



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

#### U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Public Affairs

Tor the third time following the historic trilateral summit at Camp David in fall 2023, fighter aircraft from the U.S., Japan, and the Republic of Korea conducted the third trilateral aerial escort flight of U.S. bombers operating in the Indo-Pacific, April 2, 2024.

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-52H Stratofortess Bombers.

The enhanced complexity and fluidity of our collective forces demonstrate the strength of the partnership and cooperation between the three countries, keeping with commitments made to regularize defensive exercise and increase readiness.

Our commitment underscores the shared vision for a secure, rules-based, and open Indo-Pacific region.











8th LRS GENARMS the Pack, ignites base defense mission

A Guide to Spring Blossom Destinations

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### **PACAF Command Chief Kathleen McCool** embraces historic role

NEWS

By Senior Master Sgt. Rob Webb **Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs** 

**JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-**HICKAM, Hawaii -- In her first interview since assuming the role of Pacific Air Forces Command Chief, Kathleen McCool reflects on the significance of her historic selection and discusses her priorities while emphasizing the importance of diversity in senior military positions.

McCool, who made history as the first female Command Chief of PACAF, assumed her duties Feb. 9, 2024. In this interview, she shared her experiences and insights on navigating this groundbreaking role.

"Any time there is a first, it matters because others can see themselves represented and then believe they can achieve it," McCool remarked. "We should celebrate 'firsts', but I also look forward to the day when there are no more firsts, just the right Airman at the right time, accomplishing the mission."

With over two decades of experience in the Air Force, McCool brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to her new position. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated a commitment to taking care of Airmen; making sure they are given opportunities based on their merit and empowered with the training, experience, and equipment needed to accomplish the Air Force mission.

When asked about her priorities, she said they will align with the Pacific Air Forces commander's priorities and one area she sees for immediate improvement is concerning standards. "It is necessary for our Airmen to hold each other accountable to meeting standards by practicing leadership up, down and across the chain of command," McCool concluded. "Additionally, I believe we have a responsibility as leaders to engage on quality of life concerns; some are relatively easy and within the control of leaders at all levels and some are policy driven. That is where COMPACAF and I can engage and try to move through

bureaucracy." Discussing the importance of diversity in senior military positions, McCool emphasized the need for



inclusivity and representation. "Regardless of gender, use your unique attributes, experience, and judgement to influence and frame the decisions that must be made," she stated. "You don't always get to choose your stage, but you always get to choose your performance on that stage. Do your absolute best in the position you have been assigned to and never lose sight of the 'why' behind what we do."

As the first female Command Chief of PACAF, McCool serves as an inspiration for women in the military. Her selection sends a powerful message about the Air Force's commitment selecting the right person at the right time for senior leader positions.

"Similar to something our new CMSAF stated, I want our Airmen to know what we do is dangerous and difficult, but it matters," McCool reflected. "We're going to ask our Airmen to do things that matter, for their fellow Airmen, and for our Nation because they are also expecting a lot from them and I want them to know we have complete trust and confidence in

their ability to execute the mission, they are the right Airmen at the right time to engage in Great Power Competition."

McCool is focused on making a positive impact within PACAF, as she works to promote a culture of taking care of Airmen and their families. Her dedication to excellence and her advocacy for Airmen is evident in her actions and words.

"When I was the Command Chief for 5th Air Force at Yokota, I had the honor of working closely with our Japanese Allies and witnessed how the Airmen of both our nations operated together, overcoming barriers and cultural differences, McCool said. "I look forward to expanding the opportunities between our Airmen and all our Indo-Pacific partners as the PACAF command chief."

As the first female Command Chief of PACAF, Kathleen McCool's leadership serves as a testament to the progress and inclusivity of the U.S. Air Force, paving the way for future generations of leaders in the



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Staff Sgt. Taysia-Lynn Genobaga-Arneho, center, 80th Fighter Generation Squadron dedicated crew chief, conducts a challenging procedures training for the 80th FGS Airmen as part Beverly Sentinel 24-1 at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 25, 2024. 35th and 80th FGS maintainers responded to exercise scenarios requiring them to defend their facilities and equipment. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Karla Parra) ▲

## Kunsan AB maintainers generate airpower, protect assets

By Senior Airman Karla Parra 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

#### KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea

-- Airmen from the 8th Maintenance Group further diversified their knowledge and skill set of security and threat response during a week-long exercise, Beverly Sentinel 24-1, Mar. 25-29.

As the primary line of effort, 8th Fighter Wing Airmen aimed to strengthen a more mission-ready combat force and 8th MXG Airmen were no exception as they simultaneously provided armed guard surveillance over vital infrastructure and equipment while generating airpower in contingency periods.

"We simply cannot accomplish the Wolf Pack mission without protecting our assets," said Master Sgt. Sean McKinney, 80th FGS production superintendent. "Our Airmen need to adapt and exercise different processes on how to protect our assets and equipment."

Airmen from the 8th MXG began the week with refresher training honing their general arming procedures and receiving constructive feedback after every scenario from proficient



Maj. Keith Deering, center right, 80th Fighter Generation Squadron commander, instructs 80th FGS Airmen of the importance of defending base assets during Beverly Sentinel 24-1 at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 27, 2024. Aimed at developing a more mission-ready force, Beverly Sentinel 24-1 training was designed to diversify Airmen's skill sets and knowledge of security and threat response. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Karla Parra) ▲



Senior Airman Elvis Atieno, 80th Fighter Generation Squadron dedicated crew chief, performs maintenance on an F-16 Fighting Falcon during Beverly Sentinel 24-1 at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 27, 2024. Aimed at developing a more mission-ready force, Beverly Sentinel 24-1 training was designed to diversify Airmen's skill sets and knowledge of security and threat response all while accomplishing standard duty specialty requirements. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Karla Parra) ▲

security forces Airmen.

Patroling crews consisting of different maintenance squadrons provided armed guard surveillance across the flight line including F-16 Fighting Falcon launches.

"By being trained in multi-faceted techniques on how to safeguard our aircraft, we ensure that we are fully prepared for the future fight and to take the fight north," said McKinney.



From left Staff Sgt. Quin Ball, 8th Maintenance Group standardized lead dedicated crew chief, Staff Sgt. Evan Fye, 80th Fighter Generation Squadron unit deployment manager and Senior Airman Metcalfe, 80th FGS electrical and environmental technician, conduct armed guard surveillance on the flight line during Beverly Sentinel 24-1 at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 25, 2024. Aimed at developing a more mission-ready force, Beverly Sentinel 24-1 training was designed to diversify Airmen's skill sets and knowledge of security and threat response. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Karla Parra)

Staff Sgt. Justin Aaron, 80th Fighter Generation Squadron dedicated crew chief, provides armed guard surveillance during an F-16 Fighting Falcon launch during Beverly Sentinel 24-1 at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 27, 2024. Airmen from the 35th and 80th FGS exercised general arming procedures to provide security over vital infrastructure and equipment while preparing F-16s for routine flying operations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Karla Parra) ◀



# Osan celebrates ALS class 24-B

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

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- Airman Leadership School class 24-B graduation takes place at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 21,2024. ALS is a five week long course that instills leadership skills and prepares Airmen for leadership roles.





