

Crimson Sky

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U.S., Japan, Republic of Korea Conduct Second Trilateral Aerial Exercise

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command

For the second time this year, fighter aircraft from the U.S., Japan, and the Republic of Korea conducted a trilateral escort flight of U.S. bombers operating in the Indo-Pacific, Dec. 20, 2023.

U.S. F-16s from the 80th Fighter Squadron, 8th Fighter Wing flew alongside Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) F-2s from the 8th Air Wing, and Republic of Korea Air Force (ROKAF)

F-15Ks from the 11th Wing, escorting two U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancers.

The continued high-end interoperability of our collective forces demonstrates the strength of the trilateral relationship with our Japan and Republic of Korea allies. Our international cooperation is reflective of our shared values and resolve against those who challenge regional stability.

We remain committed to peace and prosperity in the region to uphold a free and open Indo-Pacific.

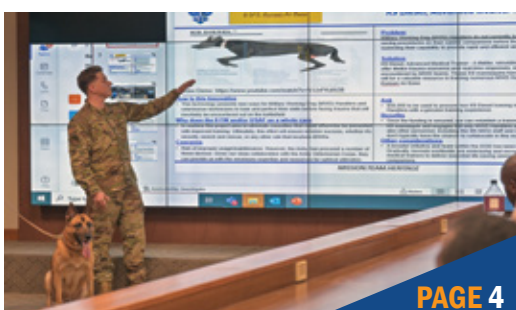


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7th Air Force

Commanding General/Publisher
Lt. Gen. Scott L. Pleus

Public Affairs Officer/Editor
Maj. Rachel E. Buitrago

Editor/COR
Park, Do Young

Editor/Staff Writer
Master Sgt. Eric M. Burks

51st Fighter Wing

Commander
Col. William McKibban

Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Victoria A. Wright

Staff Writers
Tech Sgt. Kristin S. High
Staff Sgt. Tristan T. Truesdell
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A1C Aaron M. Edwards

8th Fighter Wing

Commander
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Public Affairs Officer
Capt. K. Paige Hankerson

Staff Writers
Lt. Brandon DeBlanc
Tech. Sgt. Emili Koonce
Staff Sgt. Samuel Earick
Staff Sgt. Jovan Banks
SrA Karla Parra

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Marketing Director
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Commercial Advertising
Telephone: 02-6903-6815 / 010-4016-8048
E-mail: oriental.press.eric@gmail.com
oriental_press@outlook.com

Address: PSC 450, Box 758, APO AP 96206-0758
Location: Dragon Hill Lodge, Bldg. 4050-B

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Airmen assigned to the 8th Maintenance Group clear snow and ice in front of an F-16 Fighting Falcon hangar at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 20, 2023. Despite 10 inches of snowfall, Kunsan AB launched fighter jets to conduct a trilateral escort flight of U.S. bombers operating in the Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Emili Koonce) ▲

Kunsan AB civil engineers, maintainers, leaders clear the path

**By Tech. Sgt. Emili Koonce
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- Kunsan Air Base experienced 10 inches of snowfall on Dec. 20.

8th Civil Engineer Squadron Airmen, maintenance Airmen and wing leaders jumped into action to ensure the Wolf Pack mission did not stop.

8th CES Airmen cleared most snow and ice across the base using heavy machinery. On the flightline, maintenance Airmen alongside Col. Matthew C. Gaetke, 8th Fighter Wing commander, pulled out shovels in front of F-16 Fighting Falcon hangars, to ensure flight operations could continue in a timely and safe manner.

The same day, Kunsan AB launched fighter jets to conduct a trilateral escort flight of U.S. bombers operating in the Indo-Pacific. 35th Fighter Squadron F-16s flew alongside Japan Air Self-Defense Force F-2s and ROK Air Force F-15Ks as they escorted 2 U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancers.

From the left, Senior Airman Alyssa Hart, 35th Fighter Generation Squadron avionics journeyman, and Col. Matthew C. Gaetke, 8th Fighter Wing commander, clear snow and ice in front of an F-16 Fighting Falcon hangar at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 20, 2023. Despite 10 inches of snowfall, Kunsan AB launched fighter jets to conduct a trilateral escort flight of U.S. bombers operating in the Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Emili Koonce) ◀



8th Civil Engineer Squadron Airmen operate heavy machinery to clear snow and ice on the flightline at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 20, 2023. 8th CES Airmen are mission essential members who are the first to respond to natural disasters and ensure the base can resume operations. (U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Brandon DeBlanc) ▲



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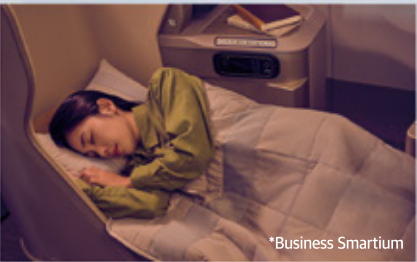
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Master Sgt. Herman Bowser, Wolfwerx spark cell team member, addresses the 8th Fighter Wing commander before Airmen present their innovation ideas at a Wolfwerx event at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 28, 2023. Wolfwerx is an innovation team dedicated to supporting ways to improve mission capabilities at Kunsan AB. (U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Emili Koonce)

The Wolf Pack reinforces innovative successes

By Tech. Sgt. Emili Koonce
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- The Wolf Pack's innovation team, Wolfwerx, sponsored the presentation of four creative ideas for the 8th Fighter Wing commander's consideration Dec. 28.

Four teams presented cutting-edge solutions to improve their work centers to Col. Matthew C. Gaetke, 8th FW commander, Maj. Christopher McLeod, 8th FW director of staff, and Chief Master Sgt. Scott Bradbury, 8th Maintenance Group senior enlisted leader.

Ideas ranged from improved training resources to wireless communication appliances.

"Thank you for taking the time to present these plans that leave Kunsan better than the way you found it," said Bradbury. "You are creating solutions that are going to last and sustain the Wolf Pack's status as a premier warfighter wing."

Master Sgt. Randall Vaughn, 8th Operations Squadron radar approach control system assistant chief controller, discussed the benefits of air traffic controllers using wireless headsets. Vaughn cited how controllers are leashed to their workstations and the negative mission



Master Sgt. Randall Vaughn, 8th Operations Squadron radar approach control system assistant chief controller, presents his innovative idea at a Wolfwerx event at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 28, 2023. Vaughn's proposal for wireless air traffic control headsets was supported by the 8th Fighter Wing command and the funding process is underway to bring this technology to the 8th OSS. (U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Emili Koonce) ▲

Staff Sgt. Henry Pearson, 8th Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, presents his innovative idea at a Wolfwerx event at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 28, 2023. During the meeting, Pearson received feedback from the counsel of leaders and continues to refine his solution for future review. (U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Emili Koonce) ►

impact it has when a watch supervisor needs to move freely. This limitation is most noticeable while supervising the complex scenarios that occur during increased air traffic. The 8th FW commander authorized support of his proposal and the funding process is underway to bring this support to the 8th OSS.

From the 8th Security Forces Squadron, Staff Sgt. Henry Pearson, military working dog handler, presented a proposal to bring updated training technology directly to handlers on base. In coordination with veterinarian technicians, MWD handlers would use this resource to train and hone their abilities to respond quickly to emergencies when a veterinarian may be unavailable and reduce the risk of suffering a MWD casualty. Pearson received feedback from the counsel of leaders and continues to refine his solution for future review.

