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F-35A Lightning IIs assigned to the Republic of Korea Air Force 152nd Fighter Squadron and F-16 Fighting Falcons assigned to the 36th Fighter Squadron fly in formation over the Korean Peninsula during Buddy Squadron 25-5 at Cheongju Air Base, ROK, Sept. 11, 2025. Exercises like Buddy Squadron not only show camaraderie between forces, but also the commitment of both nations to maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Buddy Squadron 25-2 Kicks Off at Cheongju Air Base

**By Staff Sgt. Dustin Braaten
51st Fighter Wing**

CHEONGJU AIR BASE, Republic of Korea
-- The 152nd Fighter Squadron from the 17th Fighter Wing hosts aircraft and personnel from the 36th Fighter Squadron as Buddy Squadron 25-5 kicks off at Cheongju Air Base, ROK, Sept 8, 2025.

Originally known as Buddy Wing, Buddy

Squadron is a unique recurring bilateral exercise held several times a year across the Peninsula that strengthens integration between U.S. Air Force and ROKAF forces. The training offers valuable opportunities for both forces to fly together, exchange tactics, techniques, and procedures, and strengthen relationships that enhance overall interoperability. Each iteration is hosted in turn by both forces, and this time the ROKAF

welcomed the 36th FS to Cheongju Air Base.

"Buddy Squadron is a valuable opportunity to learn from each other," said U.S. Air Force Capt. Brice Weathers, 36th Fighter Squadron F-16 Fighting Falcon II pilot and project officer for Buddy Squadron 25-5. "By sharing knowledge with our ROKAF counterparts, we're able to practice, coming up with effective mission planning so we can cooperate more efficiently."

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U.S., ROK strengthen joint criminal investigation capabilities



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Celebrating Chuseok, Korean Thanksgiving Day

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Buddy Squadron 25-2 Kicks Off at Cheongju Air Base

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F-16 Fighting Falcons assigned to the 36th Fighter Squadron arrive at Cheongju Air Base, Republic of Korea for Buddy Squadron 25-5, Sept. 8, 2025. Buddy Squadron is a unique recurring bilateral exercise held several times a year across the Peninsula that strengthens integration between U.S. Air Force and ROKAF forces. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Dustin Braaten) ▼



As with previous iterations, this exercise features knowledge exchange, social events, and air-to-air training between the two forces. What makes this iteration unique is that it marks an opportunity for the 36th FS to train alongside the 152nd Fighter Squadron and conduct combined flying missions with their F-35As. Exercises like Buddy Squadron not only show camaraderie between forces, but also the

commitment of both nations to maintaining peace and stability in the region. "Korea is one of our closest allies," Weathers said. "We need to be able to lean on each other. Part of being ready to Fight Tonight is ensuring that we're on the same page and by training and trusting each other, ensuring that we don't fail when we're called into action."



F-16 Fighting Falcons assigned to the 36th Fighter Squadron arrive at Cheongju Air Base, Republic of Korea for Buddy Squadron 25-5, Sept. 8, 2025. Buddy Squadron is a unique recurring bilateral exercise held several times a year across the Peninsula that strengthens integration between U.S. Air Force and ROKAF forces. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Dustin Braaten) ▲



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Osan's Fiends and ROKAF's 152nd Fighter Squadron take flight during Buddy Squadron 25-5



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Kenneth Diaz Hernandez, center, 51st Healthcare Operations Squadron paramedic, briefs Col. Ryan Ley, left, 51st Fighter Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Carl Vogel, center left, 51st FW command chief, on urgent care procedures at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, July 15, 2025. The 51st HCOS supports warfighting readiness by providing critical medical services, including emergency care, surgical support, and preventive health measures, ensuring personnel are fit for duty and prepared for global contingencies. (This photo has been edited for security measures) ◀



Members of the 36th Fighter Squadron and Republic of Korea Air Force's 152nd Fighter Squadron pose for a group photo in front of ROKAF F-35A during Buddy Squadron 25-5 at Cheongju Air Base, ROK, (Sept. 11, 2025. Being ready to Fight Tonight is ensuring that ROK and U.S. forces can train and trust each other ensuring mission success when called into action. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Dustin Braaten) ▲



F-16 Fighting Falcons assigned to the 36th Fighter Squadron take flight during Buddy Squadron 25-5 at Cheongju Air Base, Republic of Korea, September 9, 2025. The exercise allows both forces to fly together, exchange tactics, techniques, and procedures, and strengthen relationships that enhance overall interoperability. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Dustin Braaten) ▲

F-16 Fighting Falcons assigned to the 36th Fighter Squadron launch from Cheongju Air Base, Republic of Korea during Buddy Squadron 25-5, Sept. 9, 2025. The bilateral exercise strengthens integration between the U.S. Air Force and ROK Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Dustin Braaten) ▶



F-35A Lightning IIs assigned to the Republic of Korea Air Force 152nd Fighter Squadron and F-16 Fighting Falcons assigned to the 36th Fighter Squadron fly in formation over the Korean Peninsula during Buddy Squadron 25-5 at Cheongju Air Base, ROK, Sept. 11, 2025. The bilateral exercise strengthens integration between the U.S. Air Force and ROKAF. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Dustin Braaten) ▲

F-16 Fighting Falcons assigned to the 36th Fighter Squadron take flight during Buddy Squadron 25-5 at Cheongju Air Base, Republic of Korea, September 9, 2025. Buddy Squadron is a unique recurring bilateral exercise held several times a year across the Korean Peninsula that strengthens integration between the U.S. Air Force and ROK Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Dustin Braaten) ▶





Royal Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force, and United Kingdom Space operational command and control members serving in Exercise Bamboo Eagle 25-3's Air Operations Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii, July 22 - Aug. 8, 2025. BE is a large scale live-fly, virtual and constructive exercise, designed to employ command and control through rapid reaction, coordination, and integration of weapon systems in a combat-representative environment, generating combat air power while moving and sustaining the expeditionary air base in a dynamic environment. (Photo cropped to focus on subjects) (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Jonathan Stephens) ▲

Allies unite in tactical and operational C2 during Bamboo Eagle 25-3

By Deb Henley
505th Command and Control Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii -- Bamboo Eagle 25-3 united U.S. and allied forces across multiple continents to practice tactical and operational command and control in a contested environment. Led by the U.S. Air Force Warfare Center, the exercise tested joint and coalition responses to complex short-notice threats, sharpening speed, flexibility, and cooperation to defend national and allied interests, July 27 - Aug. 9, 2025.

The Department-Level Exercise highlighted how U.S. and coalition C2 forces operate as one team across live, virtual, and constructive domains. Real-world operations at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Camp Smith were linked with the Distributed Mission Operations Center's scenario at Kirtland Air Force Base, while the 505th Command and Control Wing at Hurlburt Field generated a synthetic air expeditionary task force and theater-wide constructive air picture. Together, these efforts integrated distributed tactical and operational C2 forces, connecting U.S. and coalition partners in real and simulated environments in combat-realistic Indo-Pacific scenarios.

