

Crimson Sky



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Cody Owens, 28th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron flight controls journeymen, awaits engine shut-down of a U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancer deployed from Andersen Air Base, Guam, at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 21, 2016. Today, the Lancer conducted the closest flight to North Korea ever. The B-1 is the backbone of the U.S. long-range bomber mission and is capable of carrying the largest payload of both guided and unguided weapons in the Air Force inventory. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathan Steffen)

B-1B Lancer makes closest flight ever to North Korea

By Master Sgt. Jeremy Larlee
7th Air Force Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- The strength of a powerful alliance was the catalyst for something historical on the Korean Peninsula as the B-1B Lancer performed a low-level flight near the DMZ, the closest a Lancer has ever flown to the border of the Republic of Korea and North Korea.

As part of the continuing demonstration of the steadfast United States' commitment to the Republic of Korea's defense, the B-1B strategic bomber flew from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, landing at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 21. This is the first time the bomber has landed on the Korean peninsula since 1996.

Military leadership stated the mission was further evidence of the alliance's determination to safeguard the Republic of Korea in response to a recent provocative action by North Korea Sept. 9.

"The bond between the United States and the Republic of Korea is ironclad and the strength of that commitment will not be shaken by North Korea's aggressive behavior," said Lt. Gen. Thomas W. Bergeson, 7th Air Force commander. "What we are showing today is just one tool we have to choose from a wide array of options. The alliance grows stronger every day and we remain prepared to defend and to preserve the security of the Korean Peninsula and the region."

Lieutenant Gen. Lee, Wang-keun, ROK Air Force Operations commander, also stressed the importance of the Alliance's commitment to the safety

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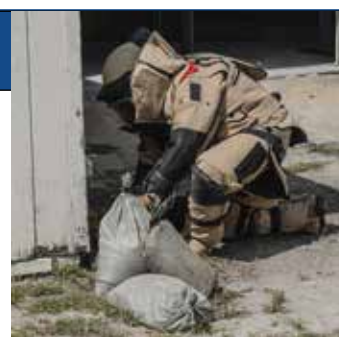
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Crimson Sky

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When the helper asks for help



Tech. Sgt. Daniel Mendez official photo. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Chelsea Browning)

By Tech. Sgt. Daniel Mendez
8th Medical Operations Squadron

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- Over the last 10 years, I have seen a lot of different reactions when it comes to the topic of mental health. While the attitude toward mental health has changed for the better, I continue to hear some of the same concerns I heard years ago. The one that comes up most frequently is that talking to mental health providers will somehow damage one's career. The negative behavior that prompted a visit to the clinic may trigger professional consequences, but simply seeking help will not. The vast majority of those who come to the Mental Health Clinic experience positive changes in their professional and personal lives. I can't tell you about all of our success stories without breaking confidentiality, but there is one I can share: my story.

In 2008, I was working at the Combat Stress Clinic in Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. The deployment was nothing like anyone had described to me before I deployed. Several of the mental health technicians with whom I worked before deploying all told me that Bagram was a cake deployment because it didn't get attacked like some of the forward operating bases. How wrong they were. I was placed in harm's way numerous times; during one incident in particular, I was lucky to have walked away with my life.

Another particularly stressful time was on Christmas Eve. My ER got slammed with multiple trauma patients. As soon as they finished treating one group, another wave arrived. I was running back and forth between helping in the ER and the Combat Stress Clinic when I heard one of our Combat Stress Team members was injured in an attack. He probably wouldn't have survived if he wasn't a few feet away from a combat medic when the shrapnel severed his brachial artery. The next day I was tasked to go to his forward operating base to collect his belongings and bring them back. On the surface, I knew I was scared for my life, but I was oblivious to how many different emotions were going through my head. It would be a number of months before I actually started to process them, though.

Three months later, I returned to California. Words cannot express the joy I felt seeing my wife at the airport. I was still in the clouds even after my rest and recovery ended. It wasn't until a few months later that the reality of what I experienced started to catch up with me. My wife was the first to notice some of the changes. I had always been a very calm, patient person, but I would get furious when I heard people complain about petty things. A stranger complaining about a long line

at a store was all it took for me to lose my cool. All I could think of was how this "problem" was nothing compared to the struggles many of the soldiers I had worked with encountered on a daily basis. This stranger had no clue just how fortunate we all are.

I started to display more symptoms. I thought I could manage on my own because I had briefed thousands of deployers about it. When I got back to work, there were things that would remind me of what I saw during my deployment. I knew from my briefings that I shouldn't avoid thinking about my deployment experiences and that talking to people would help. It was difficult to have those conversations, but I did.

The last straw for me was when I went to the airport to pick up a new Airman. It didn't take long before I felt the "fight or flight" urge and started feeling overwhelmed. Before I knew it, I had gone from walking through the baggage claim looking for an Airman to hiding by the vending machines in the corner. It was not a very good first impression when the Airman approached me. I was embarrassed I was experiencing what I had trained others to overcome. At that point, I decided to seek help. My pride had held me back from getting help for too long.

Making an appointment at the Mental Health Clinic was the easy part. Talking during the appointment was harder than I thought it would be. We discussed what I had experienced and what my current concerns were. I shared how exhausted I felt being on edge all the time and how the "fight or flight" urges made it hard to get work done. With that information, we formed a plan. We met weekly to help me process what I had experienced. Although I had previously talked with many people about the events, I learned that I was only telling a part of the story. It was a play-by-play of what happened, but it lacked an important aspect: what I felt.

With time, patience, and a lot of practice, I was able to get to a point where I no longer needed treatment. I do not meet criteria for a diagnosis. Although I am not the same person I was before I deployed, I don't consider that to be a bad thing. I have grown as a person.

Even someone with all the tools to help him/herself might be in need of help when going through rough times. We all struggle. It does not mean we are weak. It means we are humans, and reaching out for help is a normal human response. Family, friends, coworkers: the people around you are here for you. But if you feel you can't connect or start the conversation, come to the Mental Health Clinic. We're here for you, too. Don't be afraid to share your success story or ask for help in making yours.



(Courtesy photo)

Media invited to Air Power Day preview

51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- Media are invited to attend a preview of the 2016 Air Power Day airshow Sept. 23.

Media representatives will have the opportunity to cover the practice which begins at 11 a.m. Media will meet a public affairs representative at the Songtan International Community Center and travel to the airfield by bus.

Practice will include United States Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II and F-16 Fighting Falcon demonstration teams, and a combat search and rescue demonstration.

