

Capt. Justin Ankenbruck, 80th Fighter Squadron F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot, (right) and Capt. Sung Kwang Jang, 102nd Fighter Squadron F-15K Slam Eagle pilot, monitor sortie takeoffs from a runway control house during Exercise Buddy Wing 15-2 at Daegu Air Base, Republic of Korea, Feb. 5, 2015. During this iteration of Buddy Wing, Wolf Pack Airmen deployed to Daegu to trained alongside Airmen of the 11th Fighter Wing, learning how to operate as one force with dissimilar fighter aircraft. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Katrina Heikkinen)

# Changes on the way for KRO

#### By Master Sgt. Marelise Wood Seventh Air Force Public Affairs

Air Force military personnel arriving for duty to Seventh Air Force, its subordinate units, and Air Force tenant units on the Korean peninsula on and after Feb. 16, 2015, will be doing so under an amended Korean Readiness Orientation program.

The KRO program was originally implemented in July 2014 with the intent of indoctrinating newlyassigned personnel into the unique readiness environment that comes with being in the Republic of Korea. The program included specific in-processing requirements and activities to be completed within 30 days of a member's arrival date.

After six months of evaluation, leadership at all levels has reported that more than 95 percent of Airmen were able to complete their orientation requirements within 14 days or less. In response, the program has been amended to reflect orientation completion within 14 days of arrival to replace the original policy of 30 days.

Many of the other program requirements remain the same, while "goals development" for junior enlisted and officers has been lifted. A new requirement is that supervisors meet with subordinates face-to-face at the end of the 14-day period to emphasize each Airman's personal accountability to maintain readiness.

"Yes, the Korean Readiness Orientation program timeline has been reduced, but our focus on readiness among our Airmen in Korea has not," said Lt. Gen. Terrence O'Shaughnessy, 7th Air Force commander. "The threats we face in this location require us all to be ready from the moment we arrive in-country and this program gives all our Airmen the dedicated time they need to gain that focus and perspective."



#### **Page 2** | $\mathbb{C}$ rimson S ky

## COMMENTARY

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## **Readiness is key when serving in the ROK**



By Lt. Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy Commander, Seventh Air Force

Any U.S. service member arriving on-station in Korea for the first time goes through an eye-opening experience, discovering there is a lot to learn about our purpose here in a very short time. We find ourselves far from home, most of us away from our families, within missile range of a potential adversary who has significant asymmetric and unconventional military capabilities that could be deployed with very little warning. The continued readiness of U.S. and Republic of Korea forces to fight tonight, today, or any other time, continues to be a critical piece for discouraging aggression and maintaining peace in North Asia.

In July of 2014, Seventh Air Force implemented a Korea Readiness Orientation designed to help arriving Airmen quickly understand the special readiness demands of duty in Korea – including briefings and activities to illustrate the threat, rapidly familiarize Airmen with their missions, and enhance personal resilience. The KRO was intended to be completed in 30 days and included a 30-day prohibition on the purchase and consumption of alcohol to help Airmen focus on readiness.

When the KRO was first introduced, the intent was to reevaluate the program after its first six months, and to adjust the requirements as needed to ensure maximum effectiveness. Based on six months of evaluation and experience, and through feedback from leadership at all levels, we've collectively decided to make some adaptations to the program.

As of Feb. 16, 2015, we are rolling out our first evolution of the KRO. One

of the most important facts we learned about KRO, based on input from a wide variety of sources, is that more than 95 percent of our Airmen have been completing their KRO requirements within 14 days. As a result, we will shorten the KRO period from 30 days to 14, and change some of the required activities. The alcohol-related restrictions will also shorten to 14 days. Most importantly, we will now give clear direction for immediate supervisors to personally meet with their Airmen face-to-face to emphasize personal accountability as well as the responsibility of leaders at all levels to promote readiness and accountability in deeds, not just in words.

Every peaceful day that passes on the Korean Peninsula is a win for the U.S. and for the people of the Republic of Korea. Our readiness to "Fight Tonight" is a crucial aspect of maintaining peace in this region into the days, months and years to come. Please, carefully read the new KRO policy letter to better help your fellow Airmen understand what's required of them on arrival.

Editor's note: The new KRO policy letter can be found at <u>http://www.7af.pa-</u> caf.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-150210-064.pdf

## Wolf Pack comes together for National Prayer Breakfast

#### 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea** -- Approximately 200 members of the 8th Fighter Wing and ROK Air Force 38th Fighter Group joined together for Kunsan's 2015 National Prayer Breakfast here Feb. 6.

"We have a rich heritage of faith-filled individuals and leaders who cherished their religious freedom and exercised their faith daily in prayer," said Maj. Jonathan Hurt, 8th FW deputy wing chaplain during opening remarks. "We are very happy to celebrate that heritage with you today."

During the breakfast, three Wolf Pack Airmen each recited a prayer they had personally composed in their own faith traditions, covering the themes of "our nation," "our deployed," and "our families."

"I pray you give guidance, clarity and courage to our president and those who follow him as they make decisions affecting our nation's future," prayed Airman 1st Class Alexis Rognholt, 8th Maintenance Squadron inspection phase technician. "I pray that you continue to lead us with our friendly ROKAF neighbors to peace, and that our nations continue to grow together."

Pfc. Soo Ho Lee, Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army Soldier and U.S. Forces Korea chaplain's assistant, said he enjoyed seeing so many groups of service members gathered together to pray.

"This is a great opportunity for members of the U.S Air Force, U.S. Army and ROK military to come together--officer and enlisted, to pray for both of our nations and remind ourselves of our spiritual support for each other," he said.

Col. Eric J. Albertson, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, and USFK command chaplain, visited Kunsan from U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan to deliver keynote remarks on "serving with integrity."

"Excellent leadership all comes down to integrity," he said. "When the sun sets on our earthly lives, we will either be an example to follow, or a warning to others. If you continue down the road of doing the right thing, you will fall in love with the



U.S. Army Col. Eric Albertson, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, and U. S. Forces Korea command chaplain, delivers remarks during the 2015 National Prayer Breakfast at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Feb. 6, 2015. Albertson was the guest speaker for the event and shared personal stories on Soldiers serving with integrity. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Taylor Curry)

good, and you will appreciate it for its own rewards. It brings a sense of inner peace and generates self-confidence and conviction. There is joy in knowing you set the right example."

Staff Sgt. Larnell Smith, 8th MXS crash recovery team member, described how he took Albertson's remarks to heart.

"His passion for unwavering integrity encourages me to take his words back to my Airmen," he said. "We should each be an example to follow."

Albertson closed his remarks by encouraging service members to emulate the heroes of America's history.

"My favorite Army quote comes from a situation where Soldiers are about to split up in battle before taking a hill," he said. "They tell each other, 'See you on the high ground.' My prayer is that I see you on the 'high ground' in this life."

## Buddy Wing 15-2 kicks off at Daegu AB

#### **By Senior Airman Divine Cox** 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**DAEGU AIR BASE, Republic of Korea** -- The 8th Fighter Wing deployed four F-16 Fighting Falcons to Daegu Air Base to participate in Exercise Buddy Wing 15-2 alongside the ROK Air Force's 11th Fighter Wing, Feb. 3-6, 2015.

Buddy Wing exercises are part of a combined fighter exchange program designed to improve interoperability between USAF and ROKAF fighter squadrons. These exercises are conducted multiple times throughout the year in order to promote cultural awareness and sharpen combined combat capabilities.

"Buddy Wing exercises give us an opportunity to fly alongside ROKAF pilots in realistic training scenarios," said Maj. Dean Laansma, 80th Fighter Squadron assistant director of operations and Buddy Wing 15-2 detachment commander. "We are enhancing our ability to operate together and learn from each other, which in return, strengthens our combined efforts."

During flying operations, Wolf Pack pilots coordinate with 11th FW pilots on all aspects of training including mission planning, briefing, flying and debriefing.

According to Capt. Daniel Duncan, 80th FS pilot and Buddy Wing 15-2 project officer, this exercise is vital to the readiness of the ROK-U.S. Alliance to ensure not only a better understanding of each other's forces, but to learn from each other's strengths.

"What's unique about this iteration of Buddy Wing is that we get to train with ROKAF F-15K Slam Eagles," said Dun-



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Two U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons and two Republic of Korea Air Force F-15K Slam Eagles fly in formation during Exercise Buddy Wing 15-2 at Daegu Air Base, ROK, Feb. 3, 2015. During this iteration of Buddy Wing, Wolf Pack F-16s integrate with ROKAF F-15Ks to sharpen air combat skills between allies and dissimilar aircraft. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Katrina Heikkinen)

can. "This provides us an unparalleled opportunity to learn how to operate not only with ROKAF, but with dissimilar aircraft."

If we are going to be ready together, we must train together, he added.

After 60 years, the ROK-U.S. Alliance continues to be one of the longest standing and most successful alliances in modern history.

"This invaluable training opportunity increases the confidence, capabilities and cohesion between allies and gives all participants a realistic idea of how we would operate together in a realworld situation," Laansma said. "I look forward to exchanging ideas and tactics this week."



Four U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons and four Republic of Korea Air Force F-15K Slam Eagles prepare to take off to conduct their first aerial formation training scenario during Exercise Buddy Wing 15-2 at Daegu Air Base, ROK, Feb. 3, 2015. Buddy Wing exercises are part of a combined fighter exchange program designed to improve interoperability between U.S. Air Force and ROK Air Force fighter units. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Divine Cox)

# **Receive forces: 51 FSS beddown**

51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea** -- This is the sixth in a series of articles relating an overview of the mission at Osan Air Base. The major role Team Osan plays in the Republic of Korea and the extent of its mission will be showcased this week in the way Team Osan's Airmen keep the base prepared to "Receive Forces." Next, there will be in-depth look at how the base reinforces stability in the peninsula. Concluding the series will be a wrap-up article showing the broad spectrum of the base's mission.

Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, is home to a multi-national population of more than 10,000 people. In its over-60 year history, the site has been a base of operations for several wars and conflicts from Korea to Vietnam to the post Cold War. Over time, Osan has evolved, adding numerous quality of life facilities and accommodations for its Airmen, families and ROK partners. Yet, considered the most forward deployed unit in the Air Force, it's also a major responsibility for the 51st Fighter Wing and Team Osan to be perpetually ready to receive forces during a contingency.

Managing the resources needed to keep the base ready to receive forces in an emergency is a multi-team effort. A pivotal member of this team is the 51st Force Support Squadron beddown crew, a group responsible for helping ensure the base can be constantly prepared for the addition of more than 6,000 personnel, or more than 60 percent of the base's regular population.

