

Crimson Sky

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An F-16 Fighting Falcon is refueled during a hot-pit refueling operation at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 27, 2026. Hot-pit refueling allows F-16s to land, refuel with engines running, and return to the air within minutes, sustaining Osan's ability to fight tonight.



Fueling the Fight: Hot-Pit Refueling Sustains Combat Airpower at Osan

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

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- On the flight line at Osan Air Base, minutes matter. As F-16 Fighting Falcons launch, land, and return to flight, the ability to refuel aircraft without shutting down engines has become a determining factor in sustaining combat power for the 7th Air Force's Super Squadron test.

With the full integration of the 35th Fighter

Squadron alongside the 36th Fighter Squadron, Osan's operational tempo increased by more than 50 percent. The surge placed added pressure on logistics Airmen to keep aircraft moving while operating with the same amount of resources.

To meet the increased demand and maintain Osan's Fight Tonight mission, Airmen from the 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron partnered with 51st Maintenance Squadron to expand hot-pit refueling operations. Hot-pit refueling allows aircraft to

refuel while engines remain running, significantly reducing ground time and enabling pilots to return to the air within minutes.

"Hot-pits allow aircraft to land and refuel in about five to seven minutes, getting back in the air almost immediately," said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael Lucas, 51st LRS fuel service supervisor. "Without this capability, you're looking at delays that could add hours before that jet is airborne again."

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Air Force, Navy aircraft to fly over Super Bowl LX

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) -- To commemorate America's 250th birthday at the 2026 Super Bowl, the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy are conducting a joint flyover during Super Bowl LX at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California, Feb. 8, 2026.

The formation, featuring two Air Force B-1 Lancers, from Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, and two F-15C Eagles, from Fresno Air National Guard Base, California, alongside a pair of Navy F/A-18E Super Hornets and two F-35C Lightning IIs, from Naval Air Station Lemoore, California, is a symbol of the nation's journey and independence.

While this flyover features the Air Force and Navy, a powerful symbol of America's 250 years of airpower and maritime strength, it symbolizes the entire joint force — Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard — working together across every domain to defend our nation, safeguarding 250 years of freedom to America.

A Military District of Washington Joint Armed Forces Color Guard will render military honors during the national anthem. This prestigious inter-service team from the Capitol's region combining members from the Navy, Air Force, Army, Marines, Coast Guard and Space Force provide unparalleled ceremonial precision and national representation.

The service members of the Air Force and Navy flyover will participate in community outreach events leading up to game day, including public displays of aircraft, search and rescue demonstration and backseat



flights on the F/A-18F with community leaders.

As the nation celebrates Freedom 250 throughout 2026, our joint community outreach efforts throughout the week demonstrate our Joint Force's shared history and enduring commitment to defending freedom and supporting our nation's independence.

At one of the most-watched events in the world, the flyover at Super Bowl LX is a visible reminder that America's military remains united, ready, and dominant — 250 years strong.

Fatal HH-60W mishap investigation results released

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii -- Pacific Air Forces released the results of its investigation into an aircraft mishap in Japan, April 22, 2025, where a spectator subsequently died from related injuries.

During an HH-60W demonstration at Kadena Elementary School, a Japanese civilian spectator fell to the concrete walkway, suffering severe head injuries. Evidence from the accident directly links the victim's fall to rotor wash—air flow generated from a helicopter's rotor blades—from the HH-60W.

Emergency medical personnel arrived at the school within minutes and immediately transferred the victim to U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa via ambulance. Despite emergency medical efforts by doctors at the Naval Hospital and nearby Ryukyu University Hospital, the victim died from her head injuries on April 27. There were no other fatalities or significant injuries resulting from the accident.

The Accident Investigation Board determined

the cause of the mishap was insufficient distance between the HH-60W and the victim. Her proximity to the arriving helicopter exposed the victim to rotor wash that knocked her to the ground, causing fatal head injuries. Additionally, there were three substantially contributing factors to the mishap: failures in mission planning and poorly staffed oversight processes; the combined impact of the individual's umbrella and age on her ability to withstand rotor wash; and an operational mindset fostering a false confidence of safety.