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U.S. Marine, U.S. Air Force and Royal Australian Air Force members participate Bamboo Eagle 25-3, a combat-realistic scenario in combined live-fly, virtual, and constructive exercise, at the 705th Combat Training Squadron, also known as the Distributed Mission Operations Center at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, on Aug. 5, 2025. The DMOC's live, virtual, and constructive, or LVC, training environment provides a high-fidelity proving ground where commanders and battle managers can practice decision-making in contested, degraded, and operationally complex environments without risk to life or assets. (Screens were blurred and a security badge was removed for security purposes; photo cropped to focus on subject.) (U.S. Air Force photo by Ann Alenne Mojica) ▶



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US Air Force announces arrival of second B-21 test aircraft at Edwards AFB



Airmen with the 912th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron prepare to recover the second B-21 Raider to arrive for test and evaluation at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Sept. 11, 2025. The arrival of a second test aircraft provides maintainers valuable hands-on experience with tools, data and processes that will support future operational squadrons. (U.S Air Force photo by Kyle Brasier) ▲

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) -- The Department of the Air Force has announced the arrival of the second B-21 Raider flight test aircraft, Sept. 11, at Edwards Air Force Base, California, significantly enhancing the Air Force's capacity to conduct comprehensive testing and sustainment training.

The addition of the second aircraft expands the Air Force's testing capabilities beyond initial flight performance checks, enabling progression into critical mission systems and weapon integration testing phases. This advancement marks a significant step toward operational readiness of the nation's sixth-generation stealth bomber.

"With the arrival of the second B-21 Raider, our flight test campaign gains substantial momentum," said Secretary of the Air Force Troy Meink. "We can now expedite critical evaluations of mission systems and weapons capabilities, directly supporting the strategic deterrence and combat effectiveness envisioned for this aircraft.

The presence of multiple test aircraft at Edwards AFB also provides Air Force maintainers invaluable hands-on experience in managing simultaneous aircraft sustainment operations, testing the effectiveness of maintenance tools, technical data and the logistical processes that



A second B-21 Raider, the nation's sixth-generation stealth bomber, joins flight testing at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Sept. 11. The program is a cornerstone of the Department of the Air Force's nuclear modernization strategy, designed to deliver both conventional and nuclear payloads. (Courtesy photo) ▲



A B-21 Raider test aircraft lands at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., during ongoing developmental flight testing, Sept. 11, 2025. The B-21 will be the backbone of the bomber fleet; it will incrementally replace the B-1 Lancer and B-2 Spirit bombers. (U.S Air Force photo by Todd Schannuth) ▲

will support future operational squadrons.

"In addition of a second B-21 to the flight test program accelerates the path to fielding," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Allvin. "By having more assets in the test environment, we bring this capability to our warfighters faster, demonstrating the urgency with which we're tackling modernization."

Concurrent with the expanded flight-testing effort, fiscal year 2026 will see the launch of extensive military construction projects at all three designated B-21 main operating bases. Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, the first base set to receive operational B-21 aircraft, is already progressing rapidly on numerous infrastructure projects to ensure readiness when the aircraft arrive.

"The B-21 Raider program represents a cornerstone of our strategic nuclear modernization," Allvin added. "The concurrent efforts in testing, sustainment preparation and infrastructure investments clearly illustrate our commitment to providing unmatched capabilities to deter and defeat threats well into the future."

The B-21 Raider is a stealth strategic bomber designed to deliver both conventional and nuclear payloads, developed in partnership with Northrop Grumman under the oversight of the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office. The program continues to execute its flight testing and ground testing campaigns as well as low-rate initial production.



A second B-21 Raider, the nation's sixth-generation stealth bomber, joins flight testing at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Sept. 11, 2025. The program is a cornerstone of the Department of the Air Force's nuclear modernization strategy, designed to deliver both conventional and nuclear payloads. (Courtesy photo) ▲

Pacific Air Forces remembers 80th anniversary of the end of World War II

By Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Taranto
PACAF Public Affairs

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii -- Pacific Air Forces held the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II commemoration at PACAF headquarters, Sept. 2, 2025.

The commemoration honored the sacrifices of WWII by laying a remembrance wreath in the Courtyard of Heroes, and paid tribute to the original dedication of the eternal flame. Daniel K. Inouye Jr. re-enacted the lighting of the eternal flame just as his father, Medal of Honor recipient and Hawaii Senator Daniel K. Inouye, did in 1995.

The Courtyard of Heroes was completed in 1995 with the erection of a large granite monument harboring the eternal flame at its center. The monument remembers the Pacific Airmen who served in World War II, Vietnam and Korea, and was commemorated on the 50th anniversary of the End of World War II.



Daniel K. Inouye Jr. lights the eternal flame at Pacific Air Forces, alongside Pacific Air Forces Deputy Commander, Gen. Laura Lenderman, during the 80th anniversary commemoration of the end of World War II, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Sept. 2, 2025. The commemoration re-enacted the original dedication in 1995, when Senator Daniel K. Inouye Sr. lit the flame for the first time. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff. Sgt. Elizabeth Taranto) ▲

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“Using virtual assets, the 505th Command and Control Wing roughly doubled the scope and scale of the live-fly element while providing theater-representative problem sets for the 613th Air Operations Center and the AFFOR [Air Force Forces] staff,” said U.S. Air Force Col. Ryan Hayde, 505th CCW commander.

The DMOC linked eight tactical C2 units, MQ-9 and naval simulators, personnel recovery assets, and the Air Force Reserve Command’s 349th Air Mobility Wing staff into the larger Bamboo Eagle environment. These connections tied directly to the 613th AOC and the AFFOR staff, bridging tactical decision-making to operational command.

Coalition C2 at Work

Beyond the DMOC’s synthetic environment, Royal Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force and Australian Army operational C2 members served within the 613th AOC and Joint Battle Watch. Together they synchronized real-world C2 for joint air and maritime operations in the Indo-Pacific Command’s area of responsibility. This included:

- Tasked tactical mission tasking for air expeditionary wings and maritime patrol forces
- Coordinated and synchronized joint all-domain fires in the JBW
- Integrated live operational assets, including intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance and personnel recovery missions
- Coordinated directly with the 613th AOC, JBW, AFFOR, and theater leadership

“Bamboo Eagle was an enlightening insight into the conduct of strategic level planning, to operational/tactical execution of very complex multi-domain missions within the USINDOPACOM theatre,” said RAAF Group Capt. Jeremy Feldhahn, Australian Defense Force Headquarters Joint Operations Command, Operations and Plans Branch director of theatre effects. “There were some great lessons in the command and control of these types of missions, when considering the vast distances, logistical challenges, and degraded communications.”

“This exercise showed that integration isn’t just about sharing airspace, it’s about sharing decisions,” said Hayde. “U.S. and coalition officers worked side by side making operational calls that directly impacted joint air and maritime operations.”

Allied Leaders Shape Planning and Decisions

This iteration expanded coalition participation at the planning level. For the first time, the Royal Air Force embedded Combat Air, Non-Kinetic Effects, and Space experts from the U.K. Air and Space Warfare Centre into the 613th AOC.

“I’m thrilled the RAF can now play a pivotal role in this specific planning environment at the joint level of warfare. In past iterations, our absence at this planning environment limited how U.K. assets could be tasked. This is an important first step toward routinely providing non-U.S. solutions for joint planners,” said RAF Wing Commander Richard Kinniburgh, BE 25-3 U.K. lead and 505th CCW RAF exchange officer.

He continued, “this allowed for RAF assets and capabilities to be brought to the joint planning environment, posturing for the return of live air platforms in exercise Bamboo Eagle 26-1.”

For the first time, Australian Defence Force specialists and operational SMEs integrated into the JBW, providing critical insight into multi-domain operations and strengthening joint and all-domain fires synchronization.

“Air Command and Headquarters Joint Operations Command involvement in Bamboo Eagle was excellent and provided opportunities to practice high-end planning and execution with our INDOPACOM peers,” said RAAF Wing Commander Stuart McLean, 88 Squadron commanding officer. “The integration between our forces was as close as I have experienced and the Air Command team certainly left the exercise with a greater understanding of how to work together.”

