

# Crimson Sky

Volume 15, Issue 19

July 11, 2025

www.7af.pacaf.af.mil



An F-16 Fighting Falcon taxis at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 26, 2025. The arrival of the F-16s marked a significant step forward in modernizing the 51st Fighter Wing aircrafts and strengthening the U.S. Air Force's regional combat readiness.

## 51st Fighter Wing enhances readiness through F-16 upgrades

**By Staff Sgt. Sarah Williams**  
**51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

**OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea --** A new wave of upgraded F-16 Fighting Falcons arrived at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 26-27.

The arrival of the F-16s marked a significant step forward in modernizing the 51st Fighter Wing aircrafts and strengthening the U.S. Air Force's regional combat readiness.

Transferred from the 35th Fighter Wing at Misawa Air Base, Japan, the F-16s received

a series of avionics system upgrades, bringing them closer to fifth-generation capabilities. These enhancements improve both survivability and combat effectiveness accuracy of the weapon system.

"F-16s are one of the only multi-role fighters," said U.S. Air Force Capt. Alexandra Sears, 25th Fighter Generation Squadron director of operations. "They can do everything. They're incredibly lightweight and quick, and when you upgrade the F-16s, they're able to do so many missions, such as providing close air support

like the A-10 or suppressing enemy air defense missions."

The migration enhances alignment between U.S. forces in Japan and South Korea, maximizing interoperability for joint operations and tri-lateral training. The move strengthens combined airpower across the Indo-Pacific and improves the U.S. military's ability to respond swiftly and effectively.

At Osan, the upgraded F-16s bring unparalleled multi-role versatility and superior operational range.

< Continued on Page 26 >



**INSIDE →**



**PAGE 4**

51st Fighter Wing welcomes new commander



**PAGE 10**

Military leaders honor veterans at 75th Korean War Memorial



**PAGE 14**

Hot Summer, Cool Festivals



# REFORPAC 2025:

## High-powered international team ready to conduct Air Force's largest Pacific contingency-response exercise

Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii -- U.S.

Pacific Air Forces, multinational, and joint partners will conduct exercise Resolute Force Pacific (REFORPAC) July 10 - August 8, 2025, across several locations throughout the Pacific as part of the Department of the Air Force's Department-Level Exercise (DLE) series. The U.S. Air Force tasked PACAF to demonstrate its ability to rapidly disperse thousands of servicemembers and associated equipment across the region to defend the United States, ally and partner nations, and their interests in the Pacific as part of the DLE.

Throughout REFORPAC 2025, PACAF will conduct its most comprehensive contingency-response exercise, training military members to maintain readiness and execute missions under stress. The exercise will take place in multiple locations in the Pacific, including Hawai'i, Guam, Japan, and international airspace.

Activities will highlight critical skills such as aircraft flightline operations, munitions loading, hot-pit rapid refueling, combat search and rescue (CSAR), distributed logistics, and multilateral air-to-air refueling. REFORPAC will test how well PACAF and its many partners adapt in a challenging environment to remain fully mission capable. The unprecedented event will have Airmen practice commanding and controlling aircraft operations at high speed and grand scale, making decisions under stress, while working together with



multinational partners to improve military capabilities.

"We must be ready to operate in austere conditions, with degraded networks, and through disruptions to sustainment chains. Our forces must be self-sufficient, mobile, and capable of rapid adaptation," said Gen. Kevin Schneider, PACAF commander.

"The exercise conditions during REFORPAC will require Airmen to move fast, fight under attack, and sustain combat operations in ways we haven't done in decades," Schneider said. "Our ability to fight and prevail in any contested environment depends on our team's ability to generate aircraft sorties while under attack and often far away from our main operating bases. I have full confidence that we will be able to do this, but we must continue to refine our skills to stay ahead of the environment in which we operate."

The REFORPAC exercise will involve more than 300 aircraft and feature U.S. Air Force members alongside colleagues from partner nations and other branches of the U.S. military. The exercise is a realistic and challenging test of their abilities, helping servicemembers increase their ability to respond to shared challenges. Exercises like REFORPAC are crucial to ensuring the U.S. Air Force remains at the forefront of military innovation, collaborating with allies and partners to deliver unparalleled results for the Department of Defense.

The DLE is the first-in-a-generation series of exercises encompassing all branches of the Department of Defense, along with Allies and partners, over 350 joint and coalition aircraft and more than 12,000 members at more than 50 locations across 3,000 miles.



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Crimson Sky  
Published by Seventh Air Force

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Circulation: 7,000

Printed by Oriental Press, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Government, under exclusive written contract with the Contracting Command-Korea. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Air Force or Oriental Press of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

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For all submitted items include a point of contact name and telephone number. All items are subject to editing for content and to insure they conform with DoD guidelines. Seventh Air Force Public Affairs and the Crimson Sky bi-weekly staff are located at Seventh Air Force Osan Air Base. For information, call Commercial 0505-784-4709 or DSN 315-784-4709.



# 51st Fighter Wing welcomes new commander

By Staff Sgt. Sarah Williams  
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- The 51st Fighter Wing welcomed its new commander as U.S. Air Force Col. Ryan Ley assumed command during a ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 27.

Ley brings extensive combat experience, proven leadership, and deep operational expertise. A command pilot with over 2,500 flight hours, including 433 in combat, he has served in critical positions at the squadron, group, and wing levels. Most recently, he was the deputy commander of the 52nd Fighter Wing at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

Lt. Gen. David Iverson, Seventh Air Force commander, presided over the ceremony and commended Col. William McKibban, outgoing 51st FW commander, for his efforts in strengthening the wing's posture and ensuring the defense of the Korean Peninsula.

During the ceremony, Iverson passed the wing guidon from McKibban to Ley, symbolizing the official transfer of command.

"It is truly humbling to stand before you as I take command of this historic base. As your commander, I pledge to you transparency, humility, and unwavering focus on readiness, discipline and trust," said Ley. "The 51st FW has a proud history and embodies the warrior spirit. 'Fight Tonight' is not just a slogan, it's a way of life and a standard I intend to uphold with absolute commitment."

McKibban also took a moment to thank the wing for its resilience and dedication during his time in command.



U.S. Air Force Col. Ryan Ley, incoming 51st Fighter Wing commander, renders his first salute during a Change of Command ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 27, 2025. Ley will lead the Air Force's most forward-deployed permanently based wing while providing mission ready Airmen to execute combat operations and receive follow-on forces. ▲

U.S. Air Force Col. Ryan Ley, center, incoming 51st Fighter Wing commander, accepts command of the 51st FW from Lt. Gen. David Iverson, left, Seventh Air Force commander, during a Change of Command ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 27, 2025. Prior to assuming command, Ley served as the deputy commander of the 52nd FW at Spangdahlem, Germany. ◀

U.S. Air Force Col. William McKibban, right, outgoing 51st Fighter Wing commander, receives the Legion of Merit from Lt. Gen. David Iverson, left, Seventh Air Force commander, during a Change of Command ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 27, 2025. McKibban was entrusted with the operational readiness, training, morale, welfare, installation support, and quality of life of more than 5,500 active duty personnel assigned to the 51st FW, Headquarters Seventh Air Force, and other U.S. Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps units. ►

“As your commander, I pledge to you transparency, humility, and unwavering focus on readiness, discipline and trust.”

— U.S. Air Force Col. Ryan Ley, incoming 51st FW commander

“Our Airmen have continued to show what it means to ‘Fight Tonight,’” expressed McKibban. “Through their sacrifice, commitment, and energy, our adversaries know that we are the world’s greatest Air Force and remain ready on the peninsula. Shoulder-to-shoulder with our allies, we have trained for deterrence and peace during these dynamic times. I’m incredibly proud of them and I know you will be too. Godspeed, Lead the Charge, and Katchi Kapshida.”

The 51st FW remains the U.S. Air Force’s most forward-deployed, permanently based wing, providing combat-ready Airmen and aircraft to maintain peace and stability across the Indo-Pacific region.