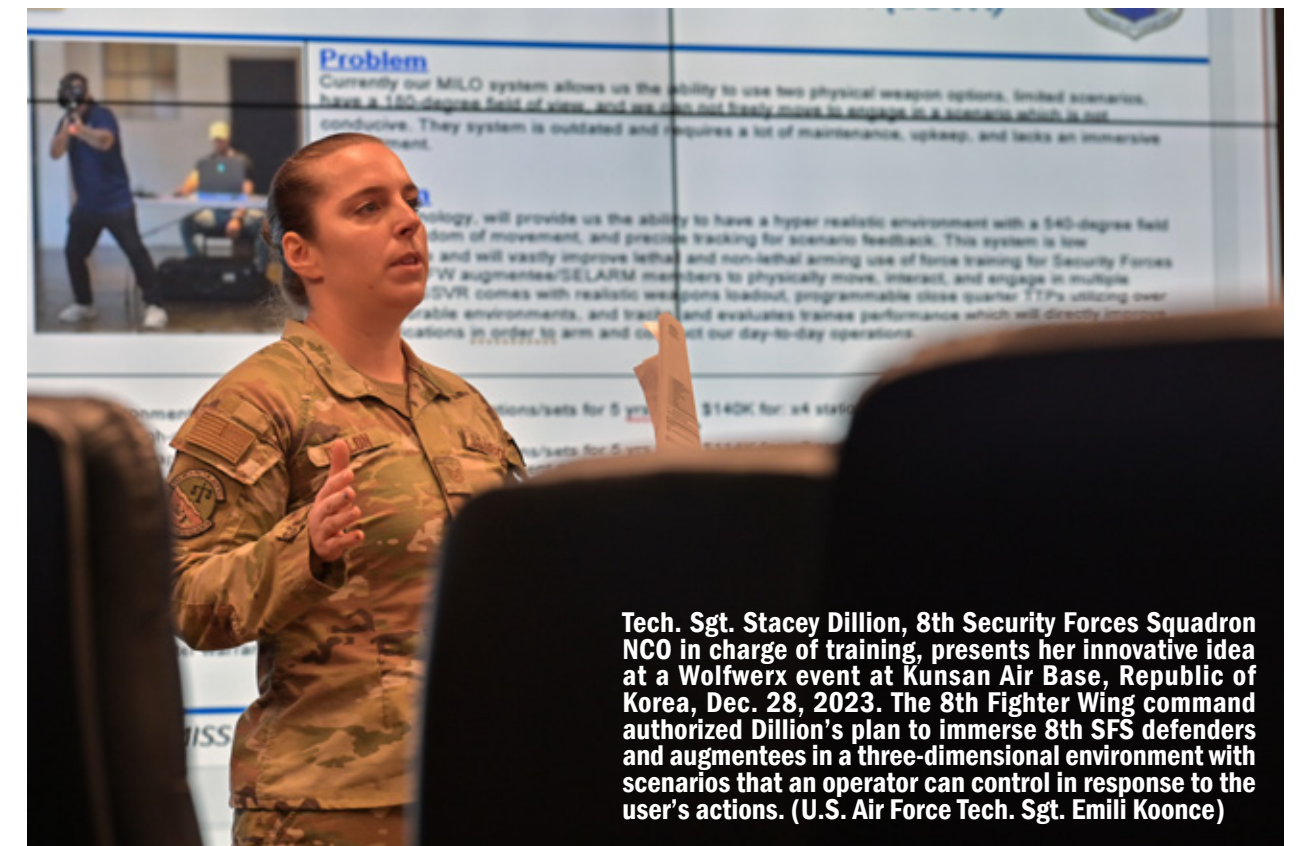
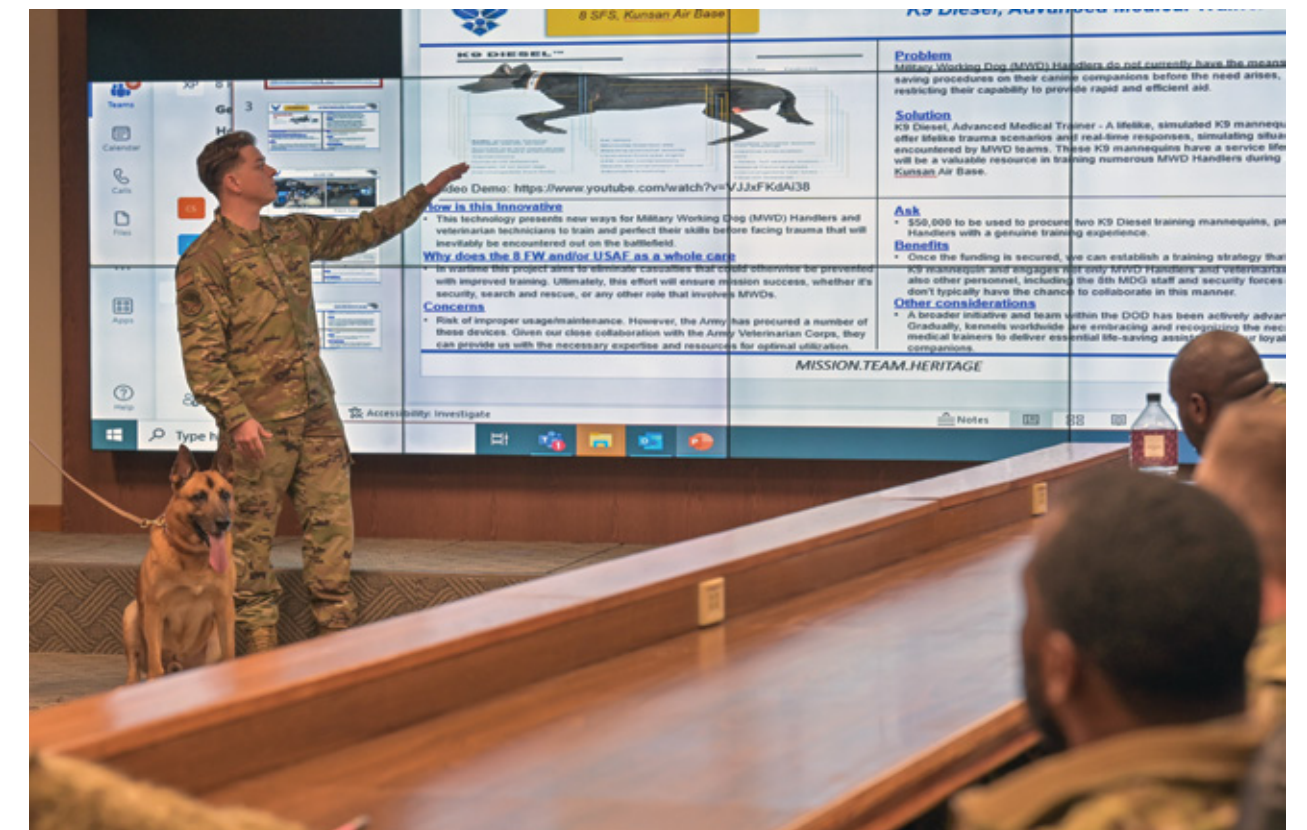
Tech. Sgt. Stacey Dillion, 8th SFS NCO in charge of training, proposed more interactive and realistic training through the use of virtual reality. Dillion's plan is to immerse 8th SFS defenders and augmented forces in a three-dimensional environment with scenarios that an operator can control in response to the user's actions. The 8th FW commander authorized support of her proposal and the funding process is underway to bring this technology to the 8th SFS.

The 8th SFS NCO in charge of small unmanned aircraft systems, Staff Sgt. Nathan Johnson, recommended bolstering the squadron's current fleet of drones. His presentation led to deep discussion between the panel leaders and the sUAS team. All concluded additional research from field testing was necessary to improve further the team's ability to provide real-time information on and around Kunsan AB. 8th SFS is in coordination with mission partners and will revisit this proposal with the 8th FW commander next quarter.

"You shouldn't shoot small when trying to change the Air Force," said Gaetke. "The way we bring about change starts with data and experience, so thank you for thinking about things we can be doing better here at Kunsan and in the Air Force."

Overall, the Wolf Pack will invest \$117,000 in innovative projects brought forward by the Wolfwerx team. If you'd like to connect with Wolfwerx, email them at 8fw.Operation.BOLO@us.af.mil

Staff Sgt. Nathan Johnson, 8th Security Forces Squadron NCO in charge of small unmanned aircraft systems, presents his innovative idea at a Wolfwerx event at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 28, 2023. Johnson's proposal was discussed in-depth with the 8th Fighter Wing commander and will be revisited next quarter after additional research and field testing is conducted. (U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Emili Koonce) ►



Tech. Sgt. Stacey Dillion, 8th Security Forces Squadron NCO in charge of training, presents her innovative idea at a Wolfwerx event at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 28, 2023. The 8th Fighter Wing command authorized Dillion's plan to immerse 8th SFS defenders and augmentees in a three-dimensional environment with scenarios that an operator can control in response to the user's actions. (U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Emili Koonce)



InBody: Elevating fitness into the new year

By Senior Airman Kaitlin Castillo
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- This time of year, many people choose their new year's resolutions to start working on. Individuals choose to focus on growth, wealth, school, and fitness as some examples. Here, at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, the 51st Operational Medical Readiness Squadron health promotion office utilizes the InBody machine, as a starting point to aid those on their new fitness journey.

The machine can determine a participant's body fat percentage, muscle, water content and resting metabolic rate. The machine sends electrical currents through their hands and feet to calculate the results.

"The InBody is a great tool to assist jumpstarting anyone's health goals," said Troisha Busano, 51st OMRS health promotion program coordinator. "With the information it gives me, I'm able to help people with whatever they're struggling with and give them recommendations to achieve their goals."

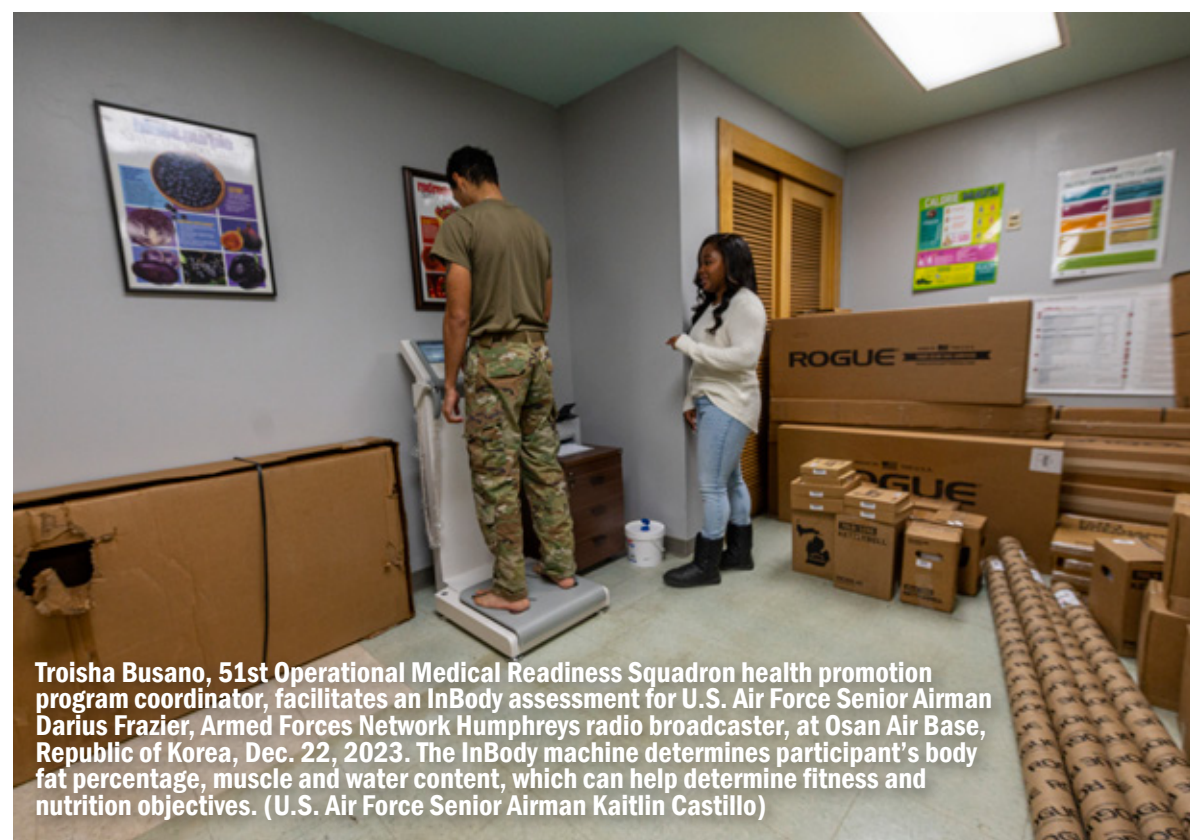
To get the most accurate results customers are recommended to avoid eating and vigorous exercise two hours prior to their appointment.

"There's never a wrong or right time to start focusing on your health," said Busano. "I think the InBody empowers people to get started on that journey."

