

Crimson Sky



U.S. Air Force Gen. Robin Rand, Air Force Global Strike Command commander, speaks during the 36th Fighter Squadron Flying Fiends' Centennial Ball celebration at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 30, 2017. General Rand was the guest speaker during the Flying Fiends historic event. (Courtesy Photo by Forterra Photography)

AFGSC/CC Attends Fiends Centennial

By Technical Sgt. Benjamin Wiseman
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE -- General Robin Rand, Air Force Global Strike Command commander and former 36th Fighter Squadron commander, the squadron's 93rd "Fiend One", visited the base for three days to attend events in honor of the 36th FS, Flying Fiend's, centennial celebration.

Osan was the third stop during Rand's visit to the Pacific region. During his travels, the general visited Andersen Air Force Base, Guam and Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea before making his final stop to visit Team Osan where his first command, the 36th FS, stands today.

"The squadron was really ecstatic to have the general here," said Lt. Col. Michael "Stab"

McCarthy, 36th FS commander. "It really put our events over the top this week."

During his visit, Rand had the opportunity to participate in a few heritage events held by the Flying Fiends throughout the week which culminated at the Centennial Ball. He was even able to assist a new aviator in receiving his call sign during the fighter squadron's roll call before the ball.

"I got my call sign at our last roll call," said 1st Lt. Frank "Tank" Martin, 36th FS F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot. "Gen. Rand was the experienced pilot that guided me through the tradition. I'll never forget it."

Rand was also able to attend a piano burning ceremony, which is a fighter squadron tradition rooted back to the Royal Air Force in WWII

where one of the aviators was a skilled pianist. He was KIA during a mission, so the unit burned the piano. It is burned today as a tradition in honor of those that did not make it back during a wartime operation.

Finally, Rand was the guest speaker at the Fiends' Centennial Ball. F-16 fighters travelled from around the peninsula to join other base members to listen to the general speak at this most historical event.

"It was really special that Gen. Rand visited as the commander of AFGSC, and recently we [the Fiends] have worked closely with the B-1 Lancers," McCarthy continued. "With recent missions working with AFGSC in deterring aggressions with North Korea, it sends an important message with his visit to Osan and the 7th Air Force."



KNU students receive Wolf Pack welcome

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U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Antonio Aguilera, 8th Medical Group Bioenvironmental Engineering readiness and training NCOIC, explains the contents of an Emergency Response Kit to environmental engineering students of Kunsan National University during a tour at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 29, 2017. During the tour, students were taught about what steps are taken to ensure mission-ready medics ensuring "Fight Tonight" capability. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Victoria H. Taylor)

By Staff Sgt. Victoria H. Taylor

KUNSAN AIR BASE -- More than 30 Environmental Engineering Students from Kunsan National University visited Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 29, 2017 as a part of a Wolf Pack community outreach event.

To keep in line with their environmental curriculum, the students spent the majority of the morning learning and collaborating with Airmen assigned to the 8th Bioenvironmental flight, who designed hands-on activities that provided an educational foundation.

"The purpose of this visit was to educate those within the community about how we manage our health and environment programs to ensure the safety of our base populace," said Maj. Ryan Jung, 8th MDOS Bioenvironmental flight commander. "It's also a great way to show how we are making our best efforts to preserve the local environment."

The group were also given a tour of the Water Treatment Facility that is located on the installation.

"Our Water Treatment Plant is the only start-to-finish facility in PACAF that is housed on base," Jung said. "We take pride in that."

Jung went on to say that by inviting the junior-level students, Airmen and civilians assigned to Kunsan were able to go more in-depth and give a



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Ambree Evans, 8th Medical Group Bioenvironmental Engineering health operations NCOIC, and Staff Sgt. Adam Ruiz, 8 MDG industrial hygiene NCOIC, help a student from Kunsan National University don protective gear while on tour at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 29, 2017. During the tour, the environmental engineering students were taught about the correlation between the environment and health and what the 8th MDG is doing to minimize risks to the Airmen and civilians on base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Victoria H. Taylor)

first-hand look at what some of them could potentially do after graduation.

The students, most of whom have lived their lives in the local community surrounding the base, were able to tour of the installation and were educated on the entire mission of the Wolf Pack.

"Community engagements are vital to the Air Force," Jung said. "They increase public awareness of our mission, bolster the Air Force's reputation, and can potentially become a first multiplier to achieve our mission effectively in an overseas location."

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U.S. Air Force Airmen and environmental engineering students from Kunsan National University pose for a photo while visiting Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 29, 2017. During the tour, students were taught about what steps are taken to ensure mission-ready medics to strengthen the Wolf Pack's "Fight Tonight" capability. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Victoria H. Taylor)



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Hector Mendez-Chaves, 8th Medical Group Bioenvironmental Engineering health operations NCOIC, shows what happens when water is tested on base to environmental engineering students from Kunsan National University during a tour at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 29, 2017. During the tour, students were taught about the correlation between the environment and health and what the 8th MDG is doing to minimize risks to the Airmen and civilians on base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Victoria H. Taylor)

AFGSC Commander, Wolf 42 returns to the Pack



U.S. Air Force Gen. Robin Rand, Air Force Global Strike Command commander, meets with Airmen while touring Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 28, 2017. During the three-day visit Rand saw first-hand the current mission capabilities of the Wolf Pack and how its Airmen carry out the missions of defending the base, accepting follow-on forces and taking the fight north. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Victoria H. Taylor)

**By 2nd Lt. Brittany Curry,
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

KUNSAN AIR BASE -- During a three-day visit to Kunsan, Air Force Global Strike Command Commander Gen. Robin Rand and 8th Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Thomas Bussiere saw first-hand the current mission capabilities of the Wolf Pack and its Airmen.

Rand, a former 8th Fighter Wing commander affectionately known as Wolf 42, reconnected with the base and the mission through visits with Airmen, base leadership, demonstrations displaying current capabilities and a flight in an F-16.

Rand started the visit by meeting with the current Wolf Pack class during an all call, where he thanked Airmen for their dedication toward ensuring deterrence to threats and support to the Korean peninsula. He also spoke to the important roles that AFGSC and the Wolf Pack play in supporting one another.

"You are the difference between the world spinning off its axis or not," Rand said. "Airmen, you are it...And we are your Wingmen."

Overall, Rand thanked them for their unwavering service to the military and encouraged them to understand the heritage of those that came before them, tying in the heritage of not only the Wolf Pack, but the U.S. Air Force as whole.

"You are making a difference," Rand said to a theater full of Wolf Pack Airmen.



U.S. Air Force Gen. Robin Rand, Air Force Global Strike Command commander, speaks with Senior Airman Samuel Daniels, 80th Air Maintenance Squadron crew chief, before his flight in an F-16 Fighting Falcon at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 28, 2017. Rand, a former 8th Fighter Wing commander affectionately known as Wolf 42, reconnected with the base and the mission through visits with Airmen, base leadership, and spoke to the important role that both AFGSC and the Wolf Pack play in supporting the Korean peninsula and pacific region. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Victoria H. Taylor)



U.S. Air Force Gen. Robin Rand, Air Force Global Strike Command commander, sits in the cockpit of an F-16 Fighting Falcon with Capt. William Baker, 80th Fighter Squadron F-16 instructor pilot, before take off at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 28, 2017. Rand is an F-16 pilot with more than 470 combat hours and a former member of the Wolf Pack as Wolf 42. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Victoria H. Taylor)

As part of the visit, Rand and Bussiere also viewed the base defense component of the mission through a security forces demonstration, riding in a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, witnessing a K-9 demonstration and firing of blank rounds out of a .50 caliber machine gun.

Defending the base is the first of the Wolf Pack's three-part mission. By experiencing the demonstration Rand was able to witness current mission capabilities of the Defenders and how they enable the base's second and third mission components of accepting follow-on forces and taking the fight north.

In order to embrace the mission of taking the fight north, Rand and Bussiere took to the skies.

As an F-16 pilot with more than 470 combat hours, and Wolf 42, it wouldn't have been a visit to the Wolf Pack without the chance to take hold of the opportunity. Rand was able to run with the pack once more in an F-16 D model led by the 80th Fighter Squadron.

During his time at Kunsan, Rand was able share memories and lessons learned throughout his career. Of those memories, a few seemed to come full circle in more ways than one. His flight was within the cockpit of an aircraft flying the tail flash of the 36th Fighter Squadron from Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea—a former command of Rand's.

Rand left the Airmen of the Pack with one final charge to understand those who came before and the importance that heritage and history play in not only the Wolf Pack, but the U.S. Air Force as a whole.

"History will make us smarter, heritage will make us prouder," Rand said. "You are writing history. Are you ready?"



