

# Crimson Sky

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## MQ-9 maintainers, planners integrate during Freedom Flag 25-1

**By Master Sgt. Rachelle Coleman  
Seventh Air Force**

**GWANGJU AIR BASE, Republic of Korea --** U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps maintainers joined forces at Kunsan Air Base to support MQ-9 Reaper operations during exercise Freedom Flag 25-1, marking a milestone in cross-service sustainment integration.

During the training, Airmen and Marines from four Air National Guard units, four

active-duty Air Force units, and Marine Corps Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron VMU-3 and Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Training Squadron VMUT-2 collaborated to advance joint maintenance practices and validate Agile Combat Employment concepts in a real-world environment.

“Freedom Flag 25-1 showcased what’s possible when Total Force partners come together with a shared mission focus,” said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Eric Hurley, MQ-9 maintenance lead for the

exercise. “More importantly, we validated the MQ-9 Agile Combat Employment concept in a real-world environment—proving we can generate combat power from a logistically lean spoke and rapidly reposition to stay ahead of the threat.”

The joint personnel enabled a small contingent of MQ-9s to forward deployed to Kusan AB for the duration of FF 25-1, operating in support of exercise and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command objectives.

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Osan's first joint, combined IRON RADR exercise



USAF, ROKAF Conduct Quarterly Interoperability Exercise



Building Futures: Osan's new CDC officially opens

# 3,000 Hours of Excellence



U.S. Air Force Col. Kevin Walsh, 51st Fighter Wing deputy commander, prepares to taxi at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 6, 2025. Walsh has completed four combat flying deployments across four different locations in the Middle East. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Sarah Williams) ◀



U.S. Air Force Col. Kevin Walsh, 51st Fighter Wing deputy commander, conducts pre-flight checks of an F-16 Fighting Falcon at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 6, 2025. Walsh reached 3,000 flight hours after a distinguished career that included four combat deployments, commanding the U.S. Air Force Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, and instructing F-16 pilots across seven allied nations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Sarah Williams) ▼



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Chaplain Corps  
Osan Air Base

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Chaplains'  
Memorial  
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17 May 2025

POC: Ch. Capt David Bartlett  
david.bartlett.12@us.af.mil  
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Commanding General/Publisher  
Lt. Gen. David R. Iverson

Public Affairs Officer/Editor  
Maj. Rachel E. Buitrago

Editor/COR  
Park, Do Young

Editor/Staff Writer  
Master Sgt. Rachelle C. Coleman

51st Fighter Wing

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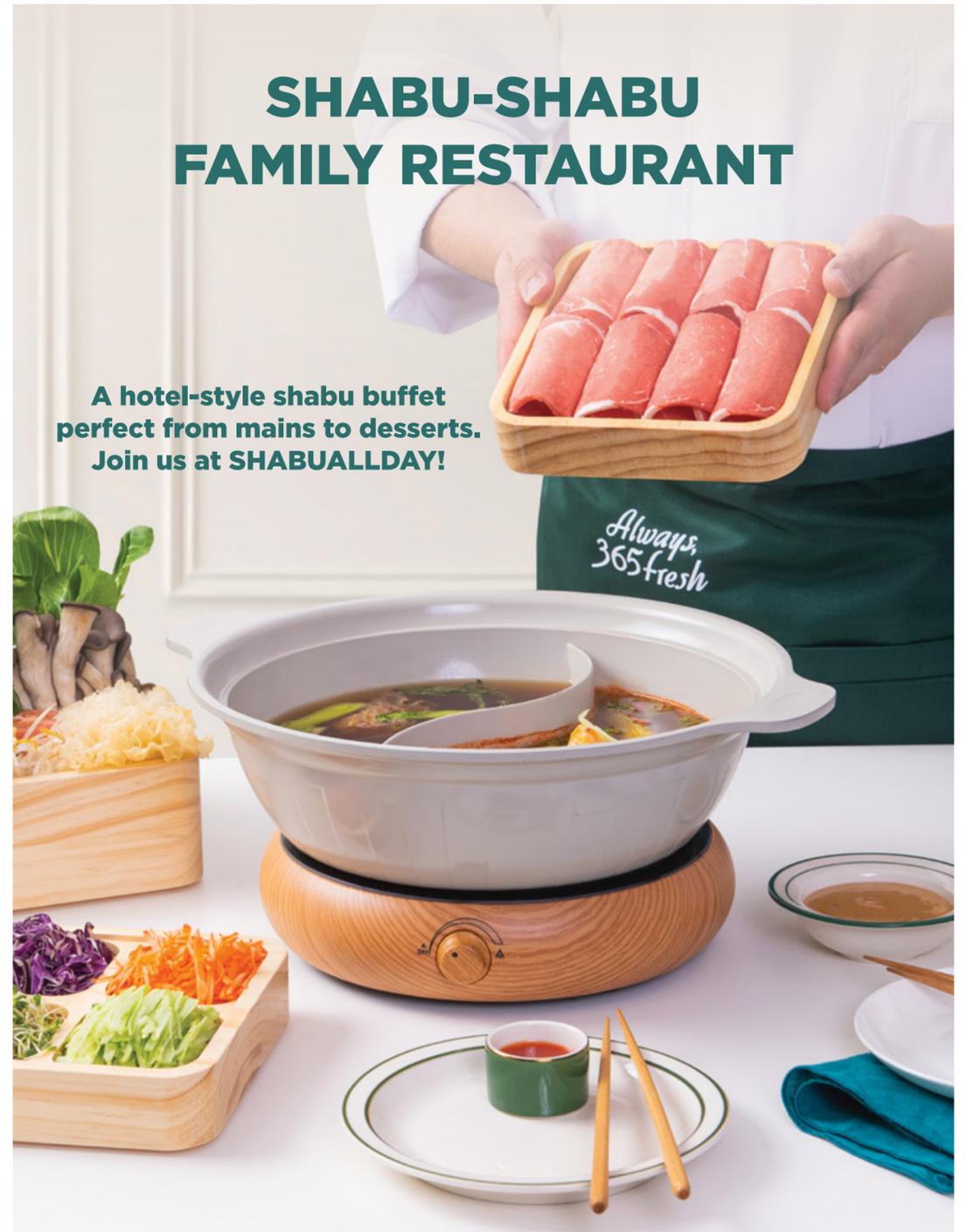
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Senior Airman Eduardo Ledezma, Tech. Sgt. Kristopher Speir, and Tech Sgt. Aldrich Aldana, 163d Attack Wing MQ-9 Reaper armament systems specialists, load four AGM-114 Hellfire missiles onto an MQ-9 Reaper at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 30, 2025. Loading live munitions ensures precision strike capability remains fully operational, reinforcing U.S. and allied deterrence efforts across the Korean Peninsula. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel Brosam)

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Side-by-side, U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps maintainers aligned tactics, techniques, and procedures to improve MQ-9 readiness in expeditionary environments. Key areas of focus included rapid aircraft turnarounds, lean logistics, and streamlined troubleshooting—essentials for sustaining unmanned operations in the Indo-Pacific.

Meanwhile, integration extended beyond the flightline. At Gwangju Air Base, U.S. Air Force Capt. Sean Mac Lain, chief of weapons and tactics for the 50th Tactical Squadron, served as the MQ-9 liaison officer and lead Remote Piloted Aircraft planner for the U.S. Air Force.

As a platform capable of both kinetic strikes and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, the MQ-9 brings flexible options to the fight, making early integration in the planning cells essential.