U.S. Air Force Col. William McKibban, right, outgoing 51st Fighter Wing commander, receives the Order of National Security Merit Samil Medal from Republic of Korea Air Force Lt. Gen. Kim Hyoung Soo, left, ROKAF Operations Command commander, during a Change of Command ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 27, 2025. The 51st FW is the most forward deployed permanently-based wing in the U.S. Air Force, providing combat-ready Airmen and aircraft to execute military operations and maintain stability across the Indo-Pacific region. ►



U.S. Air Force Col. Ryan Ley, incoming 51st Fighter Wing commander, delivers his first remarks to the squadron during a Change of Command ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 27, 2025. Prior to assuming command, Ley was previously responsible for over 5,000 military and civilian personnel supporting F-16 operations and managing \$6 billion in assets. ►

U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. David Iverson, Seventh Air Force commander, delivers opening remarks for the 51st Fighter Wing Change of Command ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 27, 2025. Iverson served as the presiding officer for the ceremony. ◀





# 694th ISS Change of Command



By Staff Sgt. Jason W. Cochran  
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR FORCE BASE, Republic of Korea -- The 694th Intelligence Support Squadron held a Change of Command ceremony on July 8, 2025. Under the leadership of U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Daniel Johnston, the 694th Intelligence Support Squadron saw notable advancements streamlining customer service processes, securing essential funding, and driving mission-focused improvements. The squadron is in great standing to tackle the needs of a dynamic environment under the leadership of Maj. Albert Yin.

U.S. Air Force Maj. Albert Yin, incoming 694th Intelligence Support Squadron commander, receives his first salute during the 694th ISS Change of Command ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, July 8, 2025. The 694th ISS provides key support to all intelligence operations at Osan which enables the production of quality intelligence products for U.S. and ROK forces. ◀



U.S. Air Force Col. Douglas Mabry, left, 694th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group commander, Lt. Col. Daniel Johnston, center, outgoing 694th Intelligence Support Squadron commander, and Maj. Albert Yin, right, incoming 694th ISS commander, laugh during the 694th ISS Change of Command ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, July 8, 2025. ▲

U.S. Air Force Col. Douglas Mabry, left, 694th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group commander, presents a Meritorious Service Medal to Lt. Col. Daniel Johnston, right, outgoing 694th Intelligence Support Squadron commander, during the 694th ISS Change of Command ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, July 8, 2025. ◀



U.S. Air Force Maj. Albert Yin, incoming 694th Intelligence Support Squadron commander, provides remarks during the 694th ISS Change of Command ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, July 8, 2025. ▲

U.S. Air Force service members assigned to the 51st Fighter Wing Honor Guard, present the colors during the 694th Intelligence Support Squadron Change of Command ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, July 8, 2025. ◀

# 2025 Music in PyeongChang



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Chief Master Sgt. Whitfield Jack, 737th Training Group senior enlisted leader, leads a formation of U.S. Air Force military training instructors as part of basic military training graduation parade at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, June 5, 2025. The ceremony is one of three graduation events for U.S. Air Force and Space Force BMT and signifies the transition from trainee to Airman and Guardian. (U.S. Air Force photo by Brian Boisvert)

# Air Force and Space Force exceed annual recruiting goals, demonstrating Americans' desire to serve

Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS)** -- The Department of the Air Force achieved 100% of its annual recruitment goal three months ahead of schedule, a testament to the enduring appeal of service and the effectiveness of modernized recruiting strategies.

To date, the Air Force and Space Force have sent nearly 25,000 of the 30,000 contracted recruits to basic military training, while the remaining recruits are scheduled to begin training by Sept. 30.

This year's achievement is particularly noteworthy as the Air Force Recruiting Service has built its strongest Delayed Entry Program in the last decade, with a pool of over 14,000 recruits. This includes a record 750 Special Warfare Candidates, representing a historic number of individuals who have signed up for these challenging-to-fill career fields.

The Air Force Accessions Center located at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, is responsible for the AFRS mission.

"I am excited that both the Air Force and the Space Force have met their fiscal year 2025 recruiting goals three months early," said Secretary of the Air Force Troy Meink. "The fact that we have even exceeded this goal and

currently have a DEP at its largest level in 10 years speaks to the vast number of volunteers interested in serving their country today. Congratulations to the recruiting service on ensuring we have the best talent ready to join the Department of the Air Force and defend this great nation."

The Air Force attributes its success to a modernized recruiting approach, expanded community outreach, and a focus on highlighting career development. This generation is particularly motivated by careers that contribute to something larger than themselves and provide a sense of purpose and security.

"When you have a winning team, people want to join!" said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Allvin. "This is shown through the Air Force's record recruitment, and I'm proud we've hit 100% of our fiscal year 2025 goal three months early. The Air Force invests in our Airmen and patriotic Americans ready to serve have noticed and are lining up and signing up. That's evident with the largest number of Special Warfare candidates awaiting training on record and the throngs of recruits motivated to start basic military training. We're thrilled to welcome these warriors into our Air Force!"

The Space Force also exceeded its FY25 recruiting goal and has met its goals every year since inception. The service continues to attract highly skilled and educated candidates, with more than one in five new Guardian recruits holding a college degree.

"I'm incredibly proud the Space Force reached our Fiscal Year 2025 recruiting goal a full three months ahead of schedule," said Chief of Space Operations Gen. Chance Saltzman. "This is the sixth consecutive year we've reached our target and filled our ranks with high caliber patriots. It's clear Americans are excited about the Space Force, and this achievement is a direct reflection of the talent our mission continues to attract."

The Space Force partnered with AFAC to establish the first Space Force Recruiting Squadron which will enable the service to sustain a long-term Guardian pipeline.

Recognizing the recruiters' exceptional dedication, Lt. Gen. Brian Robinson, commander of Air Education and Training Command, highlighted their ability to overcome challenges, exceeding expectations with a 1,200 plus-up mid-year in fiscal 2024 and inspiring 6,000 more Airmen and Guardians in fiscal 2025 than fiscal 2023, ultimately resulting in a substantial increase in the DEP.

**Brig. Gen. Christopher Amrhein, Air Force Accessions Center and Air Force Recruiting Service commander, administers the Oath of Enlistment to Delayed Entry Program members at a swearing-in ceremony in Times Square, New York, NY, May 16, 2025. Amrhein swore in about 65 civilians, who are waiting to start their careers in the Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Washburn) ►**

"This remarkable achievement is a testament to the unwavering dedication and professionalism of our recruiting force," Robinson said. Our recruiters have worked tirelessly to connect with America's youth and showcase the incredible opportunities the Air Force and Space Force provide."

AFRS has about 2,200 recruiters operating in over 1,275 recruiting offices across the United States and overseas. With a strong pool of young Americans volunteering to serve, the Air Force and Space Force are well-positioned for mission success in the future.

To explore full and part-time opportunities within the Air Force and Space Force, visit [www.AirForce.com](http://www.AirForce.com) or [www.SpaceForce.com](http://www.SpaceForce.com).



## Cope Angel 2025: US, Japan sharpen search, rescue skills

By Senior Airman Melany Bermudez  
18th Wing Public Affairs

**KADENA AIR BASE, Japan (AFNS)** -- U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 33rd and 31st Rescue Squadrons partnered with Japan Air Self-Defense Force members from the Naha Air Rescue Squadron for exercise Cope Angel 25-1, June 23-27, at Kadena and Naha Air Bases.

Cope Angel is the 33rd RQS's primary, annual bilateral personnel recovery exercise with Naha Air Rescue Squadron, designed to provide an opportunity for the U.S. Air Force and JASDF search and rescue assets to integrate, plan and train together.

"This exercise is a validation for everything the 18th Wing stands for," said Capt. Gabriela Demarest, 33rd RQS HH-60G pilot and unit project officer for Cope Angel 25-1. "The entire basis of this exercise is to ensure that anyone taking off from Okinawa in pursuit of a free and open Indo-Pacific region will always have a ride home on their worst day."

This year, the Naha Air Rescue Squadron strengthened its commitment to joint-force readiness by adopting U.S. Air Force tactics, techniques and procedures. Squadron members led multiple mission profiles to evaluate their capability to adapt and operate seamlessly alongside U.S. forces, enhancing bilateral interoperability.

At the same time, JASDF's U-125A crews coordinated airspace, managed operational assets and executed the recovery of isolated personnel with support from the 33rd RQS. These actions highlighted growing alignment and a shared commitment to more effective combined operations.

"The more we train together, the more we can rely on each other when the time comes," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Brian Tordoff, 18th Operations Group chief of standardization and evaluations. "Working with JASDF in scenarios like this builds the trust and familiarity we need to operate as one team."

Cope Angel 25-1 demonstrated the growing strength of U.S. and Japanese search and rescue integration through realistic, high-stakes training.