U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Thomas A. Bussiere, 8th Air Force commander, shoots a .50 caliber machine gun while Senior Airman Jaron Harris, 8th Security Forces Squadron defender, during a tour of Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 28, 2017. During the tour, Bussiere and Gen. Robin Rand, Air Force Global Strike Command commander, experienced first-hand the capabilities of the Wolf Pack mission through demonstrations by squadrons such as the 8th Security Forces Squadron and its defenders. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Victoria H. Taylor)

SecAF addresses air and space innovation



Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson speaks at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, D.C., Oct. 5, 2017. Wilson highlighted the need to invest in our Airmen, readiness, modernization and the future of space operations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Wayne A. Clark)

By Staff Sgt. Rusty Frank

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Office

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson spoke about the importance of modernization and innovation in space during a Center for Strategic and International Studies forum in Washington, D.C., Oct. 5, 2017.

"Our mission is to organize, train and equip air and space forces," said Wilson. "We are the ones, since 1954, who are responsible for everything from 100 feet below the earth in missile silos all the way up to the stars...that's our responsibility and we own it."

The Air Force faces significant challenges in space because America's adversaries know how important space is to the U.S., Wilson said.

She added the Air Force is responsible for providing the world's first utility, which is the GPS system. This global system which the U.S. military uses is the same system that industry relies on. Whether it's the local ATM or the stock exchange, the GPS is at the center, Wilson said.

"A huge part of our economy is dependent on what's done in space," she said.

The Air Force must deter a conflict in space, and has an obligation to be prepared to fight and win if deterrence fails.

To that end, the 2018 presidential budget



proposed a 20 percent increase for space, which Wilson said is the next frontier of global innovation. The Air Force remains committed to gaining and maintaining space superiority across the spectrum of conflict in defense of the nation, she added.

"We need to normalize space from a national security perspective," said Wilson. "We have to have all of our officers who are wearing blue uniforms more knowledgeable about space capabilities and how it connects to the other domains."

Wilson added in the future, space will no longer be a benign environment, soon it will be a common domain for human endeavor.

Accessibility to space is growing rapidly as launch technology evolves, the cost of launches will drop from thousands of dollars per pound of fuel to hundreds, the technology will get faster and smaller, and more nation-states and individuals will have greater access to space.

"Our most recent launch out of Cape Canaveral was a Space X rocket that launched, and then recovered using GPS guidance technology back on the pad from which that stage launched," said Wilson. "That wasn't possible 10 years ago, but it's being done by American innovation. It's an exciting time to be part of this enterprise."

Flight partnership reinforces the assurance that we are 'Ready to Fight Tonight.'"



Chaplain (Maj.) Chris Conklin, Train, Advise, Assist Command-Air air advisor (right), takes notes during a meeting with Afghan National Army Col. Abdul Basir, head of the Afghan Air Force Religious and Cultural Affairs office, Sept. 14, 2017, in Kabul, Afghanistan. Conklin provides coordination and advice on the organization of religious support in the developing Afghan Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alexander W. Riedel)

Faithful First: Chaplain launches dialogue, exchange supporting Afghan Air Force

By Staff Sgt. Alexander W. Riedel
438th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan (AFNS) -- Faith is a center piece of life for many people in the world. In the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, however, it is a matter of identity.

This is no less true for Afghan airmen and soldiers on the frontlines in the fight against an anti-government insurgency that is active in much of the country.

Assigned to Train, Advise, Assist Command-Air, Chaplain (Maj.) Chris Conklin is the first air advisor charged with assisting the Afghan military's religious and cultural affairs program with the mission of effective religious care and spiritual readiness for those who defend their nation.

"Our priority for the future is to prepare this essential office to keep pace as the Afghan Air Force grows," Conklin said. "We want to ensure the teams' manpower grows as the total force grows and want to produce clarity on career progression (for religious

advisers). Additionally, we want to encourage thought into what requirements members are going to have in the Afghan Air Force."

Once a week, Conklin meets with his counterpart, Afghan National Army Col. Abdul Basir, the Afghan Air Force's lead Religious and Cultural Affairs officer, to discuss issues surrounding religious and cultural support operations in Kabul and bases throughout Afghanistan.

To attend meetings with their Afghan partners, Conklin and his chaplain assistant, Staff Sgt. Chris O'Neil, leave their secured compound wearing tactical vests and kevlar helmets. Meeting in the offices of the Afghan Air Force, the team's discussions have little religious content and focus on program progress and challenges.

"My goal is not to teach them how to be good Islamic scholars," Conklin said. "In the same way we train our Air Force chaplains. We are not instructing on how to lead worship services, but we assist in discussions of how to best integrate (religious support) into the military through manning, force structure and developmental changes."

During his career as a Lutheran chaplain, Conklin has worked closely with imams, rabbis and clerics of various Christian denominations. Instead of cause for controversy, he says, differences in faith are a strength of the chaplain corps that is as diverse as the members it serves.

"One of the great things about the American chaplain corps is that its chaplains work side-by-side with those of different faiths," Conklin said. "As a U.S. military chaplain we have the unique opportunity to break down barriers. It is not about religious background. It is about finding out about people's needs and helping to think through the process of developing an Air Force."

This experience with diversity now helps Conklin, who is able to assist with the logistics for a growing force of a different faith. Conklin and Basir talk of organizational design, career progression and manpower standards that will translate into tangible emotional and spiritual support for

thousands of warfighters and their families.

Despite the existing language barrier, Conklin said that the structure and goals of the religious support office offer numerous commonalities with that of the American military. Much like chaplains in the U.S., Basir's team takes the role of a mental and spiritual support on military installations.

Faith is an intensely important part to Afghanistan's culture, placing Basir's team at the center of military readiness.

"Our job is very important," Basir said. "We have the responsibility of training the people and make their minds ready for the mission."

Starting their morning with prayer and pausing four more times for moments of religious mindfulness, faith is at the heart of each Afghan service member's duty day. The RCA office is responsible for leading religious practice, leading Friday prayer and holiday services and teaching religious education classes to enlisted members and officers. According to Basir, the RCA serves to provide a balanced foundation and build resilience among service members.

"The main factor in war is the human, not the technology," Basir said. "Without a pilot, the aircraft can't fly. Without the soldier, the rifle doesn't shoot. If something is on their mind, they may not be able to focus on the fight and may make mistakes. So you have to train the mind, so he can be successful and focused."

The team instructs service members on Islamic laws, its application to armed conflict and to daily duty performance. For Afghan soldiers and airmen, courage, accountability, honesty and duty are all part of fulfilling their religious and civic duties as Muslims, Basir said.

"We explain the purpose of their duty," Basir said. "This allows soldiers to overcome even great obstacles and continue their fight for their fellow citizens. We are here to help give them morale. We are here to tell them that they will be able to withstand any difficulties."

- Continues on next page -

AF awards contracts for next-generation ICBM airborne launch control system

Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center Public Affairs

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah (AFNS) -- The Air Force awarded two contracts Oct. 3, 2017, for upgrading the system that enables an aircraft to control an intercontinental ballistic missile's launch from a silo in the ground.

The three-year contracts, of about \$81 million each, were awarded to Lockheed Martin Space Systems, Littleton, Colorado, and Rockwell Collins, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The awards begin a design competition for upgrading the nuclear command-and-control mission system that provides U.S. Strategic Command with the capability to launch ICBMs through commands from the Navy's E-6B Mercury. Both the current Minuteman III and future Ground Based Strategic Deterrent ICBMs require an alternate launch control capability should anything interfere with the ability of the ground-

based facilities to launch ICBMs.

For the Minuteman III, the current Airborne Launch Control System provides this capability through 1960s-era radio equipment at each of 450 Air Force ICBM launch facilities in the U.S. and aging equipment on the Mercury aircraft. The control system's replacement will provide a sustainable and low-cost capability to launch ICBMs through aircraft commands.

"We are developing a modular system that can be easily upgraded to address new technologies and threats as they emerge," said Maj. Gen. Scott Jansson, Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center commander and program executive officer for strategic systems.

The goal of the center's program office at Hill Air Force Base is to field the upgraded replacement system by 2024.

"The Airborne Launch Control System provides the strategic capability of survivable airborne command and control for the Air Force's fleet of ICBMs," said Col. Scott Jones, the center's ICBM Systems director. "The new system will be a timely replacement of the legacy system and provide continued ICBM airborne command-and-control capability through 2075."

The Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center is responsible for synchronizing all aspects of nuclear materiel management on behalf of Air Force Materiel Command in direct support of Air Force Global Strike Command. Headquartered at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, the center has about 1,100 personnel assigned to 17 locations worldwide, including at Hanscom AFB, Massachusetts; Hill AFB; Eglin AFB, Florida; Tinker AFB, Oklahoma; and Ramstein Air Base, Germany.



