

Crimson Sky

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A U.S. Air Force C-130J Super Hercules out of Yokota Air Base, Japan, delivers five Low-Cost, Low-Altitude humanitarian aid bundles filled with critical supplies as part of Operation Christmas Drop 2019 to the island of Woleai, Federated States of Micronesia, Dec. 10, 2019. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Matthew Gilmore)



A young child enjoys a snack as one of the bonus items donated to and included in a Low-Cost, Low-Altitude humanitarian airdrop as part of Operation Christmas Drop 2019, Woleai, Federated States of Micronesia, Dec. 10, 2019. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Matthew Gilmore)

Merry Christmas Drop from Woleai

By Senior Airman Matthew Gilmore
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam --
"Santa 31 is headed your way!!"

For those on the island of Woleai in the Federated States of Micronesia and other islands throughout the FSM and the Republic of Palau, it's radio calls like that from the North Pole at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, that make Christmas come a little early every year thanks to Santa's C-130's participating in Operation Christmas Drop.

"When we get that call saying it's our

drop day and word gets out, the island has a different feel to it," said Allentino Riugiufmal, Northern Islands Central High School vice principal on Woleai. "The island just has this pure feeling of excitement that is shared across the community, like a child just waiting to see what's under the tree."

"After the news is radio'd in its just a matter of time before the only C-130 we see all year long to grace our skies, delivering the bundles we've come to rely on throughout the years. When the day finally does come, and that plane is in the sky, it's just like Christmas has come early."

In now its 68th year, OCD has not only served as the world's longest running airdrop training mission, providing critical supplies to 55 Micronesian islands like Woleia, but has also served as a coming together for elders and their communities on their respective islands across 1.8 million square nautical miles throughout the Pacific.

It is that gathering of the elders to determine who gets what goods that has created so many memories for all who have shared in the OCD magic, memories that have lasted almost as long as OCD itself.

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Air Force graduates first all non-prior service basic flight engineer class



Nine Airmen graduate from the Basic Flight Engineer Course at the 344th Training Squadron, Career Enlisted Aviator Center of Excellence, as the first-ever class comprised completely of non-prior service students at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Dec. 13, 2019. These new aviators will go on to man crew positions on aircraft responsible for monitoring and controlling aircraft systems, computing aircraft performance, calculating weight and balance and cross checking pilot actions. (U.S. Air Force courtesy photo)

**By 1st Lt. Kayshel Trudell
37th Training Wing**

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas (AFNS) -- The Air Force's 344th Training Squadron Career Enlisted Aviator Center of Excellence graduated the first basic flight engineer class, comprised completely of non-prior service students, Dec. 13.

Nine students began training Nov 8. and all of them earned their wings, becoming the first class in the history of the flight engineer three-level technical school course to become career enlisted aviator basic flight engineers.

"My classmates and I put in a lot of hard work and dedication," said Airman 1st Class Timothy Fox, flight engineer graduate. "Coming into it we knew we were going to be challenged and we met those challenges. We are extremely proud to be here and extremely proud to be part of air crew."

For decades following World War II, until the mid-2000s, an

individual could only apply to become a flight engineer after serving in a maintenance career field. In the late 2000s, the Air Force began allowing Airmen from career fields outside of maintenance to apply for flight engineer duty, with exception to policy approval. The active component had not yet opened up a pipeline for non-prior service Airmen to become flight engineers, until now.

These aviators will man air crew positions on aircraft, where they'll be responsible for monitoring and controlling aircraft systems, computing aircraft performance, calculating weight and balance and cross checking pilot actions. Aircraft assignments include: KC-10 Extender, C-5 Galaxy, E-3 Sentry, E-8 Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (STARS) and C-130 Hercules.

"I taught differently to adapt to younger students, but all-in-all they worked just as hard," said

Technical Sgt. Coty McCuddin, BFE course instructor. "These guys are hard workers, they're hungry and they want to go fly. I expect great things from them."

The flight engineer career field dates back to World War II, when experienced mechanics and maintenance personnel flew aboard larger aircraft, including the Enola Gay and Bockscar B-29 Superfortress.

"This morning you (Airmen) are joining a family over 13,000 aviators," said Chief Master Sgt. Michael Arroyo, CEA COE commandant. "When you look down at the wings on your chest, I want you to realize that you will never fly on an aircraft again and not be part of the aircrew. Have fun with this journey, I wish you the best of luck."

For more information on the Career Enlisted Aviator Center for Excellence, visit <https://www.37trw.af.mil/Units/37th-Training-Group/344th-Training-Squadron/>.



AFRL completes initial Ultra LEAP flight tests

The Ultra Long Endurance Aircraft Platform, or Ultra LEAP, is depicted. The Ultra LEAP consists of a high-performance, cost-effective, sport-class commercial airframe converted to a fully automated system with autonomous takeoff and landing capabilities. The Air Force Research Laboratory's Center for Rapid Innovation has successfully completed initial flight tests for the revolutionary unmanned aerial system with a customizable suite of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance tools that supports extended missions. This series of flight tests began in February 2019 at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, culminating with a 2 1/2-day continuous flight demonstration from Dec. 9 to Dec 11. (U.S. Air Force courtesy graphic by Air Force Research Laboratory)

By 88th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFNS) -- The Air Force Research Laboratory's Center for Rapid Innovation has successfully completed initial flight tests for a revolutionary Unmanned Aerial System with a customizable suite of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance tools that supports extended missions.

This series of flight tests began in Feb. 2019 at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, culminating with a two and a half-day continuous flight demonstration from Dec. 9 to Dec 11. Subsequent flight tests will demonstrate increased levels of flight endurance.

The Ultra Long Endurance Aircraft Platform, or Ultra LEAP, consists of a high-performance, cost-effective, sport-class commercial airframe converted to a fully automated system with autonomous takeoff and landing capabilities. Ultra LEAP also features secure, easy to use navigation employing anti-jam GPS and full global operational access via a satellite-based command and control and high-rate ISR data relay link.

"As the Air Force balances current readiness with long-term modernization, Ultra LEAP represents an affordable approach that supports both existing and future force needs," said Maj. Gen. William Cooley, AFRL commander, adding that the "enhanced UAS capabilities, along with the cost savings, offers the military a winning solution."

"Developing a UAS with this level of endurance is an incredible achievement for future warfighting

and battlefield success," said Paul Litke, the AFRL project engineer leading this effort. Litke said since the system employs many commercial off-the-shelf components, Ultra LEAP is expected to dramatically shift the ISR cost-performance curve for the U.S. military.

Developing Ultra LEAP from concept to first flight took less than 10 months, and the system could be ready for operational fielding as soon as 2020. The high level of automation it provides is expected to greatly reduce operator training requirements for the Air Force. Smaller support crews are expected to lead to lower operating costs.

"Accomplished after only 10 months of development by our AFRL industry team, today's 2 1/2-day Ultra LEAP mission is a significant milestone in solving the tyranny of distance problem for ISR systems," said Dr. Alok Das, AFRL senior scientist and the CRI director. "It will provide immediate benefit to our warfighters while at the same time paving the path for future low-cost, multi-day endurance ISR systems."

Ultra LEAP employs many of the subsystems and lessons learned from AFRL's highly successful prior LEAP program, a UAS that supports missions up to 40 hours. To date, LEAP has completed more than 18,000 combat flight hours and demonstrated one of the lowest mishap rates and smallest mission crew size of any operational UAS in its class. CRI employed the same strategy in both efforts of converting existing aircraft into ISR platforms.

Litke explains by leveraging the commercial aircraft market, AFRL significantly reduced the

cost to manufacture and provide logistical spares relative to UAS.

"This way, the U.S. military will save money without sacrificing reliability and maintainability," he said.

Going forward, parallel AFRL-CRI efforts will focus on UAS operations with short takeoff and landing distances to support deployments at non-traditional locations.

As an early adopter of creating disruptive innovation through paradigm shifts, AFRL established the CRI in 2006 to streamline AFRL's application of new and existing technologies to address dynamic changes in air, space, ground and cyber battlespaces and solve evolving and urgent operational challenges. The execution of this unique process utilizes highly diverse subject matter expertise and a collaborative government-industry technical and management capability to nimbly and rapidly develop, test and deploy innovative prototype solutions for dynamic operational environments.

CRI routinely uses the Small Business Innovation Research program to identify both disruptive technology and innovative engineering talent for its projects. Working with teams of innovative small businesses, CRI has demonstrated numerous operational successes in such areas as back-packable precision strike platforms, counter-improvised explosive devices, counter drone capabilities and secure on-the-move communications. Several efforts have transitioned to Programs of Record.

An Airman holds an electronic cigarette at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., Aug. 13, 2014. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is investigating the more than 2,000 cases of e-cigarette, or vaping, product use associated with lung injury that have occurred across the country. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Erica Crossen)

Air Force warns Airmen of electronic cigarette risks

By Shireen Bedi
Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFNS) -- With more than 2,000 reported cases of lung injury associated with electronic cigarettes nationwide, it is vital that Airmen understand potential impacts on their health.

While restrictions exist, the Air Force, much like the civilian population, is seeing a decrease in traditional tobacco use, but an increase in e-cigarette use. Younger Airmen have the highest rate of usage.

"E-cigarette use has gone up to about 6.4% among the total force," said Col. Thomas Moore, Air Force Health Promotions Branch chief. "When we first reported this, it was at 4% use."