Film crews and photographers are encouraged to document the aircraft demonstration by filming the ground demos, aerobatics, taxiing and landing.

Media outlets interested in covering the Air Power Day practice Sept. 23 should contact the 51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs office by email at 51FWPA@us.af.mil <mailto:51FWPA@us.af.mil> no later than noon Sept. 19. Include the following information: name, passport/Korean identification number, nationality, media affiliate, contact email.

Please note, vendors will not be available to sell food or water. Please plan accordingly.

U.S., ROK conduct strategic display of air power

By Master Sgt. Jeremy Larlee
7th Air Force Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- In a demonstration of the ironclad commitment to the Republic of Korea's defense, two United States Air Force B-1B Lancers from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam conducted a low-level flight Sept. 13 over Osan, South Korea, in response to a recent provocative action by North Korea Sept. 9.

The B-1Bs were joined in flight by ROK F-15K Slam Eagles and U.S. F-16 Fighting Falcons.

During a press event following the event ROK and U.S. military leadership talked about the importance of strengthening their alliance and continuing to respond strongly to North Korea's continued aggressive behavior.

"North Korea's nuclear test is a dangerous escalation and poses an unacceptable threat," said U.S. Army Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, U.S. Forces Korea commander. "The United States has an unshakeable commitment to defend allies in the region and will take necessary steps to do so, including operations like this one today, and the deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Air Defense battery to the Korean Peninsula."

General Lee, Sun Jin, Chairman of the Republic of Korea Joint Chiefs of Staff, stated that further nuclear testing by North Korea would only hasten the demise of the government.

"As we have warned multiple times, if North Korea conducts military provocations they will be met with a firm response from us that will shake the very foundation of their regime," said Lee.

The B-1B is capable of carrying the largest payload of both guided and unguided weapons in the Air Force inventory. It can rapidly deliver massive quantities of precision and non-precision weapons against any adversary, anywhere in the world, at any time. The aircraft holds almost 50 world records for speed, payload, range, and time of climb in its class.

Brooks concluded his statements by stating that the bomber was just one item in a multi-dimensional toolbox the alliance has to maintain stability and security on the Korean Peninsula.

"What you saw today is not the limit of our capability and there should be no mistake about the full array of capabilities we have at our disposal," said Brooks. "The Alliance military forces remain ready to meet mutual defense obligations against threats to the security of the Korean peninsula and the region."

See more photos on page 12



Two formations consisting of U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancers, F-16 Fighting Falcons and Republic of Korea air force F-15K Slam Eagles perform a flyover over Osan Air Base, ROK, Sept. 13, 2016. The aircraft formations showcased the ironclad commitment the U.S. maintains to the defense of the ROK and the resolve of both nations to maintain stability and security on the Korean Peninsula. The B-1s are currently assigned to Andersen Air Base, Guam. (U.S. Air Force photo by SSgt Jonathan Steffen)

Wolf Pack airmen climb to commemorate 9/11



U.S. Air Force firefighters from the 8th Civil Engineer Squadron climb up flights of stairs at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 12, 2016. The 9/11 memorial stair climb event is a tribute to the 343 firefighters who gave their lives during the tragic events at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Colville McFee)

By Senior Airman Colville McFee
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- Members of the 8th Fighter Wing came together to pay a special tribute to the victims and the sacrifices of emergency responders involved with the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Airmen from the 8th Civil Engineer Squadron fire department, 8th Medical Group and Security Forces Squadron joined to honor New York Fire Department firefighters by climbing the equivalent of 110 flights of stairs; equal to the number of flights in the World Trade Center.

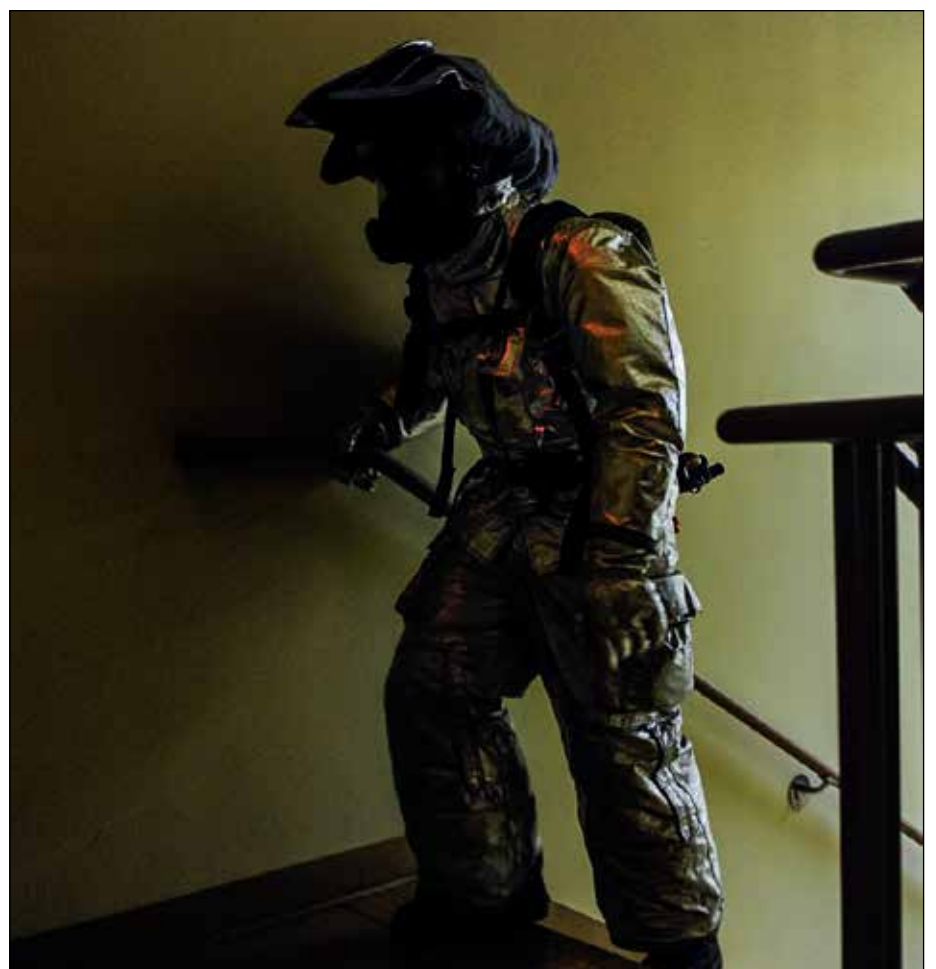
Their individual tribute not only remembers the 343 FDNY firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice on 9/11, but symbolically represents their heroic journey to save others.