Capt. Greg Carter, 625th Strategic Operations Squadron deputy missile combat crew commander, launches a simulated Minuteman III missile aboard a Navy E-6B Mercury during Glory Trip 220 above the Pacific Ocean, April 25, 2017. Glory Trip is an operational test launch which continues a long history of launches from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., used to verify, validate and improve the capability of the nation's ICBM force. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Keifer Bowes)

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Unlike U.S. military chaplains, not all Afghan religious and cultural affairs officers are Islamic clergy. Moreover, the RCA is responsible for much more than simply providing for religious services and instruction. Working beyond boundaries of spiritual health, they also help to educate members in basics of education, such as reading and writing, where needed.

The RCA also goes beyond care for current service members and extends its services to support the families of martyred Afghan veterans. When a soldier dies on the battlefield, RCA officers travel with the body to the family and in effect fulfill the same services a casualty notification team performs in the U.S. military. Their services can even include delivering a year's worth of pay on behalf of the military to the family left behind.

The Afghan counselors remain in contact as long as the family wishes and even provide material support to those in need. For survivors who are injured in battle, the RCAs visit the injured in the hospital and connect them with their families. For the RCA, no wingman is ever forgotten and no family left behind.

Furthermore, holding a position of moral authority, the RCA office is also a force for gender integration and advocates for the integration of women in the military. Able to provide religious interpretation to service leaders, the RCAs give valued input on Islamic gender issues, teach policy and provide reports to commanders and leaders on the progress of integrating women into the force. This impact makes the religious and cultural officers force multipliers, supporting development of the force that is slated to nearly double in size over the

next few years.

"In order to help produce a professional, capable and sustainable Afghan Air Force, the religious and cultural affairs offices are extremely important," Conklin said. "Their officers are the ones that are training and affecting all other members in the military. Mentoring and advising them is therefore absolutely critical to our mission."

With a few months to go, much work remains for Conklin and Basir before another air advisor continues to expand their already productive working relationship. Until then, Conklin said he enjoys the ability to contribute to the fundament of the future for Afghanistan's Air Force.

"It's exciting to be here," Conklin said. "To be an air advisor is unique, and it is rewarding to be part of this mission as the AAF continues to grow and modernize."



U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to Osan Air Base participate in the Eagle vs. Chiefs game during the 4th Annual Osan Cup at Osan AB, Republic of Korea, Sept. 28, 2017. The event was held for two days consisting of various activities such as softball, golf and poker. Units throughout the base competed against each other to earn points for a chance at winning the Osan Cup. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alex Fox Echols III/Released)

4th Annual Osan Cup concludes



U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to Osan Air Base participate in a football game during the 4th Annual Osan Cup at Osan AB, Republic of Korea, Sept. 29, 2017. The event was held for two days consisting of various activities such as softball, golf and poker. Units throughout the base competed against each other to earn points for a chance at winning the Osan Cup. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alex Fox Echols III/Released)



A member of Team Osan participates in the paintball event during the 4th Annual Osan Cup at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea on Sept. 29, 2017. The Osan Cup is a two day event consisting of 16 individual and team events. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Tinesse Jackson)

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U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to Osan Air Base participate in a tug-of-war competition during the 4th Annual Osan Cup at Osan AB, Republic of Korea, Sept. 28, 2017. The event was held for two days consisting of various activities such as softball, golf and poker. Units throughout the base competed against each other to earn points for a chance at winning the Osan Cup. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alex Fox Echols III/Released)



U.S. Army Private Beau Jenkins, hits a cue ball during the 4th Annual Osan Cup at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 28, 2017. The event was held for two days consisting of various activities such as softball, golf and poker. Units throughout the base competed against each other to earn points for a chance at winning the Osan Cup. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Franklin R. Ramos/Released)



Members of Team Osan compete in a volleyball tournament during the 4th Annual Osan Cup at Osan Air Base, Sept. 29, 2017. The Osan Cup allowed units across base to work and compete in a variety of activities. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Gwendalyn Smith)

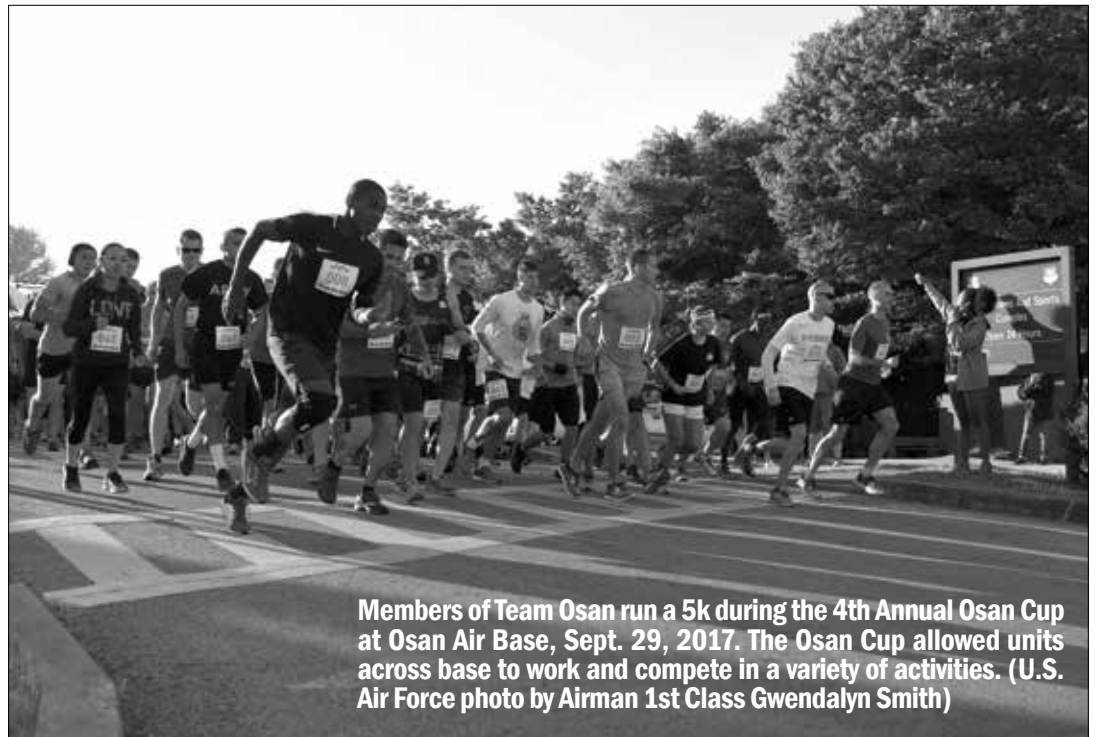
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<Above> U.S. Air Force chief master sergeants assigned to Osan Air Base celebrate their win in the Eagle vs. Chiefs game during the 4th Annual Osan Cup at Osan AB, Republic of Korea, Sept. 28, 2017. The event was held for two days consisting of various activities such as softball, golf and poker. Units throughout the base competed against each other to earn points for a chance at winning the Osan Cup. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alex Fox Echols III/Released)

<Bottom Left> Members of the 51st Civil Engineer Squadron and the 51st Wing Staff Agency play in the championship game during the 4th Annual Osan Cup at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea on Sept. 29, 2017. The 51st WSA won best overall from soccer out of 11 teams. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Tines Jackson)

<Bottom Right> U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Justin Ulmen, 51st Fighter Wing safety superintendent, participates in a bowling competition during the Osan Cup at Osan Air Base, Sept. 28, 2017. This was the 4th Annual Osan Cup and consisted of various events, games, and sports over a two day period. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Gwendalyn Smith)



Members of Team Osan run a 5k during the 4th Annual Osan Cup at Osan Air Base, Sept. 29, 2017. The Osan Cup allowed units across base to work and compete in a variety of activities. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Gwendalyn Smith)





The U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific-Asia, Pacific Trends, plays for a large group of North Korean Refugees at a South Korean Government re-education facility for North Korean defectors, Sept. 26. (Courtesy Photo)

North Korean refugees enjoy PACAF Band

By Staff Sgt. Alex Fox Echols III
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific-Asia, Pacific Trends, played for a large group of North Korean refugees at a South Korean Ministry of Unification facility for North Korean defectors, Sept. 26.

The band played covers of thirteen classic songs off the world's greatest hits list. Songs the refugees had undoubtedly never heard before, yet each song was accompanied by the carefree dancing of women and children who were living in the moment.

In an effort to connect more with their unique audience, Pacific Trends learned a traditional Korean folk song, Arirang, and invited the refugees to take over the vocals, center stage, with the audience dancing in traditional fashion.