U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Ellie Wilbourn, 7th Air Force Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communications System administrator, is presented with the John L. Levitow Award during an Airman Leadership School graduation at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 21, 2024. The John Levitow Award is the highest honor presented to a graduate of Air Force Enlisted Professional Military Education. To be eligible for the award, a graduate must rank in the top 1% of his or her class. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Chase Verzaal) ▲

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Derrick Carrasco, 303rd Intelligence Squadron cryptologic analyst, sings the Air Force song during an Airman Leadership School graduation at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 21, 2024. ALS instills leadership skills necessary to develop other Airmen. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Chase Verzaal) ◀

U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Trenton Schreyer, 36th Fighter Generation Squadron senior enlisted leader, delivers a speech during an Airman Leadership School graduation at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 21, 2024. Schreyer spent five weeks mentoring the students on professionalism, leadership skills and future management capabilities to better prepare them for the challenges they may face when leading Airmen. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Chase Verzaal) ▼





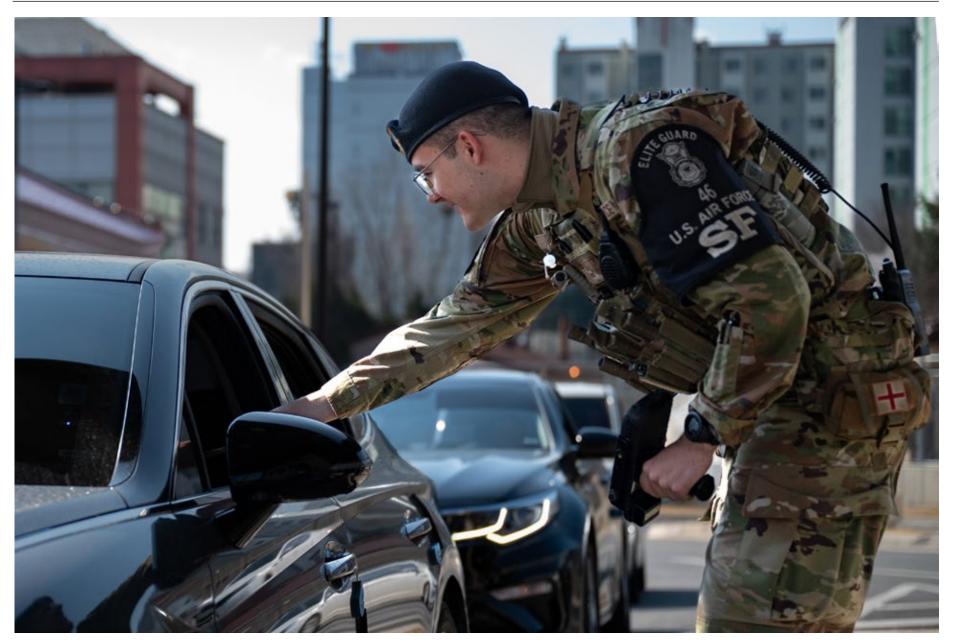
Senior Airman Caleb SalGado, 8th Civil Engineer Squadron pavements and equipment journeyman, clears an area on the airfield as part of a rapid airfield damage repair training exercise at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Feb. 13, 2024. The 554th Red Horse Squadron traveled to Kunsan to lead the training, boosting Airmen's readiness in emergency operations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jovan Banks) ◀

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## 51st FW elite guards, superior sentinels

U.S. Air Force Airman Hunter Allen, 51st Security Forces Squadron elite guard, scans a common access card at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 21, 2024. Elite guards exemplify superior dedication to duty, ensuring the highest level of security and access control, vital to safeguarding Osan's mission and personnel. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brittany Russell) ▲

By Senior Airman Brittany Russell 51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea** -- As the forefront defenders of Osan AB, elite guards of the 51st Security Forces Squadron stand as the initial barrier to threats, tasked with safeguarding the installation's security and controlling access.

While security forces Defenders typically handle patrols and traditional law enforcement duties, elite guards specialize solely in installation access and control. They have a range of responsibilities that include verifying people's authority to enter the base, searching vehicles and persons for prohibited items, and safeguarding Osan AB by preventing anything that might jeopardize its mission or personnel from entering the gates.

"We're the first line of defense people encounter when trying to gain access to the installation," said Airman 1st Class Nekiah Armer, 51st SFS elite guard. "We determine who gets on base, and we're going to stop anyone who should not be here."

Elite gate guards undergo comprehensive training, and work alongside the U.S.



U.S. Air Force elite guards assigned to the 51st Security Forces Squadron stand watch and guard the entrance to the installation at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 21, 2024. While security forces Defenders typically handle patrols and traditional law enforcement duties, elite guards specialize solely in installation access and control. This unique, advanced training ensures Osan AB is safeguarded to the highest standard. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brittany Russell) ▲



Air Force Office of Special Investigations to develop a range of capabilities that allow them to provide Osan AB with top-tier defense. They can identify forged documents and personal cues indicative of individuals seeking unauthorized entry with potentially harmful intentions into the installation.

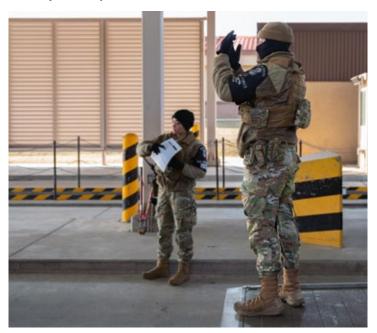
"We go out and pick the best of the best," said Master Sgt. David Bean, 51st SFS Elite Gate Guard Program section chief. "We're picking highly motivated Defenders who are passionate, who always push through no matter the circumstances."

Elite guards are pivotal in strengthening Osan AB's defenses, ensuring the 51st FW is always ready and able to "Fight Tonight."

"We have near peer adversaries that would love to find a vulnerability in our defenses," said Bean. "Our elite gate guards are vastly skilled and truly take Osan AB's security to the next level."

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Giana Couch, 51st Security Forces elite guard, inspects a vehicle for prohibited items at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 21, 2024. Elite guards play a vital role in safeguarding Osan AB by maintaining rigorous security measures at the access points, ensuring the mission's seamless execution and the protection of personnel and critical assets. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brittany Russell) ◀

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Giana Couch, left, and Airman 1st Class Vincent Orlandini, 51st Security Forces Squadron elite guards, direct traffic at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 21, 2024. Elite guards undergo specialized training in base defense and installation access and control, equipping them with the expertise needed to ensure the safeguarding of Osan AB and the ROK. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brittany Russell) ▼



# Pantons Integrate with Pacific Allies, Partners

By Senior Airman Karla Parra 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

#### KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE,

Thailand -- The 35th Fighter Squadron wrapped its participation in the 30th Anniversary of Cope Tiger at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, Kingdom of Thailand, March 18-29, 2024.

CT 24 provides a venue for Indo-Pacific Command's strategic vision of strengthening Alliances and partnerships to ensure regional peace and prosperity allowing participating service members a unique opportunity to fly in Thailand's airspace with international partners. The trilateral training between U.S., Thailand and Singapore forces addresses the most pressing security challenges we face to improve regional security in the Indo-Pacific.