Airmen who participated donned full firefighter gear and packs of equipment weighing up to 80 pounds, as they climbed up and down the stairwell dealing with muscle cramps and fatigue.

"It's important for people to see just one of the challenges that the first responders faced [on 9/11]; 110 flights of stairs can get very tiring," said Staff Sgt. Chris Christian, 8th Civil Engineer Squadron fire inspector. "People don't realize how exhausting it can be until they've done it."

Participants of the stair climb walked with a piece of paper containing the name of a firefighter, cop or medic who died that day. It served as an important gesture to never forget the brave men and women who gave their lives to protect others.

"It makes me feel proud to be a part of this mission, I take a lot of pride in being a firefighter," said Staff Sgt. Bruce Lovett, 8th Civil Engineer Squadron noncommissioned officer in charge of logistics. "I look at every firefighter as being my brother and sister who would risk their lives to save another."



A U.S. Air Force firefighter from the 8th Civil Engineer Squadron climbs up a flight of stairs at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 12, 2016. The 9/11 memorial stair climb event is a tribute to the 343 firefighters who gave their lives during the tragic events at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Colville McFee)

Team Osan prepares for air show, holds EM exercise



Defenders from the 51st Security Forces Squadron guard the flightline from simulated media personnel during an emergency management exercise at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 8, 2016. The exercise prepared 51st Fighter Wing personnel to effectively respond to aircraft crashes during an air show. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Dillian Bamman)

By Senior Airman Victor J. Caputo
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- Osan Air Power Day 2016 is right around the corner, and part of the preparation included an emergency management exercise on Sept. 8 and 9.

The exercise gave first responders a chance to run through a mid-air collision scenario, practicing how they would respond with the presence of thousands of extra people on base.

"The exact intent of this exercise was to mimic the upcoming air show in [as many ways] possible," said Capt. Joseph Correia, 51st Civil Engineer Squadron readiness and emergency management flight commander. "All of the items that will be in the air show were set up for the exercise, such as medical tents being staged where they will be staged and fire trucks being staged in their areas."

While the first responders were training on the ground, a different group of Airmen were operating in the emergency operations center, flexing and honing their peacetime response actions and coordinating between dozens of agencies.

"The EM flight basically runs the [command and control] node for all of the first responders in the EOC," said Correia. "Our main focus and goal there is to supply the first responders with whatever they need to get their job done."

While the on-base response was being handled by Air Force personnel, just as much coordination with multiple local organizations has happened off-base, including fire and police departments, local emergency management offices and city government officials.

"Air Power Day is going to be an absolute blast for everyone who comes out to enjoy the festivities, but in case an emergency situation occurs, we are prepared to respond both on and off base," said Col. Andrew Hansen, 51st Fighter Wing commander. "The safety of our community visitors and military personnel in attendance is our top priority, and training like this ensures our readiness for any unanticipated events."



U.S. Airmen from the 51st Medical Group line up simulated injured individuals during an emergency management exercise at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 8, 2016. Airmen from the 51st Fighter Wing practiced emergency management procedures in case of situations with downed aircraft. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Dillian Bamman)

Pacific Rim Symposium improves multilateral partnerships

By Staff Sgt. Kamaile O. Chan
Headquarters Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

SEOUL, Republic of Korea -- Sixteen Indo-Asia-Pacific nations gathered here Sept. 5 through 9 to discuss multilateral cooperation during the PACRIM Airpower Symposium co-hosted by the U.S. and Republic of Korea.

The theme, "Developing Air, Space and Cyberspace Power...the Foundation of Multilateral Cooperation," focused discussions on improving cooperation and coordination during humanitarian assistance/disaster relief operations, developing enlisted leadership, and enhancing the coordination of air assets during contingencies, among other topics of mutual concern.

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Dirk Smith, Pacific Air Forces Director of Air and Cyberspace Operations, led the U.S. delegation and co-chaired the symposium with Republic of Korea Air Force Chief of Policy, Brig. Gen. Bae Soon Wook. Pacific Air Forces headquarters, located at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, led the U.S. planning and execution of the PACRIM Airpower Symposium and Senior Enlisted Leadership Conference.

"The peace and stability of the Indo-Asia-Pacific region is constantly at risk of being impacted by large-scale crisis that may require a coordinated multinational response," Smith said. "By building multilateral cooperation in air, space and cyberspace with our partners in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, we are improving our ability to deliver a faster and more efficient response."

The Senior Enlisted Leadership Conference, the largest multi-national air force enlisted conference in the Pacific, was held in conjunction with the PACRIM Airpower Symposium.

First held in 2008, the Senior Enlisted Leadership Conference offers a forum for regional air force senior noncommissioned officers to assemble and discuss common topics of interest and issues that affect proper force development and force management of enlisted forces.

Events like the PACRIM Airpower Symposium lay the foundation for participation by Indo-Asia-Pacific nations in other cooperative events including exercises, humanitarian assistance/disaster relief operations and subject matter expert exchanges and conferences.

Operation DAMAYAN in the Philippines in 2013 and Operations SAHAYOGI HAAT in Nepal in 2015 both demonstrate how bilateral training and developing strong ties through interoperability with military exercises and engagements can foster effective multilateral partnerships.



U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Dirk Smith, Pacific Air Forces Director of Air and Cyberspace Operations, provides a briefing during the recent Pacific Rim (PACRIM) Airpower Symposium, Sept. 5-9, 2016 in Seoul, Republic of Korea.



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Terrence Greene, U.S. Forces Japan and 5th Air Force command chief master sergeant, speaks during the recent Pacific Rim (PACRIM) Airpower Symposium, Sept. 5-9, 2016 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The PACRIM Airpower Symposium builds and improves multilateral relationships among air forces in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. Bringing regional partners together in forums such as the PACRIM Airpower Symposium to address issues of mutual concern enhance the ability to respond to crises that threaten the peace and stability of the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. (Courtesy photo)

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

KUNSAN AIR BASE

Protestant Services

Liturgical Communion Service

Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Main Chapel, Bldg. 501

Gospel Service

Sunday, 1 p.m.

Main Chapel, Bldg. 501

Contemporary Service

Sunday 5 p.m.

Main Chapel, Bldg. 501

Catholic Services

Sunday Catholic Mass

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

Main Chapel, Bldg. 501

Daily Mass and Reconciliation

Please call the Chapel

Other Worship Opportunities

LDS Service

Sunday, 2:30 p.m.