Appointments can be made Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. with the 51st OMRS health promotion office. For more information on the InBody, contact Troisha Busano at 315-784-4261.



Troisha Busano, 51st Operational Medical Readiness Squadron health promotion program coordinator, discusses InBody results with U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Darius Frazier, Armed Forces Network Humphreys radio broadcaster, at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, December 22, 2023. The assessment helps determine participant's body fat percentage, muscle and water content, which can help determine fitness and nutrition objectives. The Health Promotion office also provides classes on sleep, nutrition and tobacco cessation. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kaitlin Castillo) ▲



Troisha Busano, 51st Operational Medical Readiness Squadron health promotion program coordinator, facilitates an InBody assessment for U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Darius Frazier, Armed Forces Network Humphreys radio broadcaster, at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 22, 2023. The InBody machine determines participant's body fat percentage, muscle and water content, which can help determine fitness and nutrition objectives. (U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Kaitlin Castillo)



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Darius Frazier, Armed Forces Network Humphreys radio broadcaster, participates in an InBody assessment at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, December 22, 2023. The assessment helps determine participant's body fat percentage, muscle and water content, which can help determine fitness and nutrition objectives. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kaitlin Castillo) ▲

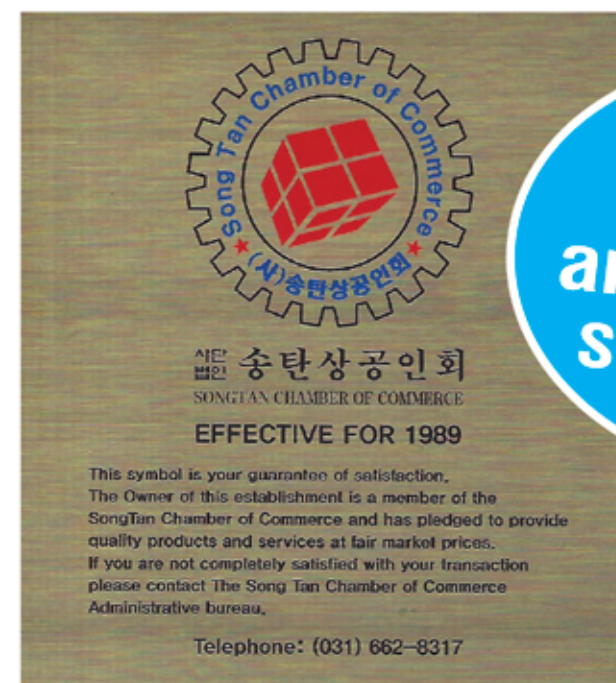
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Jocelynn Lashier, center, Kunsan Air Base sexual assault response coordinator, conducts a sexual assault prevention and response training for members of the 8th Operations Support Squadron at Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea, Dec. 28, 2023. The SAPR team encourages members who have experienced sexual assault and require assistance to first get to a safe location and then contact the SARC or victim advocate. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Karla Parra) ▲

Kunsan SAPR educates to prevent violence

By Tech. Sgt. Emili Koonce
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- While serving a short tour at Kunsan AB may feel just as emotionally remote as it is physically, the Wolf Pack's deputy sexual assault response coordinator, 1st Lt. Kathleen Scanlan, wants members to know they are not alone.

"We may be separated from our families and friends but I'm here to make sure that service members have access to the built-in support system of the SAPR program while they're stationed here," said Scanlan.

Kunsan AB's SAPR office hosts a SARC and deputy SARC, a victim's advocate, as well as three active duty Airmen who serve as volunteer victim advocates.

"We're here for anyone who's gotten hurt or needs someone to talk to," said Scanlan. "It's our role to make sure that their mental health is taken care of and that they're getting the resources and support they need."

The SAPR office can assist members as they navigate their reporting options and provide accurate information for members to make informed decisions.

Scanlan explained how the service member's health is her number one priority and how a sexual assault can



From left, Jocelynn Lashier, Kunsan Air Base sexual assault response coordinator, 1st Lt. Kathleen Scanlan, deputy SARC, and Shazale Ramsey, Kunsan AB's sexual assault prevention and response victim advocate, gather for a photo near an informational booth at Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea, Dec. 28, 2023. The SAPR team serves as the installation's primary sexual assault victim advocates, providing support, advocacy, and liaison services to eligible military and civilian sexual assault victims in accordance with DoD and AF policies. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Karla Parra) ▲

impact the base's mission.

"Any mental and or physical injury that can occur after a sexual assault impacts not just that person's life but the whole team at Kunsan," said Scanlan. "People may not be able to continue working or they may even be sent away to receive the treatment they require and that's one more person not in the fight."

Dedicated to keeping Airmen in the fight, Jocelynn Lashier, Kunsan AB's SARC, regularly teaches service members about SAPR and violence prevention programs.

"I want to encourage Airmen to be good wingmen by being proactive when they notice something they know is unacceptable," said Lashier. "It is imperative that leaders continue to support SAPR program initiatives and engage with those around them through education as a primary prevention of violence."

The SAPR team encourages members who have experienced sexual assault and require assistance to first get to a safe location and then contact the SARC or victim advocate at DSN 315-782-7272. For contact information please visit www.kunsan.af.mil/Wolf-Pack-Helping-Agencies/SAPR



Jocelynn Lashier, right, Kunsan Air Base sexual assault response coordinator, conducts a sexual assault prevention and response training for members of the 8th Operations Support Squadron at Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea, Dec. 28, 2023. These trainings reinforce the Air Force's commitment to eliminate incidents of sexual assault through education and prevention training, advocacy, reporting and accountability. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Karla Parra) ▲

The Wolf Pack sustains operations around the clock

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- With nearly 40 F-16 Fighting Falcons assigned to the 8th Operations Group's 80th and 35th Fighter Squadrons, the Wolf Pack is capable of providing combat airpower round-the-clock to defend peace on the Korean Peninsula and support Indo-Pacific priorities.

Always ready. Always watching. May God have mercy on the Wolf Pack's prey.



Two U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons assigned to the 35th Fighter Squadron, soar over the Indo-Pacific, Dec. 20, 2023. U.S. F-16s from the 35th FS, 8th Fighter Wing flew alongside Japan Air Self-Defense Force F-2s from the 8th Air Wing and Republic of Korea Air Force F-15Ks from the 11th Wing, to conduct a trilateral escort flight of two U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancers operating in the Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Karla Parra) ▲



U.S. Airmen from the 51st Fighter Wing participate in problem identification training at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 19, 2023. The training is hosted by the MustangWERX innovation team, and is offered as a professional development opportunity intended to educate the base population on how to single out inefficiencies in their respective career fields. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Chase Verzaal)

51st FW stands up innovation cell

By Airman 1st Class Chase Verzaal
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- With prioritizing innovation at the forefront of its strategic objectives, the 51st Fighter Wing marked a significant milestone by standing up its new wing innovation cell, the MustangWERX office, at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Nov. 22, 2023.

This initiative signals a new era of enhanced capabilities and forward-thinking approaches within the wing.

"Innovation is not just a buzzword at the 51st FW, it's the backbone of our operational superiority and efficiency," said U.S. Air Force Col. Paul Davidson, 51st FW deputy wing commander. "Our Airmen's ability to transform creative ideas into tangible enhancements in manpower and resource utilization is essential. This innovative mindset is our greatest asset, equipping us with the agility and adaptability to meet any threat head-on."

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Matthew Connelly, 51st FW innovation officer, is at the forefront of the MustangWERX office. He emphasized that innovative thinking will be pivotal in resolving challenges, optimizing expenditures, and streamlining processes.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jesse Covert, 694th Intelligence Support Squadron Airman, participates in problem identification training at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 19, 2023. This training allows the MustangWERX innovation team to encourage Airmen to brainstorm ideas and utilize problem solving skills to more effectively complete daily tasks. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Chase Verzaal) ▲

"The MustangWERX office is focused on process improvement," said Connelly. "Our mission revolves around three key pillars: education, cultivation, and recognition. The focus is on harnessing these elements to better leverage the 51st FW's limited resources, manpower, and finances. This is crucial for maintaining a competitive edge and staying ahead of evolving challenges."

Since its establishment, the WERX team has been fostering innovative thinking through various events, including a series of innovation sprints and problem identification training.

Sprints provide a platform for Osan Airmen to propose creative solutions and foster dialogue on enhancing mission effectiveness. These open forums are catalysts for encouraging innovative thinking across the base.

During problem identification training, participants engage in exercises to hone skills in recognizing issues within unfamiliar processes. This training is instrumental in educating base personnel on the most effective methods to identify problems.

"Throughout the Air Force, events like these are fostering change," said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Brittany Bell, 51st Munitions Squadron training supervisor. "By leveraging the insights of Airmen who face daily inefficiencies, we're driving substantial improvements, and making a difference."

Innovative initiatives are vital in enhancing efficiency and elevating the "Fight Tonight" mission. MustangWERX is quickly becoming a central pillar at Osan, marking a new era in the wing's approach to problems and problem solving.



U.S. Airmen from the 51st Fighter Wing prepare for an exercise during a problem identification training at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 19, 2023. The exercise simulated the administrative tasks behind scheduling medical appointments, allowing students to identify weaknesses within the processes. Learning how to identify problems provides an opportunity for Airmen to search for areas of improvement in their daily operations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Chase Verzaal) ▲



Members of the 51st Fighter Wing MustangWERX innovation team discuss ideas during a sprint at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 8, 2023. The ideas were discussed with the intention of empowering Airmen to address ineffective processes in the operational environment and improve the 51st FW's ability to execute the "Fight Tonight" mission. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Chase Verzaal) ▲

51st MXS metals technicians forge the fight

By SrA Brittany Russell
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- 51st Fighter Wing metals technicians hone their machinist and welding skills at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 22, 2023. From repairing essential aircraft components to creating parts from scratch, metals technicians play a critical role in the functioning of 51st Fighter Wing aircraft.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Clement Chhay, 51st Maintenance Squadron metals technology craftsman, prepares a lathe at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 22, 2023. Metals technicians play an integral role in mission readiness by maintaining critical aircraft structures and components, ensuring the 51st Fighter Wing remains ready to "Fight Tonight." (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brittany Russell) ▲

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Clement Chhay, 51st Maintenance Squadron metals technology craftsman, poses for a photo at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 22, 2023. Metals technicians from the 51st MXS repair essential aircraft parts and are also tasked with creating components from scratch, ensuring nothing stops the 51st Fighter Wing from executing its mission. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brittany Russell) ▲



A U.S. Air Force A-10C Thunderbolt II assigned to the 25th Fighter Squadron takes off at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Oct. 30, 2023. The A-10 was designed for close air support of friendly ground troops, engaging armored vehicles and tanks, and providing quick-action support against enemy ground forces. At the 51st Fighter Wing, the 25th FS and the A-10 play a crucial role in the defense of Osan AB and the ROK. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Thomas Sjoberg)

Let's fly together

By 1st Lt. Michelle Chang
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs/
7th Air Force Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- "Congratulations! You have been selected for the T-50 Honorary National Pilot Program incentive flight at ADEX on Oct. 21," the email read. Ecstatic, I yelled out to my office, "I got it! Guess who's going up in a Korean jet!"