Additionally, RAF 11 Group embedded personnel within the 613th AOC, building on their near-full access to U.S. Air Force systems that would underpin any future conflict in the region.

Hayde added, “Embedding coalition leaders ensures their assets and capabilities are fully integrated. When allied officers inform operational decisions, we strengthen trust, use every platform effectively, and build the speed and confidence needed to act as one team in combat.”

Linking the Fight Through Distributed Training

The DMOC connected operational and tactical U.S. forces with coalition partners from their home stations, simulating contested airspace, degraded communications, and complex threats.

Coalition aircraft flew exclusively through virtual and constructive scenarios, while personnel integrated in both live and simulated environments. Key contributions included:

- Royal Canadian Air Force: Control Reporting Centre and Battle Control System-Fixed node in North Bay
- Royal Australian Air Force: E-7A Wedgetail crews, Distributed Training Centre advisory support, white force management for virtual and constructive AEW operations, and liaison officers
- Royal Air Force: Air Battlespace Training Centre members at RAF Waddington provided operational oversight for virtual air assets, fulfilled AEW leadership functions for RAF VC assets, and liaison officers



An integrated joint and coalition team listens to U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Christopher Niemi, U.S. Air Force Warfare Center commander, for a daily update during Exercise Bamboo Eagle 25-1 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii, Feb. 12, 2025. BE 25-1 is a large scale live-fly, virtual and constructive exercise, designed to employ command and control through rapid reaction, coordination, and integration of weapon systems in a combat-representative environment, generating combat air power while moving and sustaining the expeditionary air base in a dynamic environment across approximately 7.7 million square miles. (Screens, papers, charts, documents blacked out for security purposes.) (U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. Patrick Gargan) ▲

“Bamboo Eagle 25-3 provided the opportunity to integrate an RAF EAW [Expeditionary Air Wing] in direct support for U.S. Air Force-led coalition operations,” said RAF Wing Commander Mark Still, ABTC Officer Commanding, RAF BE 25-3 virtual EAW lead. “Embedding RAF personnel at every operating location, allowed us to gain experience whilst directly informing coalition operations and learning at every level.”


Still continued, “ASWC [U.K. Air and Space Warfare Centre] personnel at the 613th AOC and the 705th Combat Training Squadron ensured that the virtual and constructive sorties connected via the Gladiator system, from the ABTC in the U.K., were planned, executed, and accurately reported to the JFACC [Joint Force Air Component Commander] and COMAFFOR [Commander Air Force Forces]. We are proud of the continued support to Bamboo Eagle from the ASWC and aim to continue to grow this in the future iterations to add mass to the exercise and U.K. live-air contribution.”

Forging Trust and Readiness


Bamboo Eagle 25-3, a U.S. Air Force Warfare Center and Air Combat Command exercise, showcased how U.S. and allied forces integrate tactical and operational C2 across live and distributed environments. Each iteration builds on today’s challenges while preparing for tomorrow’s, ensuring forces remain ready for any threat.

“Coalition strength comes from shared decisions and shared responsibilities. Bamboo Eagle strengthens that bond so our nations can face future challenges together,” said Hayde.

The exercise also set the stage for Bamboo Eagle 26-1 in February, where U.S. and coalition forces and expanded scenarios will build on lessons learned. By integrating tactical and operational C2 across multi-domain live, virtual and constructive environments, Bamboo Eagle continues to prepare U.S. and allied forces for contested operations in the Indo-Pacific. This collaboration strengthens deterrence, addresses shared security concerns, and promotes a rules-based international order through multinational coordination.




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Staff Sgt. Jose Medina

By Senior Airman Rome Bowermaster
51st Fighter Wing

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jose Medina, 51st Civil Engineer Squadron electrical systems craftsman, was recognized as this week's Mustang of the Week for his leadership, technical expertise and dedication to keeping Osan's airfield mission-ready.

As the noncommissioned officer in charge of airfield lighting, Medina leads a small team that keeps the runways and taxiways illuminated for safe flight operations. Each morning, long before the sun rises, his crew hits the runway to inspect thousands of lights and strobes critical to Osan's flying mission.

"Every morning we arrive at 4 a.m., gather our equipment, and knock out about 50-100 lights every two weeks. Our main focus is ensuring the functionality of the airfield lighting."

— Staff Sgt. Jose Medina

Since arriving at Osan six months ago, Medina and his team of Airmen have repaired more than 600 airfield lights required to be fully operable for the safety of pilots and aircraft occupying, departing and arriving at the runway.

"Everyday, every night there are planes taking off, coming and

going, as well as other missions with the fighter jets," said Master Sgt. Philip Gautiere, 51st CES electric shop section chief. "If the airfield lighting is not operational then the mission will not be accomplished, so that's why Medina and his crew are extremely important."

Medina also finds pride in developing Airmen who are new to airfield operations.

"The best part is working with the Airmen and teaching them things," he said. "A lot of Airmen come here with no airfield experience, and I get to show them how it works. Then I watch them turn around and teach the next person."

Medina's drive for completing the mission, lifting Airmen, and excelling at his duties comes from within.

"I like to push my crew and myself everyday," said Medina. "I like to believe I'm the type of leader that motivates them. I'm with them in the trenches but they're the ones that produce."

By keeping the airfield lit, responsive and safe, Medina directly enables combat airpower generation, reinforces wing readiness and supports the 51st Fighter Wing's ability to "Fight Tonight."

Congratulations, Staff Sgt. Medina. Thanks to your work, Team Osan stays powered for the fight.

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jose Medina, 51st Civil Engineer Squadron electrical systems craftsman, poses for a photo at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 3, 2025. Medina was recognized as Mustang of the Week for his dedication to keeping Osan's runway well-lit and maintained. ▲



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jose Medina, 51st Civil Engineer Squadron electrical systems craftsman, inspects an approach light at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 3, 2025. Medina is tasked with maintaining and certifying the operability of the approach lights, ensuring pilots know whether to land, stop, or align with the runway depending on the color that is displayed. ▲



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jose Medina, 51st Civil Engineer Squadron electrical systems craftsman, troubleshoots different current intensities at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Sept. 3, 2025. The constant current regulator is responsible for sending electricity to all parts of the flightline, keeping signs and lights lit everyday for flightline operations. ▲

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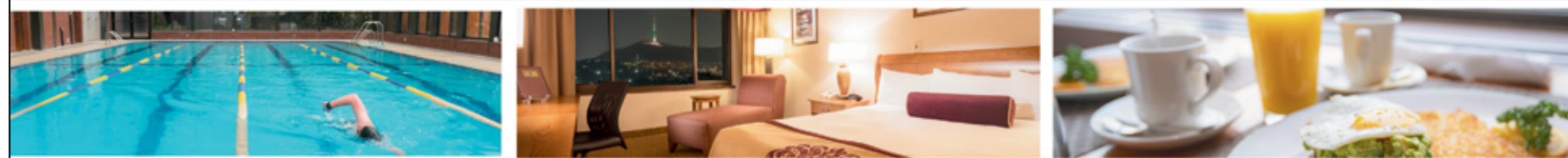
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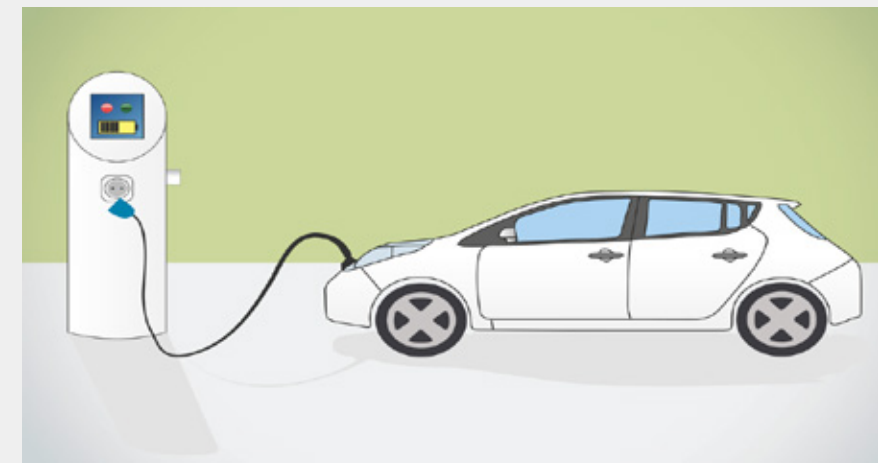
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Electrical Vehicle Fire Safety