Capt. Shaun Silk, center, and 1st Lt. Christian Dell, left, both 35th Fighter Squadron F-16 Fighting Falcon pilots, discuss mission plans prior to integrating with allied partners during Cope Tiger 24 at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, March 20, 2024. CT 24 builds relationships that bridge language barriers and enhances our collective ability to address the most pressing security challenges we face to improve regional security and protect a free and open Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Air Force video by Senior Airman Karla Parra)

Capt. James Huff, 35th Fighter Squadron F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot, dons on an oxygen mask before flight departure in preparation for Cope Tiger 24 at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, March 12, 2024. In its 28th iteration, CT 24 continues to provide a venue for United States, Thailand and Singapore Air Force units to gain valuable training through combined tactical fighter operations and subject matter expert exchanges. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Karla Parra) ◀



Staff Sgt. Daniel Lopez, 8th Logistics Readiness Squadron individual protective equipment supervisor, picks up an M4 carbine rifle while distributing weapons to a Kunsan Air Base Airman in preparation for Beverly Sentinel 24-1 at Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea, March 21, 2024. 8th LRS Airmen distributed hundreds of M9 pistols and M4 rifles for Beverly Sentinel 24 after ensuring the weapons were in good working order and conducting safety and barrel-clearing briefings. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Earick)

## 8th LRS GENARMS the Pack, ignites base defense mission

By 1st Lt. Brandon DeBlanc 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- The 8th Logistics Readiness Squadron led the 8th Fighter Wing in conducting general arming procedures during Beverly Sentinel 24-1, Mar. 25-29.

Airmen of the 8th LRS were among the first to spring into action, ensuring hundreds of M9 pistols and M4 carbine rifles were in good working order and distributed across the wing ahead of the call of "START EX!"

"We have a team of seven to outfit over 410 plus weapons to base personnel," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Lopez, 8th LRS individual protective equipment supervisor. "The team here has done an amazing job navigating their new requirements and getting the job done."

General arming is the primary line of effort during the week-long Beverly Sentinel exercise. Aimed at developing a more mission-ready force, the training was designed to diversify Airmen's skill sets and knowledge of security and threat response.



Staff Sgt. Alexander Trippet, 8th Civil Engineer Squadron emergency management logistics non-commissioned officer in charge, engages simulated oppositional forces during a ground attack exercise as part of Beverly Sentinel 24-1 at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 27, 2024. Airmen with the 8th CES engaged OPFOR actors during the mock oppositional force attack on the 8th Comptroller Squadron building in support of the 8th Fighter Wing general arming program. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Earick) ▲

After exercising two squadrons in general arming procedures in January, the Wolf Pack expanded to having members from each of its 14 squadrons arm up and practice base defense tactics.

"Force protection is a shared responsibility, making every Airman a defender of this base," said Col. Matthew C. Gaetke, 8th FW commander. "General arming supplements the base defense experts in our 8th Security Forces Squadron, integrating the whole Wolf Pack into a unified defense and making Kunsan more robust."

Once again doing the work that goes unseen, Airmen of the 8th LRS, nicknamed Wraith Nation, worked tirelessly to supply the Pack with the weapons needed to exercise safeguarding vital assets and facilities.

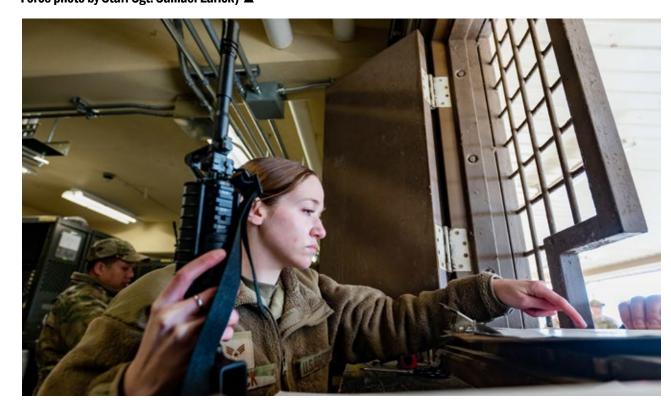
"This is a brand new thing we are doing here and it is also the first time that the IPE team has distributed from an armory here at Kunsan," said Lopez. "We had to work with and learn from 8th Security Forces defenders to understand the procedures needed to distribute weapons and to make sure we do it right the first time."

The 8th LRS is a continuous factor in ensuring 8th FW Airmen remain agile and armed as a combat-credible force. Exercising procedures like general arming confirms the Pack's ability to, if called upon, rapidly enter a contingent environment in defense of the ROK.

Senior Airman Mackenzie Garrick, 8th Logistics Readiness Squadron individual protective equipment journeyman, instructs an Airman on where to sign a form prior to distributing an M4 carbine rifle in preparation for Beverly Sentinel 24-1 at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 21, 2024. Exercising general arming bolsters overall base defense by empowering Airmen from every squadron to directly protect their assets and facilities at a moment's notice. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Earick) ▶



Tech. Sgt. Victoria Kohagen 8th Logistics Readiness Squadron individual protective equipment non-commissioned officer in charge, inspects paperwork before checking out an M4 carbine rifle in preparation for Beverly Sentinel 24-1 at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 21, 2024. With a team of seven individuals, the IPE team outfitted over 600 Airmen with either M4 rifles or M9 pistols in support of the new 8th Fighter Wing general arming program. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Earick) ▲



Senior Airman Jakob Lundin, middle, 8th Maintenance Squadron conventional maintenance technician, accepts an M4 carbine rifle in preparation for Beverly Sentinel 24-1 at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 21, 2024. Ahead of a week-long exercise, Airmen with the 8th Logistics Readiness Squadron issued M9 pistols and M4 rifles to test the 8th Fighter Wing's 14 squadrons' ability to safeguard assets and ensure infrastructure security. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Earick) ▲

Airman 1st Class Makayla Thomas, 8th Logistics Readiness Squadron individual protective equipment journeyman, issues an M4 carbine rifle in preparation for Beverly Sentinel 24-1 at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 21, 2024. General arming was the primary line of effort during Beverly Sentinel 24, allowing members across the 8th Fighter Wing to hone their ability to defend assets and infrastructure while completing their mission. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Earick) ▼



April 5, 2024



Linney, commander of the 3rd BCD sign the 2024 SHARP commitment pledge.

Col. Kevin P. Stonerook, commander of the 35th ADA BDE and Col. Jeremy F. Col. Kevin P. Stonerook, commander of the 35th ADA BDE gives opening remarks at the SHARP proclamation signing. A

## 35th ADA and 3rd BCD command teams sign proclamation pledging to fight against sexual assault



Col. Jeremy F. Linney gives opening remarks at the SHARP proclamation signing. ▲

A Soldier signs their signature on the SHARP commitment pledge, promising to intervene, act and to sustain a high level of motivation to fight against sexual harassment and assault.

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

Osan Air Base, Korea - On April 2nd, Col. Kevin P. Stonerook and Command Sgt. Maj. Richard C. Pyles, command team of the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and Col. Jeremy F. Linney and Command Sgt. Maj. Artie J. Herald, command team of the 3rd Battlefield Coordination Detachment brought attention to Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month by signing a proclamation to take a stand

against sexual assault. The event began with opening comments from Col. Stonerook

and Col. Linney followed by the official signing of the "SHARP Commitment pledge" affirming their commitment to intervene, act and sustain a high level of motivation eliminate sexual harassment and sexual assault from their communities. After both command teams signed their pledges. Soldiers from both formations were invited to sign their signatures as well, promising to fight against sexual assault and harassment. "If you see something, say something," said Col. Stonerook.