Whether in peace or conflict, bilateral exercises help ensure both teams are ready to respond together when it matters most.



**U.S. Air Force pararescuemen assigned to the 31st Rescue Squadron execute the recovery of isolated personnel while approaching an HH-60W Jolly Green II assigned to the 33rd Rescue Squadron, during exercise Cope Angel 25-1 on an island off the coast of Okinawa, Japan, June 26, 2025. The Jolly Green II's core mission is recovery of personnel under hostile conditions, including combat search and rescue. ▲**

**U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Dan Basheda, left, and Staff Sgt. Greg Molloy, 31st Rescue Squadron pararescuemen, secure a HH-60W Jolly Green II for a personnel recovery exercise with the 33rd RQS during exercise Cope Angel 25-1, on an island off the coast of Okinawa, Japan, June 26, 2025. Exercises and operations incorporating search and rescue concepts ensure forward-deployed forces are continually ready to protect and defend the U.S., allied and partner interests. ◀**



# Military leaders honor veterans at 75th Korean War Memorial

By Staff Sgt. Wren Fiontar  
Pacific Air Forces

Hawaii -- Senior leaders from the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Space Force joined more than a 100 local leaders and veterans in commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Korean War, of which more than 5,000 Hawaiians served during the conflict, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Hawaii, June 25, 2025.

U.S. Air Force Gen. Kevin Schneider, Pacific Air Forces commander, renders a salute after laying a wreath alongside fellow dignitaries during the 75th Korean War Commemoration Ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Hawaii, June 25, 2025. The conflict, in which some 5,000 Hawaiians served, remains a constant reminder of the shared bonds in the U.S.-Republic of Korea Alliance and its commitment to regional security and a shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific. ▼



U.S. Air Force Gen. Kevin Schneider, Pacific Air Forces commander, provides a keynote address during the 75th Korean War Commemoration Ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Hawaii, June 25, 2025. Senior leaders from the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Space Force joined more than a 100 local leaders and veterans at the commemoration event. ▲



U.S. Air Force Gen. Kevin Schneider, Pacific Air Forces commander, renders a salute after laying a wreath alongside fellow dignitaries during the 75th Korean War Commemoration Ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Hawaii, June 25, 2025. The conflict, in which some 5,000 Hawaiians served, remains a constant reminder of the shared bonds in the U.S.-Republic of Korea Alliance and its commitment to regional security and a shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific. ▼



U.S. Air Force Gen. Kevin Schneider, Pacific Air Forces commander, prepares to lay a wreath at the 75th Korean War Commemoration Ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Hawaii, June 25, 2025. The Korean War remains a constant reminder of the shared bonds in the U.S.-Republic of Korea Alliance, whose combined forces remain ready and postured today. ▲



Senior leaders from the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Space Force stand at attention for the presentation of the colors during the 75th Korean War Commemoration Ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Hawaii, June 25, 2025. The military leaders joined more than 100 local leaders and veterans in commemorating and honoring those who served during the conflict. ►



# Staff Sgt. Tyler Plourde

By Senior Airman Karissa Dick  
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- Staff Sgt. Tyler Plourde, a native of Dover, Delaware and 8th Fighter Wing noncommissioned officer in charge of occupational safety, was awarded Pride of the Pack for the week of June 23-27, after spearheading critical safety improvements and addressing deficiencies that directly enabled safe operations for 1,100 maintainers.

Plourde's safety improvements and Fall Protection Training Plan allowed 1,100 maintainers to safely support the \$84 million 2025 Flying Hour Program. He also led eight annual safety inspections spanning seven Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) programs, streamlined confined space procedures, and introduced process improvements that cut Wing-wide on-the-job training by 28%.

Further advancing the Wing's mission, Plourde played a key role in strengthening the U.S. Air Force and Republic of Korea Air Force safety partnership through three joint cross-talks. His coordination led to the installation of railroad safety covers, cutting transportation device-related accidents by 33%.

As manager of six additional duty programs, Plourde showcased outstanding leadership by guiding a survey team and securing funding for seven quality-of-life projects, including three dormitory renovations.

Beyond his primary duties, he led three Kunsan 5/6 group initiatives and served as a vital member of the decorations committee for the 2025 Technical Sergeant release party. He also completed two OSHA-certified classes and three college courses toward his bachelor's degree in business administration.

Thank you, Staff Sgt. Plourde, for your outstanding leadership and service to the Wolf Pack mission. Congratulations on being this week's Pride of the Pack!

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Tyler Plourde, 8th Fighter Wing noncommissioned officer in charge of occupational safety, poses for a photo outside the 8th FW headquarters, Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 27, 2025. Plourde was awarded the 8th Fighter Wing's Pride of the Pack for the week of June 23-27, 2025 for his dedication to the Wolf Pack mission. ▲



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Tyler Plourde, 8th Fighter Wing noncommissioned officer in charge of occupational safety, inspects an office space for safety hazards at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 27, 2025. Plourde led eight annual safety inspections spanning seven Occupational Safety and Health Administration programs, streamlined confined space procedures and introduced process improvements that cut Wing-wide on-the-job training by 28%. ▲



# 51st MXS Change of Command

By Staff Sgt. Sarah Williams  
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR FORCE BASE, Republic of Korea -- The 51st Maintenance Squadron welcomed its new commander as U.S. Air Force Maj. Jedidiah Rodgers assumed command during a ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, July 2. The 51st MXS is the most permanently forward-deployed maintenance back-shop squadron in the world and is responsible for conducting on-and-off equipment maintenance for F-16s.

U.S. Air Force Maj. Jedidiah Rodgers, incoming 51st Maintenance Squadron commander, delivers remarks during a Change of Command ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, July 2, 2025. The 51st MXS is the most permanently forward-deployed maintenance back-shop squadron in the world and is responsible for conducting on-and-off equipment maintenance for F-16 Fighting Falcons. ▶



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Evin Greensfelder, right, outgoing 51st Maintenance Squadron commander, relinquishes command to Col. Kenneth Beebe, 51st Maintenance Group commander, during a Change of Command ceremony. Greensfelder served as a three-time squadron commander and held various leadership positions as a field-level Aircraft Maintenance officer across four Major Commands. ▲



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Evin Greensfelder, outgoing 51st Maintenance Squadron commander, delivers farewell remarks during a Change of Command ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, July 2, 2025. As commander, Greensfelder led over 420 Airmen and civilian personnel across backshop sections and 16 Air Force specialty codes. ▲



U.S. Air Force Maj. Jedidiah Rodgers, right, incoming 51st Maintenance Squadron commander, assumes command from Col. Kenneth Beebe, left, 51st Maintenance Group commander, during a Change of Command ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, July 2, 2025. Prior to assuming command, Rodgers commanded the 35th Maintenance Group Staff, 35th Fighter Wing, Misawa Air Base, Japan. ▲



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Evin Greensfelder receives the Meritorious Service Medal from Col. Kenneth Beebe, 51st Maintenance Group commander. Greensfelder ensured the safe, quality execution of on-and-off equipment maintenance for 60 A-10 Thunderbolt II, F-16 Fighting Falcon, and U-2 Dragon Lady aircraft and 82 aircraft engines supporting over 8,000 annual combat training sorties. ▲

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# Hot Summer, Cool Festivals



Summer festivals are the best way to cool off the Korean summer heat. Grab the fence and let yourself go rockin', crack open some cold ones with fried chicken on a grass lawn, or pamper your skin with the finest mud. No matter what you choose, these festivals will make your time unforgettable with the things that you can enjoy only in Korea. Here are some of the festivals that you can choose from.

## Boryeong Mud Festival

This is a festival dedicated to Boryeong's famous mud from Daecheon Beach. The Boryeong Mud Festival has a global reputation, attracting hundreds of thousands of international visitors from all over the world every year, and for good reason, as the festival offers a variety of attractions and interactive programs for unforgettable memories. In the Regular Zone, which is for teenagers and adults, you can enjoy full body activities such as large mud baths and mud slides. In the Family Zone, both adults and children can cover themselves with mud and play together. You can also participate in programs such as mud self-massage and colored mud painting, which utilize the benefits of Boryeong mud in different ways.