I became emotional as one of my teammates shared in the excitement, verbalizing the significance of this flight for me and my family. "This is such an incredible opportunity for you Lt," she said. "And the personal story tied to this experience... I imagine your grandfather looking down at you so proud and thrilled for you."

Let's get into the context.

**Honorary National Pilot Program:
Background and selection process.**

Every two years, the Honorary National Pilot Program, run by the Republic of Korea Air Force, selects a group of Korean citizens to participate in a T-50 incentive flight as part of the biennial Seoul International Aerospace and Defense Exhibition (ADEX), an international exhibition and air show held in South Korea. This was the first year since

ADEX began in 1996 that the ROK expanded this program to include a U.S. military service member, a change made in honor of the 70th anniversary of the ROK-U.S. alliance.

I had just found out that I was the lucky 7th Air Force nominee, chosen from among nominees selected for their family ties to the Korean War, in recognition of my paternal grandfather's service) in the ROK Air Force during the 38th Parallel Conflict (as they call it in South Korea).

Chang Young Sun served as a senior noncommissioned officer during the Korean War and for several years following. He initially was an aircraft maintainer before cross-training into the Air Force Military Police toward the end of the active conflict, when he worked as an MP alongside many U.S. troops until the end of his service. He went on to work for Northwest Airlines at Yeoido International Airport for some years and spent much of his working life on aircraft.

During the war, while the North Korean forces were pushing their way down the peninsula, his unit was directed to retreat to the peninsula's southernmost region. He and a friend, on their way down, took the risk of stopping by their camp to check for personnel and equipment. Once there, they found the area abandoned, with tons of weapons, vehicles, fuel and equipment left behind, all valuable resources for North Korean forces. My grandfather and his friend loaded up as much as

they could take with them and then compiled and burned all of the remaining equipment to prevent its use by enemy forces. This act of outstanding decision making was recognized during the 60th anniversary of the Korean War, decades later, and he was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal (Moo Gong Heun Jang) by the ROK.

Chang immigrated to the United States in 1985 along with his children (to include my father, who was joined shortly after by my mother), where they built a whole new life in Southern California. I grew up driving up to Los Angeles to see my grandparents at least once a month or so. On December 12, 2018, we lost him to health complications. After 88 fruitful years of life, Chang Young Sun left this earth with a lasting legacy, ready to watch his family continue it from above.

After the loss, the family shared many stories about my grandfather and his character. Although with age he had become notorious for his grumpiness and stubbornness, he was remembered fondly as a selfless father and a brave man who had a "nuld eun ma-eum," Korean for a wide and generous heart. It was my honor to follow in his footsteps as a first-generation Korean-American service member and have the incredible opportunity to be assigned to Korea as my second duty station.

< Continued on Page 20 >

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25th FGS celebrates new Dedicated Crew Chiefs

By Senior Airman Trevor Gordnier
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- The 25th Fighter Generation Squadron held a ceremony to recognize 45 new dedicated crew chiefs for outstanding continued performance at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 19, 2023.

The ceremony allows 25th FGS leadership to formally appoint the titles of “Dedicated Crew Chief”, or DCC, and “Assistant Dedicated Crew Chief”, or ADCC, upon a select group of individuals. These titles honor their exceptional performance, marking their names on a specific jet that they will work to maintain almost exclusively.

“It feels really good to be among the ranks of the best squadron in the world, the mighty 25th FGS,” said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Connor Hoffman, 25th FGS crew chief. “It instills pride among crew chiefs to be named a DCC and ADCC. I think it helps improve the 51st Operations Group and maintenance relationship.”

DCCs focus their attention on one jet, allowing them to see trends and tendencies which makes troubleshooting and maintenance more effective.

“A DCC is crew chief that takes pride in his jet,” said Hoffman. “Keeping it clean, making sure it’s in proper working order and being the subject matter expert of that aircraft.”

A 25th Fighter Squadron pilot assigned to the same respective aircraft as the DCC presented each newly recognized crew chief with a coin, certificate and patch which officially designated them to their aircraft.

“It’s extremely important for the crew chiefs to have responsibility of their own jet and take pride in what’s theirs,” said U.S. Air Force Capt. Sean Ryan, 25th Fighter Squadron pilot. “The drive and dedication that these individuals have is crucial to keeping our aircraft operational, and it’s important we give them the recognition they deserve.”



U.S. Airmen from the 51st Fighter Wing sit in attendance during the 25th FGS Dedicated Crew Chief Ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 19, 2023. The DCC Ceremony helps promote communication, trust and camaraderie by recognizing outstanding performance. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Trevor Gordnier) ▲



U.S. Air Force Capt. Sean Ryan, 25th Fighter Squadron pilot, presents Staff Sgt. Connor Hoffman, 25th Fighter Generation Squadron, with a patch and coveralls during the 25th FGS Dedicated Crew Chief Ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 19, 2023. DCCs are presented with a coin, certificate and patch to be worn on their uniforms to commemorate their achievements. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Trevor Gordnier) ◀



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Mitch Yuncker, 25th Fighter Generation Squadron crew chief, recites the Crew Chief Oath during the 25th FGS Dedicated Crew Chief Ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 19, 2023. The Crew Chief Oath stands as both a declaration of the duties entrusted to a crew chief and a recognition of the rights and privileges granted to DCCs. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Trevor Gordnier) ▲

SPACE HEATER SAFETY



According to United States Fire Administration, an estimated 900 portable heater fires in residential buildings are reported to U.S. fire departments each year and cause an estimated 70 deaths, 150 injuries, and \$53 million in property loss.

Only 2 percent of heating fires in residential buildings involved portable heaters; however, portable heaters were involved in 45 percent of all fatal heating fires in residential buildings. Portable heater fires in residential buildings peaked in January (26 percent).

Safety must be a top consideration when using space heaters.

Safety Precautions

1. Space heaters must be tested by the Underwriter’s Laboratories (UL) or other qualified agencies. This will be identified by a clearly visible label somewhere on the unit.
2. Use of portable kerosene space heaters is prohibited in all OSAN Air Base facilities.
3. Space heaters must be equipped to shut off electric power to the unit when tilted or turned over.
4. Space heaters will be kept at least 18 inches away from combustible materials such as papers, furniture, or curtains.
5. The space heater must be plugged directly into an outlet. Do not use a light-duty extension cord or a multi outlet strip/surge protector; it can start a fire with a high-wattage appliance.

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

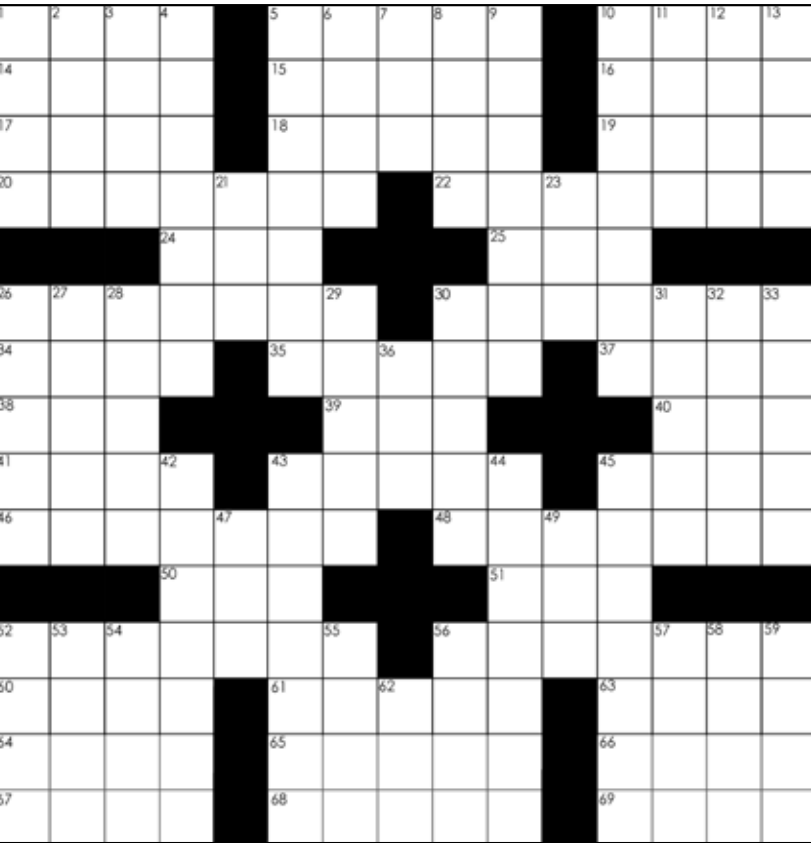
Are You Saved?