Air Force Health Promotions leadership stressed that the use of e-cigarettes does not come without risks.

"The thing with inhaling these highly-addictive nicotine products, especially ones that have been modified in some way or come from smaller, informal shops, is that you don't always know what you are inhaling and how much nicotine you are taking in," said Dr. Regina Watson, Air Force Health Promotions Branch program manager.

Moore explains that many e-cigarette products also contain a higher concentration of nicotine.

Not knowing how much nicotine an e-cigarette user is taking in also poses challenges to understanding its long-term effects. Because e-cigarette cartridges can vary from brand to brand, it is difficult to measure nicotine intake.

"Measuring nicotine intake with e-cigarettes

is challenging compared to traditional cigarettes and tobacco products," Moore said. "With traditional cigarettes, you can ask a smoker how many packs they go through in a day. With an e-cigarette user, you don't know who much they inhale at one time. Do they take one puff? Do they smoke for 10 minutes? These are hard to measure and it's challenging to assess usage."

Another significant challenge of understanding the long-term impact of e-cigarette use is that it is a relatively new product and little data is available. As Moore explains, the link between traditional cigarette smoke with cancer and other serious illnesses has several decades worth of data behind it.

"E-cigarettes, on the other hand, are not much more than a decade old, so we don't have anywhere near the length of time to have studied its impact," Moore said.

Some studies on e-cigarette use and its impact on health have shown that these products contain chemicals that are known to be harmful, but there is still insufficient evidence.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the best way to avoid the risks is to refrain from the use of all e-cigarette products.

The Air Force Medical Service, which continues to track tobacco use through the annual periodic health assessment, began tracking e-cigarette use in 2016. Targeted e-cigarette educational materials are also under development.

"The thing about e-cigarettes is that there are risks, and the long-term impact is unknown," Moore said. "And with the recent incidences of lung injuries associated with e-cigarettes, it is important for Airmen to be aware of the potential risks they face when they choose to use e-cigarettes."

The Air Force's policy on tobacco products applies the same restrictions to the use of e-cigarette products.

"You must be at least 50 feet from building entrances and air intakes," Moore said. "You are not allowed to use them in military treatment facilities, and they are prohibited during basic military training and while on duty during technical training."

Bundles are packed, rigged and ready to roll



All the service members and volunteers who helped build supplies bundles cheer at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Dec. 7, 2019. Operation Christmas Drop 2019 placed 176 bundles onto 56 Micronesian islands across the Pacific. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Kyle Johnson) ◀

A volunteer lifts a bag of rice to put into a supplies bundle at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Dec. 7, 2019. Operation Christmas Drop 2019 placed 176 bundles onto 56 Micronesian islands across the Pacific. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Kyle Johnson) ▼

By Senior Airman Matthew Gilmore, 374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam -- Service members from the U.S. Air Force, Japanese Air Self-Defense Force (Koku Jietai), Royal Australian Air Force, Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF), and volunteers from the local community came together for a day of bundle building during Operation Christmas Drop 2019 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Dec. 7, 2019.

With the event seeing to the packing of 176 bundles with the critical food, clothing, and vital medical supplies needed on 56 Micronesian Islands scattered across 1.8 million square nautical miles throughout the Pacific, the work that made this day of giving and cheer possible started right after last year's OCD came to an end.

"We've been preparing for this event since January," said U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Austin Miller, 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron combat mobility technician out of Yokota Air Base, Japan. "We pack the parachutes needed for these Coastal Humanitarian Airdrops, or CHADs as we call them, throughout the year and then getting here to cut the wood and compile these bundles over the last few days was all made worth it the second we started packing.

"Having been at Yokota for two years already and putting in the work back home for this event in

years past, seeing the supplies that are going out to these islands really puts everything into perspective. The supplies I am appreciative to have everyday we send out once a year to these islands. Knowing that, it's incredibly fulfilling to know that work we do here is making such a difference in peoples lives."

It is that belief in helping others and changing the world that has kept individuals volunteering their time to be a part of the OCD bundle build team year after year.

"This is our second year here to be a part of the bundle building festivities," said Sarah Kimbrough, who's family is stationed at Andersen Air Force. "Last year was such a humbling experience that I wanted to share the joy that is helping others with my daughter and her troop.

"It's important to teach our children that kindness and compassion for others is key. When we have the ability to help others, it's the right thing to do so. That is exactly why we donated supplies and our time to the cause."

Sarah's daughter Elizabeth Kimbrough, age 5 and member of Girl Scouts of the United States of America Troop 126, left her mark on the build along with her fellow troop mates with a drawing on the side of their freshly packed bundle.

"Christmas is my favorite holiday



because we get to open presents," said Sarah. "I wanted the people getting our bundle to be happy with their present and that is why I drew a tree on the side with people dancing."

From those who have volunteered over the years to those that were fresh faces, the event is always a humbling experience, even for those who provide airlift on a routine basis.

"I think it's humbling to see exactly what we are putting into these boxes," said RNZAF Flight Lieutenant George Hercus, 40th Squadron engineering officer out of RNZAF Base Auckland, New Zealand. "It is powerful knowing what we are providing to these people.

With this being the RNZAF's first year on the OCD team, knowing the aid we are providing, it's crucial that we work with our allied nations to better ourselves and each other when it comes to our capability to support these types of missions. With 176 bundles to deliver, it's going to take a team effort to make that happen and we are excited to do just that."

Over the next week and half those 176 bundles will be out for delivery on C-130s flying over the skies of the Pacific providing aid to over 20,000 people, all the while training the OCD crews to respond to any disaster throughout the region.

Trick Play “Operation BOLO”



A Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21 on display at the National Museum of the United States Air Force (NMUSAF), shown in the colors of the Vietnamese Peoples Air Force's (VPAF) 921st Fighter Regiment. When introduced into the conflict over SEA, the type presented a difficult opponent for the USAF to contend with. On 1 January 1967, the North Vietnamese Air Force had 14 MiG-21s in their inventory. (USAF Photo) ◀

8 FW History Office

On 2 January 1967, North Vietnamese radar operators picked up a strike force of American fighter-bombers heading north towards an area known as Thud Ridge. The radar signatures and the speeds the aircraft were flying corresponded with the typical flight characteristics of Republic F-105 Thunderchiefs on a bomb run. Pilots from the Vietnamese People's Air Force's (VPAF) elite 921st Fighter Regiment were scrambled to intercept in their latest fighter, the Soviet built Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21 (NATO reporting name Fishbed). The MiG-21 pilots from the 921st had had some early success in attacking American fighter-bombers utilizing hit and run tactics. Flying in a three-ship, the VPAF pilots would have a single MiG-21 attack first to draw the escort fighters away, while the remaining two MiGs attacked the bomb-laden American North American F-100 Super Sabres, or Republic F-105 Thunderchiefs. The MiGs were guided onto their targets using ground control intercept (GCI) radars.

The MiGs didn't have to bring down an aircraft for their mission to be considered successful. Disrupting the fighter-bomber formations enough to force them to jettison their tanks and bombs, and to abandon their target was enough. The American fighter-bombers were at a disadvantage, the restrictive rules of engagement forced the formations to fly through specific corridors (to avoid flying over prohibited areas) and were only allowed to attack certain targets. Because of this, their routes and targets became predictable. As the MiG-21 pilots gained altitude that day, they came through the cloud cover just behind a formation, expecting to see the lumbering fighter-bombers. Instead they flew right into an ambush of F-4 Phantom IIs.

The Phantoms were from the 8 Tactical Fighter Wing, led by Col Robin Olds, a WWII ace who was eager to fight with North Vietnamese MiG-21s (and take them down a notch). Olds came to the 8th

Fighter Wing in September 1966, a time when the rules of engagement prohibited American airmen from attacking North Vietnamese airfields. One of his younger pilots, Captain John B. Stone the tactics officer, and three other officers from the 8 TFW had come up with an idea to gain an advantage over the MiGs even with the ROEs in place. Col Olds proposed the plan to the Commander of the 7th Air Force, Lieutenant General William W. Momyer, who gave his approval. Before he could implement the plan, Col Olds knew that his pilots needed a morale boost; they needed to get back to dogfighting and hunting MiGs. Robin gave his men two weeks to get him up to speed. Things started changing for the better: the Boss was

constantly seen on the flying schedule (leading from the front), and flight leaders were no longer chosen by their rank, and instead the pilots who demonstrated the most skill in the F-4 Phantom would lead flights.