- Period: July 25-August 10, 2025
- Performance time: 10:00-18:00
- Venue: Mud Plaza (123 Meodeu-ro, Boryeong-si, Chungcheongnam-do)
- Fees:  
[General Zone] Adults Mon-Thu 10,000 won / Fri-Sun 14,000 won  
[Family Zone] Children Mon-Thu 9,000 won / Fri-Sun 11,000 won
- Inquiries: +82-41-930-0891
- Website: mudfestival.or.kr (English, Japanese, Chinese, Spanish) / Instagram @mudfestival\_korea



< Continued on Page 31 >

# Battery Disposal Fire Safety

**B**atteries especially lithium-ion types found in phones, laptops, e-bikes, and power tools can catch fire or explode when damaged, improperly stored, or thrown in regular trash or recycling bins. Fires caused by discarded batteries are increasingly common.



Key safety recommendations for the batteries,

- 1. Disposal**
  - Do NOT throw batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends against disposing of lithium-ion batteries in regular trash or recycling bins, advocating instead for recycling or hazardous waste disposal at designated locations.
  - Do not put discarded batteries in piles.
- 2. Handling and Storage**
  - If a lithium-ion battery shows signs of damage, such as odor, change in color, excessive heat, change in shape, leaking, or unusual noises, immediately stop using it.
  - Store spare batteries away from anything that can catch fire, in a cool, dry place, and out of direct sunlight.
  - Avoid charging or storing batteries at extreme temperatures, both hot and cold.
  - Use only the charging cord that comes with the device and avoid charging under pillows, on beds, or on couches.
  - Do not continue charging the battery after it is fully charged.
- 3. Consequences of Improper Disposal**
  - Fire hazards: Improper disposal can lead to fires at landfills, recycling facilities, or during transportation.
  - Environmental hazards: Leaking batteries can contaminate soil and water sources with toxic materials.
  - Health risks: Damaged batteries can release harmful chemicals and pose risks of fire, explosion, and chemical exposure.

By following these guidelines, individuals can significantly reduce the risk of lithium-ion battery related incidents and contribute to a safety environment.

Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Fire Prevention Office at 784-4834/4741.

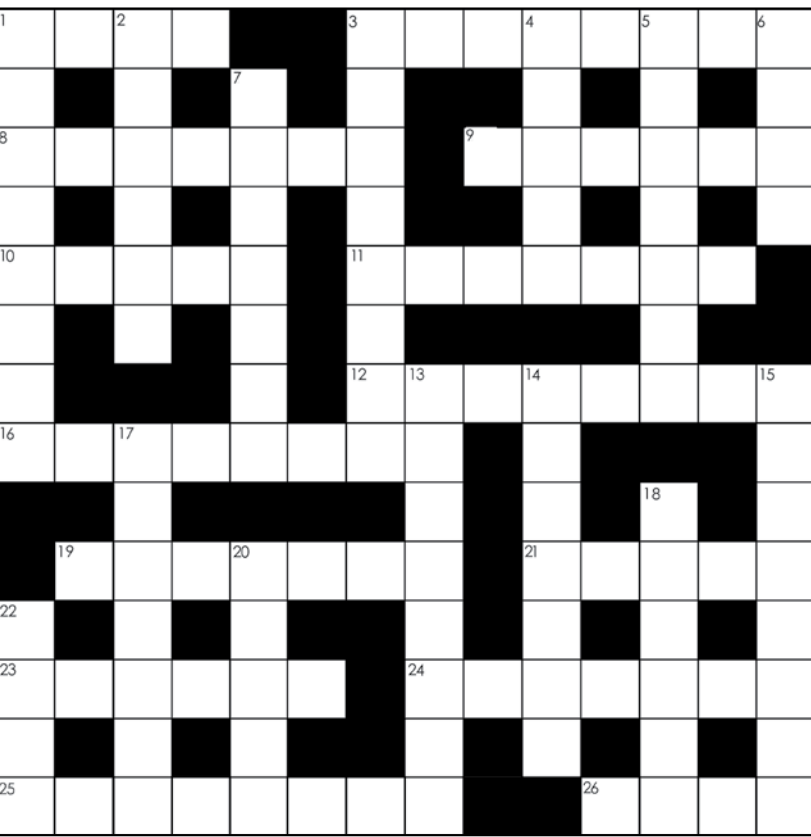
## Are You Saved?

Jesus Saves!  
**Romans 10:13** For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved. [See: **Romans 3:10, 3:23, 5:12, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-10**, and pray & ask The Lord to save you.]

**Haven Baptist Church**  
Just outside the Front Gate at Kunsan AB  
— Preaching Christ 50+ years.  
www.hbcginsun.com  
Redeem this AD for a FREE COFFEE at church!

# The Crossword

By Jon Dunbar



## ACROSS

- 1 Korean room
- 3 A member of the 11th battalion
- 8 Dwayne Johnson video game movie
- 9 MacArthur's landing site
- 10 Return, on a keyboard
- 11 Waegwan army base
- 12 Grenade fragment
- 16 One of Korea's three kingdoms
- 19 Korea's top carmaker
- 21 Avert
- 23 Nerds
- 24 Romero's movie monsters
- 25 Sailing ship
- 26 Cannibalistic giant

## DOWN

- 1 Mud fest locale
- 2 WWII admiral
- 3 War game
- 4 Goes with ear or sanctum
- 6 Ladder part
- 7 Aircraft \_\_\_\_
- 13 M119
- 14 Military school
- 15 Canada's national sport
- 17 Actress Paltrow
- 18 Thin rope
- 20 Hannam Village former barracks
- 22 Chances

## Answers to Previous Crossword

ACROSS	26 BLUE	67 MERE	12 CONE	53 AMORE
1 SODA	29 TDY	68 TEST	14 KANG	55 VEEP
5 KPOP	32 SJW	69 POLY	21 EAT	56 NAME
9 CHIC	33 AIS	70 EDEN	23 JAR	57 NOTE
13 AMUCK	34 PEAK	71 ECHO	26 BASH	58 NASH
15 YEAR	36 OHNO	72 ODES	27 LITE	59 ONTO
16 HUBO	40 STEM		28 USER	60 BOLD
17 NANTA	42 NAOMI	DOWN	30 DPAA	61 ELLE
18 LETO	43 NEAT	1 SANE	31 YEOSU	62 RAYS
19 ERIN	44 HERA	2 OMAN	32 SKI	65 SEC
20 ENGINEER	45 BASE	3 DUNG	35 AMEN	
22 BRONZE	46 LIT	4 ACTIVE	37 HELO	
24 VGA	47 RBC	5 KYLE	38 NAIL	
25 AREA	49 UNC	6 PEER	39 OTTO	
	51 BOLO	7 OAT	41 MARKSMAN	
	56 NAMSAN	8 PROB	42 NBC	
	58 NOVEMBER	9 CHEORWON	48 BEA	
	63 ATOM	10 HORNE	50 GAV	
	64 OSAN	11 IBIZA	51 BAMBOO	
	66 EBOLA		52 SATED	