In accordance with AFI 51-307, Aerospace and Ground Accident Investigations, this Aircraft Accident Investigation Board conducted a legal investigation to inquire into all the facts and circumstances surrounding this Air Force ground accident, prepared a publicly releasable report, and obtained and preserved all available evidence for use in litigation, claims, disciplinary action, and adverse administrative action.



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U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 35th Fighter Generation Squadron load munitions onto an F-16 Fighting Falcon during the Annual Bomb Build and Loading Competition at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 22, 2026. For the annual competition Airmen load munitions while being under a simulated chemical threat. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tallon Bratton)►

Annual Bomb Build and Loading Competition

U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 35th Fighter Generation Squadron load munitions into an F-16 Fighting Falcon during the Annual Bomb Build and Loading Competition at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 22, 2026. The competition involved loading weapons onto an F-16 in timed environments, simulating the urgency of real-world combat operations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tallon Bratton)►

U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 51st Munitions Squadron prepare munitions during the Annual Bomb Build and Loading Competition at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 22, 2026. Teams are selected from their squadron based-off the fastest load times with zero discrepancies. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tallon Bratton)▼



January 30, 2026



January 30, 2026



U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 36th Fighter Generation Squadron prepare munitions during the Annual Bomb Build and Loading Competition at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 22, 2026. Teams are selected from their squadron based-off the fastest load times with zero discrepancies. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tallon Bratton)▲

U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 51st Munitions Squadron prepare munitions during the Annual Bomb Build and Loading Competition at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 22, 2026. Teams are selected from their squadron based-off the fastest load times with zero discrepancies. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tallon Bratton)►



U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 35th Fighter Generation Squadron assist each other in donning Mission Oriented Protective Posture gear during the Annual Bomb Build and Loading Competition at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 22, 2026. For the annual competition Airmen load munitions in MOPP gear to simulate being under a chemical threat. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tallon Bratton)▲

U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 35th Fighter Generation prepare munitions during the Annual Bomb Build and Loading Competition at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 22, 2026. The competition involved loading weapons onto an F-16 Fighting Falcon in timed environments, simulating the urgency of real-world combat operations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tallon Bratton)►





Staff Sgt. Anthony Pena

By Staff Sgt. Dustin Braaten
51st Fighter Wing

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Anthony Pena, 51st Fighter Wing occupational safety technician, was recognized as the Mustang of the Week at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 22, 2026.

Pena plays a vital role in supporting Team Osan by ensuring personnel across multiple units can carry out their daily duties safely. As a safety technician, he conducts inspections, documents mishaps, supports investigations, and helps ensure Airmen are properly trained on how to safely perform their tasks in safe and compliant working conditions. Additionally, the safety office acts as advisors to the 51st Fighter Wing commander when executing operations and initiatives.

Strong safety standards at Osan play a critical role in sustaining readiness and ensuring the base remains ready to Fight Tonight!

"Safety's mission is to prepare for the worst while also making sure complacency doesn't set in when operations are running smoothly," said Pena. "Our capabilities would be severely hindered if our wingmen are getting injured or worse."

In the safety career field, many of its members cross-train into it. Before Pena was a safety technician, he was an F-15 Eagle crew chief for six years looking to end his Air Force career.

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U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Anthony Pena, right, 51st Fighter Wing occupational safety technician, leads a safety training for Airmen assigned to the 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 22, 2026. As an occupational safety technician, Pena's duties range from conducting inspections, documenting mishaps, assisting investigations, and ensuring members of Team Osan are performing their jobs in safe work conditions. ▲



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Super Squadron Phase II continues at Osan



U.S. Air Force Capt. Griffin Line, 35th Fighter Squadron F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot, walks to an F-16 to conduct a training flight at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 21, 2026. The flight supported ongoing readiness training to maintain the 51st Fighter Wing's "Fight Tonight" posture. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tallon Bratton) ▲

A U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon assigned to the 35th Fighter Squadron, takes flight at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 21, 2026. The flight marked a continuation of Phase II of the Super Squadron test, launching sorties to assess readiness and operational capability. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tallon Bratton) ▶

A U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon assigned to the 35th Fighter Squadron, taxis to the runway at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 21, 2026. The flight marked a continuation of Phase II of the Super Squadron test, launching sorties to assess readiness and operational capability. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tallon Bratton) ▶