In a non-emergency environment, the mission of the 51st FSS beddown team focuses on providing quality of life amenities to Team Osan, such as the management and upkeep of the rooms at Turumi Lodge, the base's 24-hour lodging facility that's often the first establishment incoming Airmen see.

While quality and service are important for the team's peacetime operations, the criticality increases in a contingency. Due to the nature of the endless possibilities that could require follow-on forces to lodge at Osan, the team has to be qualified to respond every day, any time.

"We have a fully trained beddown team ready to receive forces at a moment's notice," said Tech Sgt. Lamonte Marshall, 51st FSS beddown team. "In wartime, we increase warfighter readiness by providing 100 percent of our forces with (shelter) to help enable Team Osan to fly, fight and win tonight."

Critical to operations, the logistics and particulars of preparing the base to receive thousands of forces take



Team Osan's Reception Working Group meets to discuss incoming personnel Jan. 22, 2015, at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea. The 51st Force Support Squadron beddown team is part of the group, ensuring there is appropriate space on base to house incoming or transient troops (U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Jake Barreiro)

a lot of coordination. The FSS periodically meets with the 51st Civil Engineer Squadron and housing to ensure a contemporary and adequate beddown plan is in place.

"Beddown is important during contingency operations to ensure our forces are able to have (collective protective shelters) in the event of a chemical attack," said Marshall. "Without a place to stay, our forces couldn't execute the 51st FW mission in an emergency environment."

Preparation is the most essential part of the beddown team's game plan. To adequately prepare and examine their capabilities, the team is extensively tested during the base's quarterly operational readiness exercises. Additionally, they meet with other base agencies regularly as part of a "reception working group," which plans for real-world TDYs and exercises requiring the base to receive forces.

Marshall and his teammates are particularly responsible for two pivotal CPS dorms on base, which are used to house transient and emergency troops, such as the Airmen from Kunsan Air Base who were relocated to Osan last fall while their runways were under repair. Part of maintaining the habitability of the dorms requires working with CES to ensure said dormitories are adequately furnished and safe. This means conducting periodic walk-throughs and inspections, ensuring the rooms are available for occupation as soon as possible.

The beddown team is currently participating in a reception verification group, following the heels of the base's maintenance and mission support groups. By deliberately trying to unearth their weaknesses, the FSS beddown team is engaging in the Team Osan tradition of "calling the baby ugly," voluntarily examining and testing the limitations of their capabilities. The purpose of the group is to acknowledge strengths, but even more importantly, recognize flaws, resulting in an emergency plan that operates as smoothly as possible. It's a task the team acknowledges the importance of.

"Without beddown, our forces couldn't exist," said Marshall.





Above: Buildling 930 is a collective protective shelter facility on Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea. The facility is used to house transient troops or ones temporarily assigned to Osan.

Left: A 51st Logistic Readiness Squadron Airman inspects the rooms in a collective protective shelter facility Jan. 23, 2015, at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea. The facility is important for housing forces in a contingency.



# Receive Forces: IPE prepares inbound Airmen for success

#### By Senior Airman David Owsianka 51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- This is the seventh in a series of articles relating an overview of the mission at Osan Air Base. The major role Team Osan plays in the Republic of Korea and the extent of its mission will be showcased this week in the way Team Osan's Airmen keep the base prepared to "Receive Force." Next, there will be an in-depth look at how the base reinforces stability in the peninsula. Concluding the series will be a wrap-up article showing the broad spectrum of the base's mission.

As service members arrive at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, they will receive individual protective equipment from the 51st Logistic Readiness Squadron IPE unit.

In nuclear, biological and chemical warfare, IPE clothing and equipment are used to protect an individual from biological and chemical hazards and some nuclear effects. All mission essential personnel will receive their gear within the first 10-days upon arriving on station

The mission of the IPE unit is to ensure that all essential personnel in-processing at Osan receives their chemical gear.

Each person will receive a training bag and real world bag. The training bag

includes a canteen, web belt, personal carrier, training boots, training coat and trousers, gas mask, vest, plates, training gloves and inserts. The real world bag contains two pairs of coats and trousers, two pairs of boots, M8 paper, M9 tape, two gas mask filters, an M295 decontamination kit, and two pairs of gloves and inserts.

"I believe that it is essential that we have the equipment so that we are always prepared," said Capt. Keyanna Spears, 51st LRS vehicle management flight commander. "The way that the world is now, we never know when we will need to put it on."

During operational readiness exercises, service members will train with the equipment to prepare themselves for potential real world contingencies.

"Having trained with the equipment, it has helped prepare me to know what to wear and what to expect," Spears said. "The scenarios also put me in the mindset that this could happen at any time and we always need to be ready."

The IPE unit allows service members to be more equipped in case of an emergency

"Training with the equipment helps Airmen support the overall mission because it allows us to be better prepared and more knowledgeable of what we are doing here at Osan," Johnson said.

That concludes our coverage of how different units and Airmen at Team Osan



Airman 1st Class Nicholas Goncalves, 36th Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, removes his training boots after ensuring they fit at the 51st Logistic Readiness Squadron individual protective equipment building Jan. 27, 2015, at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea. All mission essential personnel will receive their gear within the first 10 days upon arriving on station. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman David Owsianka)

explore how Team Osan reinforces stability in the ROK by showcasing how we

contribute to receiving forces. Next we'll maintain the quality of life on base and how Airmen stay sharp on loading weapons onto the aircraft.

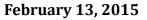
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### **Osan Base Chapel Contracts**

1. OSAN AB Chaplain Fund is accepting applications for a CTOF non-personal service contract for the position of CHAPEL TITHES AND OFFERING FUND ACCOUNT MANAGER with a "best value" selection process. Individual must have knowledge and understanding of general accounting practices and bookkeeping. Individual is responsible for maintaining, administering, and accounting for nonappropriated assets and obligations of the Osan CTOF. If awarded the contract, the contractor may be requested to submit an application for a background check. Individual can pick up the Statement of Work (SOW), Basis for Award, and a bidding schedule from the OSAN AIR BASE CHAPEL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA. Submit a resume and a separate sealed bid to MSGT NICK CATALDI no later than 1630 on THURS, 19 FEB 2015. Interviews/demonstrations are Scheduled for FRI, 20 FEB 2015 at OSAN CHAPEL at 1300.

2. OSAN AB Chaplain Fund is accepting applications for a CTOF non-personal service contract for the position of PROTESTANT WOM-EN OF THE CHAPEL (PWOC) WATCH-CARE PROVIDER FOR AGES 6 TO 36 MONTHS with a "lowest bidder" selection process. The PWOC Watch-Care Provider will care for the children, ages 6 to 36 months, of the women who attend the weekday PWOC Bible Studies, and will work with the PWOC Children's Ministry Coordinator as well as the PWOC Watch-Care appointed board member for Osan Air Base Chapel, Republic of Korea. Individual must have at least one year experience working with children in a church, religious ministry setting, in military chapel children ministry, or in a non-profit children ministry organization. If awarded the contract, the contractor will be required to complete a favorable background check as directed by DoDI 1402, Criminal History Background Checks on Individuals in Child Care Services. Individual can pick up the Statement of Work (SOW), Basis for Award, and a bidding schedule from the OSAN AIR BASE CHAPEL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA. Submit resume to CH, CAPT ROBERT BOHNSACK by 1630 on THURS, 19 FEB 2015. Interviews are scheduled for FRI, 20 FEB 15 at the Chapel during duty hours (0730-1630).

3. OSAN AB Chaplain Fund is accepting applications for a CTOF non-personal service contract for the position of PROTESTANT SINGLES COORDINATOR with a "best value" selection process. Individual must have experience working with young adults and experience in Protestant Young Adult development, leader recruitment, and employment of volunteers. Individual also must have a minimum of two years' experience in Protestant church-based leadership, working with small group ministry and singles ministry in a United States military community setting. A minimum of a two-year college degree in humanities is required or four years work experience in a Christian ministry or education field. If awarded the contract, the contractor will be required to complete a favorable background check as directed by DoDI 1402, Criminal History Background Checks on Individuals in Child Care Services. Individual can pick up the Statement of Work (SOW), Basis for Award, and a bidding schedule from the OSAN AIR BASE CHAPEL, REPUBLIC OF KO-REA. Submit a resume and a separate sealed bid to CH, CAPT ROBERT BOHNSACK no later than 1630 on FRI, 27 FEB 2015. Interviews/ demonstrations are scheduled for SAT, 28 FEB 2015 at OSAN CHAPEL at 0800.





Senior Airman Randi Stroup, 8th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, conducts a preflight inspection of an F-16 Fighting Falcon during Exercise Buddy Wing 15-2 at Daegu Air Base, Republic of Korea, Feb. 4, 2015. To meet the 7th Air Force operations tasking requirements for Buddy Wing 15-2, personnel from the 8th Fighter Wing deployed to Daegu to provide security, maintenance and operations support with their ROKAF counterparts. (U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Katrina Heikkinen)

#### **By Senior Airman Katrina Heikkinen** 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**DAEGU AIR BASE, Republic of Korea** -- Hours before aerial formations can be seen flying over Daegu Air Base, ROK, 8th Fighter Wing crew chiefs taxi to the runway to prepare for pre-flight inspections. Sortie after sortie, they marshal the pilots and conduct pre- and post flight inspections with 100 percent accuracy, every time.

To meet the 7th Air Force operations tasking requirements for Exercise Buddy Wing 15-2, enlisted personnel from the 8th FW deployed with four F-16 Fighting Falcons to provide security, maintenance and operations support with their ROKAF counterparts.

"Crew chiefs are the first and the last ones to see the F-16s before they're in the air," said Senior Airman Randi Stroup, 8th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief. "At the end of the day, the aircraft is our responsibility. Not only are we performing pre-flight and postflight inspections during Buddy Wing, it is our job to coordinate all servicing, so we have to be extremely broad subject matter experts."

While some Airmen deployed to Daegu were joined by many from their squadrons and units, others were the sole member from the Wolf Pack deployed in their career field.

"As an aircrew flight equipment journeyman, 100 percent accuracy in my job is crucial to the safety of the aircrew," said Senior Airman John Temple, 8th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment journeyman. "I only work alongside two ROKAF members



Senior Airman Randi Stroup, 8th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, conducts a preflight inspection of an F-16 Fighting Falcon during Exercise Buddy Wing 15-2 at Daegu Air Base, Feb. 4, 2015.