As electric vehicles (EVs) become increasingly common, OSAN Fire Department is focusing on the unique challenges and opportunities they present. While EVs are generally safe and subject to rigorous safety standards, their lithium-ion batteries pose different fire risks compared to traditional vehicles powered by gasoline or diesel.

Data from the National Transportation Safety Board showed that EVs were involved in approximately 25 fires for every 100,000 sold.

Understanding these risks and adopting appropriate safety measures is critical for both the public and emergency responders.

The main fire risk in an EV comes from its high-energy lithium-ion battery. If the battery is damaged, overheated, or improperly charged, it can enter thermal runaway which is a chain reaction that produces intense heat, toxic smoke, and sometimes explosions. Unlike gasoline fires, which can often be controlled quickly, EV battery fires may burn for hours and even reignite days later.

The following safety tips can help minimize EV fire hazard/risks:

1. Use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
2. Read and follow all manufacturer directions.
3. Check chargers and cords for damage before using. Never use if damaged.
4. Do not use extension cords with the charger.
5. Install charging equipment in safe locations. Keep away from busy areas and things that could catch fire.
6. Keep charging items out of reach of children and animals when not in use.
7. Cover charging station outlet to keep water out.
8. Before charging an electric vehicle at home, have a qualified electrician:
 - Check your electrical system to see if it can handle charging.
 - Install a new circuit just for your charging device.

Electric vehicles are an important part of our transportation future. With precautions and responsible use, the risk of fire can be greatly reduced. Ultimately, community safety begins with everyday habits.

Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Fire Prevention Office at 784-3370/4741.

Are You Saved?

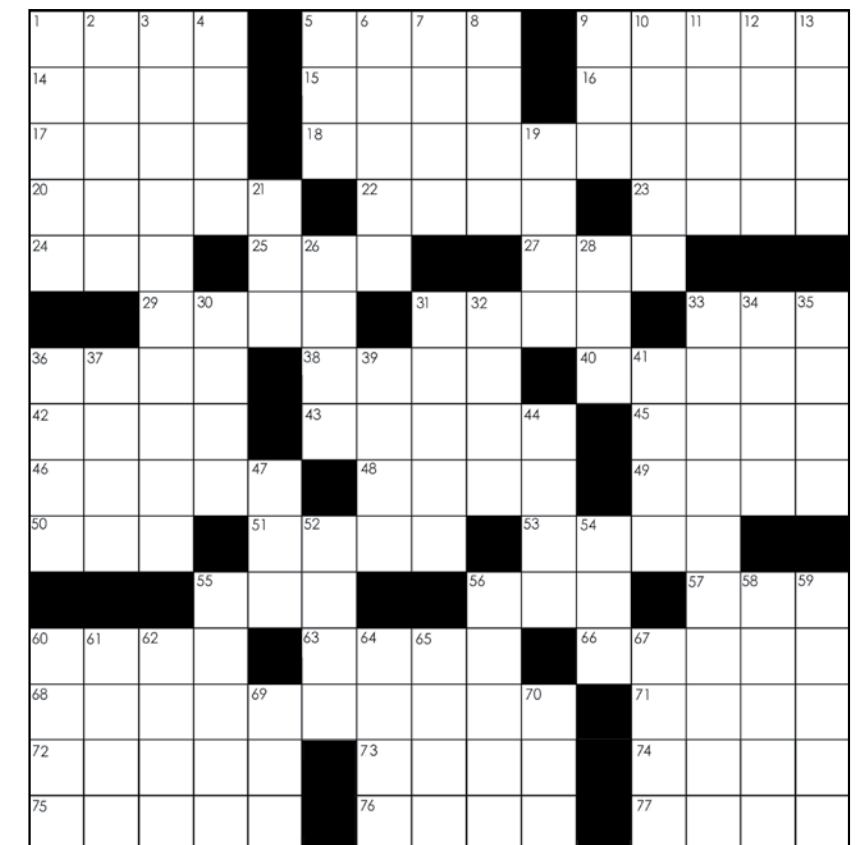
Jesus Saves!
Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved. [See: **Romans 3:10, 3:23, 5:12, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-10**, and pray & ask The Lord to save you.]

Haven Baptist Church
 Just outside the Front Gate at Kunsan AB
 - Preaching Christ 50+ years.

www.hbcingunsan.com
 Redeem this AD for a FREE COFFEE at church!

The Crossword

By Jon Dunbar



- ACROSS**
- 1 European mountain range
 - 5 "_____ will always love youuuuuu"
 - 9 San Antonio NBA team
 - 14 Opposite of less
 - 15 Cow noises
 - 16 "King of the Hill" town
 - 17 Object
 - 18 Fake news
 - 20 Ben or Jill
 - 22 Derriere
 - 23 Yellowjacket
 - 24 Sew
 - 25 Army detectives
 - 27 Not rent
 - 29 Christopher Robin's bear
 - 31 "You ___ my battleship!"
 - 33 Air Force detectives
 - 36 Bravery
 - 38 Goes with season or source
 - 40 Foot coverers
 - 42 _____ to win it
 - 43 Type of potty
 - 45 Dieter's unit
 - 46 The Yalu or Imjin
 - 48 Maned feline
 - 49 Downhill sled
 - 50 5G predecessor
 - 51 Japanese thick noodle
 - 53 Goes with booby or music
 - 55 "___ of Empires"
 - 56 Mad cow disease
 - 57 Google Play download
 - 60 ___ lock key
 - 63 Downtime
 - 66 Subway system
 - 68 Top secret
 - 71 Luxury company Christian
 - 72 Lotte World ___
 - 73 Premonition
 - 74 Foot pain
 - 75 Starbucks medium-size
 - 76 Soft drink
 - 77 Opposite of starts
- DOWN**
- 2 Horse-drawn carriage riders
 - 3 Korean-Japanese conglomerate
 - 4 Type of strike
 - 5 Big rig truck
 - 6 Electric guitar need
 - 6 US-Canada airspace defense
 - 7 Entrance
 - 8 Internet addresses
 - 9 Droop
 - 10 Jumbo shrimp
 - 11 Forearm bone
 - 12 "Be the ___"
 - 13 Goes with cold or election
 - 19 "___ Flux"
 - 21 Sgt or pvt
 - 26 Former pancake restaurant
 - 28 Longer than hrs, shorter than mos
 - 30 German river
 - 31 Nerve gas
 - 32 "Do ___ others"
 - 33 Military control of an area
 - 34 Karl Malden series
 - 35 ___ of Man
 - 36 Opposite of boy
 - 37 Formation
 - 39 Horseback sport
 - 41 Colo. neighbor
 - 44 Colony bugs
 - 47 Carpet
 - 52 Meat restaurant
 - 54 Michael Stipe's band
 - 55 Spy's source
 - 56 Drain of blood
 - 58 Strong and ___
 - 59 Computer holes
 - 60 Security camera
 - 61 ___ vera
 - 62 Chess piece
 - 64 Flying saucers
 - 65 Stretch car
 - 67 Sharp part
 - 69 ___ Lanka
 - 70 Genetic material