#### **Culpepper Connect Family Life Center** - Camp Humphrevs

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**April 5, 2024** 

### A GUIDE TO SPRING BLOSSOM **DESTINATIONS**

Plum blossoms, canola flowers, forsythias, cherry blossoms, daffodils, azaleas, and so on – there's nothing better to announce the arrival of spring than flowers. Spring in Korea begins with vibrant magenta and yellow flowers, and end with lovely pink blossoms. People travel far and wide, to the southernmost tip of the peninsula and even across the sea, to relish the delicate spring blossoms that only come once a year. Here is a compilation of the top seven spring blossom attractions!



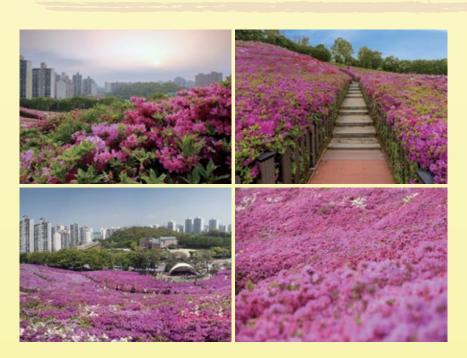
**April 5, 2024** 

#### Forsythia at Eungbongsan Mountain, Seoul



The sight of forsythias spread across Eungbongsan Mountain is a sign that spring has arrived. Once this charming rocky mountain becomes blanketed with forsythias, its picturesque scenery looks as if it's a painting. The walking trail leading to the mountain can be found by following the alleyway in front of the public parking lot by Eungbong Station (Gyeongui-Jungang Line), Exit 1. Eungbongsan Forsythia Festival takes place annually to celebrate the occasion.

Address: 1540 Geumho-dong 4-ga, Seongdong-gu, Seoul



#### Red plum blossoms of Nakseonjae Hall, **Cheongdeokgung Palace**

Changdeokgung Palace is one of the most favored spring outing destinations due to its well-preserved authentic beauty and gorgeous flowers. Among the many attractive views within Changdeokgung Palace, the double flowering red plum blossom trees are the most outstanding of them all. Blooming from trees that were sent as a gift from China over 400 years ago, the blossoms boast flamboyant pink petals layered on top

Address: 99 Yulgok-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul



#### **Azaleas of Royal Azalea Hill, Gunpo**

Royal azaleas bid farewell to spring as they are the last blossoms to bloom right before summer's arrival. Blooming usually between April and June, their shades of deep pink are more intense than any other spring blossoms. The best spot to enjoy the sight of azaleas is at the Royal Azalea Hill located near Surisan Station (Seoul Subway Line 4) in Gunpo, Gyeonggi-do. The Royal Azalea Hill offers the breathtaking beauty of one million azalea shrubs forming a colony and convenient amenities like a walking trail with benches along the way. Recommended dates to visit the Royal Azalea Hill for this year are April 20-28 during the festival period.

Address: 1152-14 Sanbong-dong, Gunpo-si, Gyeonggi-do

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### **CANDLE SAFETY**

andles may be pretty to look at but they are a cause of home fires - and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn.

According to National Fire Protection Association, Candles caused 4% of reported home fires, 3% of home fire deaths, 6% of home fire injuries. and 4% of the direct property damage in home fires.

U.S. fire departments responded to an annual estimated average 5,910 home structure fires started by candles. These fires cause an annual average of 74 civilian deaths and 558 civilian injuries, as well as \$257 million in property damage.

The rate of 94 injuries per 1,000 reported candle fires was nearly three times the rate for all home structure fire causes.

In 21% of home structure candle fires, the candle was either left unattended, discarded, or otherwise misused.



#### **Safety Precautions**

- 1. Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily.
- 2. Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- 3. Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- 4. Don't burn a candle all the way down put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- 5. Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- 6. Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.

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

#### Are You Saved?

Jesus Saves!

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

#### **Haven Baptist Church**

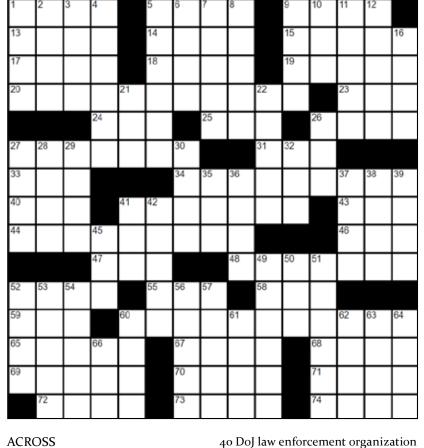
*Just outside the Front Gate at Kunsan AB* 

- Preaching Christ 50+ years. www.hbcingunsan.com

Redeem this AD for a FREE COFFEE at church!

#### By Jon Dunbar

#### The Crossword



41 Bluegrass brothers band

44 Relations between two countries

46 Convenience store Mart brand

52 Goes with Verde or Grande

43 Goes with 55 across

47 Korean TV channel

48 Osan Air Base site

55 Goes with 43 across

65 One who fathers a cow

67 United \_\_\_ Emirates

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**April 5, 2024** 





ealing hands: U.S. Air Force Maj. James Oliver, 349th Medical Squadron nurse, examines a patient during a Lesser Antilles Medical Assistance Team mission at Georgetown Medical Diagnostic Center, Georgetown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, March 4, 2024. This is the first opportunity for the U.S. Southern Command-directed medical team to collaborate and partner with St. Vincent medical professionals to deliver support and resources to the island nation and its healthcare system. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Danny Rangel)



agle drivers: Maj.
Nathan Persons and
Capt. Annie Braun,
weapon systems officers
assigned to the 366th
Fighter Wing, Mountain
Home Air Force Base,
Idaho, depart an F-15E
Strike Eagle after finishing
an exercise Red Flag-Nellis
24-2 mission at Nellis AFB,
Nev., March 18, 2024.
Red Flag exercises provide
aircrews the experience
of multiple, intensive air
combat sorties in the safety
of a training environment.
(U.S. Air Force photo by
William R. Lewis) ◀

tratofortress rising: A
B-52 Stratofortress
assigned to the 2nd
Bomb Wing at Barksdale
Air Force Base, La., takes
off in support of a Bomber
Task Force mission from
Navy Support Facility, Diego
Garcia, March 26, 2024.
Bomber missions familiarize
aircrew with air bases and
operations in different
Geographic Combatant
Commands areas of
operations. (U.S. Air Force
photo by Master Sgt. Staci
Kasischke)



#### Kunsan

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### - 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

lodging rooms on a space available basis up to 120 days in advance for a maximum of 30 days depending on availfor the holiday season (November and 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 speno room to house them? You can book cific unit cook dinner for their fellow

Wolf Pack members at the Sonlight Inn. The dinner begins at 6 p.m. fol- Learn creative ways to assist newcomlowing grace led by a chaplain. Meals ability. You can also book reservations range from "breakfast for dinner" to "Italian cooking" to "Southern style." 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 -

ers reporting to Kunsan AB. Registration required. Class is held at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. Call December) up to 30 days in advance For more information or to volunteer, 782-5644 for more information, dates or to sign up.

#### - PING PONG TOURNAMENT -

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

#### Osan

**Alcoholics Anonymous** Every Tuesday and Thursday | 1700-

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

#### **Tobacco Cessation Classes**

Every Thursday | 0900-1100 | Building 1419, Human Performance Center (The building right behind the fitness center) Osan AB offers free tobacco cessation classes to all DOD members by appointment only. The health promotion coordinator is available to help you break this habit, through counseling, educational materials and health coaching. To make an appointment please use this link: https://www.signupgenius.com/ go/10C0949AFA92BA5FAC61-tobacco

#### **InBody Assessments** Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Building 1419, the Human Performance Center Health Promotions is running a new program, InBody assessments! An In-Body 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.