[during this exercise], and it's been great to see that even though we come from two different cultures, when it comes to our job, we all take pride in providing safe and reliable equipment. This way, at the end of the day, the pilots always make it home safe."

Conducting quarterly Buddy Wing exercises enables USAF and ROKAF

Airmen to increase interoperability by overcoming various cultural and language barriers.

"Exercises like Buddy Wing give junior enlisted Airmen an opportunity to see the application of pilot training with our international partners," said Senior Master Sgt. Jason Pedone, 80th Aircraft Maintenance Unit lead production superintendent and Buddy Wing maintenance project officer. "This is a good opportunity for the handpicked bestof-the best in the unit to go on a small deployment and to operate without their full support structure. In my mind, this exercise epitomizes excellence in all we do, and I'm proud of the work our Airmen are doing in this exercise."

## **Reinforce stability in the ROK:** Quality of life construction

#### **By Staff Sgt. Jake Barreiro** 51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea** -- This is the eighth in a series of articles relating an overview of the mission at Osan Air Base. The major role Team Osan plays in the Republic of Korea and the extent of its mission will be showcased this week in the way Team Osan's Airmen "reinforce stability in the ROK." Next, there will be a wrap-up article summing up the four principles and how they're accomplished to keep the mission running here.

"This is what victory looks like," is a phrase oft-repeated at ceremonies by Col. Brook Leonard, 51st Fighter Wing commander. These words are usually in reference to things like the base's renovated enlisted club, the newly-erected senior noncommissioned officer dorms or the popular chain-restaurant Chili's. To some, calling an international burger establishment an indication of "victory" can seem over the top, but the point is that quality of life establishments are a product of stability, which was earned in the Republic of Korea in July of 1953 with the signing of an Armistice between North and South Korean militaries. Ever since, preserving that stability has been a primary goal of United States forces on peninsula, a job the members of Team Osan accomplish not just through sorties and flights, but through the establishment of permanent quality of life facilities on base.

Before these quality of life facilities become Osan staples, they need to be designed, contracted, approved and constructed. The construction projects on base are brought to realization with coordination from multiple agencies including the 51st Civil Engineer Squadron, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far-East District, and the 411th Contracting Support Battalion.

There are currently more than 400 appropriated, non-appropriated and hostnation funded projects either ongoing in design or being programmed for Osan Air Base, totaling more than \$3 billion in planned spending. Indicators like "appropriated, non-appropriated and hostnation funded" are given to prospective projects based on the planned funding for the project. That kind of mass logistical and monetary expense involves coordination between extra-service and extra-national agencies.

"Managing construction projects is a team effort where the customer, base civil engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far-East District and the 411th Contracting Support Battalion all have an important role to play," said Capt. Christian E. Ocasio, 51st CES engineering flight commander.

The 51st CES is responsible for tracking a project's process, while continuously performing quality assurance checks. Additionally, the mustang engineers also liaison between the base



Above: Contractors work on the inside of a building Feb. 4, 2015, at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea. Osan AB is constantly adding new construction projects in order to enhance quality of life and stability of more than 10,000 residents on base. (U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Matthew Lancaster)

Right: An addition to the Medical Group facility is being erected, pictured here, Feb. 4, 2015, at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea. The project is one of several hundred being coordinated amongst the 51st Civil Engineer Squadron, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Far-East District and host-nation contractors.

and the host-nation contracting offices, Army Corps project managers and other contractors.

"As the base representative we ensure the customer's requirements are fully met," said Ocasio. "We do this by having our programmers visit the sites and meet with the facility managers and users to accurately define the scope of the projects."

Of course, teamwork and comprehensive coordination are necessary to bring ideas like a new Enlisted Club or modernized Senior NCO dorms to hard reality. The USACE-FED is a cherished partner of the 51st CES.

"Our quality of life projects here are very important," said Army Maj. Brian Becker, USACE-FED project engineer. "Looking back at the old facilities on base, we can see how things have improved here in the last 20-30 years."

One example of a recent improvement is the erected-from-nothing senior NCO dorm, which had the ribbon on it cut Nov. 11, 2014. The new dorm will provide more than 250 Senior NCOs with single-occupancy apartment rooms, with each unit having its own bedroom, living room, toilet room, kitchen, closet and washer and dryer unit.

The new dormitory was an example of the U.S. and ROK alliance working together to enhance quality of life, and thus stability, at Osan AB.

"This is an amazing facility because it is a perfect example of craft and art coming together to deliver the perfect project on time and on budget," said Army Col. Bryan Green, USACE-FED commander, at the dormitory ribbon cutting. "I am thrilled [about this dorm] because every senior NCO that goes in there will get to experience this new style of dormitories on base."

The relationship between the hostnation contractors, the 51st CES and the USACE-FED is a strong one according to Ocasio and Becker.

"The 51st CES and FED have a strong working relationship," said Ocasio. "We have weekly coordination meetings and communicate daily. Within the organization we have civilian, Air force, Army and contractors all working for a common goal. It is truly one team, one fight."

Together, these units helps reinforce stability in the ROK while building partnerships across services and nations.

"It all goes back to partnering and teamwork," said Becker. "Nothing gets done here without a good working relationship. We have a fantastic relationship with the host nation, 51st FW and CE flight where everyone feels valued."

Stability, like construction, involves patience and long-term planning to achieve. The 51st CES and U.S. Army FED help keep this common goal secure with a lasting legacy of high-quality facilities helping make Osan a more permanent, stable and habitable assignment.

## **Reinforce stability in the ROK:** Load crew competition enhances readiness

#### **By Staff Sgt. Jake Barreiro** 51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea** -- This is the ninth in a series of articles relating an overview of the mission at Osan Air Base. The major role Team Osan plays in the Republic of Korea and the extent of its mission will be showcased this week in the way Team Osan's Airmen "reinforce stability in the ROK." Next, there will be a wrap-up article summing up the four principles and how they're accomplished to keep the mission running here.

Stability can be a multi-faceted abode. In the preceding article of this series, we wrote about the way Team Osan contributes to the stability of the Republic of Korea by investing in permanent quality of life facilities on base. And while the amalgamation of improved facilities and diversified on and off-duty establishments have been key for Osan Air Base's evolution from "remote" assignment to a base with accompanied-tour options, the role Airmen play in their day to day job is what contributes to the readiness of the base, allowing the hard-earned stability to cement. In essence, for stability, each hand of Team Osan cleans the other. The quality of life facilities are borne out of the day to day operations executed by the men and women of Team Osan.

Among the most heightened examples of Airmen practicing readiness is the quarterly load crew competitions held on base. On Feb. 6, 2015, two teams from the 25th and 36th Aircraft Maintenance Units competed for the title of best local weapons load crew.

"This is what I like to call the final 10 yards of our readiness," said Col. Brook Leonard, 51st Fighter Wing commander, at the event. "We have a lot of important support functions on this base, but this, in effect, is our Superbowl. If it wasn't for what you and your respective AMUs do, the 51st Fighter Wing wouldn't even be here in the Republic of Korea."

Representing the 25th AMU was: Airman 1st Class Dylan Queen Senior Airman William Howell Staff Sgt. Kenneth Redman Representing the 36th AMU was: Senior Airmen Luke Dubela Senior Airman Theresa Nowak Staff Sgt. Joshua Kidd



The 25th Aircraft Maintenance Unit load crew team balances a missile while trying to place it onto an A-10 during a quarterly weapons load crew competition Feb. 6, 2015, at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea. The competition allows teams to practice their readiness abilities in a competitive environment, while helping reinforce stability in the ROK. (U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Jake Barreiro)

During the competition, the teams were tested on their capabilities in loading two missiles onto their respective aircraft. The 25th AMU loaded their munitions onto an A-10, while the 36th prepared an F-16. The teams were given a time-limit of 34 minutes, but each finished earlier.

Grades were recorded for each team in the following areas: safety, reliability, technical proficiency and timeliness.

These contests are conducted every quarter to give load crew members a chance to exercise their competitive spirits and testing their preparation to conduct a very serious real-world duty. Ultimately, the load crew competition is about honing readiness and preserving stability.

"This is for pride and bragging rights, but it's also why we're here," said Leonard.

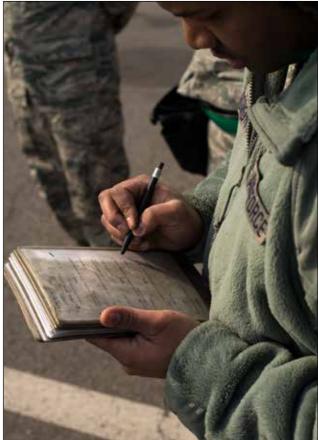
\*Author's Note: At the time of publishing, the results of the quarterly load crew competition were still not released. The story will be updated to include the winning team's information as it becomes available.

That concludes our coverage on how Team Osan reinforces stability in the ROK through mission and quality of life enhancement. Next, we will publish a mission wrap up article and press on the following week by beginning coverage on the 51st FW command priorities.



Above: Several audience members laugh at a joke told by Col. Brook Leonard, 51st Fighter Wing commander, after a quarterly load crew competition Feb. 6, 2015, at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea. Leonard talked about the importance of mission readiness and how load crew competitions are one of the most important elements of Team Osan's mission. "This is for pride and bragging rights, but it's also why we're here," he said.

Right: Members of the 25th Aircraft Maintenance Unit weapons load crew team examine items on their checklist before completing the contest during a quarterly load crew competition Feb. 6, 2015, at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea. The competition is meant not only to test abilities, but to promote teamwork, camaraderie and a healthy rivalry among the units.



## **JEV now mandatory for ROK Airmen**

**By 1st Lt. Earon Brown** 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea** -- Airmen stationed in the Republic of Korea or Japan, as well as those temporarily assigned to specific areas in Pacific Command for 30 days or more, will now be required to receive the Japanese Encephalitis vaccine as of Feb. 1.

Signed into effect by the Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Thomas Travis, the preventive measure mandates that active-duty Airmen be inoculated against the rare, but potentially fatal disease over the next year. The vaccine consists of a two-shot series, spaced one month apart, with a booster dose the following year for those still stationed in areas where the disease is more prevalent.

Vaccination against Japanese Encephalitis is a priority for Pacific Air Forces given its role of power projection in the Pacific. Combat-ready Airmen are the linchpin in PACAF's ability to rapidly respond to crises and must be capable of operating in environments where there are medical threats.