Answers to Previous Crossword	
ACROSS	1 NENE, 5 SNARE, 10 SCAR, 14 IDES, 15 AARON, 16 ARPA, 17 KNICKLESANDWICH, 20 GAR, 21 ION, 22 DUE, 23 MSS, 24 ORANGE, 27 ISLE, 29 OPPAS, 31 MWG, 33 ISSUE, 36 COHN, 37 MYEONGDONG, 39 TOY, 40 SEE, 41 VPN, 42 FIG, 43 EISENHOWER, 45 AARON, 46 ARPA, 47 TAIGA, 48 NOR, 49 BRAND, 50 OOPS, 52 ENTERS, 54 AGL, 56 AAS, 58 MIA, 59 SAR, 62 FRONTWHEELDRIVE, 66 RAGE, 67 ARENT, 68 BOIL, 69 ONYX, 70 SILTS, 71 INDI, 7 CUT, 8 ODE, 9 BERTH, 10 BUNYAN, 11 OVAL, 12 MEMO, 13 BAER, 21 AUXILIARY, 23 AWARENESS, 25 USPACOM, 26 NBA, 27 GALLEON, 28 BANGSI, 29 ELTON, 30 LIVID, 33 SAFER, 34 PLASMA, 5 JEONG, 6 ALT, 34 KARL MALDEN series, 35 ___ of Man, 36 Opposite of boy, 37 Formation, 39 Horseback sport, 41 Colo. neighbor, 44 Colony bugs, 47 Carpet, 52 Meat restaurant, 54 Michael Stipe's band, 55 Spy's source, 56 Drain of blood, 58 Strong and ___, 59 Computer holes, 60 Security camera, 61 ___ vera, 62 Chess piece, 64 Flying saucers, 65 Stretch car, 67 Sharp part, 69 ___ Lanka, 70 Genetic material



Opening day: The U.S. Air Force Academy Falcons football team takes the field against Bucknell University in their first game of the season in Colorado Springs, Colo., Aug. 30, 2025. Air Force defeated Bucknell 49-13, maintaining an undefeated start to the season. (U.S. Air Force photo by Ray Bahner) ▲

Mission complete: A B-1B Lancer assigned to the 345th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron is inspected on the flightline after landing at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, Aug. 22, 2025. The aircraft was one of three bombers deployed for Bomber Task Force Europe, supported by a total force integration team composed of approximately 30% active-duty Airmen from the 7th Bomb Wing and 70% reserve Airmen from the 489th Bomb Group. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jade M. Caldwell) ◀



A water training: Yenky, a military working dog assigned to the 509th Security Forces Squadron, bites Senior Airman Justus Johnson, 509th SFS military working dog handler, during water aggression training in Sedalia, Mo., Sept. 2, 2025. The training familiarizes military working dogs with an atypical environment and enhance their capability to apprehend a target in water. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Hastings) ◀

Guardian Angel: A U.S. Air Force pararescueman assigned to the 57th Rescue Squadron prepares to land after jumping from an HC-130J near Aviano Air Base, Italy, Aug. 8, 2025. The 57th Rescue Squadron leads, organizes, trains and equips Guardian Angel weapons system and combat support teams to conduct day and night personnel recovery operations in combat. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Joseph Bartoszek) ▶



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.

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 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

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

Mustang Community Center Yard Sale Event

Occurs Every 1st Saturday of Each Month | 1000-1300 | Bldg. 1313 (Big Room)

Is clutter taking over your home? It's time to reclaim your space! Our yard sale is the perfect opportunity to get rid of those unwanted or forgotten items and make room for a fresh start. Register now at the MCC front desk to secure your 1 table with 2 chairs. Registration fee: \$10
Note * This event is only for those who want to sell yard sale/excess items. This is not for home business or licensed vendors.*
For questions, contact the MCC front desk at osanabcommunitycenter@gmail.com or DSN: 784-3123 | Commercial: 0505-784-3123.

2025 Air Force Ball

October 10 | 1700 | Dragon Hill Lodge
This year's Air Force Ball will be at Dragon Hill Lodge. We are pleased to announce Command Chief, Pacific Air Force, CMSgt Kathleen McCool, as this year's guest speaker! Stay connected to our socials (found on the flyer) for the most up to date information and updates.
POC: Capt Esther Kim (esther.kim.9@us.af.mil), SMSgt Chelsie Kavitz (chelsie.kavitz@us.af.mil), MSgt Robert Schatz (robert.schatz@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

DMZ OPEN FESTIVAL

DMZ 느끼다: 전시·콘서트·국제음악제

DMZ 생각하다: 포럼

DMZ 걷다: 걷기·마라톤



주최·주관



열린 DMZ 더 큰 평화

2025.08.11 MON - 11.05 WED

DAF ignites energy innovation with microreactor pilot at Eielson AFB

Fairbanks, AK -- The Department of the Air Force, in collaboration with the Defense Logistics Agency-Energy, is propelling forward its groundbreaking microreactor pilot at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. This initiative aligns with the Department's strategic push to enhance energy security, resilience, and mission readiness through advanced nuclear technology.

From Aug. 25-27, the bi-annual Council for the Microreactor Pilot (CAMP) convened in Fairbanks, bringing together senior DAF leaders, federal and Tribal representatives, state and local officials, academic institutions, and industry experts. The multi-day event served as a pivotal moment to advance the pilot and foster meaningful engagement with the local community.

A key highlight of CAMP was the participation of Oklo, Inc., the selected offeror who received a Notice of Intent to Award in May—marking a major milestone for the pilot. If awarded the contract, Oklo would be responsible for siting, developing, operating, and decommissioning a microreactor licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

The DAF selected Eielson AFB as the preferred site based on its strategic location, robust infrastructure, and critical mission profile. The first-of-its-kind proposed microreactor would deliver 5 megawatts of electricity plus steam directly to the base's essential operations, offering a resilient, off-grid power source in one of the nation's most remote and demanding environments.

The week culminated in a well-attended public town hall on Aug. 27, moderated by Dr. Mike Sfraga, Ambassador (ret.) and Interim Chancellor at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. Over 120 community members gathered to learn how the DAF is leveraging advanced nuclear solutions to ensure safe, secure, resilient and reliable power.

"This pilot is about more than just powering Eielson Air Force Base," said Nancy Balkus, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Infrastructure, Energy, and Environment. "It's about demonstrating the potential of advanced nuclear to enhance energy security for the Air Force, the State of Alaska, and the rest of the nation. We are creating a playbook that can be used to deploy these technologies safely and effectively wherever they are needed."

Initiated in response to the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, the pilot is further supported by recent Executive Orders, including "Deploying Advanced Nuclear Reactor Technologies for National Security" issued in May. These directives underscore the urgency of securing domestically sourced energy for military operations, especially in austere and unpredictable environments.