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

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The Crossword

By Jon Dunbar



ACROSS

- 1 Columbus’ caravel
- 5 Jeju volcano
- 10 Desert-dwelling alien
- 14 Pyeongtaek’s air base
- 15 “Full speed ____”
- 16 Trebek or Bregman
- 17 M*A*S*H Actor Alan
- 18 Goes with Hyundai or pool
- 19 “Days of ____”
- 20 In good shape
- 22 Laver
- 24 Opposite of me
- 25 Gun lobby group
- 26 NK border city
- 30 Middle Eastern pastry
- 34 Impeach
- 35 “Monty Python and the Holy ____”
- 37 “Bridge on the River ____”
- 38 GOP campaign group

- 39 Bldg. maker
- 40 Commercials
- 41 Coup d’____
- 43 Bordeaux wine region
- 45 Actress Jessica
- 46 Acetylsalicylic acid
- 48 Building for plays or movies
- 50 Mama’s boy
- 51 US population research center
- 52 Zeppelin
- 56 Korean folk song
- 60 Le Cordon ____
- 61 Bone-muscle connector
- 63 Desertion
- 64 Goes with Hawaii or Kentucky
- 65 Nirvana album “In ____”
- 66 DNA
- 67 Snakes
- 68 Conductor’s stick
- 69 Biblical garden

DOWN

- 1 Boat builder
- 2 Goes with Emerald of or Man
- 3 Zilch
- 4 Examiner
- 5 Korean War evacuation site
- 6 Sailor’s shout
- 7 Allow
- 8 Neighbor of Myanmar, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand
- 9 Energy-boosting gland
- 10 Illegally cross the street
- 11 ____ vera
- 12 “We ____ Soldiers”
- 13 Chopped off
- 21 Also
- 23 Ship of 1 down
- 26 Another name for Joseon
- 27 Opposite of uncles
- 28 UN office in Thailand

- 29 Eco-friendly color
- 30 Racist
- 31 Stand by for
- 32 Anakin Skywalker’s alias
- 33 Row of seats
- 36 “Dungeons ____ Dragons”
- 42 Kleenexes
- 43 Aluminaut or X-1
- 44 Inter-Korean border town
- 45 Type of dam at Nampo
- 47 President Moo-hyun or Tae-woo
- 49 Pen for allergic person
- 52 “Dancing Queen” band
- 53 Evils
- 54 Extend military service
- 55 Flatbread
- 56 Goes with dynamic or space
- 57 Shocked
- 58 Zero
- 59 Small valley

Answers to Previous Crossword	26 ATE	58 MOOD	8 AHN	44 PLANNER
	29 ELIE	62 ONO	9 MIGS	46 SHAME
ACROSS	31 EDO	63 UNDERGROUND	10 RETALIATION	48 FBI
	32 ENTREE	69 DEN	11 AMERICA	49 SIT
1 PGA	35 NICO	70 DUO	12 GUT	55 UDON
	4 JAR	71 GRINNED	14 JOSE	57 NUDE
7 RAM	37 LARDER	72 ERG	18 HEARS	59 ORGY
10 RAG	38 NAAN	73 ETA	22 PENNE	60 OGRE
13 EULJIRO	39 SLIME	74 YEN	23 CEO	61 ERIN
15 OH	41 TIBET	75 IOT	24 ODA	62 ODE
16 EMU	43 DPAA	DOWN	25 NOKSAPYEONG	64 NUT
17 PYONGCHANG	45 WASHER		27 TEETHE	65 DOA
19 TET	47 IFS	1 PEP	28 EERIER	66 UNI
20 STOKO	50 ALPS	2 GUY	30 EON	67 NEO
21 SPAR	51 OTHERS	3 ALE	32 ELI	68 DDT
23 CONES	52 OBI	4 JINT	33 NAMWON	
	53 DAYS	5 ARGD	34 TREATS	
	54 NSA	6 ROCK	40 LASSO	
	55 UNIT	7 RCA	42 BRS	
	56 NEON		43 DAD	



1



2



3



4



5



6

1. U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Lorenzo Bennette, 409th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Quick Reaction Force member, hands a bottle of water to a local child near Air Base 201, Niger, Jan. 6, 2023. QRF postures in and around the base allows for rapid response to developing hostile threats on or immediately around the base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Michael Matkin)

2. Instructor pilots with the 340th Flying Training Group, 39th Flying Training Squadron, and 559th FTS fly a T-6 Texan II four-ship formation March 23, 2023, over Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. The sortie also marked the final flight of Lt. Col. Mark Pasierb, former Undergraduate Flying Training program commander, who will have approximately earned a combined 6,000 flight hours in the C-5 Galaxy and T-6. (U.S. Air Force photo by Jet Fabara)

3. Capt. Chase Todd, 40th Helicopter Squadron pilot, holds his breath under water during underwater egress training in the base pool at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., Aug. 3, 2023. The training is essential for placing aircrew in a psychologically and physiologically challenging situation and mandatory every three years. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Mary Bowers)

4. A B-52 Stratofortress assigned to the 2nd Bomb Wing at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., undergoes maintenance at Andersen AFB, Guam, in support of a Bomber Task Force mission, April 11, 2023. More than 210 Airmen and four B-52s recently arrived on the installation in support of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command BTF missions to offer aircrews the opportunity to familiarize themselves with operating in a joint and coalition environment. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class William Pugh)

5. Urban search and rescue members from Fairfax County, Va., get comfortable on a C-17 Globemaster III at Dover Air Force Base, Del. prior to flying to Türkiye, Feb. 7, 2023. The U.S. Agency for International Development mobilized emergency humanitarian assistance to respond to the devastating impacts in Türkiye following the worst earthquake to hit the region in almost a century. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Faith Barron)

6. U.S. Air Force Capt. Aimee Fiedler, F-16 Viper Demonstration Team commander and pilot, mentally prepares for her flight back to Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., after F-AIR Colombia International Aeronautics and Space Fair at José María Córdova Airport in Rionegro, Colombia, July 17, 2023. Activities like F-AIR strengthen international partnerships, enhancing interoperability and improving the collective readiness to conduct a range of potential future operations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Madeline Herzog)

7. Combat rescue Airmen with 920th Rescue Wing return from deployment July 7, 2023, at Patrick Space Force Base, Fla. Airmen from across the wing were reunited with their family and friends. (U.S. Space Force photo by Senior Airman Dakota Raub)



7

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.

- ROKAF ENGLISH CLASS -
Team 5/6 is looking for volunteers to support the ROKAF English class every Saturday, at the Sonlight Inn. You will be talking to ROKAF Airmen (enlisted) for approximately one hour. This event is open to all ranks! Civilian attire is preferred, however, UOD is allowed. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Charles Nelson.

- SPONSOR TRAINING -
Learn creative ways to assist newcomers reporting to Kunsan AB. Registration required. Class is held at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. Call 782-5644 for more information, dates or to sign up.

- PING PONG TOURNAMENT -
Free to all. Prizes for first and second places. Prizes include Wolf Pack Won. To sign up, dates or for more information, call the CAC at 782-5213 or 4679.

Osan

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 members. The health promotion coordinator is available to help you break this habit, through counseling, educational materials and health coaching. For more information or to make an appointment, contact the Health Promotion Coordinator at Troisha.d.busano.civ@health.mil.

InBody Assessments
Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday Building 1419, the Human Performance Center
Health Promotions is running a new program, InBody assessments! An InBody assessment is a biometric analysis of your weight, body composition, height and BMI that provides valuable insights into your health and wellness.

411th CSB Contracting Officer Representative (COR) Live Training
Has someone told you that you are going to be a COR and that you are going to need training? And your first question is what is a COR? It is a Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and a COR gets appointed to oversee contractor's performance on behalf of one of our Contracting Officers here at Osan AB and if that is you then you will need COR training. Please reach out to 411th CSB,

Mr. Jack Banks, Quality Assurance Specialist at 757-6008, email address jack.d.banks.civ@army.mil for prerequisites and in-person classroom training. The classroom training is the first Monday of each month here at Osan AB in Bldg. 600, Room 204 and is from 0800-1600.

Military Spouse Direct Hire Authority Now Live!
Osan's Direct Hire Authority program is now live with a list of positions hiring throughout the installation! What is DHA? It is a pilot program catered specifically to hire military spouses at foreign locations.

Toastmasters International
Every Tuesday | 1130 | Professional Development Center (Bldg 788)
Toastmasters International is a globally-recognized public speaking organization that has enabled numerous success stories. With a wide range of over 20 certification paths, including leadership development and humorous speaking, Toastmasters offers tailored paths to match your aspirations and interests. Whether you aim to enhance your confidence, refine your public speaking skills, or unlock your leadership potential, Toastmasters provides comprehensive resources and support. It's a platform that empowers individuals to grow and achieve their goals in communication and leadership. For any questions, contact mustangmum-

blers@gmail.com or jonathan.zimbro@us.af.mil

HOLA Free Salsa & Bachata Lessons
Every Wednesday | 1730-1930 | Mustang Center Dance Studio
The Hispanic Osan Latino Association is providing the base community an opportunity for FREE salsa & bachata every Wednesday, 1730-1930 at the Mustang Center Dance Studio.

Alcoholics Anonymous
Located in building 769 (Resiliency Center Training Room) every Tuesday and Thursday from 1700 – 1800. For additional information and a point of contact, visit [aainkorea.org] AA in Korea.

Math Tutors Needed for Homework Club
Wednesdays | 0730-0810 | Osan Middle High School, RM 404 Integrity Building
Please reach out if you would like to provide general math assistance to Osan Middle High School students. Tutors are also needed for help with Financial Algebra and Pre-Calculus
Contact: April Kersey, School Liaison Program Manager, april.kersey@us.af.mil

Crossing Guards Needed
M-F | 0730-0830 | cross walk near commissary
Volunteers will help control traffic as students cross the street. Volunteers

are asked to retrieve the STOP pole and orange vest from Osan Middle High School and be at the cross walk by 7:30. Volunteers are needed until 0830. Please sign up via the signup genius below.
POC: SSgt Jeremy Robinson, jeremy.robinson.8@us.af.mil
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080848A4AB2BA0FE3-omhs#/>

Pet Transportation Allowance Guidance
Effective Jan 1, 2024, military members can claim pet transportation expenses for reimbursement. Below are the types of pet expenses that can be claimed as reimbursable:
CONUS: mandatory microchipping, boarding fees, hotel service charges, licensing fees, pet shipping fees (NTE \$550.00 per PCS, for one pet).
OCONUS: all CONUS expenses listed above plus quarantine fees and testing titer levels for entry. Members are required to use gov't or gov't procured transportation (if available) or reimbursement for transoceanic transportation is not authorized (NTE \$2000 per PCS, for one pet)
If you have any questions about this new travel entitlement, please contact the Osan Finance during customer service hours, M-F 0900-1400 or create a CSP inquiry: <https://csp.cce.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



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DONGDUCHON OFFICE (Area I)
COM: 031-864-6685 / Cp Casey Bldg. S2032

DAEGU OFFICE (Area IV)
COM: 053-471-7093 / Cp Henry Bldg. S1220

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KT-50 instructor pilots and 2023 Honorary National Pilots walk the flight line following their incentive flights at Seoul Air Base, Republic of Korea, October 21, 2023. The ROK Air Force's Honorary National Pilot Program provides an opportunity for Korean citizens to fly in a ROK fighter jet during the biennial Seoul International Aerospace and Defense Exhibition airshow. First Lt. Michelle Chang, 51st Fighter Wing public affairs officer, was selected as the first U.S. service member to participate in the program in honor of the 70th anniversary of the ROK-U.S. Alliance. (Courtesy photo by ROKAF Senior Master Sgt. Hyung Kwon)

< Continued from Page 12 >

After sharing my grandfather's story as part of the nominee package, I was selected as the first and only U.S. candidate for the Honorary National Pilot Program incentive flight. Having never flown in a fighter jet before, I was stoked, but even more I was honored to do it in this context. Each step of the program, from selection, to training and then finally the day of the flight itself, underscored that feeling.