U.S. Air Force Capt. Griffin Line, 35th Fighter Squadron F-16 pilot, puts on his helmet and mask before a flight at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 21, 2026. The flight supported ongoing readiness training to maintain the 51st Fighter Wing's "Fight Tonight" posture. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tallon Bratton) ▶



U.S. Air Force pilots assigned to the 35th Fighter Squadron conduct a preflight brief at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 21, 2026. The flight marked a continuation of Phase II of the Super Squadron test, launching sorties to assess readiness and operational capability. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tallon Bratton) ▶

U.S. Air Force maintainers assigned to the 35th Fighter Generation Squadron prepare an F-16 Fighting Falcon for a flight at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 21, 2026. The flight marked a continuation of Phase II of the Super Squadron test, launching sorties to assess readiness and operational capability. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tallon Bratton) ▶





U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Samuel Ilet, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels distribution operator and Chief Master Sgt. Nicholas Jackson, 332nd Expeditionary Air Base Group senior enlisted leader walk away as a U.S. Army UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopter takes off in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, Dec. 14, 2025. Jackson and Ilet refueled the UH-60 with an R-20 expeditionary refueling system for the first time at the deployed location. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jonah Bliss)

USAF to introduce Air Expeditionary Wing 2.0

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) -- Beginning this year, the Air Force is introducing Air Expeditionary Wing 2.0, an improved version of our legacy deployment construct, as its new wing unit of action. AEW 2.0 will be implemented in fiscal year 2027.

Changes in the global strategic environment over the last several years emphasized a clear need: maintain an elevated state of readiness to deter and win in high-end conflict.

To achieve this, the Air Force has reevaluated its approach to generating and deploying combat airpower. The service evolved its force presentation through different deployment models in recent years, including the Expeditionary Air Base (XAB), Air Task Force (ATF), and Deployable Combat Wing (DCW), to better align with future needs. The outcome of the feedback and lessons learned from previous models is AEW 2.0, a modified version of the Air Expeditionary Wing that reflects updated national priorities and more efficiently uses talent and resources.



A U.S. Airman loads luggage onto an HC-130J Combat King II to prepare for a deployment at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, Dec. 8, 2025. U.S. military forces are deployed to the Caribbean in support of Operation Southern Spear, the U.S. Southern Command mission, Department of War-directed operations and the president's priorities to disrupt illicit drug trafficking and protect the homeland. (U.S. Air Force photo) ▲



U.S. Air Force Airmen work inside a deployable Wing Operations Center, simulating operations in an austere environment during exercise Mosaic Tiger 26-1 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, Nov. 19, 2025. The improvised setup replicates forward-deployed WOC conditions, reinforcing the wing's ability to project command and control from any location. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Sari Seibert) ▲

"AEW 2.0 allows us to present combat ready forces," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ken Wilsbach. "It is the next step in evolving our readiness, and it's based on input from across the total force and feedback from the major commands and wings. This model allows Airmen to train at home in a manner consistent with how they will operate when they deploy."

AEW 2.0 is a modular and scalable wing-level unit of action that provides a standardized, right-sized baseline force package that provides the necessary capabilities to C2 and project platform-agnostic air power in any theater, which improves agility in our operations and preserves decision space for combatant commanders.

The primary difference between the legacy deployed AEW and the AEW 2.0 solution is

that the AEW 2.0 forms approximately 18 months prior to deployment so that its teamed, capabilities-based components can train and certify as a cohesive unit. The legacy AEW model was enabled by crowdsourcing via the AEF process, degrading warfighting capability and making deployed unit cohesion and integration much more difficult. AEW 2.0 is a cohesive wing that arrives in theater maximally ready to fight.

This model preserves the critical wins of previous force presentation concepts: deliberately teamed, capabilities-based force packages that train and certify together through the AFFORGEN cycle. It also optimizes the balance in preserving capacity at the host wing to fulfill the in-garrison mission and defend the homeland

while the unit of action trains and deploys.

"AEW 2.0 will help us move faster and stay prepared to fight wherever and whenever we're needed," said Lt. Gen. Case Cunningham, the Air Force's deputy chief of staff for operations. "A key strength of this unit of action model is the deliberate training and teaming that improves collaboration and readiness across the service. It's imperative we continue empowering wings and commanders with necessary resources and guidance to be the agile, decisive force our nation demands."