"My role here was to represent MQ-9 capabilities in the mission planning cells and ensure they were fully integrated into the fight," said Mac Lain. "From ISR to kinetic effects, our job was to identify where we fit in, translate that into executable mission plans, and relay those plans across time zones to our remote aircrews."

According to Mac Lain, having in-person presence at the planning table, especially for remotely piloted aircraft—is key to breaking down barriers and building trust to maximize combat capability.

"There's still a lot of ambiguity around what MQ-9s bring to the fight," he said. "Being in the room for briefs and debriefs, building those relationships, and showing that we're part of the team helps maintain accountability and elevates how we integrate with manned platforms."

Mac Lain also emphasized the value of working with the ROK Air Force and U.S. Marine Corps during the exercise.

"I absolutely love working with the Marine Corps—they're mission-focused, determined,

and always lean forward," he said. "And while ROKAF doesn't fly the MQ-9, this exercise gave us the opportunity to demonstrate its potential as a force multiplier. Our team helped introduce the platform's full range of capabilities, from precision strike to persistent ISR."

Through tactical mentorship and daily integration, the MQ-9 community helped build shared understanding among the U.S. and ROKAF teams.

"Many of our Allies don't have the same training pipeline or combat-tested experience," Mac Lain

said. "Being able to take the lessons we've learned over decades and pass them along is what makes this coalition more lethal and more unified."

As Freedom Flag 25-1 continues to evolve, joint MQ-9 integration will continue to be a foundation for maintainers and operators alike in coalition readiness.

(Editor's note: Quotes and information from Master Sgt. Eric Hurley were provided with support from Staff Sgt. Daniel Brosam, 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Senior Airman Eduardo Ledezma, left, Tech. Sgt. Kristopher Speir, center, and Tech Sgt. Aldrich Aldana, 163d Attack Wing MQ-9 Reaper armament systems specialists, load an AGM-114 Hellfire missile onto an MQ-9 Reaper at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 30, 2025. The mission-ready platform supports real-time strike options that protect the region's stability and demonstrate allied resolve in contested environments. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel Brosam) ▲

# Air Mobility Teams keep the fight moving during FF25-1

By Staff Sgt. Jason Cochran  
Seventh Air Force

## GIMHAE AIR BASE, Republic of Korea

-- Agile Combat Employment, the strategy of being able to rapidly disperse assets across vast areas, requires immense logistical planning, expertise and stewardship.

One way this rapid dispersal is enabled is through the employment of air mobility teams, like that deployed here during Freedom Flag 25-1.

"We are a ten-member mobile aerial port team consisting of an aerial port operation center, load planning, joint inspection, passenger services, cargo processing and ramp operations," said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Noel Echevarria, 731st Air Mobility Squadron AMT lead.

The 731st AMS based at Osan Air Base, sent an AMT to Gimhae Air Base, and the 734th AMS based at Andersen Air Force Base, sent a team to Gwangju Air Base to support FF 25-1 operations.

"For the Freedom Flag 25-1 exercise we have utilized our aerial port operation center as the command-and-control function to monitor aircraft and dispatch our ramp operations and passenger services team," said Echevarria. "The team offload passengers, cargo, and aircraft assets in support of the exercise."

The team is able to expertly carry out their duties in the contingency environment because they maintain and hone their craft while at their home stations, said Echevarria.

Without these teams, their expertise and the missions they execute, the prosecution of U.S. and ROK air force objectives would be significantly impacted.

"This mission matters because we can showcase in real time the true diversity in skills and ability to integrate our forces to project rapid global mobility in any environment," said Echevarria. "We are here to integrate and operate with airlift units our ROKAF partners and build on the foundation we have already established to protect the Korean peninsula in contingency situations."

Sustainment is a challenge for most theaters and given the constraints that arise during contingency operations, mobility is the backbone of expeditionary sustainment, said U.S. Air Force Maj. David Carruth, 607th Air Operations Center airlift control team chief.

"AMTs provide the necessary teams to enable a 'fight tonight' mentality by conducting intratheater airlift, air-to-air refueling, and aeromedical evacuation to ensure our joint and coalition partners are prepared for the future operating environment," Carruth said. "In the case of FF 25-1, mobility is engaging with our joint and coalition partners to build on emerging concepts such as Agile Combat Employment and Mission Ready Airmen to ensure that existing barriers are diminished."



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Kaylay Murchie, 731st Air Mobility Squadron air freight technician, guides a forklift carrying cargo as part of Freedom Flag 25-1 at Gimhae Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 25, 2025. To further agile combat employment, the 731st AMS, based at Osan Air Base, deployed small teams consisting of Airmen specialized in aerial port operations, load planning, joint inspection, passenger services, cargo processing and ramp operation to form Air Mobility Teams. ▲



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Meknel Stepps, 731st Air Mobility Squadron passenger services representative, starts a forklift as part of Freedom Flag 25-1 at Gimhae Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 25, 2025. To further agile combat employment the 731st AMS, based at Osan Air Base, deployed small teams consisting of Airmen specialized in aerial port operations, load planning, joint inspection, passenger services, cargo processing and ramp operations to form Air Mobility Teams. ▲

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Meknel Stepps uses a forklift to pick up cargo as part of Freedom Flag 25-1 at Gimhae Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 25, 2025. Stepps was part of an Air Mobility Team, a small collection of subject matter experts in everything required to project rapid global mobility in any environment. ◀



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Members of the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, Republic of Korea Army and ROK Air Force repair a large crater on the flight line during IRON RADR at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 24, 2025. IRON RADR is the first complex, joint and combined exercise on Osan AB that tests, evaluates and prepares civil engineers to safely conduct rapid airfield damage repair operations in a simulated contingency environment.

# Osan's first joint, combined IRON RADR exercise improves airfield restoration capabilities

By Staff Sgt. Kahdija Slaughter  
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea --** The 51st Civil Engineer Squadron hosted the first ever complex, joint and combined IRON RADR exercise at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 24, 2025.

The primary goal of the exercise was to test and evaluate the preparation and burial of temporary shelters while teams of U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, ROK Air Force and ROK Army engineers conducted rapid airfield damage repair operations – simultaneously the RADR teams practiced responding to several simulated attack scenarios.

*“The IRON RADR exercise is all about increasing survivability of our RADR teams”*  
— Lt. Col. Andrew Myers, 51st CES commander, USAF

“The IRON RADR exercise is all about increasing the survivability of our RADR teams,” stated U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Andrew Myers, 51st CES commander.

The 51st Fighter Wing’s “Fight Tonight” mission is to defend the base by generating combat airpower; this requires the airfield to be fully operational at a moment’s notice – and restored to fully operational status if it receives damage during an attack.

The 51st CES is responsible for making restorations



U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 11th Engineering Battalion and U.S. Airmen assigned to the 51st Civil Engineer Squadron mix flowable concrete fill during IRON RADR at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 24, 2025. The rapid airfield damage repair mission encompasses advanced pavement repair techniques and strategies that support airfield operations in degraded and contingency conditions, allowing swift restoration of combat airpower generation capabilities no matter the warfighting landscape. ▲

Members of the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, and Republic of Korea Air Force examine small craters and foreign object debris created by the 51st Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal flight during a joint and combined EOD training at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 18, 2025. The training created an instructional and hands-on environment to learn and execute tactics, techniques, and procedures when creating explosive ordnances. The detonations prepared during the training laid the realistic foundation needed for a complex rapid airfield damage repair exercise called IRON RADR. ►

quickly and efficiently through the RADR process. It’s no secret that an airfield is a wide open space vast enough for clear lines of sight in two directions; east to west in the case of Osan AB. If damaged, the RADR teams could be vulnerable to attack until the repairs are complete.