The plan was to use the VPAF's hit and run tactics against them. Olds knew that the MiGs preferred attacking the fighter-bombers, so his men would do everything they could to serve them up exactly what they wanted. In order to masquerade their F-4s as lumbering F-105s, the F-4 force would fly at the same altitudes and speeds typically flown by an F-105 carrying a full payload, using their routes and call signs during the mission. The 8 TFW needed one more thing to really sell the ruse: the F-105s were equipped with QRC-160 ECM pods to counter the surface-to-air missile (SAM) threat during their strike missions; these pods emitted a distinct signal. Up until that point this type of ECM pod had never been used by F-4s, making it the perfect calling card that the aircraft were F-105s. The plan called for F-4s from two Wings to be the main force (West Force, and East Force), with the 8 TFW being the lead and setting the trap while the 366th TFW covered enemy airfields and stopped the MiGs from running for safety in China. The mission was supported by F-105 Thunderchiefs flying Iron Hand SAM suppression missions, four flights of Lockheed



A Boeing KC-135 Stratotanker refuels a four-ship of Republic F-105D Thunderchiefs prior to a strike mission. The F-105s were equipped with QRC-160 ECM pods to counter the surface to air missile (SAM) threat during their strike missions. The Thunderchiefs were not completely defenseless against the MiG threat as they were equipped with an internal 20mm cannon. (USAF Photo)

Col Robin Olds (left) and Capt John B. Stone (right) one of the original planners of Operation BOLO seen shortly after the operations successful conclusion. (USAF Photo) ►

F-104 Star Fighters, and electronic jamming and refueling aircraft (Douglas EB-66 Destroyer and Boeing KC-135 Stratotanker respectively). 8 TFW Phantoms were loaded with four Sidewinder and four Sparrow air-to-air missiles with the QRC-160 ECM pod on an outboard wing station, and an external fuel tank on the opposite wing.

On 2 January 1967 the mission was given the go. The weather wasn't the best over the intended target area with some low overcast forcing a one hour delay before launch. The flights used call signs of car manufactures, a practice used by the F-105s. OLDS flight took off first at 1225, lead by Col Robin Olds, followed by FORD flight, and RAMBLER in five minute intervals. The second group took off (at 1255) with no issues. As they got closer to Phuc Yen airbase Col Olds ordered them to "green up" over the airwaves meaning arm their bombs, a normal procedure for the F-105s. It was FORD flight led by Col Daniel "Chappie" James Jr. that spotted the first MiG-21 rising up out of the clouds at Col Olds' six o'clock. At the same time Col Olds spotted a MiG-21 at eight O'clock, and his wingman, OLDS 02, spotted a third Fishbed at the 10 o'clock position. OLDS 01 fired two Sparrow missiles, neither of which guided (the Sparrow missile was known for its unreliability at this time).

OLDS 02, flown by Lt Ralph Wetterhahn and Lt Jerry Sharp, had better luck firing two Sparrows at their MiG. The first failed to guide, but the second guided perfectly and detonated forward of the horizontal stabilizer. The Fishbed was observed to be on fire, with large pieces coming off before it became uncontrollable; the crew lost sight of it in the clouds. A second MiG-21 was downed a minute later by OLDS 03 (flown by Captain Walter Radeker and Lt James Murray,) who fired a single Sidewinder missile, hitting the MiG-21 just forward of the tail. It was seen smoking before it fell into the clouds. With two down, Col Olds got another chance: a MiG was nearing his tail when Col Olds turned hard, leaving the MiG-21 behind him with a difficult shot. At the same time Olds spotted another MiG-21 above him: he fired two more missiles to no effect. Not giving up, Col Olds spotted a MiG-21 in a left hand turn. Col Olds executed a vector roll (cutting inside the MiG pilot's circle by going partially inverted and staying there long enough to get in behind the MiG after he finished his turn). Col Olds rolled in behind and fired two sidewinders with one guiding; the sidewinder took off the MiG-21's right wing. Low on fuel, OLDS flight headed for home. FORD flight managed to take down one MiG-21. FORD 02 flown by Capt. Robert Raspberry and 1Lt Robert Western downed a MIG-21 pilot who had no idea the Phantom was behind him. FORD 02 fired a single Sidewinder that detonated inside the tailpipe of the MiG-21. RAMBLER flight would have more luck as they destroyed an additional three MiG-21s with the lead pilot, Captain John Stone (who originally devised the plan), getting a confirmed kill that day. The score after Operation BOLO stood at seven kills for zero losses.

VPAF sources account for five aircraft destroyed on 2 Jan 1967. Regardless of the number, the 921st Fighter Regiment lost a large portion of their



Col Robin Olds standing next to SCAT XXVII (F-4C Phantom II serial number 64-0829) named in honor of his West Point roommate who wasn't qualified to become a pilot due to poor eyesight. This particular aircraft survived the war and is currently on display at the NMUSAF. SCAT XXVII was used by Col Olds to destroy two MiG-17 Frescos on 20 May 1967. During Operation BOLO, Col Olds flew F-4C serial number 63-7680 (nicknamed "Candy"), this aircraft was later destroyed by ground fire on 20 Nov 1967. (USAF Photo) ▲

MiG-21 force in one day of action. One of the VNAF pilots who ejected during the battle was Nguyen Van Coc, who later became the VPAF's highest scoring ace of the war with nine kills (US records indicate he scored 7 kills). The 8 TFW would use this tactic again on a smaller scale a few days later, mimicking the mission profile of an unarmed RF-4C Phantom on a reconnaissance mission. A two-ship of F-4Cs from the 8 TFW stayed in close formation to hide their numbers and once again the MiGs fell for the bait; losing two MiG-21s with zero losses for the 8 TFW. The operations carried out by the 8 TFW drastically curtailed MIG-21 operations for months. By War's end, the 8 TFW (known as the Wolfpack) was credited with a total of 38.5 aerial victories, the

highest total of any USAF wing during the war. Of the 68 MiG-21s claimed by the Air Force during the War, 14 were credited to the 8 TFW.

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The tail end of Woleai, an atoll consisting of 22 islands in the eastern Caroline Islands in the Pacific Ocean, stands ready to receive five Low-Cost, Low-Altitude bundles as part of Operation Christmas Drop 2019, Woleai, Federated States of Micronesia, Dec. 10, 2019. Every December C-130 crews from Yokota Air Base, Japan, team up with the Japanese Air Self-Defense Force, Royal Australian Air Force, and Royal New Zealand Air Force for OCD, a humanitarian aid and disaster relief training exercise designed to airdrop critical supplies to remote islands like Woleai throughout the FSM and the Republic of Palau. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Matthew Gilmore) ►

- Continued from front page -

“Every Christmas Drop is special for the island,” said Santos Bugoman, an 18-year resident of Woleai. “We all have our own memories of OCDs past. I got my first pair of shoes in one of my first Christmas Drops and it’s something I will always remember and cherish. I wore them until I had completely outgrown them and blisters were forming because they were too small. Maybe I was being just a little bit sentimental, but they were so special to me I didn’t want to let go of them.”

While memories of toys and shoes are what the children cherish, for the elders it is the food, medicine, and other supplies that have meant the most over the years.



A pair of villagers stand atop two Low-Cost, Low-Altitude humanitarian aid bundles airdropped to the island of Woleai in the Federated States of Micronesia during Operation Christmas Drop 2019, Dec. 10, 2019. Through training with LCLA bundles, the U.S. Air Force and its partners, the Japanese Air Self-Defense Force, Royal Australian Air Force, and Royal New Zealand Air Force are able to deliver humanitarian aid to more than 20,000 people throughout the Pacific. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Matthew Gilmore) ▲

A group of villagers work together to carry a Low-Cost, Low-Altitude humanitarian aid bundle through the jungle as part of Operation Christmas Drop 2019, Woleai, Federated States of Micronesia, Dec. 10, 2019. OCD serves as a training platform for the U.S. Air Force and its partners to better train for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief through the use of LCLA airdrops on unsurveyed drop zones throughout the Pacific. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Matthew Gilmore) ◀

“We all have childhood memory of seeing the planes fly over head,” said Riugiufmal. “As we each grew older we truly understood how important OCD is for the islands. These bundles have toys, yes, but they more importantly carry bags of rice to help feed the 500 villagers we have here. The parachutes and their rigging is used to make sails for our boats and the wire for our spear guns. Some of our bundles were sent solely for our school and contained the educational supplies our students need to thrive.

“Those items are what matter to us and what we appreciate most. Those items and OCD in general is what brings us together as community. I saw some of school children saying “Thank you Christmas Drop” for the camera. That does not do it justice. On behalf of everyone on this island, our Chiefs, our elders, our school children, thank you OCD, thank you for all that you have shared with us over the years.”



A pair of village elders on the island of Woleai in the Federated States of Micronesia, sort through one of five Low-Cost, Low-Altitude bundles airdropped as part Operation Christmas Drop 2019, Dec. 10, 2019. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Matthew Gilmore) ▲

A group of village elders on the island of Woleai in the Federated States of Micronesia, sort the five Low-Cost, Low-Altitude humanitarian aid bundles airdropped as part Operation Christmas Drop 2019 into 78 evenly distributed piles to be given to the families that make up the 500 person village. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Matthew Gilmore) ◀



Village children stare through a window as the village elders sort through the supplies received during Operation Christmas Drop 2019, Woleai, Federated States of Micronesia, Dec. 10, 2019. With OCD delivering five bundles of humanitarian aid to Woleai, it is the duty of the elders to ensure the critical supplies received are evenly distributed throughout the island’s populace. (U.S. Air Force photo by Matthew Gilmore) ▲



Two pararescue Airmen receive Silver Star for gallantry in Afghanistan



Gen. CQ Brown Jr., Pacific Air Forces commander, Lt. Col. Douglas Holliday, 58th Rescue Squadron commander, Tech. Sgt. Gavin Fisher, 350th Special Warfare Training Squadron pararescueman, and Staff Sgt. Daniel Swensen, 58th Rescue Squadron pararescueman, stand at attention during a ceremony at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, Dec. 13, 2019. Fisher and Swensen received the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against enemies of the United States while deployed to Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Bryan Guthrie) ◀

Gen. CQ Brown Jr., Pacific Air Forces commander, presents the Silver Star Medal certificate to Staff Sgt. Daniel Swensen, 58th Rescue Squadron pararescueman, in a ceremony at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, Dec. 13, 2019. Swensen was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against enemies of the United States while embedded with Army Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha 1215 in Afghanistan, Sept. 13-14, 2019. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Bryan Guthrie) ▼

**By Airman 1st Class Bailee A. Darbasie
57th Wing Public Affairs**

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. -- Two U.S. Air Force pararescue Airmen received the Silver Star Medal in a ceremony Dec. 13 here for gallantry in action against enemies of the United States while deployed to Afghanistan.