SonLight Inn, Bldg. 510

Point of Contact:

Kunsan Chapel, 782-4300

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<https://kunsan.eis.pacaf.af.mil/8FW/HC>

OSAN AIR BASE

Protestant Services

Traditional Service

Sunday, 10 a.m., Osan Chapel Sanctuary

Gospel Service

Sunday, Noon, Osan Chapel Sanctuary

Contemporary Service

Sunday, 5 p.m., Osan Chapel Sanctuary

Church of Christ

Sunday, 10 a.m., Elementary School Cafeteria

Catholic Mass

Daily Mass

Tuesday – Thursday, 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, 5 p.m.

Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Reconciliation

Saturday, 4 p.m.

Other Faith Groups

Buddhist

Contact the Chapel

Earth-Based

Contact the Chapel

Jewish

Contact the Chapel

LDS

Contact the Chapel

Muslim

Contact the Chapel

Point of Contact:

Osan Chapel, 784-5000

Visit us on SharePoint:

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Visit us on Facebook (OSAN AB CHAPEL)

<https://www.facebook.com/OsanABChapel>

USAG-YONGSAN

Protestant Services

Traditional Service

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Brian Allgood Hospital Chapel

Contemporary Service

Sunday, 9 a.m.

South Post Chapel, Bldg 3702

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

K-16 Chapel

Nondenominational Service

Sunday, 11 a.m.

South Post Chapel, Bldg 3702

Gospel Service

Sunday, 1 p.m.

South Post Chapel, Bldg 3702

Pentecostal

Sunday, 1:30 p.m.

Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597

Latter Day Saints (LDS)

Sunday, 4 p.m.

South Post Chapel, Bldg 3702

Seventh-Day Adventist

Saturday, 9:30 a.m.

Brian Allgood Hospital Chapel

KATUSA

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597

Catholic Mass

Sunday, 8 a.m.

Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597

Sunday, 11:30 a.m.

Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597

Saturday, 5 p.m.

Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597

1st Saturday, 9 a.m.

Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597

M/W/T/F, 11:45 a.m.

Memorial Chapel, Bldg 1597

Tuesday, 11:45 p.m.

Brian Allgood Hospital Chapel

General Service

Episcopal Service

Sunday, 11 a.m.

Brian Allgood Hospital Chapel

Jewish

Friday, 7 p.m.

South Post Chapel, Bldg 3702



Point of Contact:

USAG Yongsan Religious Support Office, 738-3011

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<http://www.army.mil/yongsan>

Spiritual Charge

The walking dead



By Ch, Capt. Myung K. Cho
51st Fighter Wing Chapel

A Few years back, when I was deployed at Bagram AB, Afghanistan, all of us had work 12 to 14 hours a day accomplishing our mission and defending the base. During our “off time,” some of us went to the gym, some took a long nap, and others loved to watch TV. Some Airmen from the Security Forces Squadron suggested that I should watch the TV series “The Walking Dead.”

As I watched “The Walking Dead,” I got interested in zombies and I noticed that all the zombies from TV shows, movies, comics, etc. all have one thing in common—they chase humans. Those who get bitten by zombies, become zombies themselves, and they start looking for human brains to eat. Zombies have no personal life, they make creepy sounds, moan and groan, and basically walk around looking for human flesh. That is all they do! They have no purpose, goal, or meaning in their lives. They just eat and live as walking dead.

According to CJCSI3405.01, spirituality is what motivates us in life, it gives us purpose and hope. If you believe you have something to motivate you in life, something that gives you a purpose and meaning, then you are spiritual person. My faith teaches me that God gave each one

of us life according to His plan so that we could find our purpose, goals and mission. A lot of us might feel it is hard to find our purpose, goals or meaning in life, especially when you are alone without family in a strange and different country. However, in the Bible, Paul tells us that God will never leave us alone, but will guide, teach, and show us everything that is a good. Paul also mentioned that we can do all things through Him who gives us strength.

Finding our purpose, goals and meaning in life is adventurous, exciting and ultimately a motivating journey. When was the last time you took an adventurous journey to find, plan, and execute your own purpose of life? In the Hebrew Scripture, Moses mentioned that God has given our life so that He might show us His power and that His name might be proclaimed in all the earth. In other words, God has already given us a strengths, gifts, and talents to find our purpose, goals and meaning for His glory.

So, what are we waiting for? Let’s find our purpose, goals and meaning in life. Plan well and execute them, because if we do not find them, then we are no different from “The Walking Dead.” Happy Halloween everybody.

Lineup for Osan Air Power Day 2016 finalized



Three A-10 Thunderbolt IIs assigned to the 25th Fighter Squadron perform a flyover during Air Power Day 2011 at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea. Air Power Day 2016 will include performances from A-10s and F-16 Flying Falcons assigned to Osan in additions to multiple other acts and static displays. (U.S. Air Force courtesy photo)

By Senior Airman Victor J. Caputo
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- The Osan Air Power lineup of aerial demonstrations, static displays and on-ground entertainment has been finalized as Team Osan prepares for the final two weeks leading up to the air show.

One major aspect of the air show is to demonstrate not only the U.S. Air Force capabilities and assets, but also show off the partnership with other U.S. military branches and especially the Republic of Korea air force.

"All of the acts put on terrific shows and highlight different capabilities for the both the U.S. Air Force and the ROKAF," said Maj. Brooks Daniel, Osan Air Power Day air operations director.

Aerial demonstrations include performances from the ROKAF Black Eagles, the U.S. F-16 Demonstration Team, and a C-17 Globemaster demonstration.

"The C-17 demonstration will be unique as it showcases such a large aircraft performing physics-defying maneuvers," said Daniel. "The C-17 is no stranger to Osan, bringing in troops, supplies, even our household goods, but the ability to showcase it to the public and all of Team Osan is fantastic."

Static displays will include aircraft from ROKAF, U.S. Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps forces, showcasing the importance of Osan to joint and coalition partners, said Daniel.

Multi-million dollar aircraft aside, Air Power Day will include plenty of other acts to entertain the crowd over the weekend. Armed Forces Entertainment is sponsoring a headline concert by rock band Sublime with Rome on Sept. 24. Additional acts throughout the weekend include performances

from the ROKAF and U.S. 8th Army bands, a Korean drumline, and a martial arts demonstration performed by local high schoolers.