Heavy equipment and pavements experts say the RADR process allows engineers to repair multiple damaged areas simultaneously and in less time.

“Specifically, a typical large crater repair to an airfield could take up to 12 hours, but when we execute RADR, we can get it done in six,” said U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Thomas Meyer, 51st CES pavements and equipment operator and RADR instructor.

That means RADR teams would need to survive and operate on the airfield for six hours.

“Whether it’s against ground attacks or small armed drones that could interfere with operations, we’re developing novel concepts for how we will protect our forces,” explained U.S. Air Force Maj. Shawn Pennie, 51st CES operations commander.

Force protection solutions implemented during the exercise include v-ditches and berms, as well as cargo containers. A berm is an earthen wall used by military personnel as a temporary barrier of protection when under attack. A v-ditch is a type of berm that takes the shape of its namesake.

“Think of a v-ditch as the most basic form of protection against fragmentation from munition that would strike in the area, as well as some blast waves from the impact,” explained U.S. Air Force Capt. Tyler Stout, 51st CES installation management flight commander. “Additional overhead cover from cargo containers is a solution that could give more effective protection from airburst munitions that disperse harmful chemical agents.”

On exercise day, the 51st CES successfully buried two cargo containers near the damaged airfield pad, allowing U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the 11th Engineering Battalion, ROK engineers assigned to contingency operating bases across the Korean peninsula, and over 200 personnel from various units across the 51st FW to take shelter during simulated attack scenarios.

Months before the exercise happened, teams of planners and subject matter experts prioritized instructional and hands-on training classes for joint and combined RADR personnel; increasing familiarity with 51st CES heavy equipment and sharing best tactics, techniques and procedures for conducting legacy and rapid pavement repairs, as well as explosive ordnance operations.

The 51st CES explosive ordnance disposal flight contributed to the realism of the exercise by destroying the foundation of an airfield pad, effectively creating the damages received from a simulated air-to-ground attack that would kick off the exercise.

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Members of the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, Republic of Korea Army, and ROK Air Force construct a fiber reinforced polymer mat during IRON RADR at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 24, 2025. Rapid airfield damage repair is a rapid process for repairing structural damage on airfields, quickly restoring combat airpower generation when needed. The exercise included preparing and burying temporary shelters while teams of engineers collaboratively worked to restore the airfield and simultaneously respond to several simulated attack scenarios. ▼



Members of the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, Republic of Korea Army, and ROK Air Force exit a cargo container after receiving an all clear notification during IRON RADR at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 24, 2025. Rapid airfield damage repair is a process for repairing structural damage on airfields, quickly restoring combat airpower generation when needed. Force protection solutions implemented during the exercise included v-ditches, berms, and cargo containers.



# USAF, ROKAF Conduct Quarterly Interoperability Exercise



By Senior Airman Landon Gunsauls  
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Senior Airman Omar Navarro, 8th Civil Engineering Squadron explosive ordnance disposal technician, analyzes an x-ray of a suspicious package with the Republic of Korea Air Force EOD team members at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea April 16, 2025. Exercises like this one emphasizes that U.S. Air Force, ROKAF and other DOD branches' EOD teams have the ability to integrate with each other while sharing detection and disposal best practices. ▲

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- The 8th Civil Engineering Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight partnered with the U.S. Marine Corps and Republic of Korea Air Force EOD teams to host their quarterly interoperability training from April 14 to 18.

The week-long training functions to teach and test USAF, USMC and ROKAF EOD team's ability to quickly assess situations and integrate each other's tactics and equipment to identify and dispose of suspicious packages, unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices.

"We do this training so that if we need to partner up and accept follow-on forces and work closely with the ROKAF EOD teams,

Senior Airman Phillip Smith, 8th Civil Engineering Squadron explosive ordnance disposal technician, explains how to set up an Explosive Ordnance Disruptor to Republic Of Korea Air Force EOD team members at Kunsan Air Base, Republic Of Korea April 16, 2025. 8 CES EOD trains alongside their ROKAF counterparts quarterly on unexploded ordnance, improvised explosive devices and chemical munitions sharing best practices and integrating equipment. ►



we're both already familiar with each other's [standard operating procedures] and TTP [tactics, techniques and procedures], that way it's seamless," said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Bryan Price, 8th CES EOD team leader. "We're going about doing that by mixing up U.S. and Korean forces for events and learning each other's tactics firsthand."

Joint exercises like this allow EOD professionals to gain experience with assets and circumstances that are unique to Kunsan AB. The chance to sharpen their skills while learning what gear they need to approach and accomplish a mission in a different way is a welcome challenge for the teams.

"The Air Force and ROKAF invited us out here, and we're showing them how Marines do certain things while building that relationship, so we could easily work together to solve any issues in the area," said U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Desmond Tyson, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, an explosive ordnance disposal technician. "EOD work is so vast and there's so many different ways to do things. We can take that and apply it to how we're currently [conducting operations] and make [tasks] a bit easier to get done."

Throughout the week, EOD teams were presented with several different mission sets with the goal of identifying, disarming and disposing of mock munitions. For the teams, these daily training scenarios are a chance to see what the differences and similarities between their processes are, all while strengthening relationships with the understanding that they may be asked to operate jointly in an Agile Combat Employment environment.



U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Desmond Tyson, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, explosive ordnance disposal technician, identifies a buried pressure plate while the Republic of Korea Air Force EOD team members observe at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea April 16, 2025. The 8th CES EOD trains quarterly alongside their ROKAF counterparts and other DOD branches on unexploded ordnance, improvised explosive devices and chemical munitions, sharing best practices and integrating equipment. ▲