"While the probability of contracting Japanese Encephalitis is low, it isn't zero, which is why it is so important that Airmen get vaccinated," said Col. Tambra "Hawk" Yates, 8th Medical Group commander. "Our Airmen are our greatest asset and this measure is another effort to ensure their health and safety while serving in the Pacific."

The mandate by the Air Force follows a vaccine recommendation made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices in November 2013 for travelers aged two months and older spending a month or longer in endemic areas. According to the CDC and World Health Organization, most of Asia is described as endemic areas, including the ROK and Japan.

Japanese Encephalitis is a mosquito-borne virus prevalent in much of the Pacific region. While the threat of infection is less than 1 percent, 50 percent of those diagnosed die from complications as a result of the disease. According to the CDC, there is no specific treatment for JE, making prevention all the more important.

"Vaccines are all about prevention," said Tech. Sgt. Erin Watson, 8th MDG immunizations technician. "That's why you want to get them before you're suscep-



Col. Ken "Wolf" Ekman, 8th Fighter Wing commander, and Col. Tambra "Hawk" Yates, 8th Medical Group commander, receive their Japanese Encephalitis vaccine in the immunizations laboratory at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Feb. 3, 2015. As of Feb. 1, the JEV will be a required immunization for all Airmen assigned to Japan and Korea. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Taylor Curry)

tible or exposed to any disease."

The current JEV has been in use since 2009 with no known reactions besides common vaccine side effects.

"By no means is this vaccine new; it's just a new requirement for all of Korea and Japan," said Watson. "Overall, most people haven't had issues with this vaccine. A little soreness in the injection site is always going to be a possibility, but it's quick, almost painless and shouldn't cause any stress."

Airmen who did not take the vaccine voluntarily prior to Feb. 1 will now show as being due in the Individual Medical Readiness system. Walk-in appointments for the vaccination are available at the 8th MDG immunizations clinic Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 - 4:30 p.m.

"The system is going to show everyone as yellow in the system which means they're due," said Watson. "They have a full 365 days to complete the two-shot series before they're overdue, but doing so as soon as possible is your best bet. Once the series is started, it must be completed within a specific time, with 30 days separating the two doses."

Dependents and other TRICARE beneficiaries living within the area are also encouraged to receive the Japanese Encephalitis vaccine in accordance with the current ACIP recommendations. The recommendation also extends to civilians and dependents traveling or visiting the ROK or Japan for more than 30 days.

Those separating, retiring or preparing for a permanent change of station within the next 90 days may be exempted from the JEV. For more information, contact 8th MDG Immunizations Clinic at 782-5261.

Editor's note: Osan Air Base is not yet administering the vaccine.

### **2015 Osan Tax Center Opening**

#### Osan Tax Center

**OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea** -- Team Osan's 2015 Tax Center is open through April 15, 2015 at the Education Center. Each visit is by appointment only; no walk-ins will be accepted. To schedule an appointment, please call the legal office at 784-6713, 784-9093, or 784-8819. All clients must make appropriate child care arrangements for their appointment; the Education Center will still be conducting classes and tests and waiting areas are minimal. Tax returns will not be printed at the site, but will be emailed to you at a later time.

### When calling in, please provide the following information:

Your filing status.

• Whether you are on active duty, a civilian or a retiree.

• Whether or not you or your spouse own rental property, own any business, and/or bought or sold stocks.

#### **Checklist For Filing Taxes**

Each individual will need to bring the following items with them to enable the tax center to prepare tax returns, if applicable:

1. Social Security Number of all dependents (social security and/or ID cards for verification.)

2. Bank routing number (cancelled check or bank print out.)

3. Bank account number for checking and/or savings (cancelled check or bank print out.)

4. A copy of last years' tax return (Tax transcripts can be ordered online at https://sal.www4.irs.gov/ irfof-tra/start.do or member can call 1-800-908-9946.)

5. If you are filing a joint return and your spouse is not with you, you will need a signed Special Power of Attorney (POA) or Form 2848 (IRS POA.)

6. All of the following items that apply to the taxpayers on the return:

- W-2 taxable income.

- 1099 INT interest income (more than \$10 in interest.)

- 1099 OID original issue discount.

- 1099 DIV dividends and capital gains/capital gain distribution of mutual funds.

- 1099 G unemployment compensations.
- 1099 B sale of stocks or bonds.
- 1099 S proceeds from real estate transactions.
- 1099 MISC miscellaneous income.
- 1098 Mortgage interest statement.

- 1099 R received distributions from pensions, annuities and/or IRA. - SSA-1099 social security benefit statement.

- RRB-1099 Railroad retirement.

- RRB-1099-R annuities or pension by railroad retirement board.

- 1098 E student loan interest statement or a letter stating amount paid.

- 1098 T tuition statement.
- 1040 ES estimated tax.
- W2-G gambling winnings.
- Drag antes Osser and

- Property Owners - Documentation of relevant expenses and mortgage interest.

- Childcare Expenses - need provider's SSN or EIN and address.

- Alimony - need other person's name, SSN and amounts paid or received.

- Moving Expenses - receipts or documentation for any unreimbursed expenses.

- IRA contributions bring end-of-year-statement. - Charitable contributions (CFC, etc.) - bring end-
- of-year LES, receipts or documentation. - For capital gains or losses, you must be able to
- document:
  - \* What you sold.
  - \* Date you purchased it.
  - \* How much you paid for it.
  - \* Date you sold it.
  - \* How much you received for it.

#### February 13, 2015

## AIRMAN SPOTLIGHT CRIMSON SKY | PAGE 10

### Staff Sgt. Jeannie Hackett



Staff Sgt. Jeannie Hackett, 51st Medical Operations Squadron, certified alcohol and drug counselor, speaks with Tech. Sgt. La'Kisha Tucker, 51st MDOS alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment noncommissioned officer in charge, about how to handle work a case when taking it to the next appropriate level of care Jan. 9, 2014, at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea. Hackett is this week's Airman Spotlight winner. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman David Owsianka)

#### 51st Medical Operations Squadron

Job title: Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor

Job description and its impact on the overall mission: Provides education and treatment for those who are involved in alcohol related incidents or have self-identified for alcohol and/or substance use concerns. Provided feedback and guidance about prevention efforts to leadership and command level leaders that has changed the culture of drinking at Osan AB to a responsible way of life.

Time in the military: 10 years Time at Osan: 11 months

**DEROS**: Feb 2015

**Family**: Renee Allen (mother) and Jim Allen (brother)

**Hometown**: Panama City Beach, Fla. **Hobbies**: Snowboarding and long distance cycling

Why did you join the military? I faced many challenges growing up and wanted to be something better than those who were around me. I wanted to make my granddad proud. I thought hard about my decision and knew that I could make a difference by providing to others what was not provided to me as I was growing up. This was the best decision of my life.

Where do you see yourself in 10 or 20 years? In 10 years I hope to be travel-

ing across Europe with my family after I retire from the Air Force. In 20 years, I hope to be 10 years away from retiring from my second career. Do I know what I want to do at that point? Nope. But who really knows what they want to be when they grow up?

What do you do for fun here? Snowboard, take random ITT/Outdoor rec trips, travel to different historical sites, and cuddle with my four month old puppy, Broski.

What accomplishment are you most proud of? In 2013 I completed four century rides, 19 half century rides, and passed my fitness assessment with above a 90 without having run a single day that year.

Who are your role models? My granddad has always been my rock. He has cared for me and encouraged me through the toughest times of my life. I learned real fast that he's pretty much always right and I should stop questioning his advice. Most of all, my younger brother is my role model. Never have I known someone who is so patient and logical. When I am facing a challenge, he always seems to know the right thing to say to help solve the situation. I work every day to be as open-minded and caring as he is.

## Staff Sgt. Ray Ibarra

#### **5th Reconnaissance Squadron**

Job title: U-2 Avionics Systems Craftsman Job description and its impact on the overall mission:

Troubleshoot/repair communications/navigations/ countermeasure systems to provide safe and reliable aircraft in support of the United States Forces Korea Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance mission.

Time in the military: 8 years Time at Osan: 10 months DEROS: March 2015

Family: Spouse: Elizabeth J. Ibarra

Hometown: Ewa Beach, Hawaii

**Hobbies**: Fishing, snowboarding, camping, working out, eating

Why did you join the military?

To serve my country and experience things that no other person could. I also joined for the education and travel benefits.

#### Where do you see yourself in 10 or 20 years?

20 years down the road I see myself as a retired Air Force veteran working for the multiple companies that are contracted by the military.

#### What do you do for fun here?

Hanging out with friends, eating the different foods that Korea has to offer, and exploring Korea **What's your favorite Air Force memory or story?** 

Representing the US Air Force at the 60th Anniversary D-Day in France **What accomplishment are you most proud of?** 

### Winning 3rd place at the AMC Rodeo

Who are your role models?

Uncle: Orlando L. Ibarra (Retired US Navy Master Chief Petty Officer E-9)



Staff Sgt. Ray Ibarra, 5th Reconnaissance Squadron U-2 avionics systems craftsman, puts on a countermeasure test hood on a U-2 aircraft wing Jan. 9, 2014, at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea. Ibarra is this week's Airman Spotlight winner. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman David Owsianka)

## RIMSON SKY

### **KUNSAN AIR BASE**

**Protestant Services Gospel Service** Sunday, 1300 Main Chapel, Bldg. 501 **Contemporary Service** Sunday, 1700 Main Chapel, Bldg. 501

#### **Catholic Mass**

**Catholic Mass** Sunday, 1030 Main Chapel, Bldg. 501 **Daily Mass & Reconciliation** Please call the chapel

#### **General Services**

**Church of Christ** Sunday, 1100 SonLight Inn, Bldg. 510 LDS Service Sunday, 1430 SonLight Inn, Bldg. 510 **Earth-Based Religions** Thursday, 1930 SonLight Inn, Bldg. 510

**Point of Contact:** Kunsan Chapel, 782-4300

Visit us on Share Point: https://kunsan.eim.pacaf.af.mil/8FW/HC/default.aspx

### **CHAPEL SCHEDULE**

### **OSAN AIR BASE**

#### **Protestant Services**

**Gospel (Praise Joy Night)** Friday, 1930 Traditional Service Sunday, 1000 **Gospel Service** Sunday, 1200 **Contemporary Service** Sunday, 1700 **Church of Christ** Sunday, 1000, Elementary School Cafeteria

> **Catholic Mass Daily Mass** Wednesday - Friday, 1130 Saturday, 1700 Sunday, 0830 Reconciliation Saturday, 1600s