#### **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.

#### **Basketball Court & Indoor Track**

April 1 -30 | Osan Fitness Center The Osan Fitness Center basketball court and indoor track will be closed for renovations from 1 - 30 April. During this timeframe, the primary location to complete the cardio portion (1.5 mile or HAMR) of Physical Fitness Assessments will be on the outdoor Mustang track.

#### Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign April 1 – May 10

The Air Force Assistance Fund (AFAF) charities assist Airmen, Guardians, and their family members with emergency assistance, educational scholarships, base/community programs,

1-800-733-2761 (anytime)

in-home care for surviving spouses of our retirees, and providing a home to those surviving spouses who otherwise could not afford housing. Let's pay it forward and support the four charities that will be there for us, and for our families, throughout our careers and beyond. Learn more at: https://www.afassistancefund.org/ Team Osan's contribution goal is \$47,786. Your appointed unit key workers will be coming around over the next six weeks with options to donate through cash, check, pay roll deduction, or you can donate online with credit card or e-check at the Team Osan campaign page: https:// secure.ggiv.com/event/afaf/classification/284172/donate/ Any questions please get with your

AFAF unit project officers, key work-

at erik.brancaleone@us.af.mil or

ers, or the installation project officers

#### LANPAC / TechNet Korea 2024

michael.davis.77@us.af.mil.

April 9-11 | 0900-1700 Daily | Bldg 125 & Bldg P-111, Camp Humphreys Join the AFCEA Osan Mustang Chapter, the Association of the United States Army, and leading industry partners such as SAIC, Extron, Cisco, Infoblox, Splunk, SupplyCore, Curtiss-Wright, and many more at LANPAC / TechNet Korea 2024. This pivotal event fosters collaboration between private and government sectors, focusing on policy, strategic architecture, operations, and command and control capabilities critical to addressing global security challenges and thriving in a joint digital

environment. For detailed daily schedules, registration information, and directions to the convention center, please review the event flier. POC(s): Kenneth Ring & Jacob Rogers, OsanAFCEA@gmail.com, C: 82.10.2687.1822 & C: 82.10.4301.2109

#### **Information Technology and Cyber** Security Tabletop "Meet and Greet" April 11 | 1200-1800 | Enlisted Club

Main Ballroom, Osan Air Base The AFCEA Osan Mustang Chapter, alongside premier industry partners including Modtech Solutions, WWT, Trusted Systems, Fornetix, Elastic, CACI/ID Technologies, Splunk, Clear-Shark, Steelgate, Futron, Palo Alto Networks, Ironbow Technologies, and many others, invites you to an exclusive Information Technology and Cyber Security Tabletop "Meet and Greet" Show. This event is a unique opportunity for military personnel at Osan Air Base to engage directly with leading industry experts. Attendance is FREE for all DoD CAC

holders, no registration necessary! POC(s): Kenneth Ring & Jacob Rogers, OsanAFCEA@gmail.com, Cell: 010-2687-1822 or 010-4301-2109

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)		

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	

#### < Continued from Page 14>

#### **Daffodils around House of Yu Gibang**, Seosan

April 5, 2024



Located in front of a small hill covered in pine trees, the House of Yu Gibang is a hanok (traditional Korean house) built in 1919. What makes this charming hanok building all the more special is the field of yellow daffodils that encircles the building, stretching all the way up to the pine forest. With the arrival of spring, the House of Yu Gibang sees crowds of tourists excited to take photos against the backdrop of the yellow flower bed. To fully enjoy the sight in peace, spend the night at the House of Yu Gibang.

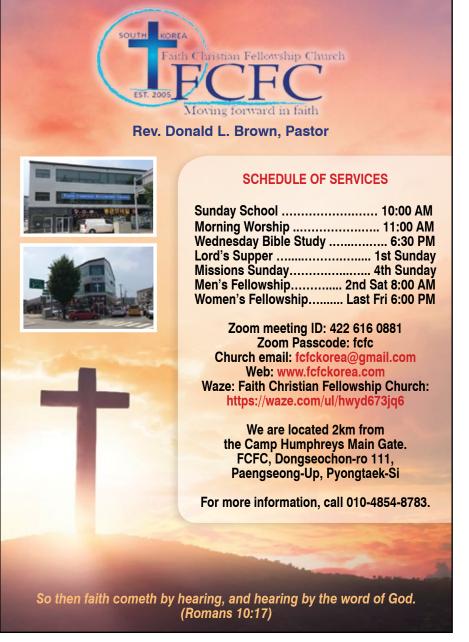
Address: 72-10 Imunan-gil, Seosan-si, Chungcheongnam-do

#### **Cherry Blossoms of Gyeongpoho Lake,** Gangneung

Gyeongpoho Lake is a seaside lagoon with a circumference of 4 kilometers, lined by a row of king cherry trees and weeping cherry trees. Every spring, the flower buds on the trees burst into delicate pink blossoms. The scenery of pink blossoms along the beach and the lake is quite a view, and thus included in the Eight Scenic Views of Gangwon. Towards the end of the peak bloom, petals shower down and create a magical scene. An annual cherry blossom festival takes place in the area.

Address: Gyeongpoho Lake area in Jeo-dong, Gangneung-si,



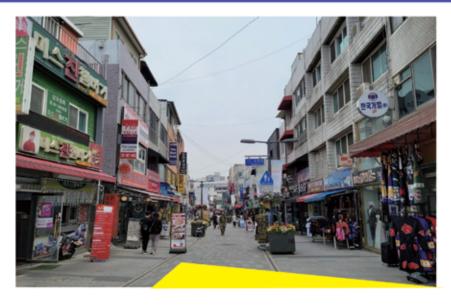






**Outside of the Main Gate at Osan AB.** Lots of Places to Eat and Shop for U.S. Troops.







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SONGTAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Ha, Young Heui / President Please call for any questions or suggestions!

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## 8th Communications Squadron Airmen boost Cope Tiger 24 connectivity

By Capt. Kaylin Hankerson 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

#### KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE,

**Thailand** -- Two Airmen assigned to the 8th Communications Squadron fulfilled a no-notice tasking to support and improve Cope Tiger 2024 cyber operations, March 9.

Personnel from various squadrons across the 8th Fighter Wing deployed to support the latest iteration of the tri-lateral exercise between the U.S. Air Force, Royal Thai Air Force, and the Republic of Singapore Air Force.

Designed to enhance the interoperability of the combined force, command and control communications are a crucial element of operations and virtually impossible without connectivity to a suite of different networks.

Once on the ground, the 8th FW's CT 24 team quickly realized there were gaps in the comm support in Korat, gaps that could only be filled by the 8th CS, which knows the Wolf Pack

Staff Sgt. Natanael Garcia, 8th CS network infrastructure technician, and Tech. Sgt. Joshua McMaster, 8th CS Focal Point non-commissioned officer in charge, were equipped, trained, and ready to answer the Wolf Pack's howl for support.

"I told my leadership: 'Send me ... I am ready," said McMaster. "Tron [8th CS commander] and the Chief came in, relayed that our people in Thailand need comms and that we need to ensure they have functionality on a suite of networks."

The two Airmen had limited time to organize themselves and their equipment before moving across the theater.