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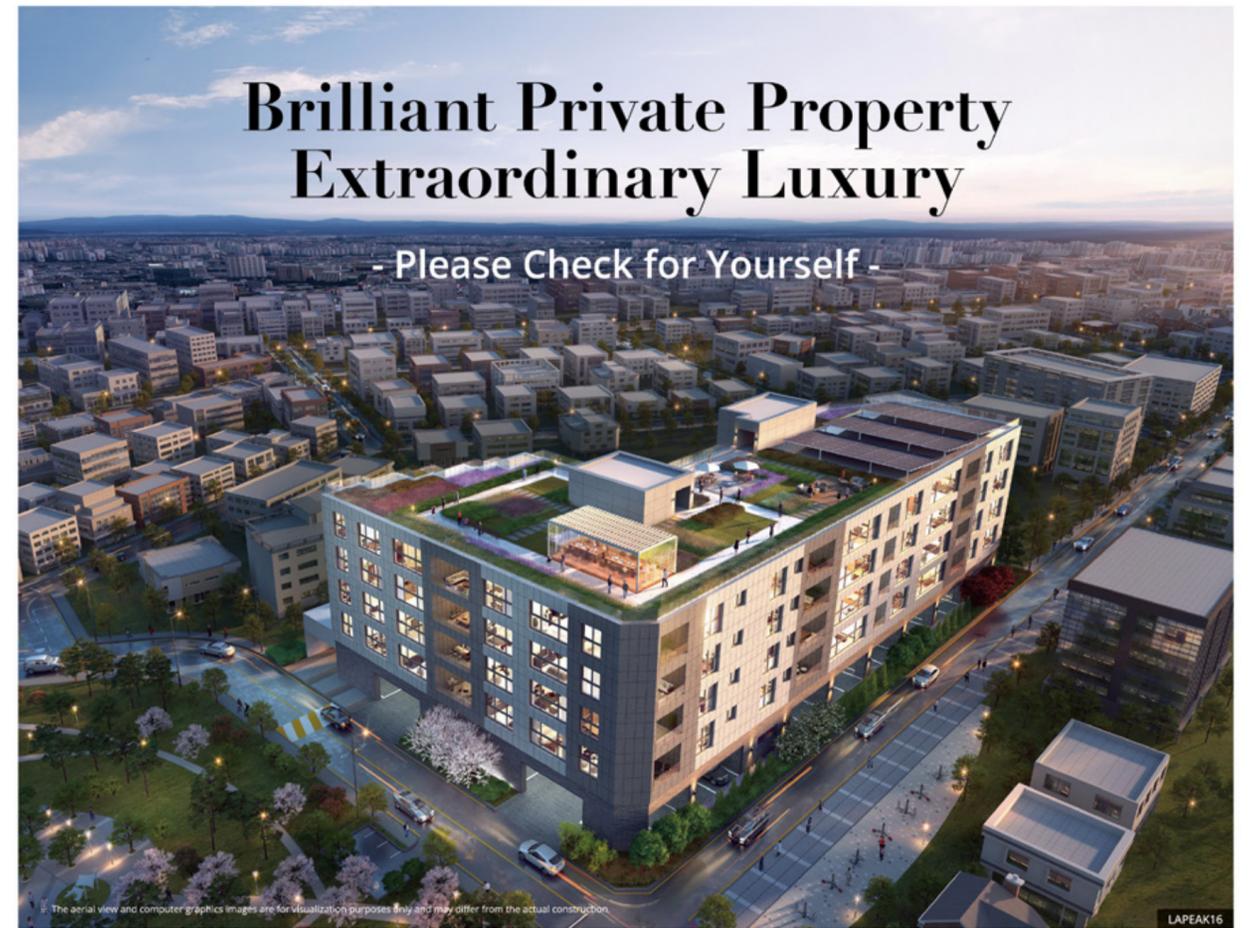
U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Jake Breakfield, 8th Maintenance Squadron inspection section crew chief, inspects the exhaust of an F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft during Freedom Flag 25-1 at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 23, 2025. FF 25-1 is a joint military exercise between U.S. and Republic of Korea forces demonstrating interoperability and a shared commitment to regional stability and security. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Karissa Dick)

**Wolf Pack maintainers keep the mission moving during FF 25-1**

**8th OSS Airfield Management "Wizards" bring the magic to Freedom Flag 25-1**



Senior Airman Morisse Daniels, 8th Operations Support Squadron airfield management operations supervisor, performs an approach lighting check during Freedom Flag 25-1 at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 22, 2025. During low-ceiling weather, airfield management ensures airfield equipment operates smoothly to safeguard our Airmen and aircraft, ensuring exercise operations continue. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Karissa Dick)



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# Personal Transportation Device Safety

In recent years, Personal Transportation Devices (PTDs) including electric scooters, e-bikes, hoverboards, and other battery powered micro mobility tools have become increasingly popular. While these devices offer convenience and eco-friendly transportation, they also pose emerging challenges in terms of fire safety.

## 1. Battery Fire Hazards

Most PTDs are powered by lithium-ion batteries, known for their high energy density. However, when damaged, improperly charged, or exposed to heat, these batteries can undergo thermal runaway, resulting in intense fires or explosions.

## 2. Residential Fire Risks

With more users charging devices indoors, particularly in multi-family residential buildings, the risk of rapid fire spread increases. Fires that start during nighttime charging can go undetected, making early evacuation and containment difficult.

## 3. Key Risk Factors

- Charging near combustible materials.
- Use of unofficial or damaged chargers.
- Overcharging or unsupervised charging.

## 4. Fire Safety Recommendations

- To mitigate fire risks, the following safety practices are recommended:
- Charge in well-ventilated areas away from flammable items.
  - Use certified chargers and avoid third-party or damaged charging equipment.
  - Do not charge overnight or while unattended.
  - Install smoke alarms near charging areas.
  - Avoid modifying PTDs or their batteries.

## Conclusion

It is critical to balance their benefits with proactive fire safety measures. Awareness, regulation, and preparedness will be key to preventing injuries and protecting communities from PTD-related fire incidents.

Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Fire Prevention Office at 784-4862/ 4741.

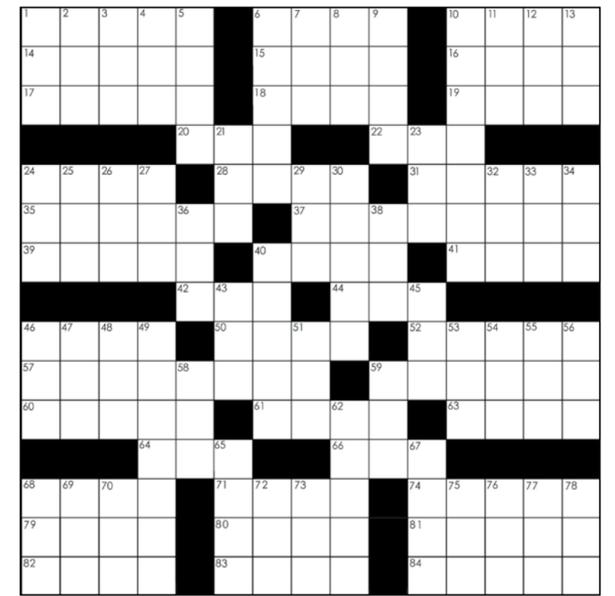
## Are You Saved?

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

- Training exercise
- Type of sax
- Deserter
- Singer-songwriter Mann
- Kobayashi \_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_ d'etat
- Move quickly
- WWII enemies
- Mound builders
- Goes with photo or special
- Lecture provider
- Bullets
- Daesh
- Deteriorate
- Goes with star or oak leaf cluster
- Incheon operation
- Brawl
- Roman emperor
- Sweet potatoes

- General Nakasone's job
- \_\_\_\_ out a living
- Disregard
- Devoted
- WWI battle site
- Retreat
- Korea's great king
- Result
- Protect with a chain or password
- Fired a gun
- Inter-Korean maritime boundary
- Opposite of nay
- Future missile defense
- Goes with Eagle or Triangle
- The pound
- One of the Great Lakes
- Color of star or oak leaf cluster
- Current missile defense
- 365 days
- Poker stake
- MST3K character Tom

## DOWN

- Boot
- Wrestler Flair
- Argument abbreviation
- Zodiac sign
- Actor Jared
- Gather
- Lenient
- Goes with state, cycle
- Impeach
- Officers' school
- Korean currency
- Opposite of in
- Records
- Fruit-flavored dessert
- Tokyo's old name
- Anti-ICBM projectile
- Air Force field ration
- Actress Gretchen
- Five divided by five
- Frozen water
- Cut into ribbons
- Gina Haspel's employer
- Bank machine
- Opposite of no
- Type of Buddhism
- DPRK neighbor
- Air Station
- Coast Guard duty
- Goes with shut or ball
- Indebted to
- Trash can
- \_\_\_\_ a Small World"
- Max \_\_\_\_ air exercise
- \_\_\_\_ Jima
- Bedtime clothes
- Former presidents Tae-woo and Moo-hyun
- Singer Brian
- Goes with drill or staff
- Found next to Ins key
- Goes with Crimson or dive
- Skinny boat
- Comes between Kilo and Mike
- Dines
- \_\_\_\_ Resolve exercise
- Where \_\_\_\_ you?
- Killed, wounded, captured, or deserted
- Sprinted
- Choose
- Opposite of he
- Golf strokes
- 1st \_\_\_\_ LRRP Rangers
- Much \_\_\_\_ About Nothing