"The band was unsure about how the audience would react to our music," said Master Sgt. Julie Bradley, Pacific Trends NCO in-charge. "We don't speak the same language, and we were certain the songs would be unfamiliar, but we danced, clapped and sang together as if we rehearsed it. Building bonds through the emotional impact of music can really support the friendships we are trying to create. We had an amazing evening and were honored to be part of such a unique event."



This facility opened more than 15 years ago, and has helped more than 20,000 North Korean refugees integrate into the population through a three month long resettlement program.

In the center, the refugees learn vocational abilities as well as fundamentals skills we take for granted, like using an ATM, driving a car and paying an electric bill.

"Between work schedules and just life in general, I think it's easy to lose sight of why we're here sometimes," said Airman 1st Class Gwendalyn Smith, a photojournalist stationed at Osan Air Base and audience member. "Seeing the band play for these refugees was by far the most humbling experience I've had since being in Korea. Knowing very little of the struggles they faced, but seeing

the joy that radiated through them, really grounded me and made me realize how small our problems are."

The women and children at the center risked everything, many leaving their families behind and traveling through several countries, to end up just 200 miles south in free territory to become South Koreans.

"On behalf of all trainees here, please send my regards to the Pacific Trends members; we truly appreciate them for providing an amazing concert," said a Ministry of Unification official.

Editor's Note: To protect the refugees and their families, who may still be in North Korea, interviews with the refugees were not possible and the photos do not directly identify any in attendance.

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 MFLC, 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.

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 Tuesday at the Chapel Annex. For more information, send an e-mail to: nicholas.smith.21@us.af.mil or ric.rebulanan.1@us.af.mil

***Volunteers' Training** - The goal is to ensure all our volunteers are registered and they receive all tools and information to keep them informed of volunteer opportunities. For more information, call [784-0119](tel:784-0119).

Volunteers for USFK Civilian Employees Appreciation Week
Each year, the USFK Commander takes time to recognize civilian employees for their accomplishments, contributions, and dedication to the USFK mission. This year, General Brooks has designated 11-15 September as USFK Civilian Employees Appreciation Week. We are currently seeking volunteers (US/LN Civilians, Active Duty Military, and Spouses/Family members) to assist in the planning and execution of this wonderful event. If you would like to volunteer to serve as a committee member, please contact Ms. Kim, Min Kyo, min_kyo.kim.kr@us.af.mil or Ms. Precious Clermont, precious.clermont@us.af.mil at [784-4434/8177](tel:784-44348177).

Open Continuous Vacancy Announcement for Pacific West Educational Aide positions
Applicants who previously applied under the Open Continuous Vacancies will need to update their application and required documents under the new announcement numbers if they wish to be considered for the SY 17/18
PLEASE re-iterate to these interested applicants to have a complete resume attached. This includes but not limited to total employment period, i.e., starting and ending dates (month and year) and number of hours per week for each work experience, paid and unpaid. A description of duties and accomplishments for each experience, including volunteer. If a current or former Federal employee, highest Federal civilian grade held, job series, and dates of employment.
Here is the direct link to the 2017 school support positions.
Job Title: Educational Aide (GS-1702-04)
Job Announcement Number: 17-042-KO-LG-1981388
<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/473464800>

Emergency Services	911	Commander's Hotline	782-5224
Off Base/Cell Emergency	063-470-0911	After-hours medical advice	782-4333
Crime Stop: (to report a crime)	782-5444	IG Complaints FWA Reporting:	782-4850 (duty hours) 782-4942 (anytime)
Base Locator: (after duty hours)	782-4743	Chaplain (After duty hours)	782-6000
Law Enforcement desk	782-4944	Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)	782-7272
Emergency Leave / Red Cross		782-4601 (on base) 1-800-733-2761 (anytime)	

Emergency Services (Fire, Medical, Security Police)	911	Commander's Hotline	784-4811
Off Base/Cell Emergency	031-661-9111	Crime Stop: (to report a crime)	784-5757
Emergency Room:	784-2500	IG Complaints FWA Reporting:	784-1144
Base Locator: (after duty hours)	784-4597	Emergency Leave	784-7000
Force Protection Information Hotline:	115	Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)	784-7272
Chaplain (After duty hours)	784-7000	Security Forces Control Center	784-5515

500th F-35 pilot takes to the sky

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFNS) -- The Air Force trained and graduated the 500th F-35 Lightning II pilot across the joint and international enterprise Sept. 19, 2017, at Eglin Air Force Base.

Maj. Chris Campbell, 461st Flight Test Squadron director of operations, is an F-16 Fighting Falcon test pilot with more than 1,000 fighter hours and 245 combat hours. He began F-35 Lightning II fighter pilot training at the 33rd Fighter Wing this summer and became the 500th pilot to graduate the program.

"As a test pilot, working on the F-35 is an opportunity for me to be a real force-multiplier," Campbell said. "Flying the F-35 has been a long-term goal of mine. I am thrilled to be part of the program and I hope to make a positive impact."

While training as an F-35A student pilot, Campbell completed approximately 200 hours of academics, 14 simulators, a high-speed taxi and six flights in the aircraft before being deemed qualified.

The coursework takes full advantage of emerging

technology by leveraging virtual reality training for pilots to compliment the military's most advanced weapon system.

"As we discover new ways to employ the F-35 based on its expanding capabilities, we have to adapt the way we train our pilots to ensure they meet the needs of our combat air forces," said Col. Paul D. Moga, 33rd FW commander. "The world of fifth-gen tactics is rapidly evolving. It is changing the way we think, train and execute as a joint and multi-national force."

Since the first aircraft was delivered in 2011, the F-35 enterprise and integrated training program have delivered more than 200 additional jets, produced more than 4,500 maintainers and flown more than 100,000 hours.

"The F-35 and the capabilities it brings to the joint fight are key to the Air Force's ability to dominate in any airspace," Moga said. "The Airmen we train and graduate today are the finest in the world. Their skills, coupled with the survivability and lethality of this weapon system, will ensure continued air superiority for the U.S., our partners and our allies for decades to come. Five hundred down,

thousands to go.

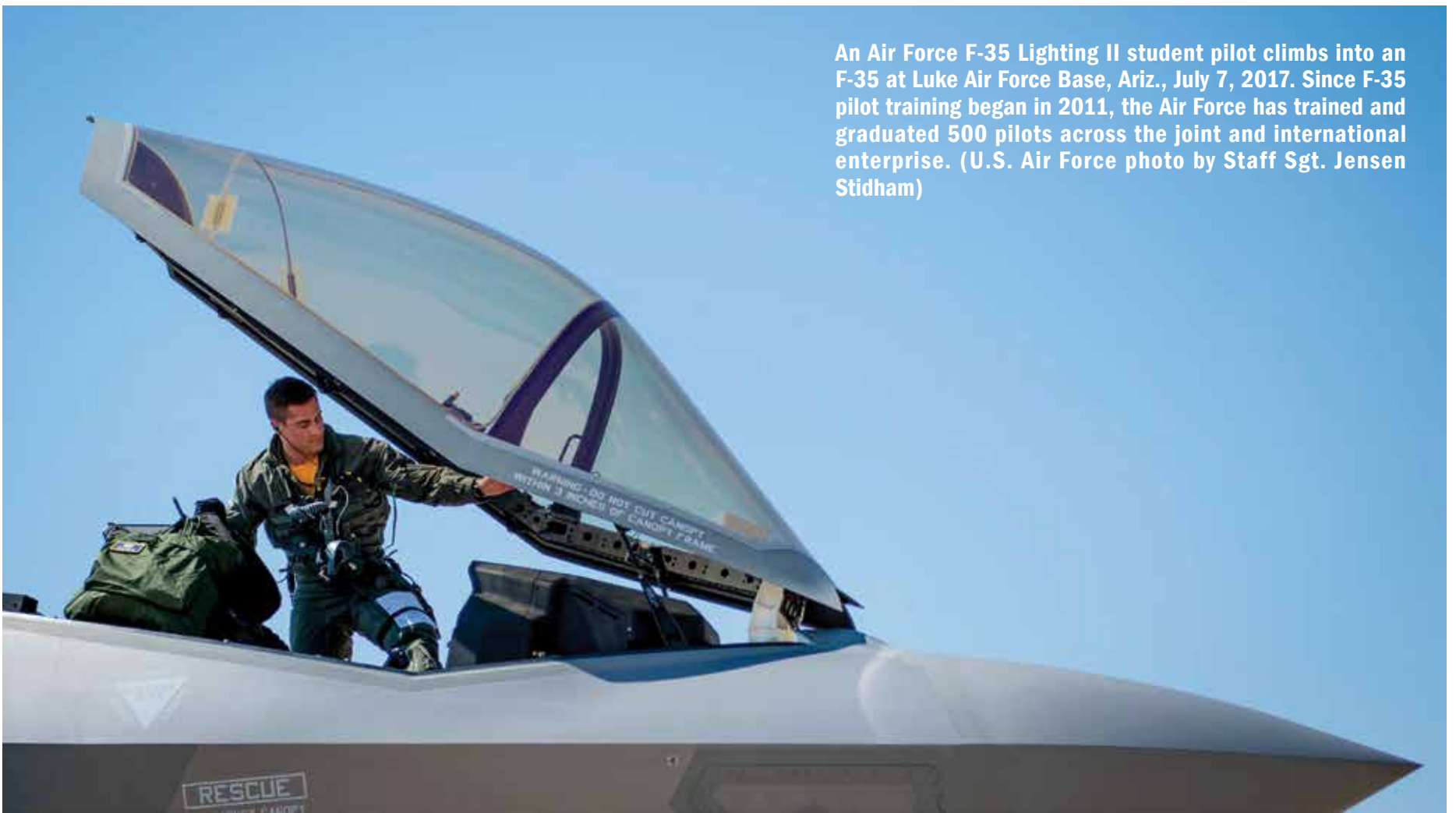
"This milestone represents the epitome of a team effort: active duty, Guard, Reserve, civilian, contractor, Air Force and Navy personnel all coming together with a common purpose to accomplish a common mission - train and graduate outstanding professionals for the combat air forces."