Other notable updates to the AEW 2.0 approach include the continuation of group command opportunities at deployed locations and implementation of Wing Operations Centers instead of A-Staffs at deployed locations.

Did You Know?

Honoring "The Star-Spangled Banner" is a sign of respect for our nation and the sacrifices made for our freedoms. Extending that same honor to the anthems of our allies is a powerful sign of our commitment to them. When outdoors during the U.S. and ROK national anthems, uniformed personnel are required to render a salute, while civilians should stand with their right hand over their heart. If you are in a vehicle on base, safely pull to the side of the road and stop until the music concludes. These customs are a daily opportunity to show honor for our country and our allies.

The military salute is a tradition of respect believed to date back to medieval knights, who would raise their visors to identify themselves and show an empty weapon hand. Today, this custom continues as a vital sign of mutual respect between allies. U.S. military personnel are required to render proper salutes to superior officers of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Armed Forces, and ROK forces extend the same courtesy in return.

AIRMEN SPOTLIGHT

January 30, 2026



WCAP Airmen qualify for Winter Olympics

Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas (AFNS) -- Two Airmen from the World Class Athlete Program will represent Team USA and the Air Force at the Milan Cortina Winter Olympic Games in February.

Staff Sgt. Kelly Curtis is set to compete in skeleton, while Senior Airman Jasmine Jones will compete in bobsleigh.

Both athletes are part of Department of the Air Force WCAP, which is managed by the Air Force Services Center. The program allows elite Airmen athletes to train and compete in national and international sports competitions with the ultimate goal of qualifying for the Olympic Games.



KELLY CURTIS WOMEN'S SKELETON ATHLETE

- **Olympic Years:** 2022
- **World Cup Medals:** 1 silver, 1 bronze
- **World Championship Participation:** 2 years
- **First Skeleton Race:** 2014

- **Hometown:** Princeton, NJ
- **Athletic Background:** Heptathlete + Basketball
- **Education:** Springfield College and St. Lawrence University
- **Age:** 36

Staff Sgt. Kelly Curtis performs in the skeleton race on behalf of Team USA Bobsled. Curtis will represent Team USA and the Air Force at the Milan Cortina Winter Olympic Games in February. (Courtesy photo) ▲

Shown is Staff Sgt. Kelly Curtis, Team USA Bobsled Skeleton 2026 Olympic Team member. Curtis and Senior Airman Jasmine Jones will represent Team USA and the Air Force at the Milan Cortina Winter Olympic Games in February. (Courtesy graphic by Abby Slenker) ▼



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AIRMEN SPOTLIGHT

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Shown is Senior Airman Jasmine Jones, Team USA Bobsled Skeleton 2026 Olympic Team member. Jones and Staff Sgt. Kelly Curtis will represent Team USA and the Air Force at the Milan Cortina Winter Olympic Games in February. (Courtesy graphic by Abby Slenker) ▶

"This accomplishment deserves more than just congratulations. Olympians, you represent the pinnacle of athleticism and the warrior mindset that defines our Air Force," said Under Secretary of the Air Force Matthew Lohmeier. "We are so proud to have you represent the Air Force and the United States at the 2026 Winter Olympics. Your performance on the world stage demonstrates a critical link between physical fitness, commitment to excellence and military readiness. With all of our support: go fight, go win, go Air Force!"

Curtis, who competed at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China, trains at Aviano Air Base, Italy. Jones, competing in her first Olympic games, trains in Lake Placid, New York.

WCAP has seen Olympic qualifiers double since a recruiting strategy revision in 2021 and this is the program's first ever back-to-back Winter Olympic selection.

"The Air Force Services Center team that

JASMINE JONES

WOMEN'S BOBSLED PUSH ATHLETE

- **World Cup Medals:** 1 gold, 1 silver, 3 bronze
- **World Championship Participation:** 3 years
- **First Bobsled Race:** 2014
- **Hometown:** Greensburg, PA
- **Athletic Background:** Track & Field
- **Education:** Eastern Michigan University
- **Age:** 29

supports the World Class Athlete Program is thrilled to see these Airmen qualify as Winter Olympians," said Col. E. Jonelle Eychner, AFSVC commander. "We invest significant time and effort ensuring their foundational needs are met, allowing them to focus on their sport, compete with confidence, and proudly represent the Air Force on the global stage."