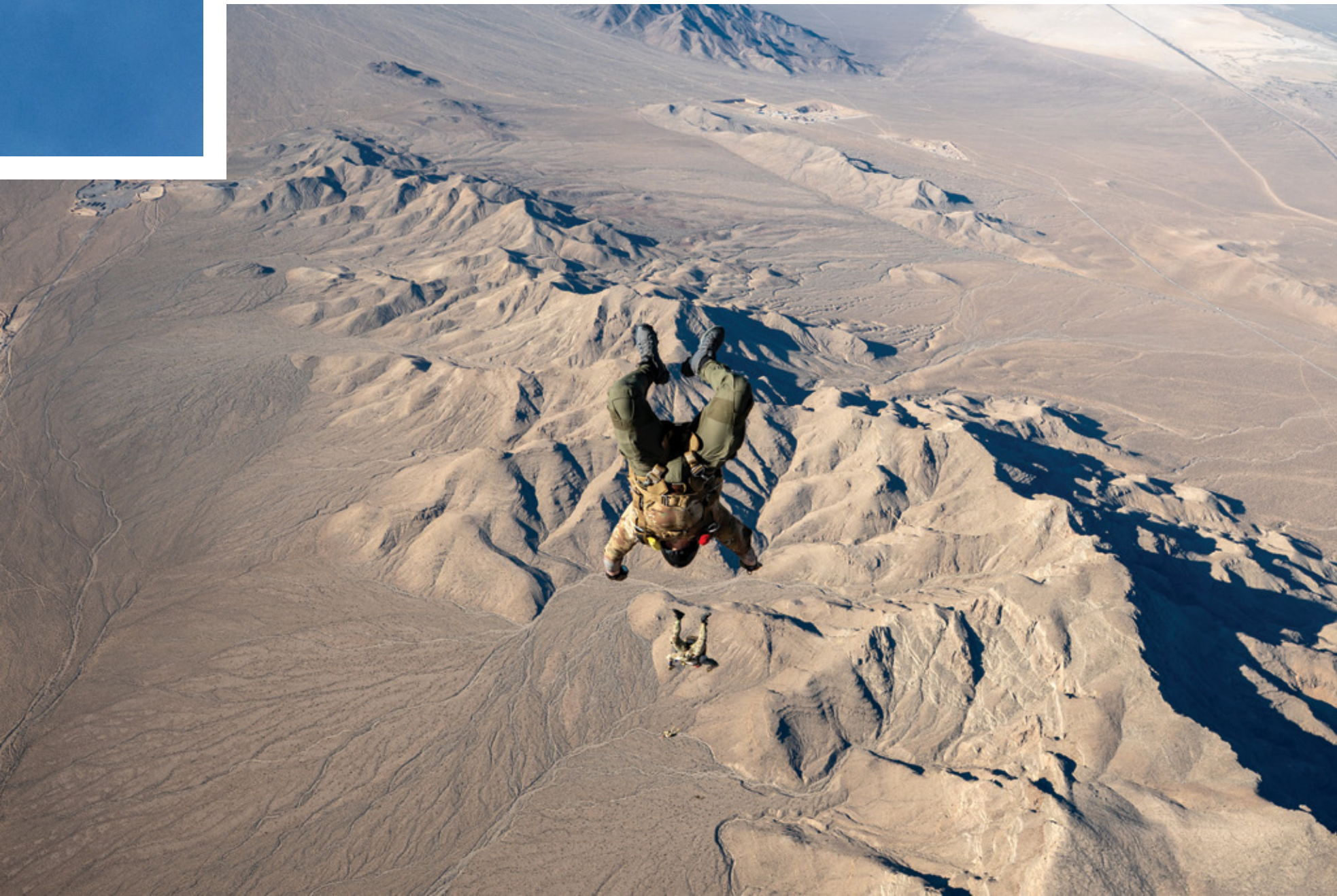
**P**ractice makes perfect: The U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, fly in formation as they prepare for the Beale Air and Space Expo 2025 at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., June 5, 2025. Air shows provide an opportunity for the Air Force to showcase its mission, connect with the community and bolster recruiting efforts. (U.S. Air Force photo by Frederick A. Brown) ▲

**C**heckup with a smile: U.S. Air Force Capt. Madelyn McGuffey, a pediatrician assigned to the Mercy-class hospital ship USNS Comfort, performs a medical examination on a Panamanian child during Continuing Promise 2025 in Colón, Panama, June 27, 2025. Continuing Promise is a 4th Fleet/U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command-led mission that fosters goodwill and strengthens partnerships with partner nations. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Ethan McCubbins) ◀



**L**ead and survive: Cadets participate in Combat Survival Training at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., June 12, 2025. More than 1,000 Academy cadets learned to lead in intense war-fighting environments, taught by cadet cadres and supervised by SERE specialists during June and July 2025. They received training on medical care, food preparation, aircraft signaling and navigation. (U.S. Air Force photo by Ray Bahner) ▲

**F**ollow the leader: Three pararescuemen exit the ramp of an HC-130J Combat King II at 6,000 feet above ground level during a PJ Rodeo over Jean Lake Bed, Nev., June 16, 2025. The PJ Rodeo is a competition where pararescuemen from all major commands compete in events based on core pararescue mission sets like jumping, shooting, technical rescue and physical fitness. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jose Miguel T. Tamondong) ▼





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.

**- 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

**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
Every Tuesday and Thursday | 1700-1800 | Building 769, Resiliency Center Training Room  
For additional information and a point of contact, visit the AA in Korea website at aainkorea.org

**Tobacco Cessation Classes**  
Every Thursday | 0900-1100 | Building 1419, Human Performance Center (The building right behind the fitness center)  
Osan AB offers free tobacco cessation classes to all DOD id members. The health promotion coordinator is available to help you break this habit, through counseling, educational materials, and health coaching. Please make an appointment via her email, Troisha Busano, troisha.d.busano.civ@health.mil.

specified volunteer packet. Once your packet is submitted for processing, you may be a line-of-sight volunteer as you work through the process. Winter sports (Nov 4-Feb 5) offered: Boys and girls basketball, wrestling, swimming, marksmanship, and esports (Valorant and Rocket League). Spring sports (Feb 18-May 22) offered: Baseball/softball, boys and girls soccer, and track. Volunteer coaches will work with DoDEA staff head coaches.

**Osan Air Base Honor Guard**  
Every Monday & Wednesday | 1630-1730 | Bldg. 936 Rm. 211  
The Osan Air Base Honor Guard covers ceremonies across the peninsula acknowledging the achievements of our fellow members in uniform and their families. An amazing way to serve the members in your community and build lasting connections between other service members. For any questions, comments, or concerns please reach out to OsanHonorGuard@us.af.mil

**Wingmen Helping Airmen Get Home**  
Saturdays | 2300-0400 | SED  
WHAGH is a new program inspired by AADD, whose purpose is to ensure the safety and well-being of Airmen within the Songtan Entertainment District by escorting members to their residences. The WHAGH team is looking for volunteers this weekend. There's no rank requirement to volunteer. All are welcome to help. If interested or for more information, please email 51fw.whagh.1@us.af.mil.

**Osan Air Base Rugby**  
Mondays and Wednesdays | 1700-1800 | Mustang Field  
Whether you're rugby-curious and want to learn, or a veteran player who wants to throw the ball around, come out to the Mustang Field for some fun touch rugby. Sessions will include basic drills, explanations of the game, and plenty of time to play, build camaraderie, and have fun! POC: Maj. Magana 784-9446

**Commemoration ceremony for the 75th Korean War Anniversary**  
1000-1100 June 25 | Daejeon Convention Center, Daejeon city  
Host: ROK Government  
Purpose: To honor the sacrifice and dedication of Korean War Veterans, including those from UN Sending States. To remind future generations of the lessons of the Korean War and the importance of freedom, peace, and prosperity  
Detailed Description: Transportation available at USFK Parking Lot at 0740 (Departure)  
Uniform – Duty Uniform or AGSU (No Medals/Ribbons only)  
RSVP by 4 June 2025  
Active Service Member Only  
\*\*First come, first served.  
RSVP to https://naver.me/5lfiOsiN  
Inquire Only: indopacom.humphreys.usfk.list.pao-comrel@army.mil

**Ultimate Frisbee**  
Saturdays | 0900 | Mustang Field (Across from Outdoor Rec)  
Open to all AD, CIV, and Dependents w/ base access. Please join us on the field for 60 minutes of cardio-vascular exercise. All ages and experience levels welcome, even if you have never touched a frisbee. POCs – David Brittain 010-8354-1576, SSgt Ethan Troutman, ethan.troutman@us.af.mil, DSN 315-784-5657, CELL 010-5793-2467

**Volunteering Coaching Opportunities for High School Sports**  
Please email Osan Middle High School AO William.Castro@dodea.edu ideally 2-3 months ahead of the season to begin processing your

**Wingmen Helping Airmen Get Home**  
Saturdays | 2300-0400 | SED  
WHAGH is a new program inspired by AADD, whose purpose is to ensure the safety and well-being of Airmen within the Songtan Entertainment District by escorting members to their residences. The WHAGH team is looking for volunteers this weekend. There's no rank requirement to volunteer. All are welcome to help. If interested or for more information, please email 51fw.whagh.1@us.af.mil.

**Volunteer Opportunities**  
Mustang community, if you are looking to volunteer checkout our newsletter for opportunities and use the QR code titled "Volunteer Form" Organizations that are looking for volunteers, you can request them using the QR code titled "Organization Form." With the same form, you can put down your upcoming events/programs to be added into next month's issue.  
POC: Any questions or suggestions please email osan.afrc@us.af.mil

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

# YOUR ARMED FORCES RECREATION CENTER IN SEOUL

Conveniently located at USAG Yongsan, we exclusively welcome our US military service Members, their families and DOD Civilians. We're also proud to extend our hospitality to even more veterans who qualify under The Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018.

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Korean-style burgers that Americans love!



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Enjoy Army Base Stew/Spicy Jjigae Korean Stew!