"From there, we had less than 12 hours to get out the door: make sure the communications fly-away kit was good to go, pack, and get maybe 40 minutes of sleep before a 2 a.m. bus to the airport," said

As members of the 8th CS' base operations and focal point section, which mainly receives and remedies trouble tickets from customers across the base, this tasking gave Garica and McMaster a more objective look and connection to how their work enables the wing's F-16 mission.

"At previous assignments and even some days at Kunsan, it's hard to see the importance of what we do, but being this close to the mission, I have realized that I impact people's lives directly and their ability to do their jobs," said Garcia. "The fact that we were needed, that we got on a plane and were in the country in less than 24 hours, spoke volumes to the importance of comm, and it is a rewarding feeling to know what we do truly matters.

The 8th FW executes a rigorous contingency exercise schedule each year to ensure the readiness of its members; this tasking contextualized what it meant to be a mission-ready Airmen in new ways for Garcia.

"I have spent months on [the communications fly-away kit], putting it together and taking it down, overseeing upgrades, and preventative



Staff Sgt. Natanael Garcia, left, 8th Communications Squadron network infrastructure technician, and Tech. Sgt. Joshua McMaster, 8th CS Focal Point non-commissioned officer in charge, pose for a photo during Cope Tiger 2024 at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, March 15, 2024. Garcia and McMaster fulfilled a no-notice tasking to improve connectivity for the 8th Fighter Wing's participation in CT 24. CT 24 is the latest iteration of the annual tri-lateral exercise aimed at improving the interoperability of the U.S. Air Force, Royal Thai Air Force, and the Republic of Singapore Air Force as one combined force. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt.

maintenance inspections. It can be monotonous, but this tasking proved the program was ready when the Wing needed it," Garcia continued. "We were able to deploy it and maybe five minutes later, it was providing the capabilities as intended for the mission, validating the months of grueling work, countless hours out of the purview of everyone else was for a reason."

When asked about the squadron's ability to generate this support for Cope Tiger, Maj. Eric Gazola, 8th CS commander, acknowledged getting his troops into place was no small feat.

"A typical short-notice combat comm deployment tasking takes 72 hours from the requirements being received to the team and equipment being pushed out the door," said Gazola. "We were able to get our two-person team out the door with all their gear in eight hours and the team in Korat back online in less than 24. It was a herculean lift!"

As base-comm, charged to manage, operate,

maintain, and provide command and control communications and computer systems for the Wolf Pack and Kusan AB's tenant organizations, it is not often that the 8th CS receives calls like this

"As an in-garrison communications squadron, we are in no way, shape, or form organized, trained, equipped, or manned to provide combat comm capabilities like this, but we were able to support through the combined effort of the whole Wolf Pack... the 8th Logistics Readiness Squadron, 8th Force Support Squadron and the 8th Comptroller Squadron in particular, and because of the caliber of our technicians," said Gazola.

Connectivity, be it to wireless internet, unclassified or secure networks, is something that can be taken for granted at the home station, but the 8th CS' ability to quickly resolve what could have become a mission failure is a testament to their dedication to enabling the 'Fight Tonight' mission no matter the location.

### Spiritual Charge

#### Back To The 'Chaos'



By Chaplain, Col, Hyeondeung Ko Division Chief of Chaplain Policy, Ministry of National Defense Republic of Korea Translated by Kim, Ohsung

huang Zhou—an influential Chinese philosopher who lived around the 4th century BCE during the Warring States Period—was a master of language. He was known for his skillful use of parables and metaphor. In the Book of Zhuangzi, a collection of works written by

him during the late Warring States period, there is a story called "Responses for Emperors and Kings," which is the last episode of The Inner Chapter 7.

"The Emperor of the Southern Sea was Lickety (Souk), the Emperor of the Northern Sea was Split (Hall), and the Emperor of the Center was Chaos (Hun tun). Lickety and Split often met in the land of Chaos, where Chaos was always a gracious host and treated them well. Wanting to show gratitude to Chaos for his kindness, Lickety and Split decided to bore holes for him since he lacked the seven holes that all people have for seeing, hearing, eating, and breathing. Each day, they bored one hole in Chaos, and on the seventh day, Chaos died".

Chaos is known to mean a state of confusion, but its other meaning refers to the state of the universe before there was any order, and before heaven and earth were separated. With that being said, the Chaos in the center symbolizes an "undifferentiated state without a clear distinction". In other words, it

illustrates a neutral state of inaction, which is the innate nature of things. We encounter many opposites in our lives: the Northern Sea versus the Southern Sea, left versus right, good versus bad, and self versus others. From the moment we are born, we are surrounded by countless examples of opposites. Recognizing the inherent limitations of human existence, Zhuang Zhou reminds us of the chaotic universe and encourages us to return to it. This message emphasizes that everyone will cease to exist if we do not return to the universe of 'Chaos', which

Here is another parable to refer to. In the Himalayas, there was a bird called Kongmyeongjo that shared its life with two heads on one body, bound by a shared fate. Legend has it that the two heads took turns staying awake day and night to watch out for danger. One day, however, one head discovered that the other had secretly eaten a delicious meal, causing it to become enraged. In a fit of anger, the head that was upset ate a poisonous

existed before division.

fruit, resulting in both heads dying together. If the parable of Chaos in Zhuangzi's teachings illustrates the dangers of division and disunity, the story of the two-headed bird vividly demonstrates the consequences of forgetting the inherent unity within duality.

**April 5, 2024** 

The sages have consistently preached that we, others, and the universe are interdependent and interrelated. Furthermore, the one represents the many, and the many are one. Each of them is also indistinguishable from the other. I would say the emphasis on oneness is not only because it is the truth, but also because our minds are constantly accustomed to dividing, splitting, and compartmentalizing, leading us far from the truth of oneness. Even though we have strayed far from this truth, and it may seem difficult to return, we must shine the light of wisdom and follow it into the land of 'Chaos'. Only then will life and beings be at peace.

Reference and Citations Zhuangzi (book). WIKIPEDIA, https:// en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zhuangzi\_(book)

#### **CHAPEL SCHEDULE**

#### **KUNSAN AIR BASE**

Weekly Worship Services @ Bldg #501

Catholic Holy Mass
Sunday at 0900 (Chapel)

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

Protestant Worship
Sunday at 1100 (Chapel)

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

Point of Contact: Kunsan Chapel, 782-HOPE

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

#### **OSAN AIR BASE**

The New Chapel is Open for Worship Services
Building 780

Chapel Worship Services:

Protestant Service Sunday @ 0930

Catholic Sunday Mass Sunday @ 1130

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

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

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

#### HUMPHREYS

- 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

- Sundays -1400-1600 Worship Meeting - Freedom Chapel POC: CH Droge; 010-8685-2976; shawn.a.droge.mil@mail.mi

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

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 Jumah 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.mi