Jones and her teammate, Kaillie Armbruster-Humphries, recently took silver in the 2-Woman Bobsled race at an International Bobsleigh &

Skeleton Federation World Cup event, held in Altenberg, Germany. Curtis earned silver at a World Cup event held earlier this month in St. Moritz-Celerina, Switzerland, with a late surge from ninth place to the podium.

USA Bobsled/Skeleton, the official national governing body for both sports, will hold a training camp in Europe before the games. Curtis and Jones will then travel to Cortina, Italy, to stay in the Olympic village during the competition.

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Smoking Safety

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OSAN AB Smoking Regulations for Fire Safety.

1. Designated Tobacco Areas (DTA) shall be controlled, designated, and approved by the unit/squadron commanders. All areas shall comply with appropriate regulations and policies IAW AFI 40-102, Tobacco Free Living.
2. Smoking is not allowed except in DTAs or other areas specially designated by the installation commander.
3. Smoking or striking of matches or using mechanical lighters will not be permitted in or within 50 feet of hangars, repair shops, paint/dope shops, gasoline storage, or dispensing areas, including the hydrant refueling systems and similar flammable liquid areas, dispensing vehicles or apparatus, motor pools or similar occupancies, or activities of extra hazardous nature.

Fire Prevention Tips for Smokers

To minimize the risk of fires caused by smoking, follow these safety precautions:

1. If you smoke, smoke at the designated area.
2. Whenever you smoke, use deep and sturdy ashtrays. Place it away from anything that can burn.
3. Do not discard cigarettes in vegetation such as mulch, potted plants or landscaping, peat moss, dried grasses, leaves or other things that could ignite easily.
4. Before you throw out butts and ashes, make sure they are out and dousing in water or sand is the best way to do that.
5. Fires have occurred while e-cigarettes were being used, the battery was being charged, or the device was being transported. Battery failures have led to small explosions. Never leave charging e-cigarettes unattended. E-cigarettes should be used with caution.

By following these smoking safety practices, you can greatly reduce the risk of accidental fires. Smoking may seem like a personal activity, but its consequences can impact on others property damage and loss of life. A small act of caution can make a big difference in fire prevention.

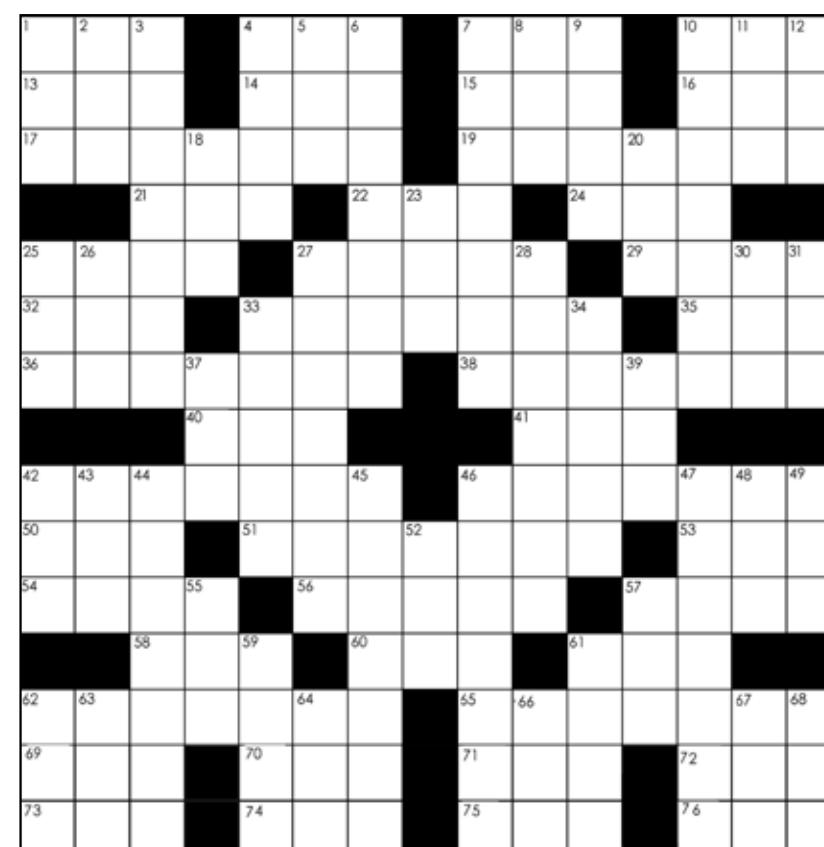
Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Fire Prevention Office at 784-3370/4741