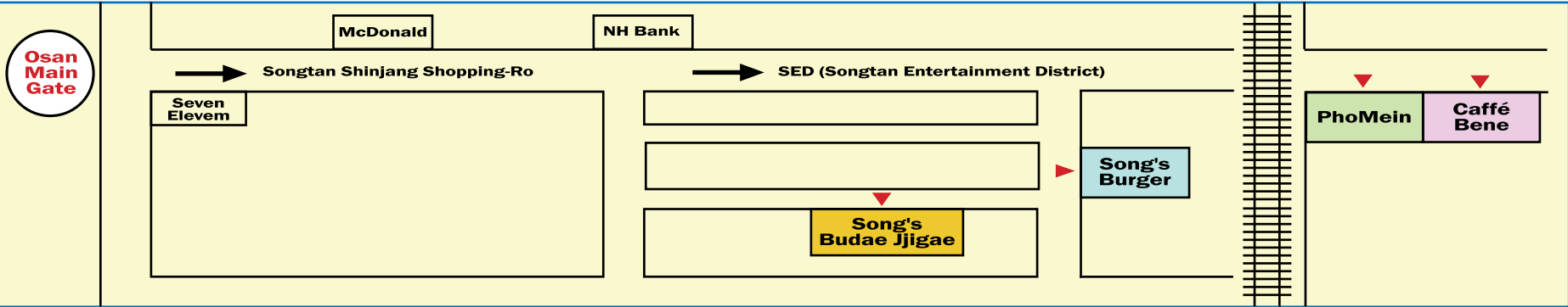


Spicy, rich, and delicious soup! Come try it now!



Located in the market alley in front of Osan AB

031-611-6466





By Brianna Hodges  
Air Force Research Laboratory Public Affairs

A U.S. Air Force XQ-58A Valkyrie, an autonomous, low-cost tactical unmanned air vehicle, blasts off during a test flight at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. The test flight and data collected will inform future air operations and contribute to advanced autonomous programs. (U.S. Air Force photo by Ilka Cole) ▼

**EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFNS) --** The U.S. Air Force recently demonstrated a major leap in human-machine teaming, flying autonomous collaborative platforms, alongside crewed fighter aircraft during a training event at Eglin Air Force Base. Pilots operating an F-16C Fighting Falcon and an F-15E Strike Eagle each controlled two XQ-58A Valkyrie aircraft in an air combat training scenario, showcasing real-time integration between manned and semi-autonomous systems.

As a key enabler of future airpower, ACPs provide affordable, runway-flexible capabilities that can operate semi-autonomously in high-risk environments. In contested environments, ACPs can serve as force multipliers while enabling operators to retain strategic and ethical oversight. This recent flight marked a pivotal step in their integration into air combat—reducing pilot workload while enhancing situational awareness and mission effectiveness.

"This test with ACPs directly addresses the evolving requirements of modern warfare and the needs articulated by our warfighters," said Gen. Ken Wilsbach, commander of Air Combat Command. "We are committed to innovation and integrating ACPs through these kinds of demanding, operator-driven evaluations that allow us to learn rapidly and enhance our human-machine teams. This approach is fundamental to sharpening our combat capabilities, maintaining air superiority and ensuring we can effectively support the joint force in complex future environments."

This achievement, supported by the Department of Defense's Rapid Defense Experimentation Reserve program under the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, and executed by Air Force Materiel Command's Air Force Research Laboratory and Air Force Test Center, Air Combat Command and U.S. Navy demonstrates a joint approach to capability development that is responsive to operational needs.

"With this flight, we mark a crucial step in developing capabilities that harness human-machine teaming to overcome complex threats and expand our advantages," said Brig. Gen. Jason E. Bartolomei, commander of Air Force Research Laboratory. "By developing and integrating autonomous platforms with manned systems, we can quickly adapt, increase combat effectiveness and reduce risk to our aircrews in contested environments."

Data from the recent flight demonstration will inform future development and deployment of semi-autonomous capabilities across the Department of Defense. As the Air Force modernizes to meet the demands of a more contested and complex operating environment, human-machine teaming with ACPs will be vital to delivering credible mass, operational flexibility and mission success.





The Warfighter's Spirit

Choosing the Hard Thing



By Chaplain, Capt. John Choi

A couple of weeks ago, my wife, Mina, began experiencing intense back pain—pain that jolted through her the moment she got up in the morning and stayed with her until she went to bed at night. We have four young children, and despite the pain, she kept our home going. There was nothing dramatic

about it, no spotlight or applause—just daily, quiet faithfulness: cooking meals, tending to needs, pick-ups and drop-offs. All while hurting. This was love in action. When I told her how incredible she is, she shrugged and said she had to. But I know she chose to.

Lately, I've been struck again by the power of doing what's hard—not just physically, but emotionally and spiritually—and by the simple truth we try to ignore: growth comes when we willingly step into discomfort, not when we avoid it.

A few months ago, the Osan Air Base chapel hosted the Four Chaplains' Memorial Run and Ruck, and in it, the Norwegian Foot March—a grueling 18.6-mile ruck under a strict time limit. It is a physically demanding challenge, but most would argue it is mentally even more so. And yet hundreds of people signed up and completed the challenge.

Just a few weeks later, my friend Alec gathered twenty men for a day of shared challenge and encouragement. They reflected on Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 9:27: "I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified." That set the tone for the day: completing the Murph Challenge—a mile run, 100 pull-ups, 200 push-ups, 300 squats, another mile—followed by a two-minute ice plunge. Every portion had to be done together. No one was left behind. Afterward, they shared fellowship, not as men who had something to prove, but as brothers striving to grow. As Alec put it, it was about "doing difficult activities to

show men they are capable of far more than they think—through the strength of Christ and the fellowship of brothers."

I once read that the brain literally changes when we choose hard things. When we willingly engage with discomfort rather than avoid or resent it, the brain's fear center—the amygdala—becomes more regulated. Psychologists also note a distinction between "wanting" and "liking"—our deepest motivation often comes not from enjoyment, but from meaning. When we choose a hard path for a higher purpose, we rewire our instincts, build resilience, and shape character.

Dr. Raquel Hopkins, a therapist who studies trauma and capacity, observes that today's culture too often encourages people to stay stuck—to retreat into wounds rather than grow through them. But there is another way. A harder, better way. She says capacity isn't fixed—it grows when we meet our limits with courage rather than shame.

I'm not trying to romanticize suffering. Pain is real, and some burdens are heavier than others. I don't pretend to have all the answers. But I do believe this: when Mina chooses to move through pain for the sake of love, that's strength. When a man plunges into ice water to remember he is made for more than comfort, that's growth. And when we train ourselves to do what's right, even when it's hard, that is where formation happens. Maybe what the world needs isn't more ease—but more people willing to choose the hard thing, on purpose, for love.