**General Services Earth-Based Service** Contact the Chapel **Jewish Service** 2nd/4th Friday, 1800 **Muslim Service** Friday, 1230, Chapel Annex

**Point of Contact:** Osan Chapel, 784-5000 Visit us on SharePoint: https://osan.eim.pacaf.af.mil/51FW/51FW-HC/default.aspx Visit us on Facebook (OSAN AB CHAPEL) https://www.facebook.com/OsanABChapel

**Protestant Services Traditional Service** Sunday, 0930 Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597 Sunday, 0930 **Brian Allgood Hospital Chapel Contemporary Service** Sunday, 0900 South Post Chapel, Bldg 3702 Sunday, 1030 K-16 Chapel, Bldg S-302 Sunday, 1100 Hannam Village Chapel, Bldg 6108 **Nondenominational Service** Sunday, 1100 South Post Chapel, Bldg 3702 **Gospel Service** Sunday, 1300 South Post Chapel, Bldg 3702 **United Pentecostal (UPCI)** Sunday, 1300 South Post Chapel, Bldg 3702 KATUSA Tuesday, 0630 **Memorial Chapel Seventh-Day Adventist** Sunday, 1300 South Post Chapel, Bldg 3702 Korean Christian Fellowship 3rd Tuesday, 1145

Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597

### **USAG-YONGSAN**

**Catholic Mass** Saturday, 1700 Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597 Sunday, 0800 Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597 Sunday, 1130 Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597 M.W.T.F, 1145 Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597 1st Saturday, 0900 Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597 3rd Thursday, 1730 Memorial Chapel (ROK Officers)

**General Service** 

**Episcopal Daily Mass** Sunday, 1100 **Brian Allgood Hospital Chapel** Jewish Friday, 7 p.m. South Post Chapel, Bldg 3702



**Point of Contact:** USAG Yongsan Religious Support Office, 738-3011

> Visit us on SharePoint: http://www.army.mil/yongsan

### **Spiritual Charge**

### "Pray for Me"

#### By Chaplain, Lt. Col. Trent Davis Wing Chaplain, 51st FW/HC

"Pray for me. Pray not that I will be safe. War is never safe. Pray only that I will be an adequate man." These were the words written by Protestant Chaplain Clark V. Poling to his parents prior to his departure for duty in World War II.

On 3 February 1943, an Army transport ship carrying Chaplain Poling and 900 fellow American soldiers, called the Dorchester, sailed through the icy North Atlantic waters near Greenland.

In the darkness of night, a German submarine fired torpedoes at the Dorchester. One of the torpedoes hit the center of the ship and the Dorchester quickly began to sink.

Soldiers and sailors searched desperately for life jackets and lifeboats in route to safety. Amongst them were four chaplains, each from different religious backgrounds: Father John Washington was Catholic; Rev. Clark Poling and Rev. George Fox were Protestants; Rabbi Alexander Goode was Jewish.

In the chaos onboard, the four chaplains attempted to calm their fellow soldiers and lead



them to evacuation points. The chaplains were doing what chaplains do best: providing comfort, guidance, and hope.

Unbelievably, there were not enough life jackets available for every man on the ship. So, with the ship quickly taking on water, the four chaplains removed their own life jackets and handed them out to soldiers in need. Then, equally miraculous, the four chaplains united in the faith of God's providence, linked their arms together in we will be safe, but that we will be found ready. prayer for the lives of their fellow man.

More than 600 men died that night but some 230 were rescued. Many of whom credit their enduring hope and rescue to the service and sacrifice of these four chaplains. One survivor, John Ladd, said of the four chaplains' selfless act, "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven."

For us, when time for courage and valor await, how will we act? Will we have the faith to stand strong and do what is right in the face of danger, temptation, and storm as these four "immortal chaplains" did? Will we have the strength to be "adequate" and keep the faith as Chaplain Poling prayed he would? Just how do we handle crisis when it comes to our door?

It is our faith foundations, our spiritual resilience, which often gives us the strength to face these trials. During our time in Korea, let's not miss the opportunity to strengthen this core area of our life. We never know the trials, challenges, or battles that await just around the corner. Let's not be found unprepared.

Pray for me and I will pray for you. Not that



An F-16 Fighting Falcon from the 8th Fighter Wing takes off during Exercise Buddy Wing 15-2 at Daegu Air Base, Republic of Korea, Feb. 5, 2015. Buddy Wing exercises are held multiple times a year to not only enhance interoperability between USAF and ROKAF Airmen, but to promote cultural awareness through operating as one force as they integrate mission planning, briefing, flying and debriefing together. (U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Katrina Heikkinen)

#### **By Senior Airman Katrina Heikkinen** 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**DAEGU AIR BASE, Republic of Korea** -- Airmen from the 8th Fighter Wing sharpened combat skills and gained insight from their ROK Air Force counterparts during Exercise Buddy Wing 15-2 at Daegu AB, ROK, Feb. 3 to 6.

During this iteration of Buddy Wing, Wolf Pack Airmen deployed to Daegu to train alongside Airmen of the 11th Fighter Wing, learning how to operate as one force with dissimilar fighter aircraft as they integrated mission planning, briefing, flying and debriefing together.

"As the project officer for ROKAF during this exercise, I've been working with Capt. Duncan [8th FW Buddy Wing project officer and F-16 pilot] intensively for the past two weeks," said Capt. Won Ho Lim, 102nd Fighter Squadron F-15K Slam Eagle pilot. "This has been a really great experience for me. This exercise is not like Max Thunder or RED FLAG - it's much smaller so we've been able to have much more face-to-face interactions, which has allowed us to focus more on the relationships between USAF and ROKAF."

Throughout the four-day exercise, pilots exchanged tactics and procedures with their RO-KAF counterparts.

"This exercise was unique because we came to a ROKAF base and operated at their facilities," said Maj. Dean Laansma, 80th Fighter Squadron assistance director of operations and Buddy Wing detachment commander. "It was advantageous to see how they ran their operations as we assimilated ourselves to them and increased our ability to understand and work with each other."

Buddy Wing exercises ensure that USAF and ROKAF Airmen continuously enhance combat capabilities so that if the need arises, they are ready to fight tonight as a combined force.

Above: An F-15K Slam Eagle from the 11th Fighter Wing prepares to taxi to the runway during Exercise Buddy Wing 15-2 at Daegu Air Base, Feb. 5, 2015. During the four-day exercise, pilots from the 8th Fighter Wing exchanged tactics and procedures with their ROKAF counterparts.

Right: Maj. Dean Laansma, 80th Fighter Squadron assistant director of operations and Exercise Buddy Wing detachment commander, gives the 80th FS "Crush 'em" gesture to an F-15K Slam Eagle as it taxis during Exercise Buddy Wing 15-2 at Daegu Air Base, Feb. 5, 2015. The 8th Fighter Wing deployed four F-16s to fly alongside ROKAF 11th Fighter Wing's F-15Ks during the fourday exercise.





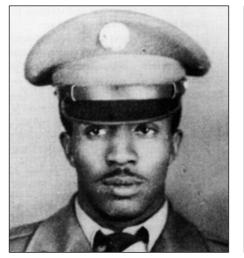
## **The Medal of Honor:** African-Americans and the Korean War

#### **By Robert Vanderpool** 7th Air Force – 8th Fighter Wing Historian

Awarded for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty, the Medal of Honor is the United States' highest military honor. On Dec. 21, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln signed Public Resolution 82 into law creating the Medal of Honor as the country's highest award for valor by members of the Navy. In July 1862, President Lincoln signed a similar resolution granting authority for award of the Medal of Honor to members of the Army. Originally intended only for the duration of the Civil War, the Medal of Honor was later established by Congressional action as a permanent award. With the addition of the Air Force as a separate service in 1948, additional regulations were instituted to provide for an Air Force Medal of Honor award. Service members of the U.S. Marine Corps earning the award are presented the Navy Medal of Honor. A separate Coast Guard Medal of Honor was authorized in 1963, but has never been designed or minted. The decoration is presented by the President of the United States to a military service member on behalf of, and in the name of, the Congress of the United States. The decoration is sometimes referred to as the 'Congressional Medal of Honor' as a result, but the official name of the award is the Medal of Honor. There have been a total of 3,493 Medals of Honor awarded in American history.

African-American service members of the United States' military have been awarded the Medal of Honor 89 times. The first action by an African-American to earn the award occurred on Jul. 18, 1863, by Army Sgt. William Harvey Carney. Carney did not receive his award until 1900, 37 years later. The first African-American to receive the Award was Navy Seaman Robert Blake who was presented the award in 1864. The most recent presentation of the Medal of Honor to an African-American occurred on Mar. 18, 2014, when the Medal of Honor was awarded to Army Sergeant First Class Melvin Morris for his action of Sept. 17, 1969 during the Vietnam War. This award also represents the last action by an African-American to earn the award. Previous to Morris' award, the most recent presentation of the Medal of Honor to an African-American was on Jan. 16, 2001 when a Medal of Honor was awarded to Army Corporal Andrew J. Smith for his action of Nov. 30, 1864, during the American Civil War. Before World War II, the Medal of Honor could be awarded for actions that did not involve direct contact with an enemy. Navy Seaman Robert Augustus Sweeney was awarded the Medal of Honor on two separate occasions for such actions becoming one of only 19 persons and the only African-American to earn the distinction twice.

During the Korean War a total of 144 Medals of Honor were awarded for bravery in action, with 106 of those being awarded posthumously. Of that number, two were awarded to African-American military service members. Both of these medals were awarded posthumously to soldiers of the Army's 24th Infantry



Pfc. William Henry Thompson, U.S. Army – Medal of Honor – August 6, 1950 (U.S. Army Photo)

Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, for actions which occurred during separate engagements. The first was awarded to Private First Class William Henry Thompson for his action of Aug. 6, 1950. The second was awarded to Sergeant Cornelius H. Charlton for his action of June 2, 1951. Although a 1948 Executive Order from President Harry Truman commanded the integration of military units, segregated units remained in service until they were finally phased out in 1954. The 24th Infantry Regiment was one of the last remaining all African-American regiments in the U.S. military. Thompson and Charlton were the last African-Americans in American history to be awarded the Medal of Honor for actions which occurred while serving in a segregated unit.

William Henry Thompson was born on Aug. 16, 1927 in Brooklyn, New York. Thompson enlisted into the Army in October 1945. After completing basic training, Thompson's first assignment was to a post at Adak, Alaska, where he served for 18 months until he received an honorable discharge. Thompson reenlisted in the Army in January 1948, joining the 6th Infantry Division which was stationed in South Korea. When the 6th Infantry Division moved from the Korean Peninsula, Thompson was reassigned to the 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division in Japan. When the Korean War erupted on Jun. 27, 1950, Thompson and the 24th Infantry Regiment were shipped to the front line, first contacting the enemy on July 24th.