"Our missions require us to operate 24/7, regardless of weather conditions or external grid vulnerabilities," Col Johnston, commander of the 354th Fighter Wing, explained. "A resilient energy supply is essential to maintaining our readiness and ensuring we can respond to any threat. This microreactor pilot offers the potential to significantly enhance our energy security and



Panelists discuss advanced nuclear strategy as part of the "Powering the Mission: Nuclear Energy as a Strategic Advantage" at the Alaska Defense Forum in Fairbanks, AK, August 27, 2025. (From left: Lucian Niemeyer, Nancy Balkus, Dr. Jess Gehin, Dr. Jeremy Kasper, Bill Goodwin, Col. Matthew Johnston). (Credit: Alaska Defense Forum) ▲



Colonel Matthew Johnston, commander of the 354th Fighter Wing, speaks about Alaska's strategic location at the Council for the Microreactor Pilot in Fairbanks, AK, August 25, 2025. (U.S. Air Force photo) ▲

support our critical missions here at Eielson."

Unlike traditional nuclear power plants, microreactors are compact, modular, and capable of operating independently from the electrical grid. They feature passive safety systems that automatically shut down the reactor in case of anomalies, explained Dr. Jess Gehin, Associate Laboratory Director at Idaho National Laboratory.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission plays a vital role in ensuring safety and environmental compliance. Laura Willingham, NRC Environmental Project Manager, outlined the agency's rigorous two-part review process, encompassing both safety and environmental evaluations.

"Oklo is committed to providing clean, reliable, and affordable energy on a global scale," said Bill Goodwin, Chief Legal & Strategy Officer at Oklo. "Our goal is to own and operate the microreactor, ensuring transparency, accountability, and a long-term commitment to the community."

Looking ahead, the department views the microreactor pilot as a pathfinder for future energy innovation across the Department of Defense. Insights gained from this deployment will inform best practices, streamline regulatory pathways, and shape the next generation of resilient energy solutions.

For more information on the microreactor pilot, visit: www.eielson.af.mil/microreactor/

The Warfighter's Spirit

The One and Only 'Me' in the Universe



By Maj (Sel) Kim, Do Woong, Won Buddhism Minister Mangho Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division Republic of Korea Army

Each of us is a unique being, one of a kind in this world and this universe. I love this quote! It comes from a Won-Buddhist cleric I respect while he was giving a lecture to a group of soldiers. It means 'Oneself' or 'I' is incomparable to anyone else; a unique, irreplaceable, and invaluable being. I could see the soldiers' eyes

light up at that moment.

People in modern society often don't know themselves well. They compare their lives to others, develop a sense of inferiority, and mistakenly believe that state is who they truly are.

Instead of seeing themselves as they are, they worry about how others perceive them. It would be fine if it stopped at worry, but it simultaneously erodes their self-esteem.

Especially now, in an era where everyone, regardless of age or gender, frequently uses social media, we can all peek into the lives and daily routines of others. This makes comparing one's own life to others' even easier. Even regular TV broadcasts reflect the daily lives of celebrities and even their families, causing people to feel a sense of disconnect or envy towards their own lives, further diminishing their self-esteem.

Here, the self-esteem of this being called 'I' begins to shrink endlessly once more. But as mentioned in the introduction, since this being called 'I' is unique in this universe, there is truly nothing to compare it to. Whether one has much or little money, a large or small house, if one strives to live their own life, the lives of others or the gaze of others will cease to matter.

There is no single perfect answer in life. Even if you were to step into the life of someone you envy, you would invariably face a new set of problems within it, yearning for yet another person's life and living a life that constantly tears you apart. So, if there is no perfect answer in life, but you recognize that there is this one

and only being called 'I' in this world and this universe, what should you do? I will tell you a very simple method.

First, put yourself into a calm setting and assume a comfortable posture to make it easier to clear your mind. Then, make your mind whole. Wholeness is not sharp or angular, but a rounded mind. It is a mind that is neither noisy, foolish, nor wrong. Let go of thoughts and focus entirely on your own mind right now.

That focused being is precisely 'me'. Since I am the only one of my kind in this world and universe, I cannot compare myself to others. Because comparison is impossible, I must live my own life. I set aside the mind of comparison and tend to my true heart, untouched by anything. From this moment onward, I can gradually recover my self-esteem. To describe that feeling, I come to sense that 'my heart is alive.' It is about living with that very heart. Then, at last, I will be able to rightly find within myself happiness, sorrow, joy, regret, resentment, and gratitude.

The ancient sages taught that the root is the foundation of a tree, and the mind is the foundation of a person. Though invisible to the eye, the mind is the unseen inner organ that transforms and governs our lives. The path to finding the one and only true self in the universe is to find our own original mind. I cheer for your only one in the universe. Thank you!

Translated by Ms. Kim, Ohsung, Language Specialist, 51 FW/HC

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

Osan AB Chapel (Building 780)

Protestant Service

Sunday Worship Service

Sunday @ 0930

Children's church

Sunday @ 0945

Halftime Bible Study

Monday - Friday @ 1100 (Classroom 5)

Catholic Mass

Catholic Sunday Mass

Sunday @ 1130

Confession

Sunday @ 1100-1125 (Blessed Sacrament Room)

Catholic Daily Mass

Monday - Thursday @ 1130 -1200 (Blessed Sacrament Room)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Come to me class

Thursday @ 1900

Fellowship

Friday @ 1900

Earth-Based Meeting

Wednesday @ 1830 (Classroom 6)

For the most current updates and announcements, Please visit our "Osan AB Chapel" Facebook Page: 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

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.j.kamzan@mail.mil

ISLAMIC - Pacific Victors Chapel

Fridays: 1200-1330 Jumrah 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



Night flight: An F-16 Fighting Falcon from the 114th Fighter Wing launches into night flying operations with the afterburner engaged at Joe Foss Field, S.D., Aug. 21, 2025. The afterburner provides a significant thrust boost by injecting fuel directly into the exhaust stream, enabling rapid acceleration and high-speed performance essential for combat operations. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Luke Olson) ▲

End of an era: A U.S. Air Force UH-1N Huey assigned to the 459th Airlift Squadron approaches Mount Fuji during its final operational flight at Yokota Air Base, Japan, Aug. 29, 2025. The UH-1N has maintained a presence at Yokota AB for 45 years, providing aeromedical evacuation, search and rescue and priority airlift missions throughout the Pacific. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jacob Wood) ◀

Wired differently: Staff Sgts. Tyler Casanova and Skyler Dick, 114th Maintenance Squadron aircraft electricians, service a temperature control unit on an F-16 Fighting Falcon during night flying operations at Joe Foss Field, S.D., Aug. 21, 2025. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Luke Olson) ▼



Home sweet home: U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Eric Kitaif, 555th Fighter Squadron commander, shares a moment with his family after returning from a deployment at Aviano Air Base, Italy, Aug. 22, 2025. During the deployment, the 555th FS played a vital role in bolstering regional security and strengthening coalition partnerships within the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jenna A. Bond) ◀



An Air Force Office of Special Investigations agent and Republic of Korea Air Force Investigative Agency team members search a suspect for evidence during a joint crime scene investigation training at Osan Air Base, ROK, Aug. 26, 2025. Integrating U.S. and ROK criminal investigation teams early to see how each team operates before an incident occurs builds trust and cooperation—becoming a force multiplier and increasing the effectiveness of joint investigations. ▲

U.S., ROK strengthen joint criminal investigation capabilities

By Staff Sgt. Tylir Meyer
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- Camera shutters echoed through the room. Pencils furiously brushed across paper. Evidence placards were placed delicately next to bullet casings as the room's occupants took deliberate, calculated steps.