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

KUNSAN AIR BASE	OSAN AIR BASE	HUMPHREYS
Weekly Worship Services @ Bldg #501	The New Chapel is Open for Worship Services Building 780	PROTESTANT - Sundays - 0900 Christ The King Liturgical Service - Pacific Victors Chapel 0930 & 1100 Agape (Contemporary Service) - 4CMC 1000 Burning Bush Gospel Service - Warrior Chapel 1100 Church of Christ - Pacific Victors Chapel 1100 Common Ground (Traditional Service) - Freedom Chapel 1300 Apostolic Pentecostal (Oneness) - Warrior Chapel 1330 Spanish Service - Pacific Victors Chapel - Wednesdays - 1200 Christ The King Eucharist Service - Pacific Victors Chapel 1800 KATUSA Service - Pacific Victors Chapel
Catholic Holy Mass Sunday at 0900 (Chapel)	Chapel Worship Services:	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (LDS) - Sundays - 1400-1600 Warship Meeting - Freedom Chapel POC: CH Droge; 010-8685-2976; shown.a.droge.mil@mail.mil
Weekday Masses - Tuesday-Thursday at 1138 (Blessed Sacrament Room inside Chapel)	Protestant Service Sunday @ 0930	RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND MINISTRY AUXILIARIES MON/WED 1830 Catholic Men of the Chapel - Freedom TUES 1000-1200 Korean Ladies Bible Study (KLBS) - Freedom TUES 1800-2000 Club Beyond Christian Youth Group - 4CMC Summer Break until 30 August WED 0930-1145 Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) - 4CMC * Summer Schedule: 1800-2030 (until 28 August) 1830-2030 PWOC Evening Study - 4CMC WED 1000-1200 Korean Catholic Women Bible Study - Freedom 1730-1930 Catholic Women of the Chapel (CWOC) - Freedom WED 1830-2000 Church of Christ Mid-Week Bible Study - Pacific THUR 0915-1130 Catholic Women of the Chapel (CWOC) - Freedom THUR 1800-2000 Protestant Men of the Chapel (PMOC) - 4CMC * POC: CH Underhill 010-8520-7217 1st SAT/Month 0830 Knights of Columbus - Freedom
Protestant Worship Sunday at 1100 (Chapel)	Catholic Sunday Mass Sunday @ 1130	CATHOLIC - Freedom Chapel 1600-1700 Adoration (Saturdays) 1600-1700 Reconciliation/Confession (Saturdays) 1640 Rosary/Benediction (Saturdays) - 1730 Vigil Mass (Saturdays) 0900 Mass (Sundays) - 1730 Daily Mass (M-F) POC: usaghcatholiccoordinator@gmail.com
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Sunday at 1300 (Chapel)	Catholic Daily Mass is held in Room 173 Tuesday - Thursday @ 1130	JEWISH 2nd and 4th Fridays - 4CMC 1800-2100 Shabbat Evening Service POC: CH (CPT) Daniel Kamzan; daniel.i.kamzan.mil@mail.mil
Point of Contact: Kunsan Chapel, 782-HOPE	For the most current updates and announcements, please visit our "Osan AB Chapel" Facebook page.	ISLAMIC - Pacific Victors Chapel Fridays: 1200-1330 Jum'ah Service Sundays: 1300-1500 Islamic / Arabic classes POC: CPT Anouar Bencheqroun 010-3382-7231 anouar.k.bencheqroun.mil
Visit us on SharePoint: https://kunsan.eis.pacaf.af.mil/8FW/HC	Find us on the web @ https://www.facebook.com/OsanABChapel	PAGAN Traditions Fridays: Freedom Chapel Rm 110 / 1800-1900 Pagan Fellowship POC: CPT Ryan S. Robinson; ryan.s.robinson14.mil@mail.mil
		BUDDHIST Tuesdays - Warrior Chapel / 1800-1900 Buddhist Service POC: CH (CPT) Somya Malasri; 010-7460-1281; somya.malasri.mil@mail.mil



Noise assessment: An F-35A Lightning II from the 187th Fighter Wing conducts a low-level flight during a noise study at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., June 18, 2025. The assessment examined the effectiveness of pilot techniques such as optimized flight paths and minimizing noise exposure. (U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Benjamin Williams) ▲



Dancing with friends: A U.S. F-15E Strike Eagle, U.S. F-35A Lightning II, Finnish F/A-18 Hornet and French Rafale break away from a formation during exercise Atlantic Trident 25 over Finland, June 20, 2025. The exercise built military capability and warfighting capacity between the U.S., U.K., France and Finland to support deterrence and defense of the Euro-Atlantic region, ensuring continued readiness, adaptability and lethality. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Bridget Rossignol) ◀

I-Day: A basic cadet candidate from the class of 2029 receives a haircut at the U.S. Air Force Academy during in-processing, or I-Day, June 25, 2025, in Colorado Springs, Colo. I-Day marks the start of a cadet's journey to become a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force or U.S. Space Force. (U.S. Air Force photo by Dylan Smith) ▼



Fin-flight: Cindy Wilsbach, wife of Gen. Ken Wilsbach, commander of Air Combat Command, marshals him in following the completion of his final flight at Langley Air Force Base, Va., June 17, 2025. When Wilsbach received his pilot wings in 1986, he gave his wife half, to symbolize the journey they would embark on together. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Madeline Herzog) ◀





# Staff Sgt. Matthew Hensel

By Senior Airman Rome Bowermaster  
51st Fighter Wing

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Matthew Hensel, 51st Civil Engineer Squadron non-commissioned officer in charge of metals, was recognized as Mustang of the Week at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 23, 2025.

Originally a structural craftsman in the metal shop, Hensel transitioned into the NCOIC role due to his proven record of exceptional performance. Leading a shop that manages everything from large-scale welding to custom metal fabrication, he oversees daily coordination between military and civilian personnel to execute time-sensitive, mission-critical projects.

Hensel's passion for his duties to Osan have enabled him to lead high-impact projects that save the Air Force time and money. One such project involved the rapid removal of flight simulators from Building 1380, saving the Air Force over \$250,000 in contractor fees.

"The contractors needed over two weeks," said Hensel. "We did it in 2 days."

Another mission-critical effort led by Hensel ensured the timely opening of Osan's new Child Development Center. After a failed fire inspection threatened delays, his team rebuilt a concrete pad within one week, allowing the center to open on time.

"The CDC project was a time crunch as well," said Hensel. "We poured concrete on Thursday and by Monday the CDC was open."

According to his leadership, that mindset is exactly what earned him this week's Mustang honors.

"Regardless of what is happening at Osan, he's

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Matthew Hensel, 51st Civil Engineer Squadron non-commissioned officer in charge of metals, poses for a photo at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 25, 2025. Hensel was recognized as Mustang of the Week for his outstanding performance as NCOIC of metals where he led teams of Airmen on multiple projects on base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Rome Bowermaster) ▲



“*Our shop is split into two main sections—carpentry and metalwork. When it comes to metalwork it’s primarily welding. Welding is one of my passions, it’s really fun and I’m good at it.*”

— Staff Sgt. Matthew Hensel

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Matthew Hensel, 51st Civil Engineer Squadron non-commissioned officer in charge of metals, operates a hydraulic shear at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 25, 2025. Hensel was recognized as Mustang of the Week for his outstanding performance as NCOIC of metals where he led teams of Airmen on multiple projects on base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Rome Bowermaster) ▲



taking care of it,” said Tech. Sgt. Trevor Sanchez, NCOIC of carpentry. “Whether it’s troubleshooting on the fly or knocking out massive projects under tight deadlines, Staff Sgt. Hensel delivers every time.”  
Congratulations, Staff Sgt. Hensel—and thank you for keeping the mission welded together!

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Matthew Hensel, 51st Civil Engineer Squadron non-commissioned officer in charge of metals, prepares metal work at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 25, 2025. Hensel came to Osan as a structural craftsman but quickly became NCOIC of metals because of his work ethic. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Rome Bowermaster) ▲

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U.S. Air Force Col. Matt Kenkel, 35th Fighter Wing deputy commander, removes his helmet at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 26, 2025. The arrival of the upgraded F-16 Fighting Falcon on Osan underscored the U.S.-ROK alliance and ensures the wing remains prepared to fight tonight. ▲

### 51st Fighter Wing enhances readiness through F-16 upgrades

< Continued from Front Page >

These capabilities directly support the 51st Fighter Wing’s ability to ensure peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

As the U.S. Air Force’s most forward deployed, permanently-based wing, the 51st FW plays a critical role in maintaining regional security. The arrival of these upgraded aircraft underscores the U.S.-ROK alliance and ensures the wing remains prepared to fight tonight.

“These upgrades enhance our game a bit,” said Chief Master Sgt. Robert Parsons, 25th FGS senior enlisted leader. “The F-16’s new features give pilots greater spatial awareness, helping them see the battlefield more clearly. As we move closer to 2027, having a capable aircraft now, instead of waiting for a new airframe, is critical. The F-16 already has an established support system in place for supply, personnel, equipment, and training. With these upgrades, we now have the aircraft we need, ready and available today.”

The U.S. Air Force will continue to modernize its aircraft to maintain air superiority, outpace evolving threats, and remain the world’s most advanced and capable air force.



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Matthew Cover, right, 25th Fighter Generation Squadron F-16 Fighting Falcon crew chief, welcomes Col. Paul Davidson, left, 35th Fighter Wing commander, at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 26, 2025. The migration of aircraft from Misawa Air Base, Japan to Osan enhanced alignment between U.S. forces in Japan and South Korea, maximizing interoperability for joint operations and bilateral training. ▲



F-16 Fighting Falcons arrive at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 26, 2025. The F-16s were transferred from Misawa Air Base, Japan and have undergone a series of avionics system upgrades, bringing the aircraft closer to fifth-generation capabilities as they increase both the survivability and accuracy of the weapon system.