On Aug. 6, 1950, the 24th Infantry Regiment was engaged near the South Korean village of Haman during the Battle of Pusan Perimeter. As Thompson's platoon approached the village it was ambushed by a large force of North Korean troops. Heavy automatic weapons fire caused several men to break ranks and flee. The remainder of Thompson's platoon was rallied by the commander into in a tight defensive perimeter. Thompson established a firing position and after the other heavy machine gun of the company was knocked out by enemy grenades, Thompson's gun soon became the focus of the North Korean attack. Thompson was wounded several times by small arms and grenade fragments, but held his post and kept firing without informing the rest of the platoon of his wounds. After the platoon was ordered to withdraw as a result of a heavy North



Sgt. Cornelius H. Charlton, U.S. Army – Medal of Honor – June 2, 1951 (U.S. Navy Photo)

Korean counterattack, Thompson's wounds were only then first discovered by his platoon commander. Ordered to withdrawal twice, Thompson refused and continued to fire his machine gun on the advancing enemy troops. Failing at physical efforts to get Thompson to abandon the position, the remainder of the platoon reluctantly withdrew without him. Thompson's last words to his unit were: "Get out of here, I'll cover you!" As Thompson's platoon retreated, they heard grenade blasts around Thompson's position, followed by a larger blast, at which point Thompson's gun fell silent. A few days later, after the 24th Infantry Regiment had retaken the area they discovered that Thompson had continued to fire his machine gun killing a large number of North Korean soldiers before he himself was killed. Thompson's selfsacrifice had covered his platoon's withdrawal, preventing higher casualty numbers among his compatriots, and earning him the recommendation for the Medal of Honor.

Awarded on Jun. 21, 1951, Private First Class William Henry Thompson's Medal of Honor Citation reads: "Pfc. Thompson distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. While his platoon was reorganizing under cover of darkness, fanatical enemy forces in overwhelming strength launched a surprise attack on the unit. Pfc. Thompson set up his machine gun in the path of the onslaught and swept the enemy with withering fire, pinning them down momentarily thus permitting the remainder of his platoon to withdraw to a more tenable position. Although hit repeatedly by grenade fragments and small-arms fire, he resisted all efforts of his comrades to induce him to withdraw, steadfastly remained at his machine gun and continued to deliver deadly, accurate fire until mortally wounded by an enemy grenade. Pfc. Thompson's dauntless courage and gallant self-sacrifice reflect the highest credit on himself and uphold the esteemed traditions of military service."

Cornelius H. Charlton was born on Jul. 24, 1929 in West Virginia. Charlton's family moved to New York City during World War II and Charlton enlisted in the Army right out of high school in 1946. After basic training, Charlton served in Germany and then Japan before being sent to Korea in September 1950 after volunteering for combat duty. Recognized for his leadership qualities, Charlton was named squad leader and platoon sergeant before his commanding officer recommended him for a battlefield commission in May 1951.

On Jun. 2, 1951, the 24th Infantry Regiment was engaged near the village of Chipo-ri, South Korea. Charlton's platoon was ordered to capture nearby Hill 543 which was defended by heavily entrenched Chinese infantry with mortars and machine guns. During the first attempt up the hill Charlton's platoon suffered severe casualties including the loss of the platoon commander. Having been driven back down the hill, Charlton assumed command and reorganized the unit for another attack. Three times Charlton led the platoon in a renewed attack making slow progress under heavy enemy fire. During the advance Charlton single handedly destroyed two Chinese positions with grenade and rifle fire. Charlton suffered a chest wound during one of the attacks but refused evacuation and continued to lead the company holding his chest wound with one hand and his rifle with the other. Overrunning the Chinese infantry positions in front of them, Charlton spotted the bunker which was responsible for the mortar fire and with the command, "Let's go!" he led the assault against the fortification. Receiving additional wounds from grenade and rifle fire, Charlton continued firing until the position was destroyed. After the mortars were silenced. Charlton finally succumbed as a result of the severity of his wounds. For his actions on Hill 543, Charlton was recommended for the Medal of Honor.

Awarded on Mar. 12, 1952, Sgt. Cornelius H. Charlton's Medal of Honor Citation reads: Sgt. Charlton, a member of Company C, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. His platoon was attacking heavily defended hostile positions on commanding ground when the leader was wounded and evacuated. Sgt. Charlton assumed command, rallied the men, and spearheaded the assault against the hill. Personally eliminating 2 hostile positions and killing 6 of the enemy with his rifle fire and grenades, he continued up the slope until the unit suffered heavy casualties and became pinned down. Regrouping the men he led them forward only to be again hurled back by a shower of grenades. Despite a severe chest wound, Sgt. Charlton refused medical attention and led a third daring charge which carried to the crest of the ridge. Observing that the remaining emplacement which had retarded the advance was situated on the reverse slope, he charged it alone, was again hit by a grenade but raked the position with a devastating fire which eliminated it and routed the defenders. The wounds received during his daring exploits resulted in his death but his indomitable courage. superb leadership, and gallant self-sacrifice reflect the highest credit upon himself the infantry, and the military service.

Recommended Reading: African American Recipients of the Medal of Honor: A Biographical Dictionary - Civil War through Vietnam War by Charles W. Hanna.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### February 13, 2015

### Kunsan

#### **Claims announcement** Disposition of effects

Air Force 1st Lt. Jason Fontenot, 8th Operations Support Squadron, is authorized to make disposition of personal effects of Senior Airman Stephen C. Talley.

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of the deceased should contact Fontenot at DSN (315) 782-4501.

#### Illmagwon Orphanage

Join Airmen from across the base in a wing chapel-sponsored event as they travel down to the Illmagwon Orphanage in Gunsan City every Tuesday at 6 p.m. for an evening of playing games and learning more about the local culture. For more information, contact the chapel at 782-4300.

#### Single Airmen Game Night

Fridays at 7:30 p.m., SonLight Inn. Everyone's welcome, special invite for all Single Airmen!

For more information contact, Senior Airman Jenfil Morillo-Burgos.

#### **Kunsan Photo Club**

Interested in sharing your photography experience with others and exploring Korea along the way? Have a camera, but want to learn how to use it more completely? Then join the Kunsan Photo Club as they delve into the finer qualities of photography where the key concept is: "It's not the camera that makes a great photo, but the photographer." If interested in joining, the group can be found on Facebook, just search for "Kunsan Photo Club."

#### Wolf Pack Lodge

Lodging Space A Policy

Need a break? Got family visiting and no room to house them? You can book lodging rooms on a space available basis up to 120 days in advance for a maximum of 30 days depending on availability. You can also book reservations for the holiday season (November and December) up to 30 days in advance for a maximum of 15 days. (Depending on availability) Book now for all of those relatives coming for the holiday!

Reservations – Front Desk-DSN 782-1844 or Commercial (82)63-470-1844 FAX: DSN 315-782-0633 Commercial (82)63-470-0633

#### **Children's English class**

Team 5/6 is looking for volunteers to support the Children's English class weekly, for children 2-15 years of age. We will break you up into groups to read, talk, or play board games with the children. Civilian attire is preferred however, UOD is allowed.

Classes are held from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the SonLight Inn.

For more information, contact TSgt. Justin Worthen.

#### Sunday Sonlight dinner

Every Sunday, volunteers from a specific unit cook dinner for their fellow Wolf Pack members at the Sonlight Inn. The dinner begins at 6 p.m. following grace led by a chaplain. Meals range from "breakfast for dinner" to "Italian cooking" to "Southern style." For more information or to volunteer, contact the chapel at 782-4300.

#### Sponsor training

Learn creative ways to assist newcomers reporting to Kunsan AB. Registration required. Class is held at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. Call 782-5644 for more information, dates or to sign up.

#### **ROKAF English Class**

Team 5/6 is looking for volunteers to support the ROKAF English class every Saturday, at the SonLight Inn. You will be talking to ROKAF Airmen (Enlisted) for approximately one hour. This event is open to all ranks! Civilian attire is preferred, however, UOD is allowed.

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Charles Nelson.

#### Ping Pong tournament

Free to all. Prizes for first and second places. Prizes include Wolf Pack Won. To sign up, dates or for more information, call the CAC at 782-5213 or 4679.

#### Osan

#### Conversational English Program

As part of the Good Neighbor Program, 7 AF Public Affairs has been supporting the conversational English program organized by the Osan City Mayor for middle school children in Osan city. We are in need of American volunteers who will assist/teach conversational English to the students for the 2015 first semester. The program occurs every Monday from 23 March to 13 July 2015. The orientation will be held at the city hall on Thursday, 19 Mar 15. Transportation is provided; Two mini buses depart from Checkertails at 1440 and returns to Checkertails at approximately 1730 each Monday. The program's goal is to improve Korean children's English language skills by allowing them to spend time with our service members in their Korean school classrooms. Spouses are welcome to volunteer. If you are interested in this "Adopt-A-School "English Tutoring Program", please contact 7AF/ PA Mr. Pak, To Yong via email to\_yong. pak.kr@us.af.mil or DSN 784-4709.

#### **Monthly PCS Briefings**

Every first Thursday of the month at 0900 in the base theater Osan's Outbound Assignments Team hosts a PCS briefing that provides essential information to relocating members. They are joined with other wing agencies such as Passports, Travel Management Office, Tri- Care and Finance to make the process as smooth as possible. Don't miss this critical briefing to ensure YOU have all the tools necessary to out-process hassle-free!

#### **E-mail security**

There has been a rising trend of unencrypted e-mails containing FOUO, PII, or other sensitive/critical information due to recipients not being of the USAF GAL. Please exercise good information security and call the Help Desk if you are having problems sending an encrypted e-mail..

#### 2014 Osan Air Base Chapel Survey

The Chapel is currently assessing the spiritual and religious needs of Osan Air Base. Would you please take a few minutes to better ensure we are meeting the needs of our community. Thank you for your time and input in this effort.

#### Anthem Singers

Sopranos, altos, tenors and bass vocalists are needed to sign the US and ROK National Anthems at various events on base. Practice is held at 1700 every Thursday at the Chapel Annex. Send an e-mail to abigail.boyd@us.af.mil or afryea.clark@us.af.mil for more information.

