

## WHO IS ULCHI?

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DAEGU, Republic of Korea -- Everyone knows importance of this year's Ulchi Focus Lens exercise, but it seems that nobody knows what is the meaning of 'Ulchi'.

Some people think 'Ulchi' is a street name in Seoul. Well, that is not necessarily false since Seoul has street named 'Ulchiro,' which means "Ulchi road." But UFL, one of the largest computer simulated exercises in the world, did not get its name from a Seoul street.

So where did 'Ulchi' come from?

Actually, 'Ulchi' is a famous Korean general's last name. His full name is Ulchi, Munduk. He was the Commander-In-chief of Army of Kokuryu (ancient Korean nation that existed through B.C. 37 to A.D. 668). According to Korean history book, he was Commander in Chief at the time of Soo Chinese empire. Over three hundred thousands Chinese soldiers attacked Kokuryu in 612 A.D., but at that time Kokuryu didn't have that much military might, yet Kokuryu had Gen. Ulchi. During the fighting, Ulchi commanded his army to pretend to be losing. Reacting to what they thought was to be an easy victory, the Chinese forces advanced inside Kokuryu territory. This is what Gen. Ulchi wanted, since he was more familiar with the local terrain. He then wrote a poetic, satirical letter to the Soo commander. Ulchi was an eloquent writer and poet. He said

something like, 'You have won as much you ever will, so why don't you save yourselves and take back your forces?'

The enemy was a bit confused. Taking advantage of their confusion, Gen. Ulchi attacked the Soo's forces at the Salsu River. There, Gen. Ulchi waited for the Soo's forces and attacked when they were halfway across the river. Only about two thousands Chinese soldiers ever crossed the river. This was one of the greatest victories of Korean history, which made Gen. Ulchi one of the Korea's great general's.

With a greater understanding of the great history associated with the UFL exercise's name, we can take a greater pride in being participants.