U.S. Air Force Col. Matt Kenkel, 35th Fighter Wing deputy commander, signs transfer documents at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 26, 2025. The arrival of the F-16s at Osan strengthened the airpower capabilities across the Indo-Pacific and increased the U.S. military’s ability to respond swiftly and effectively to threats. ►

“As we move closer to 2027, having a capable aircraft now, instead of waiting for a new airframe, is critical. The F-16 already has an established support system in place for supply, personnel, equipment, and training. With these upgrades, we now have the aircraft we need, ready and available today.”

— Chief Master Sgt. Robert Parsons, 25th FGS senior enlisted leader



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Johnny Nieves, 36th Fighter Generation Squadron dedicated crew chief, reverses an F-16 Fighting Falcon assigned to 13th Fighter Squadron into a hangar at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 26, 2025. The arrival of the upgraded F-16s brought unparalleled multi-role versatility, advanced stealth features, and superior operational range, capabilities that directly support stability and deterrence on the Korean Peninsula. ▼



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Rowley Corbin, 25th Fighter Generation Squadron F-16 Fighting Falcon assistant dedicated chief, inspects an F-16 assigned to the 13th Fighter Squadron at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 26, 2025. The F-16s were transferred from Misawa Air Base, Japan and have undergone a series of avionics system upgrades, bringing the aircraft closer to fifth-generation capabilities as they increase both the survivability and accuracy of the weapon system. ▲



# 51st CES Change of Command



By Senior Airman Tallon Bratton  
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

U.S. Air Force Col. Jeff Elliott, left, 51st Civil Engineering Group commander, passes the guidon to Lt. Col. Kirk Hull, incoming 51st Civil Engineer Squadron commander, during a Change of Command ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 30, 2025. The 51st CES is one of five squadrons assigned to the 51st Mission Support Group, 51st Fighter Wing Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea. ▲

OSAN AIR FORCE BASE, Republic of Korea -- U.S. Air Force Col. Jeff Elliott, left, 51st Civil Engineering Group commander, passes the guidon to Lt. Col. Kirk Hull, incoming 51st Civil Engineer Squadron commander, during a Change of Command ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 30, 2025. The 51st CES is one of five squadrons assigned to the 51st Mission Support Group, 51st Fighter Wing Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea.



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Andrew Myers, right, outgoing 51st Civil Engineering Squadron, right, receives the Meritorious Service Medal from Col. Jeff Elliott, left, 51st Civil Engineering Group commander, during a Change of Command ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 30, 2025. The award recognized Myers' leadership and accomplishments while commanding the 51 CES. ▲

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Kirk Hull, incoming 51st Civil Engineering Squadron commander, delivers remarks during a Change of Command ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 30, 2025. ◀





Rev. Donald L. Brown, Pastor




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Sunday School ..... 10:00 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 AM  
Wednesday Bible Study ..... 6:30 PM  
Lord's Supper ..... 1st Sunday  
Missions Sunday ..... 4th Sunday  
Men's Fellowship ..... 2nd Sat 8:00 AM  
Women's Fellowship ..... Last Fri 6:00 PM

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Church email: [fcfcukorea@gmail.com](mailto:fcfcukorea@gmail.com)  
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(Romans 10:17)*

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&lt; Continued from Page 14 &gt;

### Jeongnamjin Jangheung Water Festival

The Jeongnamjin Jangheung Water Festival is held at the Tamjingang River, one of the main rivers in Jeollanam-do. As summer heats up, the festival kicks off with cool, refreshing energy, using the clean waters of Tamjingang River and Jangheung Dam Lake. Visitors can enjoy a variety of water-themed fun activities, including the Salsu Battle Street Parade – a lively water gunfight held on the roads closed to traffic. Other fun activities take place in the river flowing through the city, such as underwater tug-of-war, underwater running, and canoeing – perfect for cooling off in the heat. One of the festival's main highlights is Global Water World, where you can dance to the EDM performance by famous DJs while getting splashed with cool water.

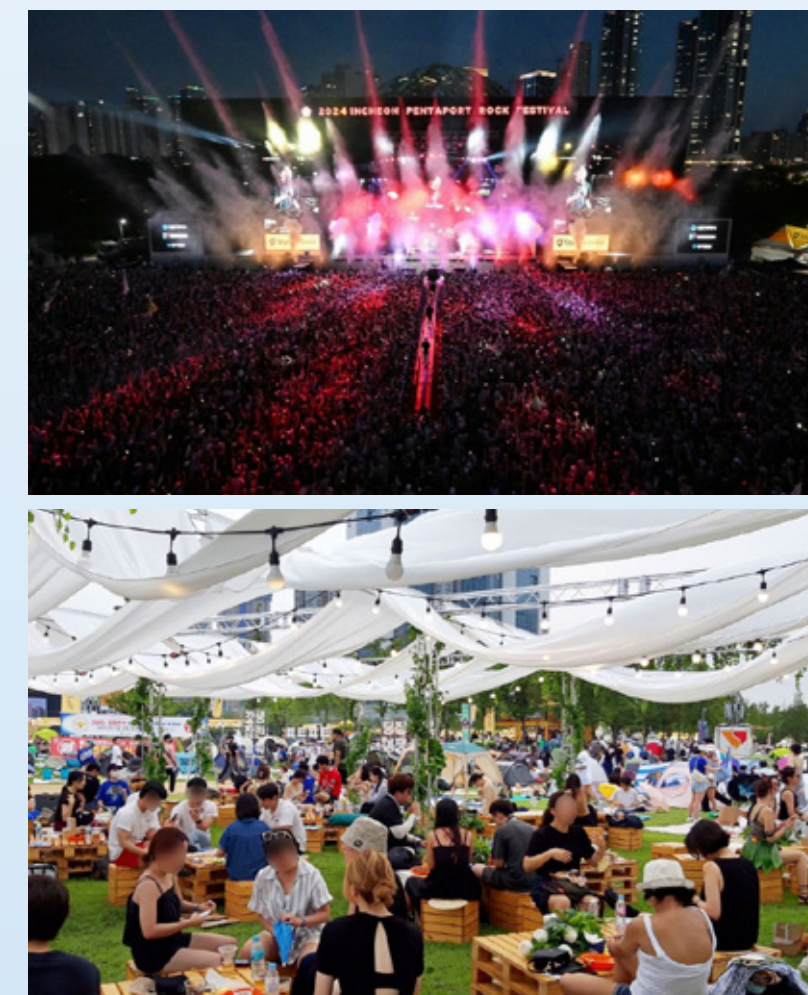
- Period: July 26-August 3, 2025
- Venue: Tamjingang River and Cypress Forest Woodland (83 Chilgeoriyeang-ro, Jangheung-eup, Jangheung-gun, Jeollanam-do)
- Inquiries: +82-61-860-5770~3
- Website: festival.jangheung.go.kr / Instagram @jangheung\_water\_festival



### Incheon Pentaport Rock Festival

As one of the most famous rock festivals in Korea, Pentaport Rock Festival is a global festival that unites the world through music. Each year, the festival invites top musicians from around the world to create stages that set the hearts of the audience on fire. Celebrating its 20th anniversary, this year's Pentaport Rock Festival features world renowned artists, such as hip-hop artist Little Simz, Chang Kiha, Crying Nut, Jaurim, LUCY, and other acclaimed performers. The festival will feature standing areas for the dancers and the headbangers, as well as a picnic area for a more relaxed experience.

- Period: August 1-3, 2025
- Venue: Songdo Moonlight Festival Park (350, Central-ro, Yeonsu-gu, Incheon)
- Inquiries: +82-1899-6709
- Website: pentaport.co.kr / Instagram @pentaportrf



### Gangneung Culture Night

This is a night festival celebrating the cultural heritage of Gangneung, a coastal city on the East Sea. It will be held at the Gangneung-daedohobu Government Office, a designated cultural heritage site and its surrounding areas, with special nighttime exhibitions, performances, and experience programs. The highlight of the festival will be a reenactment of the street performance held by Gangneung residents to welcome the new governors during the Joseon dynasty. Other features include a drone light show, a hanbok fashion show featuring Gangneung residents, a beer street, and lively zones filled with food trucks and activities.



- Period: August 14-16, 2025, 18:00 - 23:00
- Venues: Gangneung-daedohobu Government Office (6 Imyeong-ro 131beon-gil, Gangneung-si, Gangwon-do)
- Inquiries: +82-33-823-3224
- Website: gncn.or.kr / Instagram @culture\_tour\_





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