**Answers to Previous Crossword**

ACROSS	1 USR	4 IGN	7 SUV	10 FOO	13 SHINUSO	15 ENO	16 RUB	17 DEFILER	18 ORA	19 ETS	20 KARAOKE	22 FED	23 OCN	26 EGS	27 RIOS	29 SHIELD	33 RUT	34 INVO	35 DISPENSER	37 EGGED	38 ASST	39 ATTA	41 EQUUS	44 ARMISTICE	49 GULL	50 DRE	51 FELLID	52 GAVE	53 ERAY	55 LAS	56 RST	57 COLONEL	61 BTS	62 AKA	63 DIGITAL	67 PEE	68 DER	69 ELOPERS	70 MRS	71 ORD	72 LES	73 TED	74 CHI	75 LIP	76 NIS	78 SOD	80 EPAULET	81 LESS	82 DNS	85 LAS	86 STARBOARD	87 ETSY	40 TIE	41 EGG	42 QUARTER	43 ULYSSES	45 REAL	46 ILL	47 CIA	48 EDS	50 DECKER	54 YODEL	58 NILE	59 EGOS	60 LIP	61 BPM	62 ADO	64 TET	65 ARE	66 LSD
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**H**orsepower: The White Horses from Hardin-Simmons University ride past a B-1B Lancer during the Wings Over West Texas Airshow at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, April 19, 2025. Representing the university's Six White Horses tradition, these equestrians showcase western heritage and school spirit through appearances at parades, rodeos and special events across Texas. Their presence at the airshow brought a touch of local pride and history to the celebration of airpower and community. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jade M. Caldwell) ▲

**F**riendly formation: South Korean and U.S. aircraft fly in formation near Gwangju Air Base, South Korea, April 18, 2025. The aircraft will participate in exercise Freedom Flag 25-1, a joint and bilateral military exercise between U.S. and South Korea air forces that fosters trust, understanding and interoperability between allied forces through challenging, realistic scenarios. (Courtesy photo) ▼



**S**haring the load: Airmen from the 921st Contingency Response Squadron establish a sling load connection with a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361 at Amedee Army Airfield in Herlong, Calif., April 7, 2025. The 921st CRS took part in Exercise Dragon Spark, a 10-day joint training event focused on enhancing rapid deployment capabilities, expeditionary logistics and interoperability between Air Force and Marine Corps units. (U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Cassidy Fisher) ▲

**S**ecurity scan: A U.S. Airman assigned to the 435th Contingency Response Group scans the forest around the Silver Flag training area for possible enemies during exercise Agile Bison 25-1 at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, April 18, 2025. Quick reaction forces were positioned strategically throughout the exercise area, allowing for a layered and time-sensitive defense against evolving ground threats. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Edgar Grimaldo) ◀

## 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

## 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.

### 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 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.

### Cub Scout Volunteers

Through May 2025 | Osan AB Pack 86 Cub Scouts are looking for adult volunteers to assist with Den Meetings and Pack Events. Volunteer opportunities include Den Leaders (weekly commitment) and Assistant Den Leaders (commitment as able) for Scouts ranging in age from 6 to 11 years old, and Den Committee Members (monthly meetings and admin work as required). No prior Scouting experience required, just a desire to provide positive experiences for the children of Team Osan. If interested, please contact Committee Chair Megan Davis, megan.davis.2@us.af.mil, and Pack Leader Jeff Davis, jeffrey.davis.58@us.af.mil.

### 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.

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### Osan Air Power Days 2025

May 10-11 | Osan Air Base  
Experience the excitement at Osan Air Base's first air show since 2019! Get ready for thrilling aerial performances, aircraft displays and interactive exhibits. This family-friendly event, free of

charge and open to the public, offers the chance to meet pilots, explore military aircraft up close, and enjoy a day full of entertainment. Stay tuned for more details as we prepare for this wonderful event! More details will be posted at <https://www.osan.af.mil/OsanAPD2025/>.

### Four Chaplains' Memorial Run & Ruck

17 May 2025 | Osan AB Chapel, Building 780

This run and ruck is made up of 5 events, at 0400 a Norwegian Foot March (30k), at 0700 a Half-Marathon (21k), at 0800 a 10k Race, 5k Race, and a Family Fun Run (1k). All events will receive a finishers medallion with the NFM receiving a NFM Belt Buckle for completion. Additionally, everyone who finishes the NFM within time will be awarded the NFM foreign military badge eligible for wear on the USAF service and dress uniform. POC: Ch, Capt David Bartlett and can be reached at david.bartlett.12@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

**DRAGON HILL LODGE**

# TIME TO EXPLORE SEOUL!

## 6 Days / 5 Nights Room Package

Stay at Dragon Hill Lodge to be right in the center of Seoul's attractions, and also enjoy onsite access to services and facilities serving our U.S military and DoD communities.

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 DDSN: #315-738-2222 or #02-790-0016 ext.1  
[reservations@dragonhilllodge.com](mailto:reservations@dragonhilllodge.com)  
[www.dragonhilllodge.com](http://www.dragonhilllodge.com)

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

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VIETNAMESE CUISINE

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Group Reservations Available!

32 different Vietnamese dishes to make your day extraordinary!

Located at the end of Shinjang Mall in front of Osan AB main gate  
Call: 031-663-9090

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**SONG'S BURGER**

A delicious handmade burger like no other!



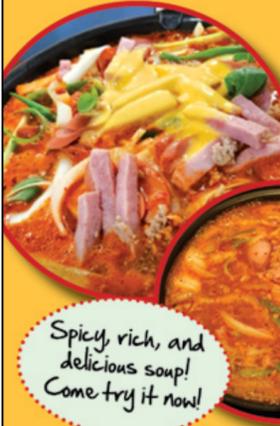
Korean-style burgers that Americans love!

Located in the market alley in front of Osan AB  
031-667-7080



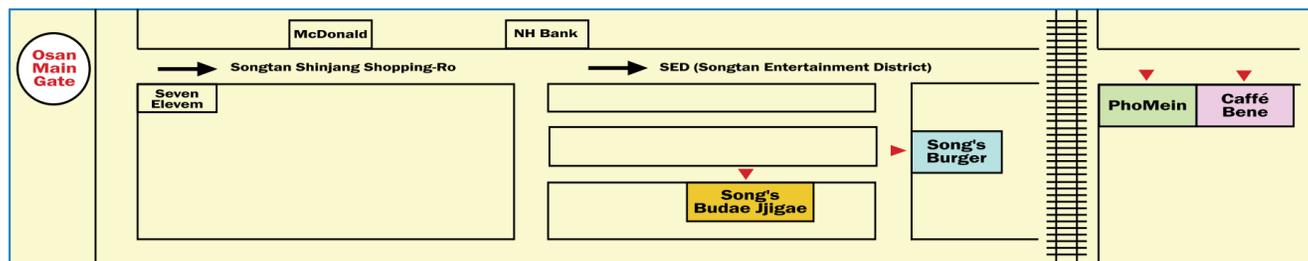
Enjoy Army Base Stew/Spicy Jjigae Korean Stew!