#### Sam's Garage Now Open

Sam's Garage is now open at the base service station for all service work including inspection of vehicles for base passes. Sam's Garage is open seven days week from 0900-1800.

#### **Military Tuition Assistance Briefing**

Presented by the 51 FSS Education & Training Center, this is mandatory for all First Time Users, Officer/Enlisted, for military TA. No Appointment Necessary! Held every Tuesday at 0800, Bldg 787, Rm. 10. For additional information or questions please contact the Education Center at 784-4220.

#### Preschool Playgroup

Family Advocacy hosts Preschool Playgroup at the Youth Center from 1000-1100. Ages are 0-5 years old. Come join the fun. It is good for YOU and your little one. Playgroup is every Monday when school is in session and runs thru 8 Jun 2015. We will not meet on no school days, holidays, spring and winter break, and during summer break. Call Family Advocacy for more information 784-5010.



### **Civilian Personnel Office**



### HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE:

**SEOL-NAL (Lunar New Year)**, Feb. 18, 19, and 20 2015. All KN civilian employees will observe this official holiday. Those KN civilian employees scheduled to work on their observed holidays will be paid holiday premium pay. For KN civilian employees, if a holiday falls on a non-work day, no substitute observance day will be granted.

**Feb. 19** is designated as a **training day for HQ 7th Air Force, 8th Fighter Wing and the 51st Fighter Wing**. Therefore, U.S. civilian employees who wish to take this day off must request and be approved for leave. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Kim, Min Kyo of the Civilian Personnel Office, 784-4434/8177.

## Crimson Sky

### Songtan Bus Terminal Time Table

서울 - 남부터미널 SROUL ₩3800		성 남	인천·	7.64	인천	이저브
					InCheon	의 정 부 (동두천)
NamBu Terminal	장지 가락 잠실	SeongNam	InCheor			
05:50	Dong Seoul	₩3400	₩11	200	₩6200	UiJeongBu
06:10	₩4400	06:40	04:45	_	06:30	W8000
06:30	JangJi	07:30	05:05	_	07:50 via CheoryBuk	07:45
06:50	GaRak JamSil	08:10 via Dongtan	05:25	_	08:30	09:45(동두천)
07:05	06:20 via Dongtan	08:45	05:55	_	10:10	12:05
07:20	06:35	09:30	06:25	_	10:50	15:55
07:30	06:55 via Dongtan	10:10	06:55	_	11:30 via Cheorythuk	17:05
07:40	07:15 via Dongtan	10:40	07:25	_	13:40	20:05(동두천
07:55	07:45	11:20 via Dongtan	08:05	Time:	15:30	
08:10	08:25	12:10	08:45	approx.	16:00 via CheoryBuk	
08:30	09:05	12:45 via Dongtan	09:25	1 hour and	17:30	
08:50	09:35	13:40	10:15	40 minutes	18:30	<u>강 롱</u>
09:10	10:05	14:30	11:05	( could be	19:10	GangNeung
09:30	10:35	15:20	11:55	changed by	20:30 via CheoryBuk	₩14800
09:40	11:05	16:10	12:45	condition of the truffic)	22:00	07:20
09:50	11:35	16:45 via Dongtan	13:35	the transcj	등 탄	09:20
10:10	12:05	17:30	14:15		DongTan	11:50
10:30	12:35	18:10	15:05		₩2100	13:50
10:50	13:05	18:40	16:05		06:20 Bus for Doing Seoul	16:20
11:10	13:35	19:20	16:55		06:55 Bus for Dong Secul	18:20
11:30	14:05	20:20	17:55		07:15 Dung Secul	원 주
11:50	14:35	20:55	18:45	_	08:10 Secondham	WonJu
12:05	15:05	21:50	19:35	_	11:20 StoregNam	₩9200
12:20	15:35	청북,포승,평택항	10.00	-	12:45 secondram	07:10
12:40	16:05		김포	고하	16:45 secondum	08:50
13:00	16:35	CheongBuk ₩1900	KimPo		10.40 SeongNam	10:30
			1		A +	
13:20	17:05	PoSeung	W71	100	속 초	12:10
13:40	17:35	PyeongTaek Port	05:45		SokCho	13:50
14:00	18:05	₩3300	07:15	Time:	₩20000	15:30
14:20	18:35	07:20	09:15	approx.	07:55	17:10
14:40	19:05	07:40	11:15	1 hour and	10:35	18:50
15:00	19:35	07:50	13:25	40 minutes	12:55	20:30
15:20	20:25	11:00	15:25	( could be	15:45	제천
15:40	21:05	12:20	17:25	changed by condition of	18:45	JeCheon
15:55	21:35	13:10	19:25	the traffic)		₩13300
16:20		17:00		are many		15:10
16:40		17:20			춘천 청평 가평	19:10
17:00		19:30	대전	충 주	ChunCheon	광 주(전남
17:20			DaeJeon	ChungJu	W14000	KwangJu
17:40		청 북	₩7200	₩10400	CheongPyeong	₩16600
18:00	고양 백석 화정	CheongBuk	07:00	09:00	GaPyeong	08:45
18:20	GoYang	₩1900	08:30	10:55	07:10	10:25
18:35	CPO L GUIX	07:50	10:30	12:55	09:40	12:25
18:50	백석 (₩7800)	11:30	12:30	14:00	10:50	14:15
19:05	11:30	16:00	14:30	15:25	12:10	15:45
19:20	13:10	20:30	16:30	18:20	13:10	17:15
	19:00	20.00	10100			
19:40			18:30	청 주	14:30	군산
20:10	20:50		20:00	CheongJu	19:50	GunSan
20:40	화정 (₩7600)		L	₩6400	1B:10	₩13900
21:10	13:10			07:30	19:10	12:00
21:40	19:00				20:20	19:00

## Incheon Airport Shuttle Bus Schedule



### Kyung Dong bus schedule (Yongsan - Osan - Humphreys)

#### **MONDAY-FRIDAY**

										*		
Lv. Yongsan	0550	0700	0830	1000	1100	1300	1430	1630	1720	1720	1900	2130
Ar. 121st GH							1435					
Lv. Osan AB	0650	0810	0940	1119	1210	1410	1540	1740	1830	x	2010	2240
Ar. Humph	0740	0850	1020	1150	1250	1450	1630	1820	1910	1850	2050	2320
	**	*										
Lv. Humph	х	0550	0700	0830	1000	1100	1230	1330	1530	1710	1910	2100
Lv. Osan AB	0600	х	0750	0920	1050	1150	1320	1420	1620	1800	2000	2140
Ar. 121st GH		0720	0850									
Ar. Yongsan	0710	0730	0900	1030	1200	1300	1430	1530	1730	1910	2110	2250

Bus stops at Humphreys main gate
Bus stops at Yongsan Dragon Hill Lodge

#### WEEKEND & U.S HOLIDAYS

#### "Price \$6.00 or W6,200 one way, For more info (DSN)784-6623"

										*				
Lv. Yongsan	0700	0800	0900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800	1930	2130
Lv. Osan AB	0810	0910	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1510	1610	1710	1810	1910	2040	2240
Ar. Humph	0850	0950	1050	1150	1250	х	1450	1550	x	1750	х	1950	2120	2320
	*													
Lv. Humph	0620	0800	0930	1030	1130	1230	х	1400	1530	х	1700	х	1900	2100
Lv. Osan AB	0700	0840	1010	1120	1220	1320	1400	1450	1620	1700	1750	1850	1950	2140
Ar. Yongsan	0820	0950	1130	1230	1330	1430	1510	1600	1730	1810	1900	2000	2100	2250

\* Bus stops at Humphreys main gate

\*\* Bus stops at Yongsan DHL

x Bus doesn't stop at this station

POC for the bus schedule - Osan: 784-6623, Yongsan: 723-4499, Humphreys: 753-7354

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# **Wolf Pack MPOY Banquet** Congratulations Wolf Pack maintenance professionals for a job well done this past year

The 8th Maintenance Group held their 2014 Maintenance Professional of the Year banquet at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 31, 2015. Forty-five awards were dis-tributed celebrating excellence in maintenance career fields, and for the first time in recorded history, the Wolf Pack maintenance team won the 2014 HQ PACAF Clements McMullen Memorial Daedalian Weapons System Maintenance Trophy. (U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Taylor Curry)









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## **2014 Annual Awards**

Congratulations to the 2014 annual award winners and nominees of the Wolf Pack



The 8th Fighter Wing held the 2014 Annual Awards banquet at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Feb. 7, 2015. The event began with each nominee receiving a medallion to distinguish themselves as annual award nominees. (U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Katrina Heikkinen)



Master Sgt. Jeremy Phillips, 8th Civil Engineering Squadron, accepts his award as the 8th Fighter Wing SNCO of the year for 2014.

Staff Sgt. Jonathan McElroy, 8th Logistics Readiness Squadron, accepts his award as the 8th Fighter Wing NCO of the Year for 2014.



Ms. Choe, Chun Mi, 8th Operations Support Squadron, accepts her award as the 8th Fighter Wing Civilian of the Year in the manager/supervisor/professional category for 2014.



1st Lt. Brittany Hicks, 8th Fighter Wing protocol office, accepts her award as the 8th Fighter Wing CGO of the Year for 2014.

## Wolf Pack, ROKAF volunteer at special needs center



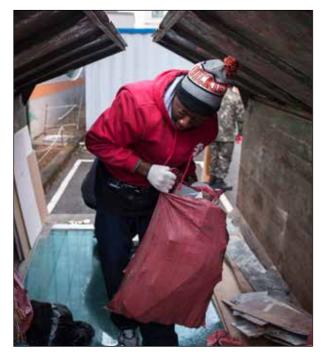
Tech. Sgt. Andre Grant, 8th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, makes arts and crafts projects with residents of the Gunsan City Rehabilitation Center during a volunteer event in Gunsan City, Republic of Korea, Jan. 22, 2015. Wolf Pack Airmen and ROK Air Force members volunteered their day to help at the rehabilitation center. City, Republic of Korea, Jan. 22, 2015. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Taylor Curry)



A resident of the Gunsan City Rehabilitation Center poses for a photo during a Kunsan Air Base volunteer event in Gunsan



Members of both the Wolf Pack and Republic of Korea Air Force pose for a photo with residents of the Gunsan City Rehabilitation Center during a volunteer event in Gunsan City, ROK, Jan. 22, 2015. ROKAF and U.S. Air Force members volunteered for the day at the rehabilitation center as part of a monthly community service project.



Senior Airman Patrick Moton, 80th Fighter Squadron aviation resource manager, throws trash into a dumpster outside the Gunsan City Rehabilitation Center in Gunsan City, Republic of Korea, Jan. 22, 2015.