Campbell plans to use his experience as a legacy test pilot to help improve the fifth-generation fighter through developmental testing on the aircraft.

"The F-35 will be the backbone of the Department of Defense's tactical fighter fleet," Campbell added. "Making the product better in the developmental test phase will have a huge positive impact on the combat Air Force in the future."

Eglin AFB is one of two bases in Air Education and Training Command responsible for the F-35 training mission. Together, Eglin AFB and Luke AFB, Arizona, enable AETC to provide F-35 flying and maintenance training that are critical to the joint fight.

An Air Force F-35 Lightning II student pilot climbs into an F-35 at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., July 7, 2017. Since F-35 pilot training began in 2011, the Air Force has trained and graduated 500 pilots across the joint and international enterprise. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jensen Stidham)



AF team fuels aerial fight to defeat ISIS

By Staff Sgt. Michael Battles, Air Forces Central Command

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar (AFNS) -- Comprised of active-duty, Guard and Reserve aircrew service members, the men and women of the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron help project combat power by providing agile, effective air refueling in line with the objectives of the Combined Forces Air Component Command and Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component.

According to Lt. Col. Joseph Carr, 340th EARS director of operations, the mission of the KC-135 Stratotanker squadron is to enable its receiver's capabilities to extend their air-to-air refueling missions and prolong their ability to provide air superiority.

Air-to-Air Refueling Mission

"Air-to-air refueling extends joint and coalition receivers' on-station loiter ability, expanding the time of opportunity to observe, target and destroy enemy assets or provide overwatch protection of our ground

forces," Carr said.

Each day, the 340th EARS provides nearly two-thirds of all U.S. Central Command air-to-air refueling for joint, coalition and NATO partners, he said.

During a deployment, aircrews flying KC-135 missions can expect to refuel a variety of aircraft ranging from bombers, reconnaissance, fighters and cargo, Carr said.

Many Customers

"We are matched up with so many different receivers from all of the different functions of the U.S. military and international," said Lt. Col. Sarah Micklo, 340th EARS pilot. "It's always an adventure; we get heavy aircraft, fighter aircraft, props and jets and it's just really interesting to be able to communicate and interact with those different aircraft."

In August 2017, the 340th EARS supported a total offload of 36.5 million pounds of fuel to 3,180 aircraft. The squadron accomplished roughly 150 missions each month, and nearly 1,800 within the last year.

"By having the most amount of gas in the air each

day allows our aircraft and partners the flexibility to perform their operations and missions more effectively," Micklo said.

Experienced Squadron

In the last 10 years, Carr said, the squadron has contributed air refueling capabilities in several major operations including operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Freedom Sentinel and Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa.

"Without a doubt, the U.S. Central Command mission would not happen without the efforts of the men and women of the 340th EARS," he said. "Our Airmen are unquestionably mission oriented, hardworking, dedicated and nonstop focused. The tanker mission runs 24/7 with no relief."

The squadron, originally constituted as the 340th Fighter Squadron on Sept. 24, 1942, has undergone several consolidations, deactivations and name changes. On Jan. 25, 2002, the squadron was redesignated as the 340th EARS.

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, 11:00 a.m.

SonLight Inn, Bldg. 510

Point of Contact:

Kunsan Chapel, 782-4300

Visit us on SharePoint:

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

OSAN AIR BASE

Protestant Services

Gospel Service

Sunday, 12:30 p.m.

Chapel Sanctuary

Community Service

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.,

Chapel Sanctuary

Protestant Ministries

Awana Children's Ministry

Wednesday, 5 p.m., Grades 7-12

Wednesday, 6 p.m., Pre-K to 6th Grade Chapel

Osan Middle School

Men of the Chapel

Wednesday, 7 p.m., Chapel Annex

Singles & Unaccompanied

Thursday, 7 p.m., Mustang Center

Friday, 7 p.m., Hospitality House

Saturday, 6 p.m., Hospitality House

Women of the Chapel

Monday, 6:30 p.m./ Tuesday, 9 a.m.

Chapel Annex

Youth of the Chapel

Monday, 6 p.m., Chapel Annex

Catholic Mass

Daily Mass

Tuesday – Thursday, 11:30 a.m., Chapel

Reconciliation

Saturday, 4 p.m. (or by appointment), Chapel

Vigil Mass

Saturday, 5 p.m., Chapel

Sunday Mass

Sunday, 8:30 a.m., Chapel

Catholic Ministries

Catholic RE

Sunday, 10 a.m., Chapel Annex

Korean Prayer Group

Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.

Blessed Sacrament

Bible Study

Tuesday, 6 p.m., Chapel Annex Rm 4

Women of the Chapel

Meet Monthy, Please call 784-5000

Other Faith Groups

Earth-Based (Contact the Chapel)

Jewish (Contact the Chapel)

Muslim (Contact the Chapel)

Buddhist (Contact the Chapel)

LDS Sunday, 1 p.m., Contact the Chapel

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>

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

Visit us on SharePoint:

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

SPIRITUAL CHARGE

You Are Not Alone

Have you ever experienced the feeling of being abandoned, lonely, or alone? I am pretty sure you have experienced these feelings in some way, shape, or form. We are prone to such feelings for various different reasons. All of Kunsan Air Base Airmen, and almost ninety percent of the Osan Air Base military members are single or unaccompanied. The time difference between Korea and the States makes it very difficult to connect with family and love ones back home. For those who are accompanied, the long work hours and high ops tempo make it hard to find quality time to connect with family and friends. Some young Airmen who are just out of technical school may find themselves thousands of miles away from home for the first time. These people may wrestle with the burden of loneliness.

I find that I am not immune to loneliness either. About eleven years ago I reached rock bottom. I had been living my life as a priest, lonely and alone. I felt the calling to lead a married life, but there was no place for a married priest in the Catholic Church. My loneliness worsened which led to severe depression. I felt that my family did not even understand what I was going through. I felt like even my friends and family had abandoned me. I had withdrawn myself from everyone. I was suffering in silence, the pain and depression worsened to the point of suicidal ideation.

But my faith held me up, and I took a brave step



Ch, Capt Angeles De Leon
51 Fighter Wing

to seek the help of a mental health professional. I voluntarily checked myself in for in-patient care. My stay lasted three days. At first, I wondered if I had made the right choice. But, the doctors, nurses, medical staff, and even fellow patients reminded me of God's presence in my life—I

may have felt lonely, but I was never alone. They provided me with such compassion, love, and care. In the end I knew I had made a smart choice because I felt the presence and the love of God through the staff members. It was faith in action.

After this time in professional care, I bounced back by the grace of God. I became stronger. I became a better person through my experience. I became aware that I was not alone after all. My friends and family were actually there for me working and helping me behind the scenes, in ways I didn't see until I was thinking clearly again. And, they were in constant communication with my provider to give her information.

This and other challenges have strengthened my spiritual resilience. When confronted with stress, loneliness, or depression I have something that I can cling to—my faith in God. In the Hebrew Scripture, the book of Deuteronomy says, "The Lord is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you He will not fail or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." (Deuteronomy 31:8). This is a reminder to me of what God has done in my life and what I can trust God to continue to do in my life.

There might be some Airmen or dependents right now who are in the darkest moment in their lives. Perhaps someone is suffering silently from loneliness or depression. There are many resources and agencies to help you. I want to tell you, "You Are Not Alone!" The chapel is your spiritual fitness center. Come and see us!