**SONG'S Budaee-Jjigae**



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

Located in the market alley in front of Osan AB  
031-611-6466

< Continued from Page 9 >

"Our main goal was to make the most realistic scenario that [RADR teams] would see in a wartime environment," expressed U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Gerardo Perez, 51st CES, EOD technician. "So we used C4, TNT, and dynamite to create six small craters with ground upheaval and land disbursement – mimicking the damage that could be created by ballistic missiles and airfield penetrator munitions."

The realism continued on exercise day with various units across Osan converging their isolated programs and strategies into one complex effort.

The 51st CES EOD Airmen created blasts to simulate continued air-to-ground attacks, bombs, and grenades sent by adversaries. The 51st Security Forces Squadron provided ground security, engaged against simulated ground attacks, and participated as simulated enemy forces using armed drones and automatic weapons to ambush the RADR pad.

Emergency responders from the 51st Medical Group stood by to conduct ambulatory care if needed and the 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron provided vehicle maintenance, ground transportation and fuel to all heavy equipment.

"I learned a lot during the exercise today," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Justino Peguero, 11th Engineering Battalion heavy equipment operator. "We implemented different ways to take shelter in case we receive contact from enemy forces. Some of the locations were trenches in the ground, inside [cargo containers], behind berms and even behind the heavy equipment if we were too far away from an expedient shelter."

"I think everyone in the [643rd Engineering Construction Company at Camp Humphreys] needs this knowledge, especially being forward deployed here in Korea. If attacked, we would be working with the Air Force, ROKA, and ROKAF to restore the airfield. So, strengthening those relationships and being on the same page is super important," expressed Peguero.

Reflecting on the broader impact of the exercise, strengthening the relationships and resilience of Airmen, Soldiers, and ROK partners, Pennie emphasized the critical link between rapid airfield recovery and success of the 'Fight Tonight' mission:

"The faster we can fix an airfield, the faster we can launch jets and continue to execute operations. And ultimately that'll increase our survivability here [at Osan] because we're able to defeat and degrade our enemy's ability to attack us."



U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 51st Security Forces Squadron respond to a simulated ambush with ground protection maneuvers during IRON RADR at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 24, 2025. IRON RADR is the 51st Civil Engineer Squadron's first complex, joint and combined exercise that tested, evaluated and prepared engineers to safely conduct rapid airfield damage repair operations in a simulated contingency environment. ▲



Members of the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, and Republic of Korea Air Force participate in a hands-on rapid airfield damage repair familiarization training hosted by the 51st Civil Engineer Squadron at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 14, 2025. RADR is a process for repairing structural damage on airfields to restore combat airpower generation. The training allowed engineers assigned to contingency operating bases across the Korean peninsula to learn the RADR process and use heavy equipment to accomplish each step of the RADR mission. ▲



Members of the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, Republic of Korea Army, and ROK Air Force pose for a photo during exercise IRON RADR at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 24, 2025. The team of civil engineers, logistics technicians, vehicle maintainers, explosive ordnance technicians and emergency medical responders worked together to repair craters in a damaged airfield pad enhancing U.S.-ROK partnership and displaying interoperability in action.

The Warfighter's Spirit

Whose Side Are You on Anyway!?



By Ch. Capt R. Peter Jackson, Chaplain, 51st Fighter Wing

A friend meets you for coffee one day and she's angry at her coworker. Immediately you are interested to hear why. As you listen intently, you begin to catch her vibe and feel anger towards her coworker. This is a normal response when we feel a friend or loved one has been wronged. We quickly

take sides and want justice. On the one hand, you feel noble, like a defender of your friend against the evil she is facing. But there is a problem. You're only hearing one side of the story. An old proverb says: "The first to state his case seems right until another comes and cross-examines him."

In other words, there are always two sides of a story, and inevitably the person complaining may leave out details to better accentuate their frustrations. As you listen, you could be unnecessarily getting emotionally involved, confused, or misled by your friend to think the worst. A second issue that could come from this exchange is gossip. Gossip is a dangerous thing and can cause ripple effects through friends, churches, workplaces, or families. Another proverb warns: "A contrary man spreads conflict, and a gossip separates close friends."

Perhaps a wrong has been done, but that wrong can potentially do much more harm when traveling through several people. They can twist the report by adding details to an already one-sided story. How does this happen? Another old proverb says: "A gossip's words are like choice food that goes down to one's innermost being." A juicy tidbit can be very tempting, but it is a snare to our souls if we are not aware of the dark craving inside us.

So what can we do when our friend, coworker, or family member comes with their side of a very frustrating story? First, discern who you are to this person. Are you part of the problem,

the solution, or neither? If you are part of the problem, then the two of you can talk it out, after you actively listen and own your part. Forgiveness is the goal (see Crimson Sky article "Chaplain Sentenced to Prison"). If you are part of the solution, that means you are in a place of leadership to potentially mediate and bring a resolution after hearing both sides. I am currently reading a book from a multimillion dollar, nationally-known and respected US company. With a company "no-gossip policy," the CEO says that problems or gripes must be "handed up" to leadership and not "handed down" (or laterally) because they can become gossip. "Hand your negatives up and your positives down."

Are you neither part of the problem nor the solution? If not, ask: Is this person just trying to vent? It may be ok to vent emotions, but repeating a complaint to multiple people in order to gain support is gossip. If someone begins to vent, you can redirect the conversation. Stop the person respectfully and gently, with something like this, "It sounds like you are upset. If it doesn't involve me, I don't want to hear something I shouldn't know about. I highly recommend going to the First Sergeant (USAF) or talking to a chaplain. I'd be happy to walk with you to him or her. How about we go now?" Ultimately, the conversation should be solution-oriented. Leadership and chaplains can help those who are frustrated move from venting towards resolution. If your friend needs a safe, confidential place to work through their conflicts, a chaplain is always available.

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

KUNSAN AIR BASE

Weekly Worship Services @ Bldg #501

Catholic Holy Mass Sunday at 0900 (Chapel)

Weekday Masses - Tuesday-Thursday at 1138 (Blessed Sacrament Room inside Chapel)

Protestant Worship Sunday at 1100 (Chapel)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Sunday at 1300 (Chapel)

Point of Contact: Kunsan Chapel, 782-HOPE

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

OSAN AIR BASE

The New Chapel is Open for Worship Services Building 780

Chapel Worship Services:

Protestant Service Sunday @ 0930

Catholic Sunday Mass Sunday @ 1130

Catholic Daily Mass is held in Room 173 Tuesday - Thursday @ 1130

For the most current updates and announcements, please visit our "Osan AB Chapel" Facebook page.