October 4, 2023: Flight training day.

I joined the group of 14 other National Honorary Pilot candidates, narrowed down from the hundreds of applicants interviewed across South Korea, for flight training at the ROK Air Force Academy on Cheongju Air Base. It was here that I learned of the prestigious and grueling selection process to become an honorary pilot in this program.

First were the flight education briefings. Then came the physical aspects of the training: ejection seat training, spatial disorientation training and finally, centrifuge training, also known as the G-test. It was a privilege to go through this process alongside such deserving Korean citizens. They came from a diversity of backgrounds and careers: doctors, news anchors, television directors, journalists, YouTube stars, and even a famous singer.

Gyopo. This is a term I wasn't familiar with until I got to Korea. It's a slang Korean term meaning an ethnically Korean individual that didn't grow up in Korea. It doesn't necessarily always mean they're from the United States, but commonly that is the case. So that would be me, a Gyopo.

Who would've ever imagined a Gyopo service member like me would find herself in this position? I had always dreamed of living in the homeland,

U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Michelle Chang, 51st Fighter Wing public affairs officer, and General Jung Sang-Hwa, former Chief of Staff of the Republic of Korea Air Force, pose for a photo during an official ceremony, at Seoul Air Base, ROK, October 21, 2023. Chang was selected as the first U.S. service member to participate in the ROKAF's Honorary National Pilot Program, part of the biennial Seoul International Aerospace and Defense Exhibition airshow, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the ROK-U.S. Alliance. (Courtesy photo by ROKAF Master Sgt. Yongtae Jeon) ▼



the stomping grounds of my mother, father, and grandparents. And to be given such an opportunity as this, alongside these fascinating people, the whole experience couldn't have been more surreal.

October 21, 2023: Flight day.

We arrived at the meeting point outside the gates of Seoul Air Base at 6 a.m. As with the

training day, camera flashes engulfed us as soon as we got to the briefing room and waiting area. Working in Public Affairs, the cameras were a familiar sight. We were fitted for our oxygen masks and G-suits, briefed and had some down time before we were off to the flightline.

As we waited, I met my pilot, Maj. Cho Wonbin. He had a kind smile with a friendly and enthusiastic demeanor, and we were about to go for the ride of a lifetime.

Republic of Korea Air Force and U.S. Air Force Military Police service members work together in South Korea some time after 1953, following the end of the Korean War. Among the Airmen is senior noncommissioned officer Chang Young Sun (center left), the grandfather of U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Michelle Chang, who followed in her grandfather's footsteps by serving at Osan Air Base, ROK. Michelle Chang became the first U.S. service member to participate in the ROKAF's Honorary National Pilot Program in 2023, in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the ROK-U.S. Alliance. (Courtesy photo) ►



The time had come. We were off to the flight line. And as we loaded into the van, one of the pilots exclaimed, "Look, the sky is peeking through!" After a rainy morning, we all looked up at the sky, hopeful and ecstatic for the day ahead.

The flight itself was incredible. I'd been on many commercial and tanker flights before but flying in such a sleek jet like the KT-50 felt unlike anything I'd ever experienced before. As we took off, I saw a clear view of all of Seoul along with the rolling mountains surrounding the metropolitan area. We passed right over the Lotte World Tower, and it was incredible to think that when I stood on that 123rd floor, I felt like I was on top of the world and never imagined I would be overlooking the tallest building in South Korea from the cockpit of a fighter jet.

I looked out in complete wonder as Maj. Cho talked to me through the headset, explaining the cockpit and scenery to me. I "woo-ed" and "aah-ed" as we did our training maneuvers, pulled 6.5 G's, and I had the absolute time of my life. As we twisted and turned through the skies, there were moments of utter speechlessness; I was humbled to be there.

Tears welled in my eyes as I realized how endlessly grateful I was to my family for all the hard work and sacrifices they had made for me to be here: an officer serving in the world's greatest Air Force, in the country of my heritage, with opportunities such as these. I soaked it all in, looking down at a completely different Korea than the one my grandfather and his family had left behind, a war-torn country laboring to rebuild itself.

I wondered what my grandfather would have thought of Korea now: a country that had rapidly globalized after less than a century following civil war, finding itself now as the 12th largest economy in the world, benefiting from the roots of allyship for which his generation had laid the groundwork. I wondered what he thought of his children, and grandchildren, children of immigrants straddling two cultures and successfully navigating the world he'd left behind.

After the flight we were greeted by my grandparents from my mother's side who currently reside in Seoul, and a couple of my close friends, also from Korea. As I was embraced and celebrated

by loved ones and recognized with the other Honorary National Pilots during an official ceremony by the ROK Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General Jung Sang-Hwa (who has since retired), I was filled with gratitude.

Meeting the general was an incredibly surreal experience as a young U.S. Air force lieutenant. I proudly saluted during the ceremony, honored and humbled yet again by the opportunity. The day continued surrounded by the excitement and pride of loved ones and as I made my way through photographs and media interviews, I couldn't help but feel overwhelmed by it all.

Let's Fly Together.

This year marked the 70th anniversary of the ROK-U.S. alliance, nearly 70 years after my grandfather served alongside U.S. soldiers for the freedom of his country, torn in half by conflict. Yet still in a state of armistice, the ROK and the 51 million people here remain protected by our ironclad commitment to the ROK-U.S. Alliance.

The motto for U.S. Forces Korea is "Katchi Kapshida!" In Korean this means "Let's go together!" As I continue to grow in my pride as a Korean-American service member, soaring on a legacy of partnership and unity that my grandfather and his nation prepared the way for, I am deeply honored to serve, continuing to strengthen an alliance my whole being embodies. This collaborative flight meant more to me than a simple incentive flight. It represented partnership, legacy and pride. From this experience, the motto broadens in my mind to "Katchi nah-reup shida" – "Let's fly together."

Republic of Korea Air Force senior noncommissioned officer 장용선 (Young Sun Chang) poses for an official photo in South Korea, 1952. Chang is U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Michelle Chang's grandfather and is the legacy she followed when she joined the U.S. Air Force. Michelle Chang became the first U.S. service member to participate in the ROKAF's Honorary National Pilot Program in 2023, in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the ROK-U.S. Alliance. (Courtesy photo) ▼



Introducing Homeward Bound Osan

Antonia Pfeiffer

Join our animal-loving on-base organization, Homeward Bound Osan!

Are you in search of a community that shares your passion for animals, hosting events, and coming together? Look no further! Our volunteer-based, non-profit shelter is located in the heart of Osan Air Base, and we'd love to have you on board.

We've recently revamped our leaderboard and we're optimistic about the positive changes that lie ahead. Our goal is to collaborate with other

organizations and individuals, expanding our care program for the shelter animals.

Hosting fundraising events for the shelter and animals, group get-togethers for the volunteers and their families and four-legged friends is a big part of our community outreach efforts. These events not only provide an opportunity for people to come together and have fun, but they also help raise awareness about the shelter and the animals that we care for. The upcoming events will feature raffles, dog themed activities, as well as group hikes or walks in and around the Pyeongtaek area.

Our events are always family-friendly and we welcome people of all ages and backgrounds to

join us. We believe that community involvement is key to our success and we are grateful for the support we receive from our volunteers and donors since we do not receive any government funding and operate solely on the generosity of our donors.

If you're interested in volunteering, becoming part of our team, attending one of our events or you would like to learn more about how you can support our cause, please visit our website or follow us on social media for updates and announcements.

Our shelter animals are eagerly waiting for cuddles, playtime, and walks, and we promise it will be a fun and rewarding experience.

Spiritual Charge

New Year's Wisdom: Navigating the Path to Personal Growth



By SSgt Princess Harmon, Religious Affairs

As the calendar turns its pages, marking the inception of a new year, it presents an opportune moment for contemplation, resolutions, and a reinvigorated pursuit of self-improvement. The canvas of time unfurls, offering a blank slate, a chance to redefine aspirations, set new milestones, and embark on a journey of self-discovery. Amidst this juncture of transition, here's an

array of guidance to navigate the trajectory of the coming year. Foremost, embrace reflection as a beacon guiding your steps forward. Reflect on the myriad experiences, challenges, and triumphs of the past year. Assess your growth, discern the lessons embedded within, and carve out a roadmap based on the wisdom gleaned from your journey thus far. Craft intentions with precision and purpose. Instead of a laundry list of resolutions, channel your focus into a select few intentions resonating deeply with your aspirations. These intentions should transcend the mere achievement of goals, emphasizing personal growth and holistic well-being. Flexibility emerges as a valuable asset on the roadmap to success. The course of life often zigzags unexpectedly. Embrace this unpredictability, viewing detours as opportunities for exploration and growth. Stay adaptable, pivot when necessary, and relish the dynamism woven into the fabric of life. Cultivate gratitude as a cornerstone of your daily life. Amidst

the pursuit of progress, anchor yourself in appreciation for the abundance present in the mundane and the extraordinary. Practicing gratitude fosters resilience, cultivates mindfulness, and enriches the tapestry of existence. Resilience, a quality often forged in the fires of adversity, becomes a vital companion on your journey. Embrace setbacks as catalysts for growth, failures as stepping stones towards success, and challenges as opportunities to test and fortify your resolve. Forge a symbiotic relationship with time. While dreams and ambitions propel us forward, relish the present moment. Time is not merely a vehicle to reach destinations but a companion to cherish. Cultivate mindfulness, infuse each moment with purpose, and let the rhythm of time guide your actions. Authenticity emerges as the cornerstone of self-discovery. In a world clamoring for conformity, authenticity shines as a beacon of uniqueness. Embrace your individuality, express your truth,

and let authenticity permeate every facet of your journey. Nurture connections with care and intentionality. Amidst personal growth, cherish relationships—cultivate them, extend empathy, and revel in the beauty of shared experiences. Meaningful connections serve as pillars of support, enriching life's tapestry with depth and warmth. Lastly, envelop yourself in the gentle embrace of self-compassion. Amidst the pursuit of growth, extend kindness to yourself. Acknowledge imperfections as part of the human experience, celebrate victories, and navigate challenges with a nurturing spirit. As the new year dawns, let these guiding principles—reflection, intentionality, flexibility, gratitude, resilience, a mindful relationship with time, authenticity, nurturing connections, and self-compassion—illuminate your path. Embrace this year not merely as a chronological progression but as an opportunity to embark on a transformative journey—a voyage of self-discovery, growth, and fulfillment.