AF recognizes 2016 Sijan award winners



Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Stephen W. Wilson speaks during an awards ceremony in the Pentagon, Arlington, Va., Oct. 5, 2017. During the ceremony, Wilson presented the 2016 Lance P. Sijan U.S. Air Force Leadership Award to four Airmen. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Rusty Frank)

By Staff Sgt. Rusty Frank
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Office

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Four Airmen received the 2016 Lance P. Sijan U.S. Air Force Leadership Award during a ceremony at the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia, Oct. 5, 2017.

Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Stephen W. Wilson, who presented the awards, drew comparisons from what the award winners did, to the leadership qualities Sijan displayed.

"One hundred and thirty two incredible Airmen are members of this exclusive Sijan club," Wilson said. "It includes our 15th chief of staff who won it when he was then Col. Ron Fogleman. Today we are going to welcome four amazing Airmen who have the same traits as Lance into this club. During this past year they've all demonstrated immense leadership and determination."

The 2016 award winners are Lt. Col. Derrick J. Weyand, Capt. Austin T. Almand, Chief Master Sgt. Michael F. Daly and Staff Sgt. Ryan J. Holmes.

According to their individual biographies Weyand directed the build-up for Operation Inherent Resolve and Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Syria, supporting 104 deployed aircraft, four services and six coalition countries.



Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Stephen W. Wilson and Janine Sijan Rozina, Lance P. Sijan's sister, pose for a photo with the 2016 Lance P. Sijan U.S. Air Force Leadership Award winners in the Pentagon, Arlington, Va., Oct. 5, 2017. Sijan was shot down over Vietnam, Nov. 9, 1967, and evaded capture for 45 days despite severe injuries. He later died while in a Vietnamese prisoner-of-war camp and was presented the Medal of Honor posthumously for heroism. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Rusty Frank)



Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Stephen W. Wilson speaks during an awards ceremony in the Pentagon, Arlington, Va., Oct. 5, 2017. During the ceremony, Wilson presented the 2016 Lance P. Sijan U.S. Air Force Leadership Award to four Airmen. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Rusty Frank)

Almand deployed as the deputy commander of a regional special operations joint task force where he coordinated, synchronized and led the dismantling of a persistent terrorist organization that had plagued a country for more than 20 years.

Daly was hand-picked to stand up the Air Force Installation Mission Support Center, authoring the provisional plan, leading the largest business process-reengineering event resulting in the mapping of 70 processes and 110 recommendations shaping 29 capabilities.

Holmes acted as the sole joint terminal attack controller, supporting two separate special forces teams in which he controlled more than 250 fixed and rotary wing aircraft on more than 28 missions.

At the ceremony, Janine Sijan Rozina, Sijan's sister, spoke about the enduring legacy her brother left behind.

"Lance's life and legacy has shown us what faith and belief in yourself can do," said Rozina. "It can take you to places you never dreamed possible. He showed us what it meant to be truly free. In the face of his captors, he never lost faith in his God, his nation, his family and his comrades. For decades I have heard people who have come to know Lance's story and embrace his life say to themselves 'he could do that, then I could do this.'"

The award was first presented in 1981 and named in honor of the first U.S. Air Force Academy graduate to receive the Medal of Honor. Today, the award recognizes the accomplishments of officers and enlisted leaders who demonstrate the highest qualities of leadership in the performance of their duties and conduct of their lives.

Sijan was shot down over Vietnam Nov. 9, 1967, and evaded capture for 45 days despite severe injuries. He later died while in a Vietnamese prisoner-of-war camp and was presented the Medal of Honor posthumously for heroism.

For more information about the Lance P. Sijan Air Force Leadership Award, please visit myPers.



The 2016 Lance P. Sijan U.S. Air Force Leadership Awards are displayed on a table prior to the start of an awards ceremony in the Pentagon, Arlington, Va., Oct. 5, 2017. The award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership ability. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Rusty Frank)

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. (AFNS) -- In the five days since the Route 91 Harvest Festival shooting, the Nellis Air Force Base and Las Vegas communities have found strength in unified actions to rebuild hope.

As Las Vegas moves toward a state of recovery, Nellis AFB spouses are combining efforts to provide for the needs of community volunteers, displaced family members and hospital staff.

"It feels nice to have something to be happy about in such a tragedy," said Shannon Janelle, mother of two and wife of Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Janelle, an instructor assigned to the Nellis AFB First Term Airman Center. "It's nice to know you can lean on the people around you when something like this happens."

Nellis AFB has been the only duty station for the Janelles in a 10-year career. Naturally, when disaster hit Oct. 1, 2017, they joined with neighbors and community businesses to shuttle items downtown.

"I don't really have anything to donate, but I do have a car and gasoline," said Shannon to her community of spouses. "So, if you have it, I'll take it."

Shannon teamed with more than 30 spouses, friends and families to collect donated items for those at Sunrise Hospital, the University Medical Center of Southern Nevada, the Las Vegas Convention Center and the Las Vegas fire and police departments.

With an outpouring response from the community, Shannon transformed her home into a drop-off location, where volunteers could pick

Nellis AFB spouses bring healing to Las Vegas community

By Master Sgt. Heidi West,
99th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

up items for distribution.

"Within an hour of requesting help, it started to snowball and became huge," said Shannon. "We were taking in so much stuff, our cars couldn't hold it all. We collected anything that could keep people moving forward and help them get through the next week."

Military spouse Lauren Stephens played an integral role in the distribution of collected drinks, snacks, blankets, clothing and toiletries as well as adding some home cooking to the mix.

"I was starting to get antsy after the hurricanes – feeling guilty and helpless that I couldn't help," said Lauren, mother of twin boys and wife of Tech. Sgt. Alex Stephens, 58th Rescue Squadron pararescueman. "So, I have made soup, baked cookies and other baked goods for the folks at UMC."

Lauren said this is the first disaster of this magnitude she has faced in her five years as a military spouse, while Shannon said this attitude of giving is typical of the military spouse community she has known in her 10 and a half years as a military spouse.

"We're used to picking up where there's slack or when there's a need," said Shannon. "So, if there's a need, we fill it because we know what it feels like to not hear from your loved ones and not know what's going on in tragedy and loss."

As the Las Vegas community heals, the Nellis AFB community will continue to provide support to Airmen, families and the community in any ways it can.



Shannon Janelle, mother of two and wife of Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Janelle, an instructor assigned to the Nellis Air Force Base First Term Airman Center, carries water to a donation site in downtown Las Vegas, Oct. 5, 2017. Shannon teamed with more than 30 spouses, friends and families to collect donated items for those at Sunrise Hospital, the University Medical Center of Southern Nevada, the Las Vegas Convention Center and the Las Vegas fire and police



Lt. Col. Jason Compton and Maj. Charles Chesnut, 99th Medical Group general surgeons, pose for a portrait in the Mike O'Callaghan Military Medical Center at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Oct. 3, 2017. The surgeons were two members of the team that took in trauma patients at the University Medical Center of Southern Nevada during the Las Vegas shooting Oct. 1, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kevin Tanenbaum)

Nellis AFB surgeons, UMC combine efforts to treat Las Vegas shooting victims

By Senior Airman Kevin Tanenbaum
99th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

LAS VEGAS (AFNS) -- "On Oct. 1, 2017, at 10:08 p.m., I was asleep in my bed like every Sunday before that," said Maj. Charles Chesnut, a general surgeon assigned to the 99th Medical Group, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. "About an hour and a half later, I was awakened by the Air Combat Command emergency notification system: 'Avoid downtown Las Vegas - active shooter on the strip.'"

Chesnut, along with three general and three resident surgeons assigned to the 99th MDG, responded to the University Medical Center of Southern Nevada to help treat patients injured during the recent active shooter incident in downtown Las Vegas.

"Within two hours after the incident, all the resuscitation bays were full and six patients were being operated on by trauma surgeons," said Chesnut. "Everyone worked together taking care of these patients to do some good in the face of evil. We treated over 100 patients, ranging from

surgical procedures to end of life care."

The Air Force and civilian surgeons worked hand-in-hand through the night to treat patients' visible wounds in the operating rooms, while also addressing invisible wounds at the bedsides.

"We held their hands as they charged their cellphones, so they could reach out to family members who feared for their lives," said Chesnut.

After a few hours, time blurred as the second wave of injured patients arrived around 3 a.m. from smaller hospitals that no longer had the capacity to treat.

"The environment down there was controlled chaos, but the disaster response plan that the hospital had in place for a mass casualty worked," said Chesnut. "At no point did I feel like our capacity was overwhelmed."

As 7 a.m. approached, the influx of patients ended, and the UMC began to settle.