Find us on the web @ https://www.facebook.com/OsanABChapel

HUMPHREYS

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

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (LDS) - Sundays - 1400-1600 Worship Meeting - Freedom Chapel POC: CH Droge; 010-8685-2976; shawn.a.droge@mail.mil

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

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

JEWISH - 2nd and 4th Fridays - 4CMC 1800-2100 Shabbat Evening Service POC: CH (CPT) Daniel Kamzan; daniel.i.kamzan@mail.mil

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@mail.mil

PAGAN Traditions Fridays: Freedom Chapel Rm 110 / 1800-1900 Pagan Fellowship POC: CPT Ryan S. Robinson; ryan.s.robinson14@mail.mil

BUDDHIST Tuesdays - Warrior Chapel / 1800-1900 Buddhist Service POC: CH (CPT) Somya Malasri; 010-7460-1281; somya.malasri@mail.mil



Follow the leader: Gen. Kevin B. Schneider, Pacific Air Forces commander, pilots the lead F-22 Raptor during a mission off the coast of O'ahu, Hawaii, April 8, 2025. PACAF provides ready and lethal forces to ensure stability and security in the Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Emerson Nuñez) ▲

Convoy prep: A 90th Missile Wing Joint Light Tactical Vehicle and Payload Transporter are prepared to participate in a Nuclear Convoy Course at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center, Wyo., April 2, 2025. During the course, Airmen from across 20th Air Force trained on counter-small unmanned aircraft systems, mounted operations, heavy weapons and helicopter integration to strengthen convoy defense. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Michael A. Richmond) ▲



Family time: Master Sgt. Brandon Freon assists his daughter during a Board and Brush event at the 122nd Fighter Wing in Fort Wayne, Ind., April 12, 2025. Events like this are a favorite across military installations, offering a fun and creative way for service members and their families to relax, connect and build camaraderie in a welcoming, social atmosphere. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Danielle Hough) ▲

Spirited departure: A B-2 Spirit takes off from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 16, 2025. Known for its distinctive flying-wing design and low-observable stealth technology, the B-2 is capable of penetrating the most heavily defended airspaces in the world. It can deliver both conventional and nuclear payloads with precision, providing the U.S. with a powerful and flexible global strike capability. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Joshua Hastings) ▲

# 51st LRS IPE section wins innovation award for equipment overhaul

By Senior Airman Tallon Bratton

**Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea** -- The 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron's Individual Protective Equipment section earned the 51st Fighter Wing Innovation Award for the fourth quarter for transforming how protective gear is issued and returned.

By working with the Osan Wing Innovation Cell, the team implemented the Kinetic Cargo System, a new technology that streamlined the in-and-out-processing of protective equipment. The upgrade enhanced both speed and accuracy, enabling Airmen to acquire their gear more efficiently and maintain the wing's "Fight Tonight" readiness posture.

The IPE section supplies mission-critical equipment, such as body armor and chemical protective suits, to the 51st Fighter Wing, tenant units and other geographically separated units across the region. Managing more than 128,000 individual items, it stands as the busiest IPE section in the Pacific Air Forces.

Through this overhaul, the team cut customer wait times in half and significantly improved inventory tracking. Ten IPE Airmen were recognized and coined for their efforts and innovation.

"If something were to happen like a chemical or biological attack Airmen need the gear we're issuing out," said U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Alexander Lewis, 51st LRS noncommissioned officer in charge of IPE. "Making sure we have accurate numbers and the equipment we're supposed to have is important not just for military members, but also for the families, children and local nationals on this base."

In addition to modernizing its distribution processes, the team completed a comprehensive inventory of more than 466,000 items valued at \$49 million. They improved accountability, recovered missing equipment and added thousands of new storage locations.

*"Making sure we have accurate numbers and the equipment we're supposed to have is important not just for military members, but also for the families, children and local nationals on this base."*

— Tech. Sgt. Alexander Lewis, 51st LRS noncommissioned officer in charge of IPE

"What we're trying to do is fix the problem and make sure the next team doesn't have to deal with the issues we had," said Staff Sgt. Jordan Jusa, 51st LRS IPE supervisor. "We're smoothing the path and setting a better standard that should last for years to come."

During major readiness exercises such as Beverly Herd and Vigilant Storm, the IPE section ensures all Airmen are properly equipped and trained to respond at a moment's notice.

The team's success showcases the impact of innovation and teamwork. By enhancing accountability and safeguarding a total of \$76 million in assets, the 51st LRS IPE section continues to play a vital role in keeping Osan Air Base ready to defend the 51 million people the wing is sworn to protect.



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Oliver Kollock, 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron individual protective equipment journeyman, left, issues IPE to installation members at Osan Air Base, April 16, 2025. IPE distribution supports readiness operations and ensures personnel are properly equipped for upcoming training exercises and contingency operations. ▲



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Oliver Kollock, 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron individual protective equipment journeyman, left, checks in Airmen in need of IPE at Osan Air Base, April 16, 2025. The IPE process also allows Airmen to inspect the condition and fit of their gear, ensuring comfort and safety during use. ▲



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Oliver Kollock, 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron individual protective equipment journeyman, issues IPE to installation members at Osan Air Base, April 16, 2025. Routine IPE issuance supports the 51st Fighter Wing's mission readiness and rapid deployment capabilities. ▲

# Seventh Air Force to extend Super Squadron test for second year, expand scope



Two U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons assigned to the 36th Fighter Squadron and participating in Seventh Air Force's Super Squadron test park next to each other on the flightline at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 19, 2025. Seventh Air Force will establish a second Super Squadron at Osan as part of Phase II for the test in October 2025. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Dustin Braaten) ▲

Seventh Air Force Public Affairs

**Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea** -- Seventh Air Force is set to extend its "Super Squadron" test for a second phase in October 2025 after recently receiving approval by the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. The test examines Seventh Air Force's ability to increase combat force generation and maximize capability by consolidating aircraft and personnel in a large Super Squadron.

The extension will establish a second super squadron here, with 31 assigned F-16 Fighting Falcons. The aircraft and approximately 1,000 Airmen will transfer to Osan Air Base from Kunsan AB over the summer. The movement of personnel and fighter aircraft is a temporary shift, seeking to optimize capabilities and maximize combat effectiveness.

The CSAF approval was gained after analysis of the first phase, which began in October 2024.

"The past months of data reveal that we're on the right track and the consolidated, larger unit has shown some increases in readiness and combat capability, while also exposing some challenges," said Lt. Gen. David Iverson, Seventh Air Force commander. "With this

success we're now expanding the scope, by consolidating the F-16s in Seventh Air Force at Osan, to further determine if the super squadron construct is the right path for future airpower generation here in Korea."

The initial Seventh Air Force Super Squadron test was launched to evaluate if the super squadron concept would maximize combat effectiveness when considering sortie generation, maintenance, manpower, and logistics requirements. The second phase will continue to assess those areas at a larger scale, as the increased numbers of aircraft and Airmen fully test limitations.

"In the coming weeks, AFPC will begin making assignment updates," said Lt. Col. Aaron Tissot, Seventh Air Force director of manpower, personnel and services. "Our goal is to minimize disruptions and ensure a smooth transition for our Airmen throughout this process."

With the movement of most remaining 8th Fighter Wing's F-16s from Kunsan AB to Osan AB during the test, the 8th FW will continue to operate as a primary exercise and rotational force bed-down location for U.S. air component

forces in ROK. It will maintain active flightline operations and facilities, in addition to maintaining war reserve material and munitions at multiple locations across South Korea. This mission is a critical part of Seventh Air Force's task of providing credible combat airpower in the defense of the ROK-U.S. Alliance.

"We acknowledge this is a major shift in how we operate here at Kunsan," said Col. Peter Kasarskis, 8th FW commander. "We'll meet this change with the same warfighter mindset the Wolf Pack has maintained through our history, and strengthen our ability to accept follow-on forces, defend the base and take the fight north."

Seventh Air Force remains committed to ensuring peace and security on the Korean Peninsula. The Super Squadron test has no impact on Seventh Air Force's ability to employ airpower to deter aggression and defend South Korea against any threat.