#### By Senior Airman Taylor Curry 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- Wolf Pack Airmen spend one day each month giving back to the local community by volunteering their time alongside Republic of Korea Air Force members somewhere in or around Gunsan City, wherever help may be needed.

This month, 12 U.S. Air Force Airmen journeyed with their ROKAF counterparts to the Gunsan City Rehabilitation Center for special needs patients to assist the staff with cleaning the facility and to interact with the residents Jan. 22.

"This volunteer event is designed to foster relationships with the local community," said Tech. Sgt. Crystal Ballard, 8th Fighter Wing command chief executive assistant. "Every month we perform a different task. For example, this time we went to the rehabilitation center. In the past we have done community service on base, beautification projects, food preparations for local facilities and other community involvement. It just depends on what people need help with, and we will be there to support them."

Once the team of U.S. and ROKAF volunteers stepped off the bus, they were divided into groups to

assist the center's staff with a variety of tasks. Teams helped with taking out trash, scrubbing down exercise equipment, removing furniture from living areas, and putting together art pieces with residents during an arts and crafts session.

"It was great being able to help the rehabilitation center as well as work side-by-side with ROKAF personnel," said Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Ceballos, 8th Operations Support Squadron wing scheduler. "I felt it was a personally rewarding and humbling experience, and I would encourage other Airmen to do it for future events."

Although there was a language barrier, U.S. and ROK forces stepped up to work together as a team to tackle all objectives set before them.

"This is my first time volunteering at this center, and it has been a very meaningful experience," said ROKAF Airman 1st Class Son, Tae Seon. "I'm glad I had this opportunity to spend time with the people here as well as work with the U.S. Air Force Airmen too."

After both teams of volunteers finished with their duties at the center, the group sat down together to enjoy a Korean-style meal in the cafeteria.

"It's not just about volunteering," said Ballard. "It's another chance to bond with our ROKAF partners and members of the Gunsan community."

#### PAGE 19 | CRIMSON SKY

OURISM

ORGANIZATION 한국관광공사

# Seola:

### **Lunar New Year Celebrations in Korea**

Seollal (Lunar New Year; January 1 of the lunar calendar) is one of the most celebrated national holidays in Korea. This year, Seollal falls on February 19 of the Gregorian calendar. More than just a holiday to mark the beginning of a new year, Seollal is truly a special occasion for Korean people. Not only is it a time for paying respect to

ancestors, but it is also an opportunity to catch up with distant family members who travel home to get together for this special occasion. During Seollal, Koreans traditionally wear hanbok (traditional clothes), perform ancestral rites, play folk games, eat traditional foods, listen to stories, and catch up with one another. Read on to discover how Koreans celebrate Seollal.

### The day before Seollal: Busy with preparations

Seollal demands a lot of preparation, especially in terms of gifts, traveling, and not to mention, the holiday feast! As there are many things to purchase for the ancestral rites and gifts, department stores and markets are usually very crowded during the days leading up to Seollal. The foods for ancestral rites are prepared with a variety of wild herbs, meat, fish, and fruits all chosen with great attention paid to the quality of their shape, color, and freshness.

Another crucial part of preparing for Seollal, especially for those far from home,

is travel arrangements. Many people live away from their family home because of work, marriage, or study, and therefore must travel to celebrate Seollal with their families. So, there is a mad rush to book buses, trains, or



plane tickets before they all sell out. Meanwhile, traveling by car during the holiday can take over two to four times the normal travel time due to heavy traffic. For this reason, real-time reports of highway traffic conditions during Seollal are broadcast on the radio and other mass media channels.

#### **Tip - Popular Seollal gifts**

Seollal gifts vary each year depending on economic situations and gift trends, but the most popular ones are department store gift cards and cash. Popular gifts for parents include ginseng, honey, health products, and massage chairs. Other common gifts include toiletries such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, etc., and gift baskets/sets composed of Spam, tuna, hangwa (traditional sweets and cookies), dried fish, and fruit.

#### Why is 2015 the Year of the Sheep?

Every year is represented by one of the 12 zodiac signs, which take the form of twelve guardian animal deities collectively known as Sibijisin. These signs change with every new year and rotate over a 12-year cycle. For a fun activity at the beginning of

### On the day of Seollal: Partake in ancestral rites and enjoy traditional games

Seollal demands a lot of preparation, especially in terms of gifts, traveling, and not to mention, the holiday feast! As there are many things to purchase for the ancestral rites and gifts, department stores and markets are usually very crowded during the days leading up to Seollal. The foods for ancestral rites are prepared with a variety of wild herbs, meat, fish, and fruits all chosen with great attention paid to the quality of their shape, color, and freshness.



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#### Traditional games to enjoy on Seollal

Seollal is an opportunity for the entire family to engage in fun activities together. The most common activity is yutnori, a board game that involves throwing four wooden sticks. This game is so easy to learn that all family members, regardless of age, can enjoy playing in teams and making fun bets. Besides yutnori, traditional games such as jegi-chagi (footbag-like game), neol-twiggi (see-saw), tuho (arrow toss), and yeon-naligi (kite flying) are widely played at places like parks or open areas at palaces and shrines. Lastly, families wind down by going to see a movie or watching Seollal specials on TV.



each year, people, especially elders, analyze the relationship be-

tween their birth year zodiac sign and the new year's sign to find out their fortune.

The year 2015 is referred to as Eulminyeon or "The Year of the Sheep." The sheep is the eighth animal deity among the Sibijisin, which literally means "twelve (sibi) gods of the earth (jisin)."

#### **Tip - Traveling**

During the Seollal holiday, the bustling city of Seoul becomes relatively quiet and peaceful, as most people leave the capital to return home or travel abroad. Streets become vacant, and many restaurants and shops close. However, recreational and cultural facilities such as amusement parks, national parks, and major palaces stay open to the public to present various events and traditional games for families. You might want to consider adjusting your travel dates if you are planning to visit other regions of Korea during the holiday period, as bus and train tickets are hard to come by and highways are

#### heavily congested.

Tip - Shopping During the Seollal holiday season (Feb 18-22, 2015), most department stores and major shopping districts will stay closed for two days, especially on the day of Seollal (Feb 19, 2015) and the day after (Feb 20, 2015). (\*Dates may vary depending on location and brand, so please check details prior to visiting.)

home, is travel arrangements. Many people live away from their family home

## DISCOVER





When traveling to new places, it's always tempting to look for higher ground and the chance to get a bird's-eye view; a spot that will enable you to

truly capture the essence of the place you are visiting. Seoul Fortress Wall is one of those places, as it not only gives an impressive presentation of the city, but also a long-lasting memory of Seoul's extraordinary history and cultural changes over time.

Stunning views can be found walking along the fortress trail, which takes about two hours to complete, through residential areas consisting of older houses and newer apartments stacked side by side. This is one unique aspect only found in Seoul, where visitors can feel the ancient and modern come together through these two very different features – the fortress, which was presumably built more than twenty decades ago, and the modern buildings seen at the midway point, which were built within the past twenty years. It is only natural to be in awe of the scenery on this path, so make sure to bring your camera!

As already mentioned, the city of Seoul stands out for its distinctive juxtaposition of traditional and contemporary elements, as well as its citizens' slow yet fast-paced lives. With this in mind, it's needless to say that these are also the first and last impressions that many foreign visitors carry home from Seoul.

The Seoul Fortress Wall, with its traditional elements and slower pace, takes on the role of a heritage site where visitors can take time off from their busy lives to breathe, meditate, relax, and get some light exercise. It may be great to share the experience with companions, but we assure you it won't be any less enjoyable to tour this path on your own. The city view can be best seen during the daytime; however, the evening also offers an unbeatable soft-hued ambience created by thousands of lights shining all over the city. When faced with this beautiful sight, you will begin to feel like a photographer, taking photo after photo to remember it all.

There are many points at which to start walking the trail, but we recommend beginning from near Exit 4 of Hansung Univ. Station (Seoul Subway Line 4). This gentle walking course starts near Hyehwamun Gate and stretches 2.2 kilometers to arrive at Heunginjimun Gate.

The fortress wall, partially hidden by the encroaching natural environment, is nothing like other popular tourist areas thanks to its ideal location out of sight from main roads. Therefore, it is fittingly the site most favored by Seoulites to enjoy a leisurely walk, unloading their daily worries and stress at this quiet oasis in



the middle of the city. In addition, the wall also holds historical value in retaining its original state, offering all the more reason to visit and learn about Seoul's history. Every single rock holds special meaning and should be treated as a critical piece of history, showing the city's chronological transition.

This walking tour is like traveling back in time, leading you off the beaten path to secluded locations such as Jangsu Village and Naksan Park, which have stood the test of time. Naksan Park has been given the nickname "the Montmartre Hill of Korea" for its similarity in offering a fully panoramic view of Seoul. It will allow you to get a look at Seongbuk-gu in detail, as well as N Seoul Tower farther off in the distance.

Descending from the park, the route will take you through Ihwa Mural Village. Here is another must-see place for a photo op. Expect to be greeted by some beautiful murals, which were created by about 60 different local artists to promote the village and make the alley a pleasant tourist attraction. After a short walk through the mural village, you'll arrive at National Treasure No.1, Dongdaemun Gate (Heunginjimun Gate).

In addition to the fortress path mentioned above, there are a number of free programs and stamp tours available for exploring the fortress wall, which are led

by historians and expert guides, and cover the route from Hyehwamun Gate to Heunginjimun Gate. These unique tours, operated under the name "Hanyang Doseong Tour," are organized by Jongno-gu Office and offer special benefits to those who make reservations.

For more information, visit the websites listed below and make sure to plan which date and trails you would like to visit ahead of time, since civilian access to the fortress wall may be restricted for special occasions.

#### More info

• Transportation:

1. Get off at Hansung Univ. Station (Seoul Subway Line 4), Exit 4. Go straight following Samseongyo Street for 165m to arrive at Hyehwamun Gate.

2. Get off at Dongdaemun Station (Seoul Subway Line 1, 4), Exit 6 or 7 to arrive at Heunginjimun Gate.

3. Get off at Hyehwa Station (Seoul Subway Line 4), Exit 2. Go straight for about 20 minutes along Dae-

hangno-gil Street to arrive at Naksan Park. • Websites:

Jongno-gu Office www.jongno.go.kr (Korean, English, Japanese, Chinese)

Seoul City Wall seoulcitywall.seoul.go.kr (Korean, English)