Tech. Sgt. Gavin Fisher and Staff Sgt. Daniel Swensen were awarded the U.S. Armed Forces' third highest military combat decoration for saving nearly 40 lives and eliminating more than 100 enemy fighters in two separate combat engagements.

"For some of you, you may ask yourself how these two individuals in the face of such adversity performed so admirably," said Lt. Col. Douglas Holliday, commander of 58th Rescue Squadron. "Airmen like Dan and Gavin are part of a profession that dedicates their lives to a motto 'That Others May Live.' A foundation of that motto is a pledge they made going through selection and years of arduous training. In the face of adversity, when Americans and our allies' lives are on the line, under no circumstance will you quit on them. Never quit."

Gen. CQ Brown, Jr., Pacific Air Forces commander, echoed Holliday's sentiments while comparing the actions of Fisher and Swensen to those of yesteryear's comic book heroes and the rarity of heroes today.

"We can become so absorbed by the tales and the characters and their abilities that we can lose sight of our real-life heroes – heroes like

Tech. Sgt. Gavin Fisher and Staff Sgt. Daniel Swensen," Brown said. "... Only 1 percent of our service men and women, representing 1 percent of the population have received this Silver Star. So, these gentlemen are in a very exclusive club."

**Tech. Sgt. Gavin Fisher –
350th Special Warfare Training
Squadron, Joint Base San
Antonio-Lackland, Texas**

Fisher was awarded the Silver Star Medal for his gallantry as a pararescue technical rescue specialist while engaged in ground combat against U.S. enemies Aug. 11 and 12, 2018, in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan.

Ultimately, Fisher's actions saved the lives of 10 critically injured Soldiers, medically evacuated 20 casualties and eliminated 118 Taliban fighters.

Prior to the attack, a Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force was conducting a 10-day crisis response mission to fend off Ghazni City from more than 500 Taliban fighters. Fisher was serving as a rear gunner for the lead vehicle of the convoy, when Taliban fighters struck the armored vehicles with rocket propelled grenades and heavy machine gun fire.

In the midst of the ambush, Fisher was struck by grenade shrapnel; however, he remained focused, firing back at the Taliban and directing his vehicle out of danger. While still fending off two enemy fighters,



he provided advanced medical treatment, stopping massive bleeding and administering blood transfusions to two critically injured Soldiers. Fisher then kept his brothers-in-arms stable until a medical evacuation team arrived.

Wounded and refusing to leave with the patients, Fisher was involved in a second ambush. Placing others' lives before his, he treated five additional critically injured partner force casualties and requested a second medical evacuation.

The Taliban continued to strike Task Force, eventually striking the Mission Support Site and wounding 12 partner force soldiers. Fisher, without hesitation or regard for his safety, maneuvered through 75 meters of heavy machine gun and small arms fire to treat five of the wounded comrades.

Jumping back into the rear gunner seat of his armored vehicle, wounded Fisher manned the heavy machine gun as his team continued clearance operations of the city. Suddenly, a rocket-propelled grenade struck the

vehicle, severely wounding Fisher; however, he refused to falter while on guard.

Fisher returned fire and directed his team to safety, before he finally relented to medical care.

"Getting this medal is important because it lets people know the war is still going on, and valiant efforts by men and women are still going forth," said Fisher. "People are still out there dying and fighting for each other, and it needs to be recognized."

**Staff Sgt. Daniel Swensen – 58th
Rescue Squadron, Nellis AFB,
Nevada**

Swensen was awarded the Silver Star Medal for his gallantry as a pararescueman while engaged in ground combat against U.S. enemies Sept. 13 and 14, 2019, in Farah Province, Afghanistan.

Ultimately, Swensen's actions directly saved the lives of nine American and partner force Special Operators.

On the night of the attack,

Army Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha 1215 was conducting a helicopter assault to reclaim the Anar Darah District Center and police headquarters, which were under Taliban control. Simultaneously, Swensen, who was embedded with the Detachment, was leading a ground assault team through a compound, when Taliban fighters initiated an ambush less than 100 meters away.

Within moments, the Taliban were relentlessly sending heavy machine gun fire and rocket propelled grenades into the compound. Eventually, a grenade struck the wall behind Swensen, wounding him and five of his teammates.

Injured, trapped and separated from the support fire team, Swensen remained vigilant as he fired back at the Taliban and directed his partner forces to safety. In the midst of the chaos, he ran through intense enemy fire to rescue a fallen Soldier incapacitated by his injuries. As the gunfire sprayed overhead, Swensen treated the life-threatening wounds before moving him out of danger.

Swensen, continuing to ignore his injuries, grouped the casualties and prepared for extraction. He loaded an injured Soldier onto his shoulders and then directed the team to the helicopter landing zone 800 meters away.

Not long after the group had arrived, the Taliban executed a second ambush with heavy machine gun fire.

With disregard for his safety, Swensen remained exposed to enemy fire to direct the casualties behind cover and then continued treatment of the critically injured. Eventually, the medical evacuation helicopter arrived, and the injured were flown to safety; however, for Swensen, there was still work to be done. He then led the remaining team members back through the city to retrieve four additional casualties before allowing medical attention for his wounds.

“It’s weird to receive so much attention for something that I feel anyone else would’ve done on the battlefield that night,” said Swensen. “I’m honored my peers think I deserve this medal.”



Gen. CQ Brown Jr., Pacific Air Forces commander, presents the Silver Star Medal certificate to Tech. Sgt. Gavin Fisher, 350th Special Warfare Training Squadron pararescueman, in a ceremony at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, Dec. 13, 2019. Fisher was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action against enemies of the United States while assigned to the 83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, Afghanistan, in 2018. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Bryan Guthrie)

Winter Weather Preparation

Road conditions and delayed reporting information will be available on Osan’s official social media, AFN Channel 13, DSN 784-ROAD, AtHOC, and the Giant Voice. Green – Normal Travel Amber – No Scooters, Motorcycles, Bicycles, Etc. Red – Mission Essential Travel Only Black – Emergency Vehicles Only

to snow removal equipment, and educate your children to stand clear of equipment prior to expected snow.

Dorm Residents

If you are experiencing problems heating your room, please contact your Airmen Dorm Leader who will work closely with CE to make your living conditions comfortable. Download the “Osan AB Dorms” app on your device, which makes it easier to submit work orders to your ADLs.


- Apple Store: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/osan-ab-dorms/id1483119484>
- Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.appbuilder.u3329688p3395759&hl=en>

On-Base Residents

A military contractor is located on the entry floor of Hallasan Tower, and they are available 24 hours per day for any residents experiencing unreasonable living conditions. Your concerns may be a part of a larger issue affecting the entire facility.

Work Centers

Facility managers are your primary conduit to facilitate any request regarding your work centers. In case of an emergency, please contact CE Customer Service at DSN 784-6226.



ROAD CONDITIONS BREAKDOWN

GREEN

- NORMAL OPERATIONS

AMBER


- NECESSARY TRAVEL ONLY
- NO SCOOTERS
- NO MOTORCYCLES


RED


- MISSION ESSENTIAL TRAVEL ONLY
- NO SCOOTERS
- NO MOTORCYCLES
- SHUTTLES, TAXIS, BUSES FOR ESSENTIAL TRIPS ONLY


BLACK


- BASE CLOSED EXCEPT FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE
- COMMERCIAL VEHICLES CAN EXIT BASE
- NO VEHICLES CAN ENTER BASE

 @51stFW

 @51stFW

 0505 - 784 - ROAD

 AFN American Forces Network

 CHANNEL 13

By 51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- Cold winters are expected at Osan Air Base, but many of Team Osan’s Airmen and their families came from a bit warmer climates. Check out the info below on how you can best prepare yourself and your family for what is to come this winter.

Road Conditions and Delayed Reporting

- Road conditions and delayed reporting information will be available on Osan’s official social media, AFN Channel 13, DSN 784-ROAD, AtHOC, and the Giant Voice.
- **Green** – Normal Travel
 - **Amber** – No Scooters, Motorcycles, Bicycles, Etc.
 - **Red** – Mission Essential Travel Only
 - **Black** – Emergency Vehicles Only

Snow and Ice Control

The snow team begins preparation operations prior to inclement weather forecast, and they have prepared priority schedule to ensure continued safe operations and smooth transit across the installation. To assist snow removal, please clear vehicles and objects from roadways and sidewalks, yield

Olivier Asselin / Heifer International

CHANGE THE WORLD GIVE GLOBAL

Help people in need around the world by giving to these respected charities through your employee giving program.