"I think it's great that we are able to have so many different acts to entertain the masses," said Tech. Sgt. Kymdra Toby, 51st Force Support Squadron community, programming and partnership office NCO in charge. "There will be plenty for people who haven't seen many types of Korean entertainment, and a lot for people who haven't seen the American acts that we have coming here."



Sublime with Rome is scheduled to perform at Osan Air Power Day 2016 on Sept. 24, at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea. (Courtesy photo)

It's getting hot at Osan AB



Nelly sings in front of an audience at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 3, 2016. Nelly put on a one-night concert for members of Team Osan and their families. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathan Steffen)

UFG16: Thousands gather for annual joint/combined command, control exercise

By Senior Airman Kasey Phipps
7th Air Force Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- Uniforms of varied colors and patterns funnel through the turnstile gates of the Korean Air and Space Operations Center here to kick off Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2016, the world's largest simulation-supported command post exercise, Aug. 22 - Sept. 4, 2016.

The annual command and control exercise is conducted at U.S. Combined Forces Command and Republic of Korea military installations throughout the Korean peninsula and enhances the combat readiness and interoperability of the ROK and U.S. supporting forces.

"The greatest value of this training event to me is the strengthening of the alliance," said Air Force Maj. Gen. Walter Sams, deputy commander Air Force Forces. "This alliance has been together for more than 60 years, and it's stronger now than it ever has been. It's because of events like this that

make this alliance one of the strongest in the world."

Approximately 2,500 U.S. military personnel from U.S. military and Department of Defense installations as well as representatives from nine United Nations Sending States augment the U.S. forces already stationed in the ROK.

"The value of working with so many countries is truly immeasurable," said Air Force Maj. Paul Keddell, Air Command Component lead exercise planner for UFG16. "The exercise allows us to work hand-in-hand with each of the nine sending states. It affords us an opportunity to expand on preexisting relationships and continue to build new relationships."

The approximately 25,000-strong U.S. force joins ROK government and military personnel to create a realistic, multinational and multiservice training environment in which to focus on the defense, protection and maintenance of stability in the region.

"I am enormously proud of all military members on this peninsula," said Sams. "The cooperation between the ROK and U.S. Airmen in order to get the job done is better than anything I've seen."

AF Surgeon General visits Osan medical facilities

By Senior Airman Dillian Bamman
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- The Air Force Surgeon General and top chief master sergeant medic visited the Osan 51st Medical Group to observe the progress and challenges of AF military treatment facilities Sept. 14.

Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Mark A. Ediger, Surgeon General of the Air Force, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., and Chief Master Sgt. Jason Pace, Office of the Surgeon General medical enlisted force chief, met with Airmen from all parts of the medical group and engaged in their daily medical practices.

"This is the best part of our duty day," said Pace. "Reaching out to the Airmen and finding out what we can improve on is how we all become better medics. [Touring the 51st MDG] has been time well spent for us."

Ediger and Pace tour medical groups across the AF periodically to see their

ability to support the AF Medical Service's four strategic focus areas: full-spectrum readiness, integrated operational support, Air Force Medical Home and trusted care.

Ediger praised medical personnel within the group about making strides to improve the Air Force's medical presence by reaching out to other operational units throughout the Korean Peninsula.

"You have imbedded medical support in other organizational units like the [694th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group] and Army units in Suwon," said Ediger. "That's something we need to do at every installation across the Air Force, which you do already."

To conclude the day's events, Ediger gave final remarks to 51st MDG Airmen during an all-call.

"It is a special thing to be a medic for the world's best Air Force, and we truly are," Ediger said.

The medic role here so close to the threat isn't easy, but we appreciate your dedication and professionalism, he said.



Jamie Gujski, 51st Medical Group simulation operator, gives Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Mark A. Ediger, Surgeon General of the Air Force, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., a medical simulation briefing Sept. 14, 2016, at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea. The manikin, simulating an injured service member, is used by 51st MDG personnel to better assess injuries quickly and efficiently during contingency operations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Dillian Bamman)

Train how you live, Wolf Pack EOD perfects their craft

By Senior Airman Colville McFee
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- Every assignment brings different challenges, from getting adjusted to a new mission and environment, to training and working with new people. Being in Korea is no exception to this and for one group, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team, their challenges are unlike most faced in other jobs.

The task of eliminating an explosive is unique and can be daunting, but with proper training it can become a more routine duty.

Training is a critical component for all airmen and it certainly cannot be understated for EOD members as it could be what stands between life and death. These airmen practice every week to keep their skills sharp. Whether it is in the classroom or in the field, they are always applying what they have learned and operating at a high level.

Getting rid of the threat and protecting their fellow airmen is at the core of what they do.

Simply stated by Staff Sgt. Kyle Irr, EOD training noncommissioned officer in charge, "EOD is responsible for protecting everyone from any hazardous explosive devices."

EOD members have an inherent risk of facing life-threatening situations but with the employment of specialized tools, those risks can be minimized.

EOD airmen assigned to the 8th Civil Engineer Squadron have access

to various equipment, but one piece in particular, the Andros F-6 robot, is relied on constantly. It is used to maneuver through terrain and around buildings to assess unidentified items during training exercises and real-world missions.

The Andros F-6 is an all-terrain robot with the capability to lift items weighing up to 25 pounds and is equipped with four cameras. Its versatility is vital because it can go into just about any environment to identify hazards prior to sending in a technician.

Once it is determined an EOD technician is needed to finish a job, they don specialized gear to carry out the task.

An integral piece of that gear comes in the form of a bomb suit. It is composed of heavy body armor, covering them from head to toe, and protects the user from pressure caused by a bomb as well as any debris it produces.

After ordnance has been neutralized and the time comes to dispose of an explosive, a cautious approach is exercised.

Team members use a combination of their training, real-world experience and specific instructions to properly rid of ordnance.

Irr pointed to disposal as being a key part of what they do.

"The first course of action is to always blow up the threat to render it safe and it happens to be the coolest part of my job, being able to blow things up on a regular basis," said Irr.

The training is challenging and the job is dangerous, yet EOD professionals continue to put their lives on the line for mission success. It is a selfless attitude shared by their tight knit community.



