It was announced on 25 July from Busan, Republic of Korea, by the US Navy that the Oceanographer of the Navy and Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command Rear-Admiral Tim Gallaudet had signed an amendment extending a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) following a meeting with ROKN Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jung, Ho-sub.

It is understood this agreement allows for the US Navy to continue cooperating with the ROKN in conducting military surveys, processing and analyzing collected oceanographic, hydrographic and geo-acoustic data, preparing gridded digital databases and exchanging data and information.

Said Gallaudet: ‘This agreement further strengthens our naval oceanography partnership with the Republic of Korea’s navy. Furthermore, the data we collect and share will not only allow us to continue to support multiple naval assets in the region and support our anti-submarine warfare mission, but will help to ensure safety of navigation for our assets operating in the Republic of Korea’s coastal waters.’

The MOA is in furtherance cooperation under the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea, signed on 1 October, 1953. It establishes the general objectives of the US Navy and the ROKN programme dedicated to military surveys of the harbour channel, coastal and deep-water areas bordering the Republic of Korea.

The Oceanographer of the Navy is a key advisor to the US Chief of Naval Operations who provides naval leadership on issues related to oceanography, meteorology, hydrography, precise time, climate change, the Arctic, maritime domain awareness and geospatial and celestial referencing. It also serves as the senior policy advisor for issues related to national ocean policy and governance.

**Picture caption**

*Oceanographer of the US Navy Rear-Admiral Tim Gallaudet, left, poses with former oceanographer of the Navy retired Rear-Admiral Jon White during a ceremony in honour of an undersea mountain named after White.*  
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