Mission Aviation Fellowship

CFC #10989



SEE INTERNATIONAL

RESTORING SIGHT
TRANSFORMING LIVES

CFC #11849



Compassion®
in Jesus' name

CFC #10522



World Vision®

CFC #11117

By Jon Dunbar

The Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9		10	11	12
13				14				15				16		
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77				78				79				80		

ACROSS

1 Cost-sharing deal
4 Global trade group
7 Int'l baseball tournament
10 Illuminated
13 Atmosphere
14 Make a mistake
15 Actor Brynner
16 Long period of time
17 Mai ____
18 U-boat
19 Uncontrollable
21 Campus troops
23 Goes with Burke or Force
24 General Bradley
26 Korean alternative to Walmart
28 A-bomb, for one
32 2012 Taylor Swift song
34 Stimp's partner
35 System manager
36 Worn around a GI's neck
38 Opposite of he
40 "On ____ on"

41 Goes with Christmas or All Hallow's
42 SNL cast member Nwodim
44 Air mail service
47 And so on
49 Popular fried food
53 Not sooner
55 Six-pack muscles
57 Paris river
58 Ukraine capital, their spelling
59 Hotmail alternative
61 Colony insects
62 Cairo's country
64 Actress Hathaway
66 Twin-engined chopper
69 Gardner or DuVernay
70 Mil. assignment
73 Deceased K-pop star Ha-ra
74 Submachine gun
75 Gun the engine
76 Loaner's promise
77 Ex-soldier
78 Highlands hat
79 Attempt
80 Hat

DOWN

1 College entrance exam
2 Lost soldier
3 Korean folk song
4 Adam or Kanye
5 Ceasefire agreement
6 Sphere
7 SK baseball team
8 Assembled
9 Coagulate, as in blood
10 Bruce or Byung-hun
11 Charged particle
12 Explosive substance
20 ____, sea and air
22 Give a speech
23 Actor Daniel ____ Kim
24 Former Monterey Bay fort
25 Cow noise
27 Opposite of Mr.
29 Actress Thurman
30 Kith and ____
31 Opposite of beginning
33 Korean alternative to Google

35 Targeting system
37 "____ Carter"
39 Chuckle noise
43 Pacific or Atlantic
44 Moose's cousin
45 Spring month
46 Gonorrhea or chlamydia
48 Former USO location in Seoul
49 Forensic detective
50 Lethal, in military action
51 Head doctor
52 Sega competitor
56 Cave dweller
59 Japanese dumpling
60 Edible seaweed
63 Joint pain reason
65 Sea force
66 Korean movie theater chain
67 Korean raw fish
68 Smart devices
69 Paintings sculptures, etc
71 Casualty
72 Opposite of nope

"DISCOUNT!!"

All 2D movies! **30~40% OFF**

This deal applies (only) to all U.S base military personnel.

From : Jul. 1st, 2019 ~ Dec. 31th, 2019

* MUST provide a military ID card at the ticket booth.

Dec. 4, 2019



Dec. 12, 2019



Terms and Conditions

- This deal ONLY applies to Lotte Cinema in Songtan.
- MUST pay upfront. (NO online reservations)
- Other discounts may NOT be used in addition to this deal.



Show times: **LOTTE CINEMA SONGTAN**

LOTTE CINEMA

Answers to Previous Crossword

ACROSS

1 ABCS
5 GAGA
9 HANOK
14 ALAI
15 SULU
16 AWARE
17 FOUR
18 OXEN
19 NOTED
20 EASE
21 MINT
22 GLOSS
23 STENCIL
25 SMA
27 GAIT
29 ARARAT
34 JIKJI

38 ARMISTICE
40 OKIE
41 FREED
42 TORN
43 DESTROYER
45 VASES
46 YASSER
47 SCMH
49 TDY
51 EASTERN
56 ARMOR
60 USNA
62 ALOE
63 SIEGE
64 REAL
65 MAMA
66 INTRA
67 TARO
68 ETAT
69 SKEET
70 STYX
71 DENS

DOWN

1 AAFES
2 BLOAT
3 CAUSE
4 SIREN
5 GSOMIA
6 AUXILIARY
7 GLEN
8 AUNT'S
9 HANGARS
10 AWOL
11 NATO
12 ORES
13 KEDS
24 CGI
26 MAID
28 TREES
30 ATTA
31 RIOS
32 ACRE
33 TENS

34 JODY
35 IKEA
36 KISS
37 JETS
39 MERCENARY
41 FORD
44 RETREAT
45 VHS
48 MAALOX
50 YURTS
52 TAMED
53 ELATE
54 ROMAN
55 NEATS
56 ASIS
57 RINK
58 METE
59 OGRE
61 SEAT



Airmen finalize pre-flight inspections on an Illinois Air National Guard C-130 Hercules aircraft at Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait, Nov. 22, 2019. C-130s are used for cargo and personnel transport and are capable of moving 42,000 pounds of equipment and passengers to anywhere U.S. Central Command needs combat power delivered. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Mason)



Senior Airman Rafael Edwin, 2nd Flight Test Squadron, stands ready to bring in the colors during the Eglin Air Force Base Honor Guard course graduation ceremony, Dec. 6, 2019, at Eglin AFB, Fla. The graduation performance includes flag detail, rifle volley, pall bearers and bugler for friends, family and unit commanders. (U.S. Air Force photo by Samuel King Jr.) ◀



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Mason Hughes, 633rd Civil Engineer Squadron structural journeyman, welds a pit plate closed at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., Dec. 4, 2019. Pit plates are covers that protect water valves around the installation and are welded down for safety. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Carlin Leslie) ▼



Basic military trainees begin an obstacle known as "The Wall" during Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills Training, Nov. 21, 2019, at Joint Base San Antonio-Medina Annex, Texas. The obstacle develops physical fitness, motivation, leadership and teamwork. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Katherine Spessa) ◀

Preston, 30th Space Wing courthouse facility dog, focuses on an Airman who visited the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response office, Dec. 4, 2019, at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. Preston, the Defense Department's first certified courthouse facility dog, was trained through the POOCH, or prisoners overcoming obstacles and creating hope, program for two years. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Aubree Milks) ►

Col. Thomas E. Segars Jr., Air Force Global Strike Command security forces chief, has his new rank pinned on by his children during a promotion ceremony at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., Nov. 26, 2019. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jacob B. Wrightsman) ▼



Retired Col. Charles McGee, a member of the Tuskegee Airman, high-fives Airmen during his visit to Dover Air Force Base, Del., Dec. 6, 2019. McGee, who was celebrating his 100th birthday at Dover AFB, served a total of 30 years in the Air Force, beginning with the U.S. Army Air Corps, and flew a total of 409 combat missions during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Christopher Quail) ▲

Maintainers assigned to the 317th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, roughhouse while a C-130J Super Hercules is de-iced at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., Nov. 22, 2019. The 317th Airlift Wing recently trained in Colorado Springs, Colo., to prepare for future deployments. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman River Bruce) ◀

Kunsan

- 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

- 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-HOPE.

- 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

OSAN EXCHANGE FACILITIES ADJUST HOURS FOR ANNUAL PHYSICAL INVENTORY: Express 965 0600 - 2200 17 Jan 2020 MCS 965 1000 - 1800 17 Jan 2020. All the rest of AAFES facilities will keep the regular hours of operation. Any questions or comments can be directed to Mr. Boris Nasci at 784-4293 Or Nasci@aafes.com

JA HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: The Legal Office will be closed 26-28 Dec. and 31 Dec. - 2 Jan., and will be minimally manned 23 Dec. - 3 Jan. During this time, Article 137 reenlistment briefings will be assessed on an as needed basis. Please call 784-4131 to inquire and for any legal assistance appointment requests. Looking for a legal resource? Check out our Sharepoint site: <https://osan.eis.pacaf.af.mil/51FW/51FWSTAFF/JA/SitePages/Home.aspx>

TEAM OSAN SPOUSE'S CLUB SCHOLARSHIP: We are currently accepting scholarship applications for 2020-2021 academic year for high school seniors and continuing education for adults. Open to all active duty military, DoD civilians, U.S. Embassy invited contractors, military retiree personnel and their dependents. Applications must be postmarked by February 7, 2020. Visit teamosansc.com/scholarships.html for more information and to download application.

OSAN YOUTH SPORTS: Osan Youth Sports will offer winter basketball and cheerleading. Registration is from December 2 - January 3. Season will run from February to end of March. Start Smart Basketball will be for ages 3-5;

cost is \$35 per participants. Sign-ups for this will be limited. Basketball and cheer will be for youth ages 5-18; cost is \$55 for YP members and \$60 for non-members. Sign-ups will not be limited for this group. Registration forms can be found at <https://www.51fss.com/youth-sports>. Stop by bldg. 492, Youth & Teen Center, to register. Call 784-1492 for any questions.

TAX SEASON: Tax season is quickly approaching and all are encouraged to start collecting their required documents today. Virtual currency is taxable and the IRS is tracking, so be sure to include all income on your tax return. Check the rules and regulations concerning your state, file a state income tax return if required. Osan AB will not offer Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) services this year. Assistance will be available for active duty members through Military One Source www.militaryonesource.com. <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/military> contains information for military personnel and will post updates to assistance offered by the IRS.

FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: The 2020 election season is approaching. The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) allows all US citizens to vote while their away from their voting jurisdiction. To register and request a ballot, fill out the Federal Post Card Application: fvap.gov/r3/fpca/state. You may also pick up a hard copy from the Installation Voting Assistance (IVA) Office, Bldg. 769 M-F 0800-1700. New Hampshire

and South Carolina hold their primary election in Feb, register today to ensure receipt of the ballot. For more information favp.gov or the Installation Voter Assistance Office at 784-5440.