Staff Sgt. Shawn Hewitt, 8th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician, sets sandbags around a mock bomb to minimize any debris produced after detonation during a training exercise on Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 30, 2016. The bomb suit contains heavy body armor made to withstand the effects of a bomb. The suit is made to overlap all parts of the body for full protection. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Colville McFee)

More photos from page 3



(Above Left) Republic of Korea army Gen. Lee, Sun Jin, Chairman of the Republic of Korea Joint Chiefs of Staff, joined by U.S. Army Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, U.S. Forces Korea commander, and U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Thomas Bergeson, 7th Air Forces commander, speaks during a press conference following a flyover in response to recent provocative action by North Korea, Sept. 13, 2016, at Osan Air Base, ROK. Two U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancers from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, were joined by Republic of Korean F-15K Slam Eagles and U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons during the flyover. The close military cooperation between the U.S. and ROK keeps us ready to respond at any time to those who would threaten stability and security. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathan Steffen)

(Above Right) Republic of Korea army Gen. Lee, Sun Jin, Chairman of the Republic of Korea Joint Chiefs of Staff, shakes hands with U.S. Army Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, U.S. Forces Korea commander, as Republic of Korea air force Lt. Gen. Lee, Wang Keun, Republic of Korea Air Forces Operations Center commander, and U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Thomas W. Bergeson, 7th Air Force commander, stand by at the conclusion of a press conference following a flyover in response to recent provocative action by North Korea, Sept. 13, 2016, at Osan Air Base, ROK. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Rasheen Douglas)

(Bottom) U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Paige Dowling, Minneapolis St. Paul Air Reserve Station 934th Security Forces Squadron member, provides security for static display during a press conference following a flyover in response to recent provocative action by North Korea, Sept. 13, 2016, at Osan Air Base, ROK. Two U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancers from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, were joined by Republic of Korean F-15K Slam Eagles and U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons during the flyover. The close military cooperation between the U.S. and ROK keeps us ready to respond at any time to those who would threaten stability and security. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathan Steffen)



A U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancer assigned to Andersen Air Base, Guam, performs a landing at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea. Sept. 21, 2016. The B-1 is the backbone of the U.S. long-range bomber mission and is capable of carrying the largest payload of both guided and unguided weapons in the Air Force inventory. The flight was the closest a B-1 has ever flown to the border between the Republic of Korea and North Korea. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Dillian Bamman)



Continued from page 1

and security of the ROK.

“The Korean Peninsula faces a grave security crisis as a result of North Korea’s fifth nuclear experiment, along with its continued launching of submarine-launched ballistic missiles and ballistic missiles, despite the concerns of the international community,” said Lee. “The ROK-US Combined Air Forces, acutely aware of this climactic situation, maintains a close information-sharing and robust combined-operational capability.”

The aircraft commander of the mission said he was honored to be a part of such a historic event and said his communication with Osan officials was flawless.

“It was a simple and seamless process,” said Capt. Bret Cunningham, 34th Bomber Squadron instructor pilot. “I have flown similar missions but nothing quite like this. It is an experience I will never forget.”

The B-1B is capable of carrying the largest payload of both guided and unguided weapons in the Air Force inventory. It can rapidly deliver massive quantities of precision and non-precision weapons against any adversary, anywhere in the world, at any time. The aircraft holds almost 50 world records for speed, payload, range, and time of climb in its class.

A crew of more than 20 B-1B maintainers arrived at Osan a few days ahead of the landing to make preparations. One of those maintainers was Tech Sgt. Tywone Weston, a jet propulsion craftsman with the 34th Maintenance Squadron.

“The base has been very helpful,” said Weston. “We have had great support and have not had any hang-ups. It is a great feeling to take part in such a historic mission.”

The landing follows a flyover conducted on Sept. 13, as just a first step in furthering the strength of the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea.

See more photos on

Two maintenance Airmen from the 34th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit at Anderson Air Base, Guam, check hydraulic fluid during a post-flight inspection on a B-1B Lancer at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 21, 2016. The B-1 had just conducted its closest flight to the North Korean border ever and is the first to land on the Korean Peninsula since 1996. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Victor J. Caputo)

Kunsan

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 to 8 p.m. at the Sonlight Inn.

For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. 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

Airman and Family Readiness Center programs

***Bundles for Babies** - A workshop for expectant parents who want to learn more about parenting and support programs here at Osan. The class also offers you a finance piece that focuses on budgeting for your new baby from conception to college years and a chance to meet other new parents. Additionally, you'll receive a free "bundle" from the Air Force Aid Society.

***Separation & Retirement Benefits** - This is an optional workshop where separating and retiring members can learn about their benefits- includes briefings by MFCL, TMO, CPO, Finance, Tricare and SBP.

***Spouse Orientation** - This is a great opportunity for spouses to learn about the 51st Fighter Wing Mission, Non-combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) process, and receive a protective (gas) mask demonstration. Spouses will also have an opportunity to meet key base representatives and learn about Korean Culture. As a bonus, a community information fair will end the day.

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 on the USAF GAL. Please exercise good information security and call the Help Desk if you are having problems sending an encrypted e-mail.

Anthem Singers

Sopranos, altos, tenors and bass vocalists are needed to sing the US and ROK National Anthems at various events on base. Practice is held at 5 p.m. every Thursday at the Chapel Annex. Send an e-mail to annapauline.magno.1@us.af.mil or ric.rebulan.1@us.af.mil for more information.

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 8 a. m. in Bldg 787, Rm. 10. For additional information or questions please contact the Education Center at 784-4220.

Conversational English Program

As part of the Good Neighbor Program, 7th Air Force 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 students for the 2016 second semester beginning early September. Transportation is provided; two mini buses depart from Checkertails at 2:40 p.m. and return to Checkertails at approximately 5:30 p.m. 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 Mrs. Yom, Kyong Suk via email at kyong_suk.yom.kr@us.af.mil or DSN 784-4724 or 010-4736-7979.

DMZ Peace Marathon

The Gyeonggi Provincial Government cordially requested for participation of Osan Airpower team, active duty, civilian and family members (over 18 years old).

Total of 40 PAX (First come, first served)
Event: DMZ Peace Marathon
Host: Gyeonggi Provincial Government
Course: 10K & 21K

Cost: 10,000 Won (~\$10) *pay on site
Transportation(bus), registration fee, bib number, T-Shirt, and lunch are included.

Date/Time: 9 October/0630

*A Bus departs from the main gate, front road of the main gate at 0630.

Please send us Full name, Gender, DOB, Rank, T-shirt size (S/M/L/XL/XXL), course (10K or 21K) & Contact number
Dead line: 1500, 28 September.

POC: Mr. Kim, Won Hui, 7AF/PA, at 784-4780.

