

Kongdong kyôngbi kuyôk chi essû aei / *JOINT SECURITY AREA* aka *JSA*



Synopsis

A fire fight occurs at the “Bridge of No Return” in the DMZ (De-Militarized Zone), and two North Korean soldiers are killed. The North claims that the incident was a flagrant attack by the South Koreans, while the South claims that one of their soldiers was kidnapped. In order to solve the dispute, the NNSC (Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission) dispatches half-Korean half-Swiss Army Intelligence Bureau officer, Major Sophie E. Jean. With no cooperation from either side, the case appears to be unsolvable. However, Major Jean discovers that the number of bullets fired from the pistols and the number found at the scene differ by one, and she begins to dig deeper into the backgrounds of the soldiers involved. Subsequently she finds out about an encounter previous to the fire fight when North Korean soldiers saved a South Korean soldier from a mine. The story unravels to reveal a friendship developing among the soldiers after that saving. The two men from the South guard post used to go very night for months to mingle with their Northern counterparts. On the night of the fire fight, as the two South Korean soldiers were living, they are surprised by a North Korean soldier patrolling there by chance, the situation escalates and that soldier is killed, as well as the younger North Korean guard. The three remaining men decide to cover the situation and disguise it as an aggression... Meanwhile, the South Korean military head-quarters try to bury the case, and the dig up Major Jean past: her father was an ex-North Korean soldier who fled from Korean... She is dismissed, but before leaving she finds another determining proof: a women drawing made by the youngest North Korean soldier was made after the photo of the youngest South Korean guard’s girlfriend. The survivors have but to confess what happened. But the situation is too hard for the two South Korean soldiers to cope with, since they are responsible of the death of their North Korean friend. One after one they commit suicide... (Source KOFIC)

Data sheet

Director: PARK Chan-wook (박찬욱 / 朴贊勳) (DOB 1963)

Main Cast: SONG Kang-ho (OH Kyung-pil), LEE Byung-heon (LEE Soo-hyuk), LEE Young-ae (Major Sophie E. Jean), KIM Tae-woo (NAM Sung-shik), SHIN Ha-kyun (JUNG woo-Jin)

Release Date: SEP 2000

Genre: Dramatic comedy

Production: Myung Film / MK PICTURES

Executive Producer: SEOK Dong-jun

Producer: LEE Eun, SHIM Jae-myung, SHIM Bo-kyung,

Screenplay: KIM Hyun-seok, LEE Moo-young, JUNG Seong-san , PARK Chan-wook based on a novel by Pak Sangyôn

Cinematography: KIM Sung-bok

Editing: KIM Sang-beom

Lighting: LIM Jae-young

Music: CHO Young-wook, Pang Chunsôk

Art Director: KIM Sang-man

Production Budget: US\$3 M

Distribution: MK Pictures

110 mn, 35mm, Color

Rate: Over 12

Box-office results: 2,499,400 in Seoul only, estimated 5,800,000 nationwide (1st position).