OSAN YOUTH SPORTS SPORTS OFFICIALS AND SCOREKEEPERS: Officials and scorekeepers are needed for all of Osan's Youth Sports and Intramural Sports games. Qualified personnel receive training and pay for working these games. If interested, please send a short text to Dave Moysey at 010-2188-5528.

PYEONGTAEK HIGH SCHOOL GUEST SPEAKERS NEEDED: Pyongtaek High School's English department is looking to invite a guest speaker from Osan Air Base to speak with 30 Korean students for approximately 45 minutes on Jan. XX. The volunteer may choose to discuss any topic they wish. No Korean Language experience is necessary. For more information please contact Mr. Yong Hui Pak at yong.pak.3.kr@us.af.mil

OSAN BASE HONOR GUARD "TO HONOR WITH DIGNITY": Are you or someone you know highly motivated, dedicated to excellence, and want to be among the sharpest? If the answer is yes, the Osan Honor Guard Team welcomes you. For more information contact SSgt Akin Hyde at 784-1091 or via email: akin.hyde@us.af.mil, or SSgt Suchi Xiong at 784-4197 or via email: suchi.xiong@us.af.mil.

THRIFT STORE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Team Osan Spouse's Club owns and operates the Osan AB Thrift Shop as a nonprofit organization. The income raised through operating

the Thrift Shop is given back to the Osan community through community grants and scholarships. Volunteers are always needed to help sort, price and organize items received. Please contact the Thrift Store Manager at thriftshopmanager@teamosansc.com for more information.

TUTORING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: We have a tutoring opportunity for grade school to young adults, on base, for all subjects, especially the sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). In order to be a volunteer, applicants would have to complete a coach/volunteer application and background check. Interested participants can get additional information at our "Osan AB Tutoring" Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/osantutors/> We meet every Wednesday & Thursday from 1630-1830 at the Base USO.

51 FSS/FSDE MILTA BRIEFINGS: The Education Center offers the Military Tuition Assistance (MilTA) Briefing every Tuesday at 0800 and Thursday at 1500 in Bldg. 788, Rm 26. The briefings are held twice a week to aid in capturing shift workers. This briefing is required for first time users of Tuition Assistance and for members who received an AFVEC notification that follow up counseling is required. No sign up needed. If you have any questions concerning MilTA, please contact the Osan Education Center at 784-4220.

Kunsan's emergency phone numbers			
Emergency Services	911		
Off Base/Cell Emergency	063-470-0911	Nurse Advice Line	1-800-723-8255
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)	

Osan's emergency phone numbers			
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



Soldiers assigned to 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-U.S. Combined Division, wait in line to deliver charcoal to local homes for the charcoal briquette distribution, Dec. 5, 2019, Dongducheon, Republic of Korea. A total of 5,000 briquettes were delivered to families during the event. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Yesenia Barajas) (Photo Credit: Sgt. Yesenia Barajas)

Camp Casey charcoal briquette distribution

By Sgt. Yesenia Barajas

CAMP CASEY, Republic of Korea - Soldiers from across U.S. Army Garrison Camp Casey came together to deliver 5,000 charcoal briquettes to neighbors outside the base December 5, Bosan-dong, Dongducheon.

The charcoal briquette distribution is an annual event for soldiers of Camp Casey to be involved and assist neighbors who are in need of a way to stay warm during the winter.

"It shows that the United States soldiers are volunteering to help out," said Sgt. Christopher Castner, a fire support specialist assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 210th Field Artillery Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-U.S. Combined Division, and Gainesville, Florida, native. "It kind of helps us get good rapport with the local populace."

Castner volunteered to be the noncommissioned officer in charge for the event.

"I think it's a good opportunity for our soldiers to get out there and meet the locals," said Castner. "It gives them the opportunity to get out and get to know the culture a little bit more."

This is the seventh year the Gyeonggi Provincial Office and 210th FAB, 2ID/RUCD partnered to distribute charcoal to the locals. About 90 service



Soldiers assigned to 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-U.S. Combined Division, work together to distribute charcoal briquettes to local families for the charcoal briquette distribution, Dec. 5, 2019, Dongducheon, Republic of Korea. The event was hosted by the Gyeonggi Province Office and first began in 2013. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Jaeyoung Park) (Photo Credit: Capt. Daniel Parker) ▲

members showed up to help deliver briquettes to 17 homes in Bosan-dong, Dongducheon.

"This is great - that the soldiers come out from their daily work, and we team up to help the people," said Maj. Michael Kim, the brigade chaplain for 210th and Riverside, California native. "To help the people in the Dongducheon City, where we live, not only did we provide our manpower, but we also donated money to buy more briquettes for this event.



Soldiers assigned to the 210th Field Artillery Brigade and the 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, both part of the 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-U.S. Combined Division pose for a group photo during the charcoal briquette distribution, Dec. 5, 2019, Dongducheon, Republic of Korea. About 90 soldiers volunteered to help deliver the charcoal briquettes to neighbors in need. (U.S. Army photo Pfc. Jaeyoung Park) (Photo Credit: Capt. Daniel Parker) ▲

Staff members from the Dongducheon Charcoal Bank, Dongducheon, smile for a photo before handing out gloves and aprons to service members for the charcoal briquette distribution, Dec. 5, 2019, Dongducheon, Republic of Korea. Soldiers volunteered to help deliver briquettes to families in need around the base. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Yesenia Barajas) (Photo Credit: Sgt. Yesenia Barajas) ◀

24 Solar Terms (Part 22)

By KyongHui “Jennie” Pae

22. Dong Ji: Winter Solstice

The longest night period of the year

During Dongji, the daytime is the shortest and the nighttime is the longest of the year. Around December 22nd of the solar calendar, when the Sun’s ecliptic is 275 degrees.

Dongji, often referred to as "small snow" is the longest night of the year, but it is also the first day of the warm energy due to the daily life of the deceased. This is why Dongji, a small ball of rice and red bean soup dish, is served during this time. Each ball of rice represents one year of life. This tradition still prevails today, as the saying goes, "You must pass Dongji to be one year older or eat Dongji bean porridge to be one year older." On winter solstice the sun rises at the lowest level of the year. Therefore, the day is short and the night is the long. However, there were many places where winter solstice was celebrated because of the long days. Every year, when Dongji becomes a winter solstice, preparing for the New Year.

Reference: Korean Folk Culture Research



Spiritual Charge

THE LITTLE THINGS



By SSgt Marcus Walker
694 ISRG Religious
Affairs Airman

I am truly appreciative of today. This is the season of seeing one's blessings in life and it is one of my personal favorite topics. In my opinion, being appreciative is the most underrated value in our lives as well-functioning human

beings. Of course, we are all grateful for things like a roof over our heads, our families, friends, health, access to the internet and our source of income. Have you taken time lately to appreciate the little things, the everyday occurrences of life that usually go unnoticed like: waking up, having all the resources needed to take a shower and brush your teeth in the morning or being able to put on a fresh set of clean clothes? As you go through your morning and you leave your place of residence with whatever transportation it may be, are you grateful for your life? On your route to work, do you admire the beauty of nature and/or technology that surrounds you? When arriving to your place of work, I suggest taking several deep breaths and realizing the people around you are blessings in their own ways. When you think about all the tasks at hand for the day, are you overwhelmed with them or are you thankful you are in a position

that relies on you to complete the tasks? Throughout the work day, do you take time to notice all your abilities and functions that help you finish your day to day responsibilities? When you get home from work, do you appreciate your family and/or friends who truly care about you?

I am appreciative of things as little as waking up, feeling healthy, being able to get out of bed with no problems and breathing in fresh air from the outdoors. I even count my blessings for simple things such as indoor plumbing and sliced bread. This may sound silly but I am serious when I say it. Being appreciative of each person that crosses my path on a daily basis may sound unusual, but each person has a purpose in life and every minor detail is important in the course of each day. I think we often take for granted how each detail of the day impacts the rest of our day. The way you look at a certain situation can change your

whole attitude, thereby changing the course and outcome of the day. The days are long and the years are short, but I want to encourage you to take advantage of each day no matter what it throws at you, you can always find something to be grateful for! Keeping appreciation at the forefront of your mind can turn a day that seems normal into a day that you will never forget!

Being thankful for little things is extremely important for your mental and spiritual well-being. This will force you to step back from a bad situation and help you see the bigger picture and appreciate the moment even if it was not what you planned for. Becoming aware of your support network, professional resources and personal abilities can improve your overall life satisfaction and resiliency.

This holiday season, let us truly be grateful for not only the big things in life, but for the countless little blessings too!