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

Due to the upcoming demolition and construction of the Osan Chapel facilities, the offices and worship services have been relocated as follows:

Chapel Offices:

The main chapel offices are located on the second floor of building
745 (formerly the Wing Safety building).

Chapel Worship Services:

Protestant Service @ Enlisted Club
Sundays @ 1000

Catholic service times/location:

Catholic Sunday @ Mustang Center MPR:
Mass @ 0830 & 1100

Catholic Daily Masses will be held in building 769
(former AFRC bldg):
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; shown.a.droge.mil@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.mil@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.mil

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

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



8

8. Special tactics Airmen with the 24th Special Operations Wing, Detachment 1, render medical aid to a simulated combat casualty in an arctic environment as an Alaska Army National Guard HH-60M Black Hawk approaches during a training exercise at Camp Mad Bull, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Jan. 10, 2023. The 24th SOW Detachment 1 consists of 54 members across 15 job codes forming four agile teams, whose primary role is to bare base, rapidly turn undeveloped locations into fully functional bases. (U.S. Air Force photo by Alejandro Peña)



9

9. Darcy Whyte crosses the finish line of the Air Force Marathon 10-kilometer race Sept. 16, 2023, at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Whyte won the women's portion of the event with a time of 38 minutes, 15 seconds, before going on to compete in the half-marathon. (U.S. Air Force photo by R.J. Oriez)



10

10. Senior Airman Stanley Fairchild, 89th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, stands by as Senior Airman Max Shircliff Jr., 89th AS loadmaster, jumps from a Coast Guard vessel into the ocean Jan. 19, 2023, during water survival training at North Island Naval Air Station, Calif. The joint training event included water survival, AES training flights and urban survival, evasion, resistance and escape. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Patrick O'Reilly)

11. Col. Justin Spears, 49th Wing commander, introduces his dog, Blue, to a Vision 60 Q-UGV ground robot at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., April 17, 2023. The Vision 60 is a quadrupedal ground robot that is capable of maneuvering through rough terrain, making it perfect for patrolling Holloman AFB's arid environment. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Isaiah Pedrazzini)



11



The current Galaxy X team – (Left to right) Capt. James Coyne, Capt. Victoria Ponder, Maj. Brandon Hammond, David Myung, 1st Lt. Amelia Butler, Nozomu Takaki, QZSO advisor, 1st Lt. Tyler Tavrytzky and Alex Ruiz. ▲

The Galaxy X Team in front of USAF Headquarters Pacific: (left to right) David Myung, Capt. James Coyne, 1st Lt. Tyler Tavrytzky, Alex Ruiz, 1st Lt. Amelia Butler and Capt. Victoria Ponder ▼



Galaxy X Team Global Journey Ending with Insights from USINDOPACOM

By Lisa Soddors, SSC Public Affairs

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. -- Six Galaxy Fellows recently returned from a two-week tour of Korea, Japan and Hawaii with a greater understanding of the United States Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) region, its history and how the U.S. Space Force works with allies in the region to stay ahead of the threat.

The Galaxy Program is a joint Space Systems Command/National Reconnaissance Office (SSC/NRO) junior force rapid professional-development program that provides a fast, flexible, rapid capability delivery experience that advances solutions to operational capability gaps in under six months. There are two cohorts every year.

During the six-month program, Galaxy Fellows go on several rapid tours of sites spanning from intel, operations, joint units, the Pentagon, Capitol Hill and industry partners, to better learn the perspectives and challenges of the USSF/NRO mission, industry partners and stakeholders, and how the USSF can better collaborate for mission success. They are also assigned books on leadership, decision-making, modern warfare and geopolitical issues to further their knowledge.

The current Galaxy X cohort consists of Capt. James Coyne, NRO; Capt. Victoria Ponder, Space Launch Delta 30; Alex Ruiz, Space Systems Integration Office at SSC; David Myung, S2 (Intelligence); and 1st Lts. Amelia Butler and Tyler Tavrytzky, Military Communications and Positioning, Navigation and Timing at SSC, and runs through March 2024.

“The Galaxy program is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take an educational deep dive into the Space Force and its many partners, to connect with people face to face. That direct communication is invaluable for junior officers and civilians’ development,” Ponder said.

“This program provides the junior force with a key moment to see the mission from a different lens,” Ponder added. “As military members, we need to know what our allied partners are doing, and we need to build those relationships because, as we move up in rank, that’s going to be important – our ability to connect with those partners.”

“Connecting with the operators and getting their perspective helped me to understand that the threat is real,” Ponder said. “I got a lot of value out of getting detailed intel briefs and learning about planning.”

On their most recent tour, cohort members visited: multiple embassies; SpaceFor Korea; Osan Air Base; USF-Japan; U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys; the

QZSS Program Office, a joint program office working to host a space domain awareness sensor on Japan’s regional version of GPS; Astroscale, a private orbital debris removal company headquartered in Tokyo; JSAT, a commercial satellite company; and several markets and museums to absorb the local culture.

In Hawaii, they met with the Joint Integrated Space Team USSPACECOM; attended a SOFPAC meeting (United States Special Operations Pacific); met with U.S. Space Forces Indo-Pacific S8; members of the U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT); and U.S. Pacific Air Force (PACAF).

“The Galaxy cohort visited South Korea, Japan, and Hawaii for the “go see” phase of the program,” Myung said. “Previous cohorts had never been to South Korea or Japan so expectations were limited to understanding the operational picture and threats from our adversaries.”

“This trip was extremely eye-opening, not only from a broader Space Enterprise standpoint, but also from a threat standpoint,” Coyne said. “To get intel threat briefs from the people who were threatened was jarring. It was exceptionally jarring to be only 35 miles from the DMZ (demilitarized zone,) and in such close proximity to the South China Sea. Being immersed in the Korean and Japanese culture was an amazing experience as well — both countries were so warm and welcoming.”

“It was also extremely important to learn the dense and vast history of both — those histories shape the current context of relations/negotiations,” Coyne said. “It was a very humbling experience to know that although the U.S. has our own deep history, we are talking thousands of years for Korea and Japan.”

“Moving on to Hawaii, it was chilling to see the bullet holes still at the PACAF Headquarters,” Coyne said. “I think it was a great reminder to see where we have been, and where we could potentially go. I’m really excited to bring that outreach perspective back to the USSF and NRO to really contextualize who we are supporting and protecting.”

“I learned that Space Force units were really small but still had a full mission to execute,” Myung said. “It was surprising to me how far advanced Japan’s civilian space capabilities are and how they are expanding into space for their Self Defense Forces while following the confines of their constitution.”

“Japan has a robust launch and space vehicle industry and is one of the few countries that make their own satellites and ground stations,” Myung added. “They also have advanced scientific space mission with NASA which can be



While in Japan, the Galaxy X team toured the Astroscale facility – (Left to right) 1st Lt. Amelia Butler, Chris Blackerby, Chief Operating Officer for Astroscale, Capt. Victoria Ponder, David Myung, Alex Ruiz, 1st Lt. Tyler Tavrytzky and Capt. James Coyne.

leveraged for other missions.”

Myung said he also learned a lot while visiting Korea. “Their military space sector is only recently growing and on Dec 1st, launched its first military ISR satellite,” Myung said. “This followed a recent launch of DPRK’s first military ISR satellite on Nov 22nd. The fact that South and North Korea are quickly expanding their military capabilities in Space was insightful and relevant to our mission.”

“The biggest takeaways for me concerned the employment of space forces,” Myung said. “With Space Force units being smaller compared to the sister services, it needs to do more with less. That means acquisition organizations like SSC will have to help operational units with automation and better interfaces to allow them to get relevant data faster to increase speed of decision making.”

“This trip highlighted the heroic efforts that space operators made to accomplish various missions that keep our forces safe and lethal even with limited tools and personnel,” Myung said. “It gave me a renewed sense of the acquisition mission to be able to connect with the operators and end users.”

“This TDY (temporary duty assignment) allowed me to gain valuable insight into the current state of affairs in the Indo-Pacific region,” Tavrytzky said. “The numerous discussions with leaders at U.S. embassies and military organizations allowed me to gain a first-hand perspective that I would not have otherwise had the opportunity to garner.”

“Specifically, this trip accentuated the importance of resilient, advanced space capability in order to maintain peace and stability in the region,” Tavrytzky said. “I now have a firm understanding of the warfighter needs in the Indo-Pacific Command, and how the Space Force can support the joint force and U.S. allies and partners.”

“The TDY to INDOPACOM provided profound insights,” Butler said. “Observing the day-to-day operations and witnessing the collective determination to achieve the mission were crucial highlights. Bringing back this sense of urgency to my organization is invaluable. Sustaining communication among the varying AFSCs and bases is critical for collaborative efforts against the threat.”

“The trip was an eye-opening experience that broadened our perspectives on the threat, the fight in 2026, the complexity of mobilizing a joint force, and the significance of the space capabilities that Space Systems Command (SSC) is delivering,” Ruiz said.