Are You Saved?

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

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By Jon Dunbar



ACROSS

1 Pie mode
 4 Hip-hop
 4 Bank machine
 7 Snowboard alternative
 10 Internet abbreviation
 13 Scott Pruitt's former agency
 14 Korean car company
 15 Concealed
 16 Brazilian Olympic host
 17 John and Cindy
 19 United States of ___
 21 Hotel
 22 Drink a small amount
 24 2008 financial crisis bank
 25 Huck's boat
 27 Played the bagpipes
 29 Spy Hari
 32 Sex Pistols former record label
 33 Horseback soldiers
 35 Precedes smoking and profit
 36 Similar to typhoon
 38 Let the other car go first

DOWN

1 "Man on the Moon" band
 2 Troop mover
 3 Not Atlantic
 4 Similar to
 5 Foil metal
 6 Large-scale
 7 Curvaceous
 8 Jong-un or Kardashian
 9 Thought
 10 Bandit
 11 Wrestler Flair
 12 Feathers scarf
 18 Goes with army or Adam
 20 Edge
 23 Hoppy beer
 25 Remote control button
 26 Winehouse or Poehler
 27 Pizzazz
 28 Hobo
 30 Foot digit
 31 "The King ___ I"
 33 Coke and Pepsi

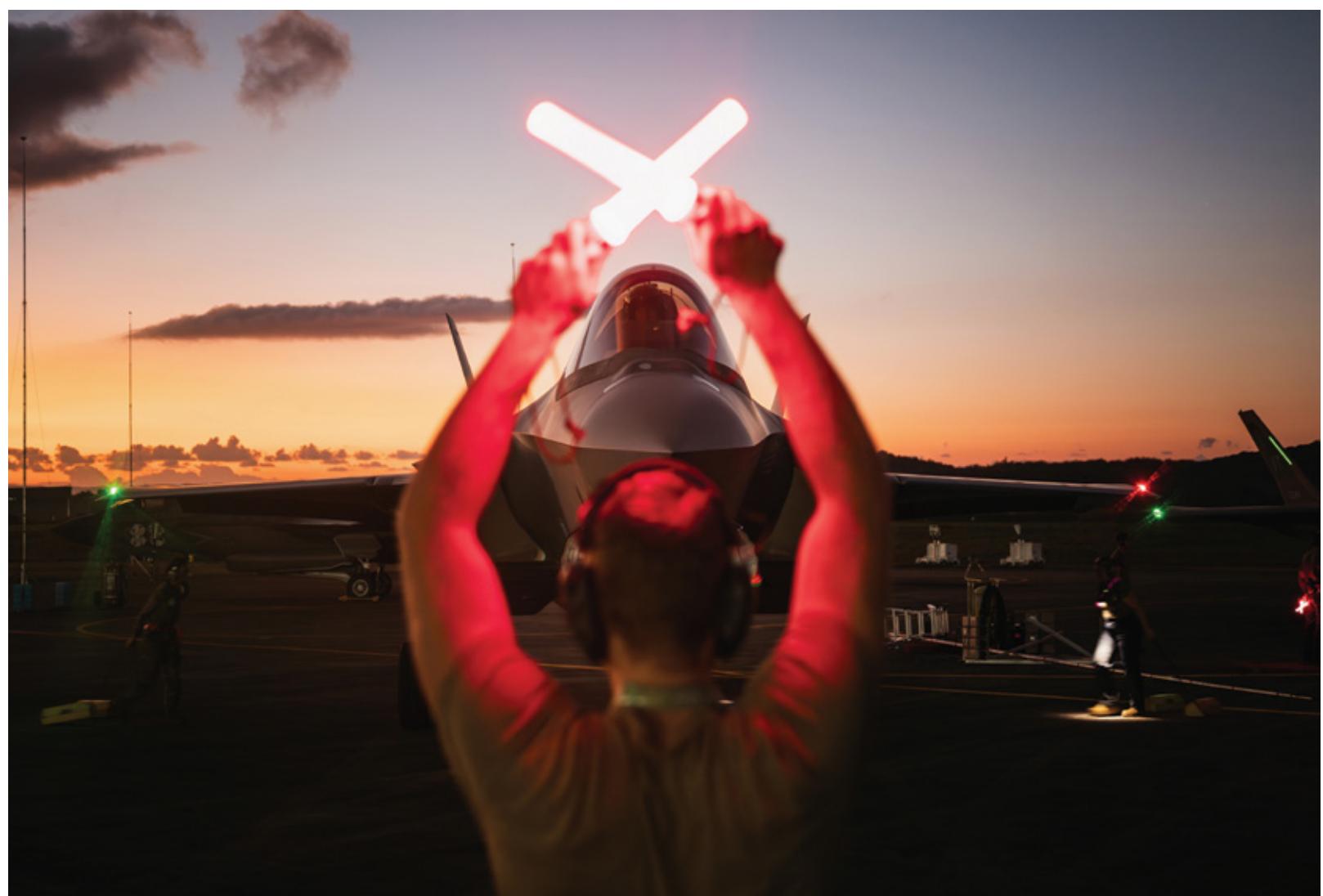
34 Longer than months, shorter than decades
 37 Computer network
 39 Mekong inhabitants
 42 Distress signal
 43 Junior rank
 44 "The ___ Job"
 45 Spider hole
 46 Arena
 47 Kim Jong-un and Moon Jae-in
 48 Rave music
 49 DSLR memory cards
 52 Entertainment site
 55 Osama ___ Laden
 57 Perform on stage
 59 Utilities
 61 Failure ___ an option
 62 Spotted
 63 Healthcare provider
 64 Paddle
 66 Second Amendment lobby group
 67 Goes with Myung-bak or Bruce
 68 5G predecessor