The personnel documenting the training scene—clad in rubber gloves and disposable shoe covers—were U.S. and Republic of Korea crime scene investigators.

Teams from the U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations and ROK Air Force Investigative Agency conducted a joint crime scene investigation training Aug. 25-26, 2025. This marked the first iteration of hands-on training geared toward building cohesive investigative teams and improving mutual understanding of practices between allied forces when both have a vested interest in processing a crime scene on military installations.

“This exercise gave AFOSI and AFIA the opportunity to work shoulder-to-shoulder in a realistic scenario, practicing how we would secure and process a death involving both U.S. and ROK forces,” said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Alan Johnson, AFOSI 5th Field Investigations Squadron commander.



Republic of Korea Air Force Investigative Agency team members put on gear before entering a scene during a joint crime scene investigation training at Osan Air Base, ROK, Aug. 26, 2025. Integrating U.S. and ROK criminal investigation teams early to see how each team operates before an incident occurs builds trust and cooperation—becoming a force multiplier and increasing the effectiveness of joint investigations. ▲

An Air Force Office of Special Investigations agent takes a statement from first responders during a joint crime scene investigation training at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 26, 2025. Joint training creates a better understanding and interoperability between agencies, ensuring seamless operations when responding to an incident. ▶

Special Agents Jacqueline Chen, AFOSI Center Det. 1 Operating Location A forensic science consultant, and Gregory Swarz, 5th FIS warfighter, created a realistic scenario with simulated U.S. and ROK casualties requiring both AFOSI and AFIA to respond and investigate the scene.

The scene featured three mannequin casualties dressed in old uniforms serving as the victims of the day's training.

Once both teams arrived on-scene, they began their investigation—receiving statements from first responders, documenting the scene and collecting evidence.

Crime scene processing is meticulous to ensure the integrity of the scene and identify objective evidence that creates a comprehensive understanding of the situation.

Chen said both investigative teams handle the forensics piece and what needs to happen at the scene, but observed the approach to processing the scene is different. From her observations, AFIA teams focus on specific aspects of the scene one at a time, compared to AFOSI's approach to figuring out the overall conditions of the scene first.

“They [AFIA] start with a lens, very focused on one thing, and then they start slowly moving out,” said Swarz. “Whereas AFOSI, starts with the broad idea of everything. We figure out what the whole scene is first and then we start zooming in on specific things.”

After the hands-on portion concluded, the AFOSI and AFIA commanders arrived to discuss the importance of the joint training exercise. The discussion raised lessons learned and opened the door to future training between agencies.

“This joint scientific investigation training has provided a valuable opportunity to significantly strengthen our joint investigative capabilities through the sharing of advanced expertise and professional skills between ROK and U.S. investigative agencies,” said ROKAF Col. Chang-hyun Hong, AFIA commander.

Integrating U.S. and ROK criminal investigation teams early to see how each team operates before an incident occurs builds trust and cooperation—becoming a force multiplier and increasing the effectiveness of joint investigations.

“Training together in this way sharpens our skills, builds trust and interoperability between our teams, and ensures that when a real-world incident occurs, we can respond quickly, effectively and with precision,” Johnson said. “The ability to operate seamlessly together is critical to protecting our people and strengthening the alliance.”

An Air Force Office of Special Investigations agent processes evidence during a joint crime scene investigation training at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 26, 2025. Joint training creates a better understanding and interoperability between agencies, ensuring seamless operations when responding to an incident. ▼



Republic of Korea Col. Chang-hyun Hong, center, ROK Air Force Investigative Agency commander, and U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Alan Johnson, center right, 5th Field Investigations Squadron commander, discuss the exercise scenario after a joint crime scene investigation training at Osan Air Base, ROK, Aug. 26, 2025. This collaboration was the first iteration of hands-on training geared towards creating cohesive teams and understanding practices between the U.S. Air Force and ROKAF when both parties have a vested interest in processing a crime scene on military installations. ▲



A Republic of Korea Air Force Investigative Agency team member marks evidence during a joint crime scene investigation training at Osan Air Base, ROK, Aug. 26, 2025. Crime scene processing is meticulous to ensure the integrity of the scene and identify objective evidence that creates a comprehensive understanding of the situation. ▲



Traditional Korean Holiday of Bountiful Harvest, Chuseok

Chuseok, Korean Thanksgiving Day, is one of the biggest and most important holidays in Korea. Family members from near and far come together to share food and stories and to give thanks to their ancestors. In 2025, the day of Chuseok falls on October 6. As the day before and the day after are also part of the holiday, this year's holiday period is from October 5 to 8, including the weekend. Many Koreans visit their hometowns to spend quality time with their family. For tourists, the holiday also provides a good opportunity to experience traditional culture throughout Korea. Let's take a closer look at the traditional Korean holiday of Chuseok.



The Meaning of Chuseok (Hwangawi)

Chuseok is one of Korea's three major holidays, along with Seollal (Lunar New Year's Day) and Dano (the 5th day of the 5th lunar month). Chuseok is also referred to as hangawi. Han means "big" and gawi means "the ides of the 8th lunar month or autumn." According to the lunar calendar, the harvest moon, the largest full moon of the year, appears on the 15th day of the eighth month.

Traditions and Customs of Chuseok

Charye (ancestor memorial services) and Seongmyo (visit to family graves)



In the morning of the day of Chuseok, family members gather at the head house of the family to hold memorial services called charye in honor of their ancestors. Formal charye services are held twice a year: on Seollal and Chuseok. During Chuseok's charye, freshly harvested rice, alcohol and songpyeon (half-moon rice cakes) are prepared as an offering to the family's ancestors. After the service, family members sit down together at the table to enjoy delicious food, a tradition called Eumbok.

Another traditional custom of Chuseok is seongmyo, or visit to the ancestral graves. Seongmyo is an old tradition that is still carried out to show respect and appreciation for family ancestors. During seongmyo, family members remove weeds that have grown around the graves and pay their respects to the deceased with a simple memorial service.



Traditional Folk Games

As Chuseok is a celebration of harvest and abundance, the holiday period is made joyful with various entertainment and folk games such as ganggangsullae (Korean circle dance) and jegichagi (Korean shuttlecock game). Ganggangsullae is performed during Jeongwol Daeboreum (celebration of 15th day of the first lunar calendar) and Chuseok. In this dance, women dressed in hanbok join hands in a large circle and sing together on the night of the first full moon and on Chuseok. There are several stories about its origin. One of the most well-known stories says that the women wore military uniforms to deceive the enemy into thinking they were outnumbered. In jegichagi, players kick the jegi—a shuttlecock made with a coin wrapped in cloth or paper, with torn ends to make it flutter—in an effort to keep it up in the air and prevent it from touching the ground. In addition, pungmulnori and talchum (mask dance drama) are also significant festive entertainment. Rooted in nongak (community band music, dance and rituals), pungmulnori combines various Korea's musical instruments such as kkwaenggwari (hand-held gong), jangu (hourglass drum), buk (barrel drum), jing (large gong), and taepyeongso (conical oboe), with dynamic dance movements. Talchum is a traditional Korean performing art, where the performers wear masks, dance, and act.



Chuseok Foods

A variety of foods are prepared during Chuseok to celebrate the bountiful harvest of the year, and one of the most significant foods that represents Chuseok is songpyeon. Songpyeon is prepared with rice powder that is kneaded into a size that is a little smaller than a golf ball, and then filled with sesame seeds, beans, red beans, chestnuts, or other nutritious ingredients. During the steaming process, the rice cakes are layered with pine needles to add the delightful scent of pine. It is an old tradition for the entire family to make songpyeon together on the eve of Chuseok. An old Korean anecdote says that the person who makes beautifully shaped songpyeon will have a beautiful baby.