Photo NEWS

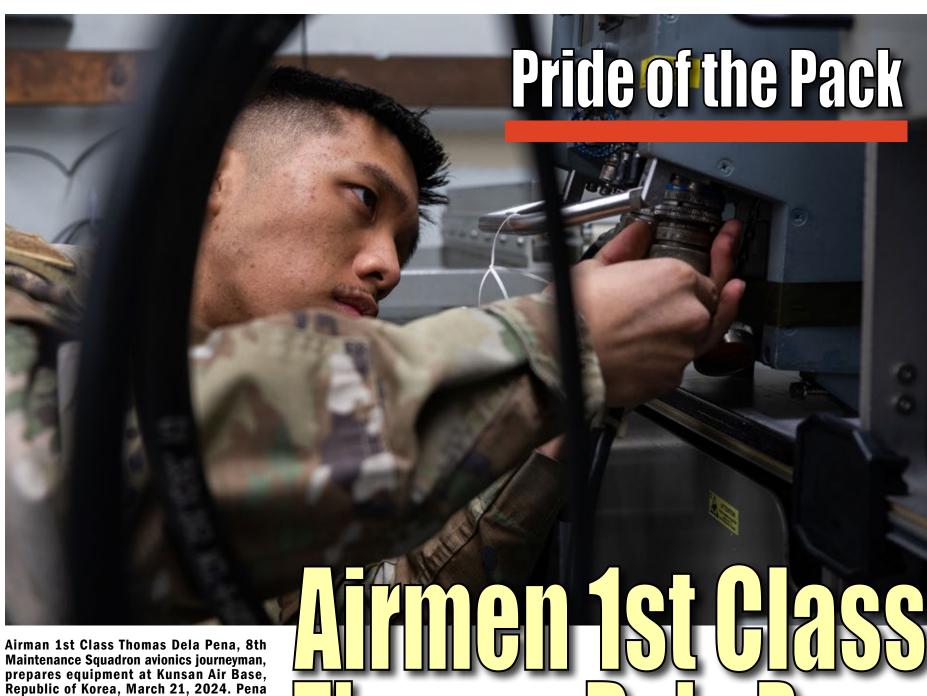


lying with flare: An F-22 Raptor performs aerobatic maneuvers during the Wings Over Solano air show and open house at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., March 16, 2024. Air Combat Command's F-22 Demonstration Team performs precision aerial maneuvers to demonstrate the unique capabilities of the fifth-generation fighter aircraft. (U.S. Air Force photo by Kenneth Abbate)

ighest standards of precision: The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard performs for a crowd during the Luke Days 2024 Airshow, March 22, 2024, at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. Both the Thunderbirds and the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard underscore the highest standards of precision, representing the Air Force's commitment to excellence and air superiority. The mission of the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard is to represent Airmen to the American public and the world. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Katelynn Jackson)

ppreciation flight: Two HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters carrying 920th Rescue Wing spouses take off from Patrick Space Force Base, Fla., during the wing's Spouse Appreciation Flight event March 2, 2024. More than 100 military spouses flew over eastern Florida aboard the helicopters and an HC-130J Combat King II, an event designed to show gratitude and showcase the wing's combat search and rescue mission capabilities. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Kelly Goonan)  $\blacktriangledown$ 





Maintenance Squadron avionics journeyman, prepares equipment at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 21, 2024. Pena was selected as Kunsan Air Base's Pride of the Pack for the week of March 18-22 for his innovative solutions on the job.(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Earick) ▲

By Staff Sgt. Samuel Earick 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

#### KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea

-- Airmen 1st Class Thomas Dela Pena, 8th Maintenance Squadron avionics technician, was selected as Kunsan Air Base's Pride of the Pack for the week of March 18-22.

Dela Pena developed a heads-up display control panel testing cable while collaborating with quality assurance and equipment engineers. They implemented the new technical data to streamline the testing processes and reduce the testing time from 23 hours to just five minutes.

I love how my job changes daily," said Dela Pena. One day we could have two parts that take all day to fix and the next we can have six so I love the challenges and difference each day brings I just love this job."

Dela Pena, who says he was selected for his dream job in the U.S. Air Force, is taking steps to increase his knowledge and understanding of his career field by pursuing his degree in avionics applied sciences.

Congratulations and thank you Airman 1st Class Dela Pena for your hard work and innovative thinking to better the Wolf Pack.



Airman 1st Class Thomas Dela Pena, 8th Maintenance Squadron avionics journeyman, inspects equipment at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 21, 2024. Pena developed a heads-up display control panel testing cable, streamlining the processes and reducing the testing time from 23 hours to just five minutes. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Earick) ▲

## Breaking Barriers: Celebrating Women's History Month with Master Sgt. Shelise Harmon

By Senior Airman Kaitlin Frazier 51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

#### OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea --

"Women have always played a vital role in defending our country, from the Revolutionary War to the present day," said former First Lady Michelle Obama. "Their service and sacrifice should be honored and celebrated," This year's Women's History Month theme celebrates 'Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion,' inspiring a call to honor and empowering diverse voices.

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Shelise Harmon, 25th Fighter Generation Squadron first sergeant, exemplifies this ethos daily. Her commitment isn't just a job; it's a reflection of her core values, seamlessly aligning with the theme of honoring and uplifting fellow Airmen.

Harmon's journey started when she attended the First Sergeant's Symposium during her first tour at Osan AB in 2017. Her career field was small and she was worried that her application would get denied, but that didn't stop her from going after her goal.

"I had great leadership that told me I would excel at this job," Harmon reflected. "I took their words into consideration. It lit a fire under me to continue striving to become a first sergeant."

Harmon dedicated 16 years of her career as a physical occupational therapy technician. Despite her passion for her previous job, Harmon felt a profound calling to serve as a first sergeant and support her fellow Airmen.

"I've always been a person who enjoys taking care of people," said Harmon. "I've wanted to be in a position where I can affect change."

While Harmon loved working in a medical field and helping others, she was beginning to feel burned out and tired. Harmon explained that her passion for working with others was reignited at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, by U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Amy Miller, 673rd Medical Group functional manager.

As her squadron superintendent, Miller asked Harmon what her goals were. Harmon explained that while she wanted to work hard and continue to do her job as well as she could, she did not have a desire to do more than that. Miller took it upon herself to challenge Harmon because she believed in her ability to adapt and grow.

"Who's going to tell their boss no," she laughed. "I was challenged. If I'm asked to do something, I'm going to do my best. I never would've learned or grown as much as I did if she had allowed me to be complacent."

She attributed her successes from that point onward to Miller and the team she worked with during her time at Barksdale AFB.

When posed with the question about any advice she had for other women, she replied, "Don't be afraid to go after your aspirations. Be a part of Air Force history in any way that you can. Every day you put on the uniform, you're making your mark on our history."



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Shelise Harmon, 25th Fighter Generation Squadron first sergeant, poses for a portrait at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 14, 2024. As a first sergeant, Harmon primarily supports the mission through interaction with Airmen and their families. First sergeants work directly for, and derive authority from, the unit commander and serve as the commander's critical link within the unit for matters concerning all Airmen. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kaitlin Frazier) ▲



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Shelise Harmon, 25th Fighter Generation Squadron first sergeant, poses for a photo with her mother during a first sergeant academy graduation at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, Alabama, April 29, 2022. As a first sergeant, Harmon advises commanders on the readiness, health and quality of life of Airmen and families to ensure the 51st Fighter Wing is a mission-ready force. (Courtesy photo) ▲

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Shelise Harmon, 25th Fighter Generation Squadron first sergeant, and Chief Master Sgt. Amy Miller, 673rd Medical Group functional manager, pose for a photo after Harmon won noncommissioned officer of the year at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, Feb. 15, 2019. Harmon attributed her success to Miller and her ability to challenge her in order to grow. Harmon has dedicated her time to bridging the gap for Airmen and their families at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, and connecting them with the correct resources. (Courtesy photo) ▼



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### Eighth Army Commanding General Recognizes Air Defenders As The Freedom Shield Heroes Of The Battle

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

Camp Humphreys, Korea – On March 22nd, Soldiers from the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade were recognized by Lt. Gen. Willard Burleson, commanding general of the Eighth Army, for their hard work and dedication during the combined training exercise, Freedom Shield 24.