"Days like we experienced at UMC are the toughest ones, when you have multiple patients injured while multiple patients are continuing to come to the hospital," said Col. Brandon Snook, a surgeon assigned to the 99th MDG. "Those are some of the toughest days, but also very rewarding. We all see a problem and do what we can to fix it to help out patients."

"The acts of one person aren't the acts of many," said Chesnut. "That one man did terrible things to almost 600 people, but as we've seen in the days following, hundreds of people have done amazing things to recover."

Editor's note: This is the second part of a three part series focusing on Nellis' support in the aftermath of the Las Vegas shooting.



Take
COMMAND
☆☆☆ Enhance Your TRICARE Experience

Did You Know?
TRICARE IS CHANGING!

Beginning in January 2018, there will be changes to the TRICARE benefit. The changes will expand your choices, improve access to network providers, simplify copayments, and streamline paperwork.

This is your benefit.
Let us help you make the most of it.

Are you ready?
Learn more and sign up for updates at www.tricare.mil/changes.

#takecommand

Milestone changes coming to TRICARE

Military Health System Communications Office

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFNS) -- TRICARE beneficiaries will soon have increased access to health care through key changes that are set to take place in January 2018. With the benefit set to undergo some of the biggest improvements in more than two decades, beneficiaries will be able to take command of their health care through expanded choices. These improvements include wider access to network providers, updated enrollment to reduce disruptions in care and simplified co-payments.

The Defense Health Agency recently met a key requirement for implementing these changes, with the publication of a formal document – called an Interim Final Rule – that establishes the legal “rules of the road” for putting in place changes mandated by Congress. The Interim Final Rule is now available for public review and comment.

“We are working hard to use the opportunity Congress gave us to continue building a health plan that does even better for our beneficiaries, the warfighter, and the taxpayers who support us,” said Vice Adm. Raquel Bono, Defense Health Agency director.

The goal of this change is to keep beneficiaries healthy by providing better health care options. This includes allowing doctors to make the decisions on whether beneficiaries need a referral or specialty care instead of the regional contractors. Urgent care will be available without a referral through either the military hospital or clinic or at a civilian urgent care center in areas the military health facility is not an option.

TRICARE is changing. Here is what beneficiaries need to know: Some of the key changes that will

become effective on January 1, 2018, will affect region consolidation, TRICARE plans, enrollment, and costs. There are currently three TRICARE regions in the United States, including TRICARE North, South, and West. Starting in 2018, these regions will become TRICARE East and West. They will be administered by Humana Military and Health Net Federal Services. This change will allow for better coordination between the military hospitals and clinics and the civilian health care providers in each region.

Several changes will also occur in coverage plans at the start of the new year. TRICARE Select will replace TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra. In the U.S., TRICARE Select will be a self-managed, preferred provider network option. Beneficiaries will not be required to have a primary care manager and can visit any TRICARE-authorized provider for covered services without a referral. Overseas, TRICARE Overseas Select will provide access to both network and non-network TRICARE authorized providers for medically necessary covered services. TRICARE Select, both stateside and overseas, includes additional preventive care services previously only offered to TRICARE Prime beneficiaries. Beneficiaries can review all available plans at www.tricare.mil/changes under the plan finder.

Starting Jan. 1, 2018, all current beneficiaries will also be automatically transitioned into their respective plan as long as they are eligible. TRICARE Prime enrollees will remain in this plan. TRICARE Standard and Extra beneficiaries will be converted to TRICARE Select. Beneficiaries will be able to choose to enroll in or change coverage plans

throughout the year-long grace period in 2018.

Beginning in fall 2018, enrollment will move to a calendar year open enrollment season like federal employee plans. During this time, active enrollment will be required to change plans for the following year. Those who are retiring will have to choose their plan and enroll to retain coverage. The open enrollment season begins on the Monday of the second full week in November and run through the Monday of the second full week in December of each calendar year starting in 2018. All beneficiaries should make sure their information is current in DEERS now so they are converted to the correct plan in January. Learn more about enrollment changes.

Beneficiaries will shift to a copayment structure from the current cost-share structure also starting Jan. 1, 2018. With fixed costs for specific services, beneficiaries will be able to better predict their health care costs. Updated out-of-pocket costs for 2018 will be available at www.tricare.mil/changes.

While the upcoming changes are significant, the goal of the Military Health System is to continuously improve health care for all its beneficiaries. Beneficiaries can prepare for the upcoming changes by visiting the TRICARE Changes page, where they can sign up for email alerts, complete a beneficiary checklist, and see available plans and updated costs for 2018.

“This marks a major milestone in our effort,” said Bono. “It highlights the opportunity for our beneficiaries to take command of their health plan, and our responsibility to ensure that these historic changes to TRICARE are a success for beneficiaries and the department.”

Incheon Airport Shuttle Bus Schedule



Destination ————— Departure Time

Osan to Incheon 06:00 / 11:30 / 15:30

- Bus will stop at Turumi Lodge 30 minutes before departure.
- Bus will arrive at ITT 15 minutes prior to departure

Incheon to Osan 09:00 / 18:30 / 22:30

- Departures from USO Counter (Gate1)
- Bus may stop at Turumi Lodge, ITT, Hallasan Tower and Mustang Club (If this is one of your stops)

* During non-business hours, you may purchase bus tickets from the bus drivers. **Cash Only.**

Ticket Price

- Leisure Travel : \$15
- Official Travel(TDY/PCS): \$35
- NOTE: Official traveler rates are completely reimbursable to member
- If there are no delayed arrivals, bus will depart at 22:30

**Effective 1 June 2013

For more information,
call ITT at 784-4254



2017 Fire Prevention Week: “Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out”

In a fire, seconds count. Seconds can mean the difference between residents of our community escaping safely from a fire or having their lives end in tragedy.

- Draw a map of your home with all members of your household, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit.
- Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- Make sure the number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.
- Close doors behind you as you leave – this may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building.

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



Energy Action Month and Osan's Energy Actions

By Mr. David G. Moysey

October has been designated Energy Action Month in an effort to meet the Air Force's vision of "making energy a consideration in all we do." Achieving this vision will require a culture change by personnel across all DoD facilities, and we can start right here at Osan.

Osan Air Base spends approximately \$6M on heating fuel and \$12M on electricity annually to sustain our installation and to support our mission. We would like to take this opportunity to help place focus on some low-cost or no-cost initiatives that can greatly reduce our energy consumption. Each of us is a part of a greater whole and when efforts are added up, they can support a massive reduction in our energy expenditures. Below are some suggestions you can take that would have a significant effect in reducing energy consumption.

1. Turn off the TV, computer, fans and other electrical stuff when you leave the room. Also, turn off or enable sleep settings on all office equipment when it's not needed at night, or on the weekends/holidays.
2. Turn off lights when not in use or when natural daylight is sufficient. This can reduce lighting expenses by 10 to 40 percent. Maximize daylighting...it's free!
3. Don't leave the refrigerator door open.

Every time you open the door, up to one-third of the cold air can escape.

4. Replace a burnt-out light bulb with a new compact fluorescent bulb. Fluorescent bulbs use 75 percent less energy, and they last 10 times longer. Let your facility manager know and they can acquire the correct wattage and sizes as necessary.

5. Make sure all air vents are clear of paper, filing cabinets and other office supplies. Blocked air vents means your Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system has to work harder to circulate cold or warm air in the office. As much as 25% more energy is required to distribute air if your vents are blocked.

6. Close the curtains during hot summer days and open them during the cool winter days. This will minimize your facility's HVAC usage and maximize the free heating power of the sun.

The base has been able to reduce its facility energy costs by \$2.9M over the past two years due to increased facility manager oversight and by all base patrons taking a greater role in energy conservation. Our energy reduction is an even more notable achievement when you take into account the

installations overall gross square footage increase 2% over the past three years. Thank you for all your efforts, but understand we can always do more!

In Oct 2015, the Energy Management Office began the Energy Cup, an annual energy competition between facilities. In FY16, thirty-two facilities managed to reduce their energy consumption by 13% from the previous fiscal year, for a total savings of \$307,000. During the FY17 Energy Cup, thirty-two different facilities further reduced their energy consumption by 11% for a total energy savings of \$229,700.

This year, Energy Action Month will be kicked off by the Energy Cup once again. The 9-month energy savings competition will run from 1 Oct 2017 through 30 Jun 2018. There will be divisional winners in four categories: 51 FSS, Dorms, 51 MSG, and all other tenant units. Facility energy consumption will be compared to a baseline set in the previous fiscal year. Winners will be announced and recognized by the 51st FW Commander.

Remember, even the smallest conservation measures can make a huge difference when it comes to energy savings. Thanks to each and every one of you for all you do when it comes to energy conservations and lastly, don't forget to report situations where energy is wasted to the Osan AB Energy Management Office at 784-9176!