Other significant Chuseok foods include galbijjim (braised galbi) and jeon (Korean pancakes). Jeon are made by slicing fish, meat and vegetables and then lightly frying them in a batter of flour and eggs. Seasoned with sweet soybean sauce, tender braised galbi makes a perfect pair with traditional Korean liquor. Made with honey and rice syrup, hangwa (traditional Korean dessert and cookies), along with sikhye (sweet rice punch), are perfect for a refreshing finish. Chuseok is a time when families reunite, pay respects to their ancestors, and then gather around to enjoy foods like songpyeon, jeon, and alcohol—a cherished tradition of Chuseok holidays.



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Chuseok holiday events & festivals

Seoul | K-Food Festival Knock Knock
 Period: May 29 – December 31, 2025

Enjoy a special K-food night market taking place at Sejong-ro Park near Gwanghwamun Gate. A total of 30 food trucks offer traditional Korean cuisine and unique Korean cuisine, while live performances, pop-up craft stores, and participation events fill out the evening.

Seoul | Seoul Light Hangang Bitseom Festival
 Period: October 3 – October 12, 2025

Enjoy the largest laser media art show of Seoul, lighting up Trukseom Hangang Park. A one-of-a-kind fusion of nature, art, and technology unfolds against the stunning night views of Seoul.

Seoul | K-Royal Culture Festival
 Period: October 8 – October 12, 2025

The Royal Culture Festival takes place at the five royal palaces of Seoul and Jongmyo Shrine, showcasing royal culture through diverse programs, including traditional foods, crafts, and clothing.

Taeon, Chungcheongnam-do | Taeon Autumn Flower Exhibition
 Period: September 19 – November 4, 2025

Enjoy the autumn flower festival, adorned with cosmos, chrysanthemum, and pampas grass, offering excellent photo opportunities.

Andong, Gyeongsangbuk-do | Andong Maskdance Festival
 Period: September 26 – October 5, 2025

The Andong Maskdance Festival offers a vibrant experience of traditional culture through mask dance performances (Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity), parades, mask-making experience, and other interesting programs.

Suwon, Gyeonggi-do | Suwon Hwaseong Media Art "Mancheonmeongwal"
 Period: September 27 – October 12, 2025

The Suwon Hwaseong Media Art Mancheonmeongwal Show takes place at Hwaseong Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy performances, lighting art utilizing trees and the walking trail, an immersive media experience zone, and more.

Jinju, Gyeongsangnam-do | Jinju Namgang Yudeung Festival
 Period: October 4 – October 19, 2025

A festival that originated from the historical event of floating lanterns to block the enemy invasion. During the festival, visitors can enjoy a variety of events, including lantern floating, a large lantern display, hanging wishing lanterns, and a parade.



Chuseok holiday free admission

Seoul | Royal Palaces, Jongmyo Shrine & Joseon Royal Tombs
 Period: October 5-8, 2025

Enjoy free admission to the four royal palaces (Gyeongbokgung, Changdeokgung, Deoksugung, Changgyeonggung), Jongmyo Shrine, and Joseon royal tombs

Nationwide | Museum of Modern & Contemporary Art (Seoul, Deoksugung, Gwacheon, Cheongju)
 Period: October 5-8, 2025 (MMCA Seoul closed on the day of Chuseok)

All branches of the Museum of Modern & Contemporary Art will be open for free. Enjoy high-quality art exhibitions such as MMCA permanent exhibitions.
 Website: www.mmca.go.kr/eng

Nationwide | Recreational Forests
 Period: October 5-8, 2025

Admission to all 45 national recreational forests will be free for the Chuseok holiday period. The recreational forests, located out of the city, provide a quiet place to relax and get closer to nature.

* Closed days will vary by attraction. Please confirm details before visiting.

TIP Korean Traditional Clothing, Hanbok



Hanbok is a traditional Korean clothing that dates back to the Three Kingdoms period. It consists of a jeogori (top) and either a chima (skirt) or baji (trousers), with a durumagi (overcoat) completing the look. The fabric is cut flat and sewn, but when worn, it creates graceful curves that come to life. Today, it is primarily worn on important occasions such as traditional holidays, weddings, a baby's first birthday party, and ancestral rites. Hanbok rentals are easily available near royal palaces, hanok villages, and other historical attractions.



For More Information

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Korean Service Corps Battalion Leads First-Ever Self-Led Medical Training

By Maj. Jamal Murphy
Korean Service Corp Battalion

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — In the midst of Ulchi Freedom Shield 2025, the Korean Service Corps Battalion achieved a historic milestone: conducting its first-ever self-led casualty collection point training. For the first time, KSC personnel managed every aspect of a mass casualty drill, from triage to evacuation, with only minimal U.S. oversight.

“This training was a milestone for our battalion, proving that our Korean Service Corps members can independently lead critical medical tasks and reinforcing our overall readiness,” said Lt. Col. Michael K. Oh, KSC Battalion commander.

The KSC Battalion is unlike any other in the U.S. Army. With 18 companies and more than 2,000 Korean corps members, the unit works daily alongside American troops but has only three U.S. service members in its ranks. Since the Korean War, KSC members have supported operations across the peninsula. Today, they wear Army uniforms, train to “Fight Tonight” standards and now have demonstrated they can independently conduct lifesaving drills.

During the exercise, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company team transformed a training site into a battlefield aid station with triage, treatment and evacuation areas. KSC members rotated through roles as litter bearers, triage officers and recorders, taking full responsibility for patient flow and decision-making.

“By taking charge of our own training, we empowered our team and built a stronger understanding of how to save lives under pressure,” said Sim, Chae Min, HHC commander.

Two U.S. Army medics, Spc. Justin M. Dunfee and Pfc. Michael J. Marusicz of the 568th Medical Company, observed the drill and offered mentorship.

“This wasn’t just a training event — it was a demonstration of what joint interoperability looks like when doctrine meets dedication,” said Marusicz.

The exercise also integrated Republic of Korea Army medical procedures to mirror a combined wartime response. Once KSC members stabilized a casualty, they coordinated handoff to notional ROK Army evacuation assets, reinforcing alliance medical interoperability.

“We coordinated with U.S. medical advisors and aligned with ROK Army protocols to make the scenario as realistic as possible,” said Yang, Sung Han, HHC executive officer.

Observers praised the professionalism of the KSC team, noting their performance met U.S. Army safety and effectiveness standards. For many participants, it was the first time they had taken full leadership in a mass casualty drill, and feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

“Our KSC personnel set a new standard by planning and executing this training themselves, and their confidence and competence have grown tremendously,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin I. Gibson, KSC Battalion.

Looking ahead, KSC leaders plan to expand self-led casualty collection point drills across all 18 companies, making them a recurring part of training.

From its Korean War roots as the “A-frame Army,” the KSC has once again proven its value to the alliance — this time by carrying the responsibility of battlefield medical care. Through innovation and empowerment, the battalion has shown it is ready to save lives and uphold the ROK-U.S. motto: We Go Together.



Soldiers conduct medical training, practicing casualty care and evacuation procedures. (Courtesy, US Army) ▲



Soldiers stand next to an Army field ambulance while reviewing medical evacuation procedures during training. (Courtesy, US Army) ▲



Lt. Col. Mike Oh, KSC Battalion Commander provides instruction during the casualty collection point medical training. (Courtesy, US Army) ▲



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