The ceremony started with Lt. Gen. Burleson giving opening remarks to the formation of over 50 Soldiers who were identified to represent their units, followed by the presentation of individual awards to each Soldier and a group photo at the end.

Three of the Soldiers recognized were Pfc. Leah Decker from the 35th Air Defense Artillery brigade headquarters who received the Army Achievement Medal, Sgt. Collin Mazkour from the 35th Air Defense Artillery brigade headquarters who received a Certificate of Achievement, and Pfc. Jerry Martinez from the 2-1 Air Defense Artillery battalion headquarters who received a Commanders Coin.

The Freedom Shield 24 exercise is a combined exercise that involves efforts from the Combined Forces Command, United States Forces Korea, and the United Nations Command. This exercise takes place annually and leads directly into Ulchi Freedom Shield to train and prepare units on the Korean peninsula to defend itself against foreign aggression.





Col. Kevin P. Stonerook, commander of the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade (right) poses for a photo with the Hero of the Battle awardees, Pfc. Jerry Martinez (right), Sgt. Collin Mazkour (left, and Pfc. Leah Decker (left) – (U.S. Army photos by Capt. Courtney Johnson A

Lt. Gen. Burleson (left) pins the Army Achievement medal on Sgt. Collin Mazkour (right) -(U. S. Army photo by 8th Army Public Affairs Office) ◀



## Team Osan recognizes new Chiefs

U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgts. stand and repeat the Chief Master Sergeant oath alongside newly selected chiefs during the 51st Fighter Wing Chief Recognition Ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 15, 2024. Those recognized were joined by family, friends and fellow chiefs to honor and recognize their dedication and progression through the ranks. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Trevor Gordnier) ◀

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## Osan Elementary School career day inspires future leaders

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

**OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea** -- Osan Elementary School hosted a career day for its students at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 15, 2024. The volunteers created presentations for the students that included discussions, visuals and activities to provide a sense of purpose to their education and inform them of career path options for the future.

51st Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters and Sparky the Fire Dog interact with children from Osan Elementary School during career day at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 15, 2024. Over 30 volunteers dedicated their time to providing information to OES students, giving them options for career paths that they could strive for in the future. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class





Brittany Roberson, Mustang Fitness Center instructor, incorporates exercises into a career day presentation for Osan Elementary School students at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 15, 2024. Career day allowed the students to hear personal experiences from the volunteers in the workforce, to allow the students to consider a wider variety of jobs. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Chase Verzaal) ▲



U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 51st Maintenance Squadron give a

presentation on their careers to Osan Elementary School students during career

day at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 15, 2024. The volunteers organized

simple activities for the students to participate in, aiming to enhance their educational experience. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Chase Verzaal) ▲

51st Security Forces Squadron Defenders demonstrate the Red Man XP Instructor Suit to Osan Elementary School students during career day at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 15, 2024. During the event, volunteers spoke about their careers and showcased equipment used for their duties. The event aimed to illustrate future career paths in and outside of the military to OES students. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Chase Verzaal) ▲



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Gavin Woods, 51st non-destructive inspection journeyman, shows an Osan Élementary School student how to check for fractures in metal objects during career day at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, March 15, 2024 Career day was hosted to provide OÉS students with a sense of excitement for going to school and give them information about future career options. (U.S. Air Force photo by Àirman 1st Class Chase

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## 51st FW demonstrates ACE capabilities in ELS training

**By Senior Airman Brittany Russell 51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs** 

**OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea** -- U.S. Airmen assigned to the 51st Fighter Wing conducted joint and bilateral agile combat employment, or ACE, training using a public highway as an emergency landing strip in Namji, Republic of Korea, March 13, 2024.

A-10 Thunderbolt IIs assigned to the 25th Fighter Squadron, alongside U.S. Army E-52 Aviation Regiment, Republic of Korea Air Force 5th Air Mobility Wing, and ROKAF 6th Search and Rescue Group aircraft, carried out takeoffs and landings on the public highway, significantly boosting their preparedness for real-world contingency operations with highly realistic training scenarios.

The training exercised the 51st FW's ACE capabilities, which enables rapid aircraft deployment and versatile operations from austere locations, ultimately enhancing the ability to respond effectively to dynamic mission requirements in contested environments.

"ACE is a way to minimize risk while maximizing sustainability," said Tech. Sgt. James Samuel, 51st Operations Support Squadron air traffic control watch supervisor. "We can send small teams of Mission Ready Airmen anywhere, with any equipment. Those teams can operate as if they're with an entire unit at home station, and keep aircraft operational from diverse locations."

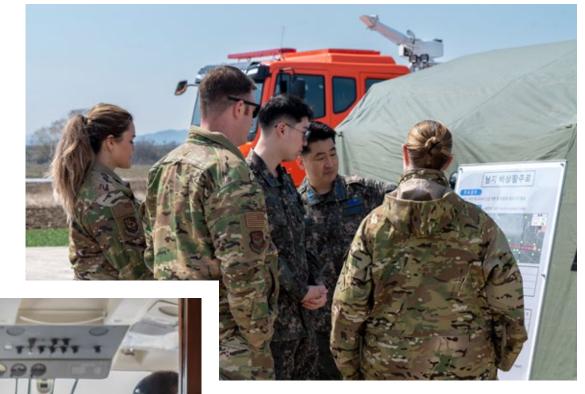
The 51st OSS, 8th OSS, and ROKAF 259th Special Mission Squadron were responsible for controlling aircraft throughout the training, demonstrating their capability to conduct airfield operations from any location.

Master Sgt. James King, 51st OSS air traffic control senior watch supervisor, spearheaded Osan's portion of the training involvement and helped bring together joint and bilateral partners from throughout the pacific theater.

"The ROK is a really unique location where you have multiple spots like the Namji ELS that enable us to overwhelm our adversaries' targeting capabilities," said King. "It allows the 51st FW to conduct ACE operations with our allies and stay ready to 'Fight Tonight' no matter the circumstances."



A U.S. Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II assigned to the 25th Fighter Squadron flies over an emergency landing strip during routine training at Namji, Republic of Korea, March 13, 2024. The training focused on honing skills in executing agile combat employment techniques. ACE is crucial for operational effectiveness from dispersed forward operating locations, ensuring the 51st Fighter Wing remains ready to "Fight Tonight" any time, anywhere. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brittany Russell) ▲



U.S. Airmen and Republic of Korea Air Force airmen open up exhibits to the public to share information about training being conducted at Namji, Republic of Korea, March 13, 2024. The training converted a public highway into an operational emergency landing strip. The training fostered a realistic operational environment, boosting the 51st FW's operational flexibility for rapid responses to threats in dynamic, contested areas. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brittany Russell) ▲

U.S. Army Warrant Officer Corey Ackerson, E-52 Aviation Regiment pilot, looks out the window of a C-12 Huron at Namji, Republic of Korea, March 13, 2024. The plane transported Airmen assigned to the 51st Fighter Wing to an emergency landing strip during routine agile combat employment training. ACE enhances the operational capabilities of the 51st FW and its allies by enabling rapid aircraft deployment from dispersed locations, ensuring adaptability and resilience in dynamic and contested environments. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman **Brittany Russell)** ◀

