the result of feats performed by a few well-trained fighters, but the fruit of the mass heroism displayed by all its officers and soldiers.

On the rigorous battlefield, where not even the slightest slip or carelessness was permitted and where even going to and from the battlefield involved combat, you cared for your comrades-in-arms above all else and

shielded them from the bursting shrapnel. In this way, you fulfilled your mission to the death even when you were critically wounded. Your ennobling comradeship, matchless self-sacrificing spirit and indomitable attitude deserve everybody's admiration, I believe.

I was convinced that our regiment of engineers would fight like that, since it was following the Party Central Committee's orders.

Your brilliant success in battle is also associated with the devoted efforts of the signalmen and medics who accomplished their tasks faithfully and at the risk of their lives.

Truly, every officer and every soldier was equally brave, assured, devoted and heroic.

The fundamental key to the invincible combat strength our regiment of engineers demonstrated on the foreign battlefield lies in the revolutionary fighting spirit that permeated the entire unit.

Definite precedence was given to political work, which was conducted in an ingenious, innovative and prompt manner to suit the frontline situation. As a result, the spiritual and moral merits typical of our army were on full display, demonstrating the unconditional implementation of orders, loyalty, patriotism, unity between officers and soldiers, and comradeship.

I was particularly impressed by the performances

given by the company art groups in the humble barracks on the September 9 and October 10 holidays, and by the soldiers singing revolutionary songs on their way to the battlefield, reciting poems they had composed, and writing letters to their home towns and villages at breaks during mine-clearing operations.

Such behaviour in such deadly circumstances would have been scarcely conceivable, had they not been optimistic men with a strong faith and will, who are filled with affection and respect for their Party, their country, their home towns and their parents and siblings, and who are firmly convinced of the victory of their cause.

No other army can emulate our service personnel's ennobling ideological mentality of considering it a source of honour to sacrifice themselves for their country; nor can they produce, whatever the exorbitant expenditure, the mass heroism that is such a powerful weapon unique to our army.

The armed villains of the West, though armed with all sorts of the latest military hardware, cannot match this revolutionary army with its unfathomable spiritual depth.

Regrettably, I am unable to enumerate here all the combat feats performed by the hundreds of officers and soldiers of the regiment of engineers.

However, these feats will shine forever in the history of our army's overseas military operations and in the history of the unit of engineers.

Comrades,

You left your homeland without much fanfare on receiving your orders from the Party, but you have returned with something truly great that adds to the glory of your country, your fellow people and the army.

Your regiment carried out its orders to the death, even though there was no reward or remuneration for doing so. And it has earned the most valuable thing in the world that cannot be bartered for anything else.

That is the trust and confidence in our army of the Party, the country and the people.

Our army should expect nothing other than the trust of the Party, the country and the people.

By displaying an unrivalled fighting spirit and writing legends in your combat records, you have faithfully and splendidly lived up to the trust and confidence your Party, your state and your fellow people have in you.

The regiment of engineers has once again etched in history and highlighted in front of the world the unique might of our army that holds high, as the banner of a strong army, ideological and spiritual perfection, the core of which is absolute loyalty to the Workers' Party

of Korea. Herein lies the special significance of the feats performed by the regiment.

In the name of the Party and the country, I extend thanks to all the officers and soldiers of the 528th Regiment of Engineers who, by displaying matchless mass heroism and indomitable fighting mettle, carried out to the death the combat orders issued by the Party and fully demonstrated once again the prestige of our state and the fame of the Korean People's Army.

Comrades,

The priceless blood and sweat the regiment shed and the invaluable sacrifices it made in the course of carrying out to the letter the Party's combat orders will never have been in vain.

The immortal feats and exploits you performed will shine forever, along with the fame of our powerful state and army and with our socialist country that will prosper for eternity.

With the heartrending exception of the nine lives lost, all the officers and soldiers of the regiment have returned to the motherland, and I express my thanks to you for this.

All the officers and soldiers of the armed forces of our Republic will regard the fighting spirit and exploits of the 528th Regiment of Engineers as another model. And your parents, siblings, wives and children, and

the teachers of your alma maters, will feel enormously proud of you.

I also feel truly proud of you, ranks of stalwart soldiers, and your powerful combat unit.

I hope that in the future, too, you will continue to perform brilliant exploits on the sacred road of protecting our great state and people.

In order to express its great appreciation to your regiment and add eternal glory to its courage and brilliant combat feats, the motherland has decided to confer on it the Order of Freedom and Independence.

In addition, it has decided to award the title of Hero of the DPRK, Order of the National Flag 1st Class and Order of Soldier's Honour 1st Class to the nine engineers who, to our regret, fell in the course of carrying out their combat orders.

Today, authorized by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the Republic, I shall confer the Order of Freedom and Independence 1st Class on the colours of your regiment, its banner of victory and glory, and affix the orders to the portraits of our fallen comrades-in-arms.

I express my gratitude and pay ennobling respects to you, who are always faithful to your country, for your devoted service.

Long live the heroic Korean People's Army!

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