"This Super Squadron effort demonstrates our steadfast focus on readiness and combat capability to achieve U.S. national security objectives," Iverson said.



Leadership from the 51st Fighter Wing and Republic of Korea Air Force cut a ribbon during the opening ceremony of the new Child Development Center at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 24, 2025. The new facility was constructed through a Republic of Korea-funded project under the Special Measures Agreement, with U.S. and Korean partners ensuring it met military family needs and quality standards.

# Building Futures: Osan's new CDC officially opens

By Senior Airman Sarah Williams  
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- The 51st Force Support Squadron hosted a grand opening ceremony for the new Child Development Center at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 24, 2025.

*We're dedicated to providing the best resources and childcare here because when our families thrive, Team Osan thrives*  
— Col. William McKibban, 51st FW commander

This new facility is the Air Force's first combined child development center and school-aged care center. By merging the two programs, the number of available childcare slots has nearly doubled, offering expanded opportunities for military families.

"Everything in this facility is new, clean, and amazing for service members and their families," said Marilyn Martin-Han, 51st FSS child and youth services flight chief. "One benefit of combining the two facilities is it cuts down the commute time of families with children in different programs, but ultimately the biggest benefit is it will eventually get rid of our waitlist."

The opening of the new CDC reflects a broader commitment to enhancing quality of life for service



The 51st Force Support Squadron hosts a grand opening of the new Child Development Center at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 24, 2025. The new facility was the Air Force's first combined child development center and school-aged care center, increasing available childcare slots. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Sarah Williams) ▲

U.S. Air Force Col. William McKibban, 51st Fighter Wing commander, gives opening remarks during the opening ceremony of the new Child Development Center at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 24, 2025. The new CDC is designed to provide high-quality care allowing parents to focus on mission readiness. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Sarah Williams) ▶

members and their families stationed at Osan. Reliable childcare is a critical support element that directly impacts the 51st Fighter Wing's readiness and mission success.

Bringing the new CDC to life required years of planning, coordination, and partnership across nations and agencies all aimed at creating a space that supports both the mission and the families.

"We're dedicated to providing the best resources and childcare here because when our families thrive, Team Osan thrives," said U.S. Air Force Col. William McKibban, 51st Fighter Wing commander. "When our service members know their children are cared for and supported, they can focus on the mission."

The expanded CDC not only offers a modern facility and increased capacity, but also strengthens the support network that allows Airmen and civilians at Osan to maintain focus on their critical roles in the Indo-Pacific region.



# 51st Fighter Wing Spouse Immersion Tour

By Senior Airman Tallon Bratton  
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- Spouses of service members assigned to the 51st Fighter Wing pose for a group photo during the spouse immersion tour at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 23, 2025. Spouses explored F-16 Fighting Falcons and A-10 Thunderbolt IIs while learning about the capabilities that make the 51st Fighter Wing a key asset in regional defense.

The spouse of a service member assigned to the 51st Fighter Wing sits in the cockpit of an A-10 Thunderbolt II during a spouse immersion tour at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 23, 2025. The tour offered spouses a behind-the-scenes look at the aircraft and support systems that contribute to the air base's operational readiness. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Senior Airman Tallon Bratton) ▼





By Senior Airman Tallon Bratton  
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Michael O'Hagan, 51st Security Forces Squadron facility manager, was named the 51st Fighter Wing's Mustang of the Week for his outstanding performance, initiative and leadership at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 30.

*"He's my alternate on several programs, and he was handpicked because of his initiative, reliability and hunger to make a difference."*  
— Staff Sgt. Nicholas Keys 51st Security Forces Squadron Unit Deployment Manager

O'Hagan oversees 73 facilities critical to the security and operational readiness of the 51st SFS, ensuring they meet safety standards and are prepared for emergencies ranging from fire hazards to chemical attacks. He remains proactive by keeping the squadron's infrastructure mission ready and reinforces the 51st FW's "Fight Tonight" mentality.

"Every building I manage must be ready for whatever threat may come," O'Hagan said. "From replacing ceiling tiles to inspecting fire extinguishers and coordinating emergency repairs, everything I

do supports our defenders and the broader mission of base defense."

In addition to his primary duties, O'Hagan supports several high level responsibilities. He serves as the squadron's alternate tactical communications manager, overseeing encryption for secure radio communications, and assists with communication security and equipment acquisition. He is also the alternate unit deployment manager, ensuring readiness of personnel and equipment for real world taskings.

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Keys 51st Security Forces Squadron Unit Deployment Manager, praised O'Hagan for his ability to take on duties usually reserved for noncommissioned officers.

"He's not just helping, he's leading," Keys said. "He's my alternate on several programs, and he was handpicked because of his initiative, reliability and hunger to make a difference."

O'Hagan's efforts directly support the squadron's mission to deter, defend and defeat threats. His ability to identify and resolve facility issues before they escalate, as well as his seamless integration into additional roles, exemplifies the Mustang spirit of leadership and mission excellence.



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Michael O'Hagan, 51st Security Forces Squadron facility manager, updates work orders on his computer at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 30, 2025. O'Hagan tracks maintenance needs to ensure operational safety and facility readiness. ▲



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Michael O'Hagan, 51st Security Forces Squadron facility manager, conducts routine checks of tactical equipment at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 30, 2025. O'Hagan inspects radios and other tactical equipment to ensure mission readiness to support base defense operations. ▲

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# ROK-U.S. Senior Leaders Unite for Air Defense Seminar at Chinhae Naval Base

By Capt. Courtney Johnson  
 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade  
 Public Affairs Office

Chinhae Naval Base, Korea – Air defense leaders from across the Republic of Korea (ROK) and United States Forces Korea (USFK) gathered at Chinhae Naval Base on May 2nd for the 2025 Korea Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Seminar. Hosted by the ROK Navy Task Fleet Command (TFC) and facilitated by the Pacific IAMD Center (PIC) and Joint Ballistic Training and Education Center (JBTEC), the event brought together commanders, strategists, and senior experts focused on strengthening allied air defense capabilities.

At the heart of the seminar was a Council of Colonels and Captains round table—an opportunity for senior leaders from the ROK Navy, the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, US Naval Forces Korea, and USFK to engage directly in strategic discussions shaping the future of air and missile defense on the peninsula.

The event focused on deepening U.S.-ROK integration, enhancing combined readiness, and strengthening deterrence against evolving air and missile threats. With growing regional challenges, leaders emphasized that a fast, unified response across air, land, and sea domains is key to staying ahead. The message was clear: defending the skies of Korea is a shared mission—and one that demands constant coordination and innovation.

Following the round table, participants toured a Republic of Korea Naval vessel equipped with the cutting-edge Aegis Combat System, one of the world's premier maritime air defense technologies. For many, it was a firsthand look at the level of technology and joint capability that backs the ironclad ROK-U.S. alliance.

As threats continue to evolve, forums like the IAMD Seminar are crucial for maintaining the trust, readiness, and firepower necessary to keep the skies above Korea safe—every day, in every condition.

ROK/US senior leaders speak during the council of colonels and captains round table discussion. ►



Col. Kevin Stonerook speaks during the academic portion during the IAMD seminar ▲

Leaders from the ROK Navy listen during the academic portion during the IAMD seminar ►



ROK/US senior leaders pose for a group photo at the conclusion of the council of colonels and captains round table discussion. ▲



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