E-mail: 7AFPA@us.af.mil

2016 Fire Prevention Week: "Don't Wait-Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years"

"Don't Wait - Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years" is the theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, October 9-15, 2016.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) survey data shows that public has many misconceptions about smoke alarms, which may put them at increased risk in the event of a home fire. For example, only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are, or how often they need to be replaced.

As a result of those and related findings, we're addressing smoke alarm replacement this year with a focus on these key messages:

- Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.

- Make sure you know how old all the smoke alarms are in your home.

- To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of manufacture on the back of the alarm; the alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Fire Prevention Office at 784-4835/4710.

Barbecue Safety



According to the United States Fire Administration, almost 3,800 Americans are injured by gas or charcoal grill fires annually. Knowing a few fire safety tips and following safety instructions will help everyone have a safe time to grill.

1. Grill must be at least 15 feet away from any structure, trees, tents etc.
2. Grill on a flat and stable surface.
3. Do not wear loose clothing that could contact the fire, such as hanging shirt-tails.
4. Have the right tools for cooking- Long handle utensils and good oven mitts.
5. Choose a safe grilling location away from children's play areas and walk ways.
6. If adults are consuming alcohol, keep them away from the grill.
7. Never grill inside or in semi-enclosed area; why? Carbon monoxide poisoning.
8. When cooking has been completed, hot coals will be quenched with water or covered with a noncombustible cover until cold.

9. Dispose of coals once cooled in an outside metal container with a metal lid.
10. Charcoal will be properly stored in locations that are dry.

Type of grill

- Cooking with Propane (LP) Gas Grills.
 - Read the owner's manual and operating instructions carefully.
 - Use the exact type of tank and fuel specified.
 - Check hoses and valve connections often.
 - Do this by pouring soapy water on the connection points.
 - If bubbles appear, retighten the connections and test again.
- Cooking with Charcoal Grills-Never start a fire with gasoline!
 - Never add fluid to the coals once they've been lit
 - Apply Barbeque lighter fluid before lighting; wait at least 1 minute before lighting to allow the lighter fluid to soak in.

Holiday Observances

NATIONAL FOUNDATION DAY : on 3 Oct 16 and the **HANGUL DAY** on 9 Oct 16. All KN employees will be released from duty without charge to leave or loss of pay on these days. KN civilian employees who are required to work these days will be paid holiday premium pay. If holiday falls on an employee's non-work day, no substitute day will be granted.

COLUMBUS DAY : COLUMBUS DAY, 10 Oct 16, is a legal holiday for U.S. civilian employees and the liberal leave policy is in effect for Korean National (KN) non-essential civilian employees. Supervisors should ensure the time and attendance card for KN civilian employees who wish to be off that day are properly coded to reflect the appropriate leave code, i.e. annual leave, etc. Organizations with KN civilian employees that require supervision must ensure adequate supervision is available. If an office is going to be closed, KN civilian employees can be required to take annual leave but management must provide them with a 24-hour advance notice.

MANDATORY FEEDBACK REQUIREMENTS FOR U.S. CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES: The current rating period for U.S. civilian performance appraisals will end on 31 Mar 17, with ratings and awards effective on 1 Jun 17. The Civilian Appraisal Program mandates the use of AF Form 860B, Civilian Progress Review Worksheet, to document the mandatory performance feedback session between the supervisor and employee. The law requires feedback once during the rating cycle. Normally, this occurs around the middle of the appraisal period. Supervisors are reminded of this requirement and encouraged to meet with employees now if they haven't done so already. Please keep a copy of the completed AF Form 860B with the AF Form 971, Supervisor's Employee Brief.

REMINDER - ANNUAL LEAVE: It is time to review your current leave balances. All managers/supervisors of U.S./KN civilian employees should arrange annual leave schedules to allow each civilian employee an extended period of leave for rest and relaxation to assist in maintaining maximum efficiency and productivity. Leave schedules should be established at the beginning of the leave year and reviewed periodically to ensure vacation schedules will not interfere with maintenance of an adequate work force at all times.

The Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) received each payday is a ready reference concerning the amount of annual leave which must be used before the end of the leave year. The leave year ends on 7 Jan 2017 for U.S. and on 31 Dec 2016 for KN APF employees respectively. Now is the time to finalize leave plans for the remainder of 2016.

If you have questions regarding the above, please contact Ms. Kim, Min Kyo of the Civilian Personnel Office, 784-4434/8177. (51 FSS/FSMCE)

Kyung Dong bus schedule As of 1 April 2016 (Yongsan - Osan - Humphreys)

MONDAY-FRIDAY

						***	***			*		
Lv. Yongsan	0550	0700	0830	1000	1100	1250	1420	1630	1720	1720	1900	2130
Ar. 121st GH							1425					
Lv. Osan AB	0650	0810	0940	1110	1210	1400	1530	1740	1830	x	2010	2240
Ar. Humph	0740	0850	1020	1150	1250	1450	1620	1820	1910	1850	2050	2320

	**	*										
Lv. Humph	x	0550	0700	0830	1000	1100	1230	1330	1530	1710	1910	2020
Lv. Osan AB	0600	x	0750	0920	1050	1150	1320	1420	1620	1800	2000	2110
Ar. 121st GH		0720	0850									
Ar. Yongsan	0710	0730	0900	1030	1200	1300	1430	1530	1730	1910	2110	2220

(Yongsan-Osan AB) Price \$ 5.50 or ₩ 6,200 one way, For more info (DSN)723-4499

(Yongsan-Humph) Price \$ 6.25 or ₩ 7,000 one way

(Humph-Osan AB) Price \$ 3.10 or ₩ 3,500 one way

WEEKEND & U.S HOLIDAYS

									*			
Lv. Yongsan	0700	0800	0900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800
Lv. Osan AB	0810	0910	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1510	1610	1710	1810	1910
Ar. Humph	0850	0950	1050	1150	1250	x	1450	1550	x	1750	x	1950

	*											
Lv. Humph	0620	0800	0930	1030	1130	1230	x	1400	1530	x	1700	x
Lv. Osan AB	0700	0840	1010	1120	1220	1320	1400	1450	1620	1700	1750	1850
Ar. Yongsan	0820	0950	1130	1230	1330	1430	1510	1600	1730	1810	1900	2000

* Bus stops at Humphreys walk thru gate

** Bus stops at Yongsan DHL

*** Bus stops at Humphreys Lodging

X Bus doesn't stop at this location

An explosion of training

By Airman Miranda A. Loera
4th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SEYMOUR JOHNSON AIR FORCE BASE, N.C. (ANFS) -- The 4th Civil Engineer Squadron hosted a joint-service explosive ordnance disposal exercise Sept. 13-15 on the EOD range here.