One Team, One Forecast

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jason Jones, 51st Operations Support Squadron weather forecaster, and Republic of Korea Air Force Airman 1st Class Choi, Min Jae, weather observer, gather weather information using a kestrel meter at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Oct. 4, 2017. Members from the 51st OSS and RoKAF weather units have partnered together to help provide better forecast predictions to Osan AB personnel. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Franklin R. Ramos/Released)



By Staff Sgt. Franklin R. Ramos
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE -- Being "Ready to Fight Tonight" means constantly being prepared to defend Osan Air Base and the Republic of Korea no matter the conditions, to include weather.

The 51st Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight provides the base with weather warnings and five-day forecasts preparing Team Osan for any weather situation. They're also integral in assisting the flying units with weather information specific to each mission.

Weather can instantly cause a change in events due to its severity.

"Weather impacts everything, to include all military operations and all the intel that help leaders make the final decision on mission execution," said U.S. Air Force Capt. Steven Gardner, 51st OSS

Weather Flight commander. "So, being the focal point for all weather allows us to better inform and help prepare the base."

Being in a foreign country can come with different weather not normally seen in the U.S. Here weather observers from both the Republic of Korea Air Force and the U.S. Air Force have teamed up to provide better forecast to the base.

"We work side by side with a RoKAF observer that goes out with us during observations, and we both agree on an observation," said Gardner. "Since we're only here for a year or so, it's nice to have the RoKAF. They've lived here their whole lives and know the weather for the local area. By using both our tools and equipment we can combine all that information to make a better forecast than if we were doing it by ourselves."

Having the RoKAF weather continuity helps USAF observers ensure accurate forecasting.

"Working with the Koreans is very advantageous for us," said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Omar Nurse, 51st OSS Weather Flight chief. "It allows us to provide a single site picture for decision makers to use. Instead of having multiple forecasting, you now have one between the US and RoKAF, which helps them come to a decision quicker."

"The main goal for both the USAF and RoKAF weather personnel is to be 'One Team, One Forecast,'" said Gardner. "Meaning we are one team working together to make the best forecast to benefit the fight."

Working together helps strengthen the U.S. and RoK alliance, ensuring its members are prepared for challenges they may face due to weather.

"Better environmental intelligence leads to a distinctive advantage on the battlefield," said Gardner. "The RoKAF and USAF Osan Weather Flight partnership reinforces the assurance that we are 'Ready to Fight Tonight.'"



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jason Jones, 51st Operations Support Squadron weather forecaster, and Republic of Korea Air Force Airman 1st Class Choi, Min Jae, weather observer, review weather information at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Oct. 4, 2017. Members from the 51st OSS and RoKAF weather units have partnered together to help provide better forecast predictions to Osan AB personnel. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Franklin R. Ramos/Released)

Air Force psychologist considers social media's role in suicide prevention

By Peter Holstein, Air Force Surgeon General Office of Public Affairs

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFNS) -- Social media connects us to more people than ever before, but these contacts may not be the type that help build resiliency. Strong interpersonal connections play a critical role in suicide prevention. Used correctly, social media can be an important tool in the suicide prevention toolbox for commanders, friends, and family.

When people associate social media with suicide, it is often in a negative way. We think of cyber-bullying or lonely teenagers with thousands of virtual friends but none in real life. Those examples do exist and are a serious concern, says Lt. Col. Alicia Matteson, chief of Air Force suicide prevention programs. However, she says that social media can also play a valuable role in suicide prevention efforts, especially to help officers know the Airmen under their command.

"I recently served as a squadron commander, and I sometimes heard from the leaders in my organization that they were too busy to be connected to their Airmen," said Matteson. "It's true, we are very busy, but it is critical to take

the time to know your Airmen, and what's going on in their lives, to ask the questions."

Keeping a finger on the emotional pulse of Airmen is extremely important for leaders to gauge the emotional well-being of their subordinates, and know when they may need additional assistance.

"Social media can be an effective tool to connect leaders to their Airmen, including civilians in the total force," said Matteson. "It can be texting groups, Facebook groups, or something else. It's a good way to get information out quickly, but it's also a means to look at what people are saying and posting."

Social media documents major life events, like the death of a loved one or a divorce that can be triggers for suicidal behavior. Sudden changes in online behavior, negative posts that are out of character, or even explicit contemplation of suicide, can all be warning signs.

"Sometimes, social media is where you will see the first sign that something is going wrong," said Matteson. "If their posts, or the tone of their posts change, if they are saying things that are uncharacteristic of them, or

things like 'I'm done, I'm fed up, I hate my life,' it can be a sign that a leader needs to engage immediately."

Although social media can be an effective window into Airmen's inner thoughts, it is not necessarily the best tool to respond, says Matteson. An in-person interaction, or over the phone if that connection is not possible, is more likely to make an impact. The first line of defense against suicide is human interaction, and connecting with something bigger than yourself. Leaders can make their Airmen feel like valued members of the unit, and help build resiliency.

Preventing suicide is the responsibility of every member of the Air Force community, from the highest-ranking military and civilian leadership, all the way to the new enrollees in basic training. Using every tool to build connections strengthens relationships within a unit, and helps build a sense of community that is a valuable bulwark against feelings of isolation, depression, and substance abuse, all of which are major risk factors for suicide.

Beverly Herd 17-3: Comm check



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Skyler Vickery and Senior Airman Bruce Robinson from the 51st Communications Squadron guard a defensive fighting position outside of their building during Beverly Herd 17-3 at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 21, 2017. The more than 250 Airmen assigned to the 51st CS handle all lines of communication at Osan, which are essential to ensuring the Mustangs are ready to “Fight Tonight.” (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alex Fox Echols III)

By Staff Sgt. Alex Fox Echols III
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

51ST FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS -- During the now concluded Exercise Beverly Herd 17-3 on Sept. 17-23, the 51st Communications Squadron battled and succeeded through mission crippling scenarios ensuring the critical ability of communication, which enables the Mustangs’ ability to “Fight Tonight.”

“Communications support is critical,” said Lt. Col. Patrice Holmes, 51st CS commander. “And we ensure that how we train is realistic and relevant. Everything we have our Airmen doing is purposed and it’s important. If it’s something we need to be doing during an exercise when someone is looking, then we should be doing it every day.”

Over the week long exercise, the “Comm Bats” navigated situations like network intrusions, virus insertions, malicious activity, system outages and network degradation as well as non-comm related issues such as self-aid and buddy care, all while in and out of chemical protective suits and gas masks.

The 51st CS also provided defense to their facility, putting up defensive fighting positions and an entry control point manned with their own Airmen, who have been trained by security forces and armed from 51st CS’s own armory, just like they would do in a real-world scenario.

“I believe that exercises are a good test of knowledge,” said Staff Sgt. James Jackson, 51st CS client systems technician. “They give people the realization that we need to be able to be ready at a moment’s notice, and I think we definitely have the capability to do that.”

With around 270 personnel, the squadron ensures its dominance of the communications realm through three core sections: Operations Flight, Plans and Programs Flight and the new 365 Wing Cyber Ready Cell.

“We don’t do communications for communications sake, we do it for the sake of this mission and the Air Forces mission,” said Holmes. “The men and women of the 51st CS understand their why. They understand their value to this mission, and they don’t want to see it fail. They know it’s a must go mission.”



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Bruce Robinson, 51st Communications Squadron cyber transport systems technician, goes through weapons checks with Tech. Sgt. Heather O’Donnell, 51st CS Armory NCO in-charge, during Beverly Herd 17-3 at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 21, 2017. The more than 250 Airmen assigned to the 51st CS handle all lines of communication at Osan, which are essential to ensuring the Mustangs are ready to “Fight Tonight.” (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alex Fox Echols III)



<Above> Airmen from the 51st Communications Squadron use self-aid and buddy care to treat a fellow Airmen during Beverly Herd 17-3 at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 21, 2017. The more than 250 Airmen assigned to the 51st CS handle all lines of communication at Osan, which are essential to ensuring the Mustangs are ready to “Fight Tonight.” (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alex Fox Echols III)

<Right> U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Bruce Robinson, 51st Communications Squadron cyber transport systems technician, prepares to receive his weapon from the 51st CS armory during Beverly Herd 17-3 at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 21, 2017. The more than 250 Airmen assigned to the 51st CS handle all lines of communication at Osan, which are essential to ensuring the Mustangs are ready to “Fight Tonight.” (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alex Fox Echols III)

<Bottom> U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Xavier Love, 51st Communications Squadron cyber transport system technician, patches and activates a port during Beverly Herd 17-3 at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 21, 2017. The more than 250 Airmen assigned to the 51st CS handle all lines of communication at Osan, which are essential to ensuring the Mustangs are ready to “Fight Tonight.” (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alex Fox Echols III)