“Heading into our trip, I was hoping to gain a better understanding of the operational landscape in INDOPACOM and what we as space acquirers could do to better partner with mission partners, allied nations, and international

commercial partners,” Ruiz said. Ruiz said his key takeaways were that the acquisitions and operations communities need to maintain a close relationship to ensure USSF is delivering capabilities that meet the users’ needs; in the event of a future conflict, the role space capabilities play will depend on focus, and USSPACECOM’s and USINDOPACOM’s requirements may differ; and the acquisitions community needs to ensure it has the implementation plan in place for all the systems it delivers, including the requisite logistical plans for deployment and installment.

Ruiz said he looked forward to taking the lessons he learned back to the SSC/S8 Planning and Programming team so the entire team can benefit.

“I understand that not everyone can get the opportunity to travel to these installations as we have through the Galaxy program, so we intend to do what we can to share the experience with our team members,” Ruiz said.

“Finally, I would like to note that it was incredibly motivating to speak to the end-users operating our systems as well as the warfighters in theater that depend on the capabilities we deliver and sustain,” Ruiz said. “Our team members throughout the Departments of Defense and State are fully committed to mission success and the camaraderie that we share with our sister Services is inspiring. The various leaders that we met with were gracious with their time and offered insightful leadership and career advice.”

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Tasty Korean Treats Perfect for Winter



With the arrival of winter's cold bite comes a variety of Korean winter foods. Savory and sweet winter street foods like bungeoppang (carp-shaped bun), hotteok (sugar-filled griddle cake), baked sweet potatoes, and hoppang (steamed bun), just to name a few, are street foods that will warm your hands and hearts. Try these treats, only available in Korea, for a unique Korea experience!



▼ Gunbam

Roasted chestnuts on an open fire bring up the image of city streets decked out for Christmas! In Korea, they're called gunbam, and they are available all winter long. They have a sweet and savory flavor with smooth texture from being roasted over a low fire for a long time. They are usually sold near traditional markets in small paper bags for 3,000 to 5,000 won.

▲ Bungeoppang

It's easy to find food carts selling bungeoppang on street corners during the cold winter months. Bungeoppang is made by pouring flour dough into the bungeo (carp)-shaped black cast iron mold and filling it with red bean paste. For many Koreans, the sight of freshly baked bungeoppang and its sweet aroma wafting through the air is a signal that winter has truly arrived. Bungeoppang comes in a variety of shapes and flavors, such as ingeoppang (mini-bungeoppang) and bungeoppang filled with choux cream. Prices vary by region, but 3 bungeoppang usually sell for 2,000 won.



▲ Hoppang (Jjinbang)

Hoppang is a typical Korean winter treat usually warmed in a steamer or microwave before being eaten. Hoppang itself is a take-home version of jjinppang, a stuffed bread sold at snack restaurants in Korea. Both jjinbang and hoppang come in a variety of fillings, including the traditional red bean paste, as well as vegetables, and even pizza! Hoppang derives its name from the Korean onomatopoeia "ho ho" for blowing on hot food and also from the sound of laughter that comes from a family happily eating hoppang together. One bun costs around 1,000 to 2,000 won. This tasty snack can be purchased at nearly any convenience store, small independent grocery store, or neighborhood market.

< Continued on page 30 >





By Senior Airman Karla Parra
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- Senior Airman Jamarius Paige, 8th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment journeyman, was selected as the 8th Fighter Wing's Pride of the Pack for the week of Dec. 11-15.

Due to his exceptional attention to detail and initiatives, Paige led a team of three Airmen to fit, inspect and repair 50 over-the-top suits that are crucial to preserving life under cold water. He also obtained further training increasing knowledge and capabilities within his shop.

Paige not only enjoys his job, but also takes pride in his role.

"One of the most satisfying parts of my job is seeing close up how my role impacts the mission," said Paige. "It's crucial for my team and I to do our job well by supporting aircrew members and providing quality equipment so they are confident to perform their part of the mission."

Paige's diligence and attention to detail led to the discovery of a seam tear in the 8th FW commander's over the top suit

preventing a potential case of hypothermia.

Additionally, Paige completed further training, acquiring additional certification which he used to train two other members, a training that is instrumental in equipping pilots within 72 hours of notification.

Paige says he enjoys leading and learning along with his teammates.

"Being selected for this award made me realize the importance of having a great team, great leadership support and confirmed that I have amazing wingmen," said Paige.

According to his supervisor, Paige's exceptional performance remains consistent when servicing all 36 combat aviators in the 80th Fighter Squadron.

Paige plans to further his knowledge by pursuing a degree in aviation with the intent to commission and become a tanker pilot.

Congratulations to Senior Airman Paige for a job well done and continue to aim high at the Wolf Pack!

Senior Airman Jamarius Paige, 8th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment journeyman, uses a joint combined aircrew system to identify potential leaks on a g-suit during a routine inspection at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 20, 2023. Paige led a team to fit, inspect and repair 50 over the top suits crucial to preserving life in cold water conditions. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Senior Airman Karla Parra) ▼



Senior Airman Jamarius Paige, 8th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment journeyman, stands for a photo upon completion of a routine flight equipment inspection at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 20, 2023. According to his supervisor, Paige's performance remains consistent when servicing all 36 combat aviators in the 80th Fighter Squadron. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Senior Airman Karla Parra) ◀



SAT		SUN	
SKI/SNOWBOARD \$119 for adult \$99 for child (6-9yrs)		6	7 NAMI ISLAND \$99 for adult \$79 for child (3-9yrs)
SKI/SNOWBOARD \$119 for adult \$99 for child (6-9yrs)		13	14 DMZ TUNNEL TRIP \$99 for adult \$79 for child (3-9yrs)
SKI/SNOWBOARD \$119 for adult \$99 for child (6-9yrs)		20	21 ALPS ICE FOUNTAIN \$89 for adult \$69 for child (3-9yrs)
SKI/SNOWBOARD \$119 for adult \$99 for child (6-9yrs)		27	28 DMZ TUNNEL TRIP \$99 for adult \$79 for child (3-9yrs)

< Continued from Page 27 >



▲ **Kkochi eomuk**

Yet another street food snack that Koreans like to eat as the temperatures drop is kkochi eomuk, or fish cake skewers. Eomuk is prepared on skewers then boiled in a broth flavored with radishes and kelp. Unlike tteokbokki, eomuk is not spicy and is a great complement to help soothe the spiciness of tteokbokki, and of course it's the menu to look for when you want to warm up your body quickly. Kkochi eomuk usually cost anywhere around 1,000 won and are often sold at the same stands as tteokbokki.



▼ **Tteokbokki**

Tteokbokki (spicy rice cakes) is a widely popular dish in Korea that has a very distinctive spicy, yet sweet, flavor. The main ingredient of tteokbokki is garae tteok, rice cake formed into a long white cylinder shape, which is mixed with eomuk (fish cake) and various vegetables like onions, cabbage, and carrots. The whole thing is then coated in red pepper sauce and served hot. At street stalls, they also provide free cups of hot eomuk broth. Tteokbokki franchise restaurants have also increased in numbers and a wider variety of tteokbokki flavors are available including ones using curry, cheese, and jajang (black soybean sauce). Prices vary by store, but you can generally expect to pay 4,000 to 5,000 won per serving with complimentary refills of eomuk broth at street stalls.



◀ **Hotteok**

Hotteok is made with dough from glutinous rice flour and filled with a mix of sugar, peanuts, and cinnamon. The round and flat pancakes are then lightly fried in oil. Some variations include hotteok stuffed with vegetables or seeds. Be careful when you take that first bite; although the brown-sugar filling is delicious, it is often very hot. Like many of the other street foods in Korea, hotteok is a steal at only 1,000 won apiece, although the price may vary by region.

Measuring with precision, keeping Osan ready to fight

By Senior Airman Kaitlin Castillo
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- The 51st Maintenance Squadron precision measurement equipment laboratory plays a fundamental role in keeping Osan's equipment for many different missions safe, efficient, accurate and reliable.

Almost every piece of equipment in the U.S. Air Force relies on accuracy and precision. Even a slight misalignment in a rifle's firing pin protrusion gauge can cause a critical discrepancy in the weapon. A miscalibrated torque can crack the paneling of an F-16 Fighting Falcon, generating larger complications in the future.

The 25 personnel assigned are responsible for more than 100 organizations at Osan and across the ROK. This year, the PMEL team calibrated about 4,500 pieces of equipment.

"We assist almost every unit on base," said Tech. Sgt. Timothy Hetherington, 51 MXS PMEL quality manager. "Our customers range from the maintenance squadron to security forces and the civil engineering squadron."

Customers who bring in equipment are greeted by USAF Senior Airman Bryant De Los Reyes, 51 MXS PMEL logistics technician. De Los Reyes categorizes equipment by highest priority, allowing crucial items to be calibrated and sent back to the customer in a timely manner.

"There's always people coming and going at Osan," said De Los Reyes. "It's my job to assist people and make sure they're aware of what equipment needs to be calibrated on time so it doesn't cause any stoppages on base."

The PMEL flight calibrates nearly every piece of equipment in every phase of maintenance. This ensures accurate and reliable tools are being used on Osan's aircraft.

"We work to make sure the equipment we provide is accurate and calibrated," said Hetherington. "If we're unable to calibrate torque wrenches, it would risk the safety of our F-16s [Fighting Falcons] during flights."

The PMEL flight is integral to Osan's mission and ensures the protection of personnel through precision and reliability.

"We provide safety," said Hetherington. "We make sure that things are done correctly the first time."



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Bryant De Los Reyes, 51st Maintenance Squadron precision measurement equipment laboratory logistics technician, compares the parallelism of an angle iron at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 15, 2023. The PMEL flight services more than 100 organizations at Osan and across the ROK. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kaitlin Castillo) ▲



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Bryant De Los Reyes, 51st Maintenance Squadron precision measurement equipment laboratory logistics technician, uses an electronic height gauge to measure the flatness of one surface to another at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 15, 2023. This tool can measure 10 microinches which is 0.00001 inches. (U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Kaitlin Castillo) ◀



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Bryant De Los Reyes, 51st Maintenance Squadron precision measurement equipment laboratory logistics technician, changes out a circuit in a joint service electronic combat systems tester at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Dec. 15, 2023. The PMEL flight calibrates nearly every piece of equipment in every phase of maintenance. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kaitlin Castillo) ▲



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