EOD Airmen assigned to the 4th CES organized the three-day exercise to familiarize EOD technicians of the munitions involved with the F-15E Strike Eagle. To maximize the effectiveness of the exercise, organizers invited their counterparts from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, to participate.

“The importance of the exercise was to gain familiarization and training on the F-15E, and all the ordnance that we would usually take care of at Seymour Johnson AFB,” said Senior Airman Christian Hulsey, a 4th CES EOD technician.

The exercise consisted of two stages. The first stage took place over the course of the first two days and consisted of F-15E familiarization. During this stage, EOD teams trained and exercised on a multitude of scenarios, including responding to improvised explosive devices and unexploded ordnance threats, basic demolition techniques and reacting to several simulated

F-15E munitions emergencies.

“Chemical operation training is important just in case a situation similar to this should happen, outstanding units could come in and be able to perform the appropriate procedures,” Hulsey said.

According to Marine Corps Sgt. Kyle Kazmierczak, an EOD technician assigned to the 2nd EOD Company, the exercise scenarios were beneficial to their understanding of the F-15E and its munitions.

“We have never done any work on the F-15E before, so it was very helpful to be able to ask questions about it,” Kazmierczak said.

On the final day of training, Airmen from Seymour Johnson AFB and Joint Base Charleston simulated a chemical spill situation, and performed the necessary procedures for the situation.

“The whole mission for the last day of the exercise was for the teams to render the chemicals safe and dispose of them properly,” Hulsey said.

Kazmierczak and Hulsey felt the training benefited the units and assisted with chemical operations.

“This particular exercise helped immensely with chemical operations,” Kazmierczak said. “There are quite a few things the Air Force does that we don’t. I think if we could take that back to our shop it would help us with a few of our procedures, and maybe even be more effective with our job.”



Explosive ordnance disposal Airmen from Joint Base Charleston, S.C., examine one of three robots used during an EOD exercise Sept. 14, 2016, at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C. The Airmen were accompanied by Marines from Camp Lejeune, N.C., during the exercise. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman Miranda A. Loera)

B-21: Modernizing the bomber fleet



Gen. Robin Rand, the Air Force Global Strike Command commander, speaks during a B-21 panel at the Air Force Association's Air, Space and Cyber Conference in National Harbor, Md., Sept. 19, 2016. Randall G. Walden, the director and program executive officer of the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office, and Lt. Gen. James Holmes, the deputy chief of staff, strategic plans and requirements, were also members of the panel. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Whitney Stanfield)

By Staff Sgt. Jette Carr
Air Force News Service

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (AFNS) -- Following the Air Force secretary's announcement that the new long-range strike bomber would be called the B-21 Raider, Gen. Robin Rand, the Air Force Global Strike Command commander, said during a session at the Air Force Association Air, Space and Cyber Conference Sept. 19 the name brought the past and present Air Force full circle by linking a success from the past with modernization that is currently taking shape with the new bomber -- and must continue to keep the Air Force ahead of its enemies.

"What I like about it so much is the 21st century B-21 and the name Raider connects us back to our rich heritage, and there's no richer heritage than what happened on April 18, 1942: 80 brave men in 16 B-25 Mitchells took off from the Hornet and showed the Japanese that we had will, we had fight, and changed, many would say, the course of that war," Rand said.

Rand stressed the aging bomber fleet was in need of an upgrade to combat future threats. In an ever increasing anti-access/area denial environment, the Air Force's systems need to be survivable, reliable and efficient.

"We've got to modernize," Rand said. "The B-21 is going to be a big part of modernization for our Air Force, so that we can continue to do the long-range strike mission."

As America's adversaries continue to update their systems, the U.S. needs to be ready to face them in order to maintain aerial dominance. Consequently, developing new technologies to meet threats is an increasingly relevant endeavor.

"We set priorities on some systems, and you'll hear our senior leaders this week say 'Hey, our three top (modernization) priorities are the F-35 (Lightning II), the KC-46 (Pegasus) and the B-21,' said Lt. Gen. Mike Holmes, the deputy chief of staff for strategic plans and requirements and another B-21 panelist. "You know what that priority means is that we're going to find a way to pay for those and we're going to make those a priority in our budget ... because we need to ensure we'll be able to penetrate the enemy airspace and hold the targets at risk so the president of the United States has options."

Capabilities

B-21 capabilities discussed during the panel ranged from whether the bomber would be manned or unmanned, to what kind of munitions it would carry, as well as

the number of aircraft being acquisitioned.

While Rand stated the number of aircraft to be purchased hasn't been officially decided, he does have a number in mind. "I've been on record saying we need to start with a minimum of a hundred B-21s and my premise for that is looking at combatant commander requirements we currently have," Rand said, adding Air Force officials are also projecting what the next 50 years of combat requirements will be when deciding how many of the new bombers are needed.

"You have to have a starting point," Rand continued. "You have to look at the total existing bomber fleet we have now. We have 158 total bombers, B-52s, B-1s and B-2s and I just, again, for the life of me can't imagine our United States Air Force and our nation can have one less bomber than it currently has today. So, we start with 100, and as we manage the fleet and we manage retiring some aspects of the fleet and bringing the B-21 in, we need to really dig our heels in on what that ceiling should be."

The specific competencies the newest bomber will possess are still in discussion, but Randall Walden, the third panelist and the director and program executive officer for the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office, stated that as of now, one decision -- whether the B-21 will be manned or unmanned -- has been roughly decided.

"Right now it's manned, with the option to do unmanned in the future," he elaborated. "But, recall this platform is a part of a much larger family of systems, and in that family it's going to bring to bear probably some of the best capabilities in the nation. ... From an unmanned point of view, it's got a basic requirement stated. (The question is, 'What's the right timing to bring that level of capability together with this type of platform?'"

Budget

"All three of our bomber fleets are gainfully employed every single day," Rand said. "I sometimes think people need to realize you get a lot of bang for your buck with the bombers. ... Conventionally we're in every combatant commander's (operational) plan."

A priority for Air Force leadership, especially with recent year's tightening budgets, is finding ways to maintain a strong national defense, while also remaining cost-effective.

"There are certainly things we need to do to reduce costs on these systems and (long range standoff) will continue to be a topic as we work through the budget process with the department," Holmes said. "We'll work within the Air Force budget to find ways to fund the nuclear enterprise, which is the foundation of (U.S.) defense."