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

KUNSAN AIR BASE

Protestant Services

Gospel Service
Sunday, 11:30 a.m.
Main Chapel, Bldg. 501
Contemporary Service
Sunday 5 p.m.
Main Chapel, Bldg. 501

Catholic Services

Sunday Catholic Mass
Sunday, 9:45 a.m.
Main Chapel, Bldg. 501
Daily Mass and Reconciliation
Please call the Chapel

Other Worship Opportunities

LDS Service
Sunday, 1:00 p.m.
SonLight Inn, Bldg. 510

Point of Contact:
Kunsan Chapel, 782-HOPE

Visit us on SharePoint:
<https://kunsan.eis.pacaf.af.mil/8FW/HC>

OSAN AIR BASE

Protestant Services

-Community Service @ 1030
-Gospel Service @ 1230
Regular Occuring Ministries:
PYOC: (Middle School & High School Students)
- Mondays—1830-2000 @ Chapel
Spiritual Fitness Center.
PCOC: (AWANA)
- Wednesdays @ Chapel. Age 3 to 6th grade meet 1800 -1930 & grades 7th-12th meet 1700-1800 .
PMOC: (Men)
- Tuesdays - 1830 @ Chapel Annex.
PSOC: (Singles & Unaccompanied)
"Osan Hospitality House"
- Bible Studies:
*Saturdays - 1900 @ Hospitality House. Dinner is provided.
Sundays - 1700 @ Community Center, Classroom #3.
- Game Night:
*Fridays - 1900 @ Hospitality House. Dinner is provided.
*Van pickup: Fridays: Chapel @ 1730, Mustang CTR @ 1735.
Saturdays: Chapel @ 1830, Mustang CTR @ 1835.
PWOC: (Women) "PWOC Osan AB"
- Mondays 1800-2000, Tuesdays 0845-1100 @ Chapel Annex (Child Watchcare provided) & Sunday 1600-1730 @ Posco Apartments .
MOPS: Join us for OSAN MOPS!
- Meet twice a month on Wednesday @ the Chapel Annex
Contact: osanmops@gmail.com

Apostolic Pentecostal
Apostolic Connection Church
Bible Study: Osan Chapel Sanctuary,
Mondays 7PM-8PM

Catholic Mass

Weekend Masses
Saturday Mass (Sunday obligation), 5 p.m.
Saturday, Also Confessions, 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass, 8:30 a.m.
Tuesday -Thursday Mass, 11:30 a.m.
Friday Mass, 5 p.m.

Catholic Ministries

Catholic Religious Education
Sunday, 10-11 a.m., Chapel annex
Korean Prayer group
Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.,
Blessed Sacra Chapel
Faith formation class/bible study
Wednesday, 6:00 p.m., Chapel annex
Catholic Men of the Chapel (CMOC)
Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Chapel annex
Catholic Women of the Chapel (CWOC)
Thursday, 5:30 p.m., Chapel annex hall
Catholic Family social meal (Free)
Friday, 6-7:30 p.m., Chapel annex hall
Catholic Family social meal (Free)
Saturday, 6-7:30 p.m., Chapel annex hall

Knights of Columbus & Baptism classes
Meet monthly, Pls 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>

Osan enforces drone regulations

By Senior Airman Denise Jenson
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- As a reminder for servicemembers and their families living on Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, the operation of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) on the installation is prohibited. Additionally, Korean Law prohibits UAS flights within six miles of active air fields and military installations.

The importance of having these laws and regulations is for flight safety, which could cause a danger to an aircraft and the crew. Additionally, there are force protection concerns for UASs being utilized for intelligence gathering and potentially as weapons. If a UAS is noticed around the installation, there are certain steps that can be taken to properly report the incident.

D. Direct Attention – If a drone is UAS is seen or heard, direct attention outward and upward to attempt to locate individuals who may be holding a controller or device that appears to be operating the UAS. Look towards rooftops and windows.

R. Report Incident – Report immediately via radio, telephone or voice to request the 51st Security Forces Squadron to respond. If the operator is located off base, inform

SFS of the location so they can coordinate with the Korean National Police.

O. Observe – Observe and maintain visibility of the device, if safe to do so, for damage or injured individuals. Note: A UAS's battery life is short – typically 30 to 40 minutes.

N. Notice – Notice the features of the UAS, such as the type of device (fixed wing, multi rotor, or tilt rotor), size shape, color, payload, camera equipment and activity of the device.

E. Execute – Execute appropriate actions and if practical, locate the operator, identify and interview if permissible. Remember to always treat UAS on the ground as a suspicious package.

The No Drone Program focus is on the small commercially available type of drones, such as the Parrot, DJI Phantom or Mavic series and other similar type of commercial drones. Military members could be subject to prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Civilians could be prosecuted under the U.S. Code and/or Korean Law, which may fine violations up to two million South Korean Won.

To report a drone or UAS sighting, contact the Base Defense Operations Center at DSN: 783-6515.

NO DRONE ZONE

RESTRICTED AIRSPACE



드론 사용 금지

비행제한구역

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) flight is prohibited except as specifically authorized by the Installation Commander.
Unauthorized UAS may be disabled, damaged, destroyed, seized or confiscated.
Unauthorized UAS operators may be subject to criminal prosecution, fines, and loss of operator privileges.

IAW ROK 'Protection of Military Bases and Installations Act' Unauthorized flight of aircraft is prohibited by Article 10, paragraph (1), item 3
And
49 USC 40103(B)(3) & 46307, 14C FR Parts 101 and 107 and 10 USC 130i-where applicable

무인 항공기 시스템(UAS) 혹은 드론 사용은 기지 사령관에 의해 특별히 승인된 경우를 제외하고 금지된다. 허가되지 않은 UAS는 손상, 파괴 또는 압수될 수 있다. 허가되지 않은 UAS 사용자는 형사 고발, 벌금, UAS 사용 특권의 상실 등을 받을 수 있다.

한국 '군기지 및 시설 보호법' - 제10조, 제1항, 제3호 및 USC 제 49조 4013 (B)(3) & 46307, 14C FR 파트 101 및 107 및 USC 제 106 조 130i.


As a reminder for servicemembers and their families living on Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, the operation of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) on the installation is prohibited. Additionally, Korean Law prohibits UAS flights within six miles of active air fields and military installations. Military members could be subject to prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and civilians could be prosecuted under the U.S. Code and/or Korean Law, which may fine violations up to two million South Korean Won. (Courtesy graphic)

평택시 드론 날릴 수 있는 곳

포승읍, 청북면 일부, 안중읍 일부, 현덕면 일부 비행가능 (그외지역 비행불가 : 오산비행장(주한미군) 또는 평택비행장(주한미군) 반경 9.3km 이내 지역 포함)

Drone Flight Zone in Pyeongtaek City;
Posung-Eup, Partial area of Cheong-Buk Myeon, Anjung-Eup and Hyeondeok-Myeon.
(Other areas are NO Drone Flight Zone; Osan AB (USFK), Camp Humphreys (USFK) radius 9.3KM)

No Drone Flight Zone in Pyeongtaek City



*비행 금지 오산비행장(주한미군)


반경 9.3km *허가필요

No Drone Flight Zone
OSAN AB radius 9.3Km (6 Miles)

*비행 금지 평택비행장(주한미군)

반경 9.3km *허가필요

No Drone Flight Zone
Camp Humphreys Desiderio Airfield
radius 9.3Km (6 Miles)




NO DRONE ZONE


관계기관의 승인을 받지 않고 드론 비행 시에는 항공법에 따라 최대 200만원의 벌금 또는 과태료가 부과됩니다.

NO DRONE ZONE : Unauthorized Drone flights are subject to a fine up to 2 Million Won in accordance with the Korean aviation law.

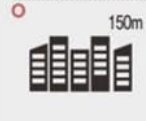
드론 비행 승인을 받아야 하는 경우



비행장 주변 관제권 (반경 9.3km)



비행금지구역 (서울 강북지역, 휴전선 원전 주변)



고도 150m 이상

Authorization required:

- Airfield radius 9.3km (about 6 miles)
- Northern area of Seoul, DMZ area and around Nuclear facility area
- Altitude over 150meter

► *Hwacheon Sancheoneo Ice Festival*

- Period: January 4-26, 2020
- Venue: 137, Sancheoneo-gil, Hwacheon-gun, Gangwon-do

Hwacheon Sancheoneo Ice Festival is held in the pristine natural environment around Hwacheoncheon Stream, the natural habitat of mountain trout and otters. One of the most popular programs at the festival is ice fishing, where people cut a hole through thick ice and try their luck at catching trout. Visitors can also brave the icy water and try catching fish barehanded. Helpful staff are available to ensure that even first-timers get a catch. Freshly caught fish can be consumed either raw or grilled on-site.



Guide to Winter Festivals – Part 2 –



◄ *Inje Icefish Festival*

- Period: January 18-27, 2020
- Venue: 555-2, Bupyeong-ri, Inje-gun, Gangwon-do
- Admission/Participation Fees: Free for fishing site and event hall / Paid service like fishing rod, bait, etc.

Inje Icefish Festival has developed thanks to a lot of tourists' participation and their interest since 1997. At Inje Icefish Festival, visitors can enjoy ice fishing and other exciting programs such as ice sledding, large icefish sledding, and snow slides. All the icefish caught by participants can be served as hoe (sliced raw fish) or deep-fried for a warm treat.

► *Taebaeksan Mountain Snow Festival*

- Period: January 10-19, 2020
- Venue: 162, Cheonjedan-gil, Taebaek-si, Gangwon-do

Taebaeksan Snow Festival offers guests an array of events and activities that are sure to amuse and entertain everyone. In addition to performances and exquisite snow sculptures, visitors can participate in snow sledding with the beautiful Taebaeksan Mountain covered with snow as their backdrop.



◄ *Jeju Fire Festival*

- Period: March 12-15, 2020
- Venue: Areas of Saebyeol Oreum
San 59-8, Bongseong-ri, Aewol-eup, Jeju-si

Jeju Fire Festival is held annually to wish for a healthy and prosperous new year. Long ago, Jeju farmers would set fire to their fields to kill harmful bugs and encourage the growth of new grass for their cattle to graze on. This tradition is reenacted by setting an entire side of the mountain ("oreum") on fire. Visitors can also experience the traditional lifestyle and practices of Korea's farmers, including a traditional wedding ceremony at the festival.

Serve – Save – Survive: water rescue program brought to light



The 30th Civil Engineer Squadron fire department was awarded the “Best Fire Department in the Air Force,” and the “Best Fire Department in the Department of Defense” for 2018. (U.S. Air Force courtesy photo)

By Senior Airman Clayton Wear, 30th Space Wing Public Affairs

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AFNS)

-- All that stands between Fire Station 5 and 2,553 nautical miles of Pacific Ocean before reaching Hawaii is Ocean Ave. and the AMTRAC railway. In the face of this great expanse, and with 43 miles of coastline belonging to the base, the need for an atypical set of training has continually evolved since its inception.

The 30th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department innovated new ways for first responders to serve their populace along the coastline and in the water. According to Alani Coleman, 30th CES firefighter and water rescue personnel, at any time, Vandenberg AFB beaches can have anywhere from 150 to 200 people. With 14 years experience at the 30th CES, Coleman has earned his share of learning opportunities that, along with others, have created a better program.

“I was part of the water rescue program early in my career as a Hotshot,” Coleman said. “Soon after transitioning over to the floor (Fire Station 5), we got reports of a small ‘dingy’, an aluminum boat, overturned from the surf with three people on board ... and one was missing. Around 9 or 10 at night, the call came through so we quickly loaded up our (aquatic rescue vehicles). In pitch black, we drove down to the boat house, and lowered the ARVs into the water. There were some lights down there, but it was still pretty dark.”

Unaware of the effect the poor lighting would have, Coleman stepped onto his ARV with Nate Ogan, 30th CES firefighter and water rescue

program lead. Wearing black wetsuits and riding two subtly-colored Jet Skis, they started their grid-pattern search. Starting from the last point of origin they rode 20 meters parallel to the shore before cutting back, creating a zigzag pattern in complete darkness.

“We were hoping for a spotlight the whole time ... we were very aware of the fleeting ‘golden hour,’” Coleman said. “Golden hour is a period of time following a traumatic injury where there is the highest likelihood that medical treatment will prevent death. As time passed, our response changed, as far as emergency first aid. Anything after two hours is likely a body recovery. If they were in the water, the survivability was extremely low.”

For the next 48 hours, Coleman and Ogan used everything within their control to ‘Serve-Save-Survive’, which is the Vandenberg Fire Department motto. Sometimes though, situations are at the whim of forces more powerful than just darkness.

“There were lightning and thunderstorms, so they called everybody back in,” Coleman said. “They said ‘you know there is going to be lightning in the area, and the Coast Guard is going to be able to search in a helicopter a lot better than we are.’ We were all so fatigued at that point since we had hit the 48-hour mark trying to search for this person. We tried to do everything we could, but it just wasn’t working in the weather. Unfortunately, the family caught

word and was waiting down there. That is the worst feeling ever. At that point you just want to give them closure so it was really hard to pull back, but we did.”

While the Coast Guard took over the search, Coleman and Ogan went back to service their gear with the expectation of a call if anything was to be found, but they never received that call. As evening approached and the tides dropped, the victim was located, wrapped in kelp just below the surface of where they had searched. After reflecting on the rescue with visible empathy, Ogan explained how they had followed procedures.

“Every rescue presents its own challenges,” Ogan said. “We are constantly having to innovate better ways of doing things. A lot of the methods are tried and true; they’ve been around forever. Ninety percent of the world uses the same standards that we uphold through (United State Life Saving Association). We maintain a certain level of fitness just to participate, and if you can swim, that is your best defense against drowning or an emergency.”

As with every after-action report, Coleman and Ogan found great strengths of theirs and also room to innovate new initiatives from the rescue attempt. Coleman’s confidence in his posture said it all, communication with other helping agencies is one of their greatest strengths.

“We actually had mutual aid with Santa Barbara County,” Coleman said. “They have a really good water rescue program and when they came, we all meshed. It was awesome because we try to model ourselves off of our surrounding areas. We try to mimic their (standard operating procedures) so when we do work with them, we are speaking the same language.”

The water rescue program is not only supported by Santa Barbara County, but also the state of California. Coleman and Ogan were able to survive and perform their duties that night because they had trained for similar situations.

“A lot of preparation goes into this,” Coleman said. “We go to classes through California Fire, like surf operations which is basically for the rescue swimmer. We also go to a rescue water craft class which specializes just on the operator and using the Jet Ski in a multitude of conditions. This three-day course is filled with different craft drills and concludes with a nighttime evolution, just to get operators comfortable in different situations that can arise.”

For 72 hours, operators are taxed with difficult situations. It was not until a difficult real-world scenario hit their “desks” that they began to innovate new ways to further improve their service to Vandenberg AFB.

“The water is cold out here so we have to have thick wetsuits,” Ogan said. “We have rocks, sea urchins and other sharp things so we have booties. One of the things we realized during that rescue was that our wetsuits are black, so we just weren’t visible. Even if we have floodlights from several helicopters, we were invisible. We started using long-sleeved, yellow rash guards, so now we are incredibly visible. With our water crafts, we have gotten as bright as we can get.”

Not only have they changed their color, but they also have invested in underwater lights, goggles, snorkels, fins and a plethora of new rescue equipment should the need arise. All of this done so that they can serve, save and survive even better.

Osan post office delivers holiday happiness

By Senior Airman Denise Jenson
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- Being stationed overseas during the holidays can be difficult enough without the added stress of holiday shopping for family and friends back home.

Luckily, the Airmen at the post office are there to relieve some holiday stress.

“Around this time of the year, our mail volume increases significantly,” said Tavares Harris, 51st Force Support Squadron post master. “On a normal day, we get about one to two mail trucks full to capacity. On Christmas Eve we’re guaranteed to receive three trucks.”

The Airmen start their days at 5:30 a.m., where they receive trucks filled with packages and other mail. Soon after, they begin the sorting process to ensure everything ends up in the right mail box, ready for the customer to pick up.

“We actually have extended hours of operation for the holidays,” Harris said. “We’re even open on Sundays. We extended the hours to give our customers a little more time during their weeks to come by and make sure they have extra time to deliver their packages and pick up their mail.”

The updated holiday hours are currently in effect until January 12, 2020.

Holiday Hour Schedule

Finance parcel service center:

Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mail pickup window:

Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday – Sunday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Additionally, the post office is also looking for volunteers from December 16, 2019 until January 12, 2020.

Volunteer Hours

Monday – Friday, 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday – Sunday, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information regarding the post office’s holiday operations or for volunteering, call 784-1014.

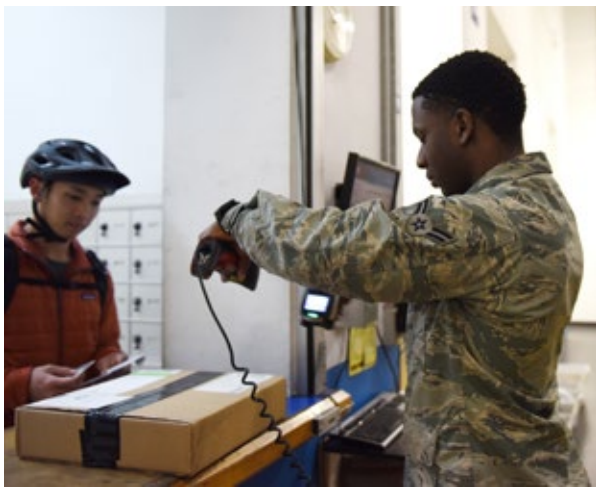


Senior Airman Tristan Greco, 51st Force Support Squadron postal clerk, searches for a customer’s package at the post office on Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 11, 2019. The base post office receives one to two full mail trucks on an average day. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Denise Jenson) ▲



Staff Sgt. Danielle Groves, 51st Force Support Squadron post office financial services center noncommissioned officer in charge, sorts outgoing mail at the post office on Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 11, 2019. During the holiday season, the amount of mail coming through the post office is increased significantly. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Denise Jenson) ▲

Airman 1st Class Tyrique Thompson, 51st Force Support Squadron postal clerk scans out a customer’s package at the post office on Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 11, 2019. To track that a customer has picked up their package, their ID card is scanned as well as the shipping label on the package. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Denise Jenson) ▼



Andrew Bossard (center), Seventh Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance Strategy and Plans, is presented the 2019 DoD Civilian Ambassador for the Alliance Good Neighbor Award during a ceremony at Camp Humphreys, Dec. 4, 2019. U.S. Army Gen. Robert B. “Abe” Abrams (left), United States Forces Korea Commander, and Command Sergeant Major Walter A Tagalicud recognized Bossard with the award for his contributions to the Republic of Korea community. Just one of his many contributions to the community, Bossard, a Korean native, is credited with expanding the scope of the Good Neighbor Program by organizing a Korea-wide Fundraiser for Korean-Asians, writing articles and delivering speeches to solicit donations. Through his efforts the program raised \$48K to provide monetary support to multi-cultured, needy students.