Answers to Previous Crossword	ACROSS	DOWN
20 STARK	48 ITS	23 URSA
22 EXECUTIVE	49 ARES	25 MANS
24 KAMD	51 BAILSY	27 ALIBI
26 KRS	53 ORE	55 AMPS
27 AMELIA	54 HERD	56 RAIL
30 PASS	55 ARMISTICE	57 MULE
32 COOT	56 COTTON	58 ITEM
35 LEVI	64 MAUL	59 TIE
36 NCOS	65 ATOMS	61 TUTU
38 ABOUT	67 ZULU	62 ELON
40 IRAN	68 PILS	63 LUNE
42 MELT	69 TOTEM	66 SND
43 USER	70 ETON	67 GOODOZER
44 BINGO	71 SLED	68 ROBE
46 REPO	72 EMEND	45 OARS
47 LOLA	73 RUNE	50 RETAKE
		52 ARM
		53 OILED
		54 HEMAN
		55 AMPS
		56 RAIL
		57 MULE
		58 ITEM
		59 TIE
		60 COOT
		61 TUTU
		62 ELON
		63 LUNE
		66 SND



Off-season practice: Maj. Melanie Kluesner, an F-35A Demonstration Team pilot, performs high-speed aerial maneuvers during a practice demonstration at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, Jan. 6, 2026. The team practices during the off-season to maintain proficiency. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nicholas Rupiper) ▲

Gateway to the Air Force: Trainees from Flights 081-097 march in the 737th Training Group's graduation parade at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Jan. 8, 2026. The ceremony marks their transition to Airmen upon completion of Air Force Basic Military Training. (U.S. Air Force photo by Ismael Ortega) ▲



De-icing: Airmen from the 157th Maintenance Group and 64th Air Refueling Squadron de-ice a KC-46 Pegasus during cold weather operations at Pease Air National Guard Base, N.H., Jan. 6, 2026. De-icing fluid removes snow and ice from the aircraft's surfaces, a critical step to ensure safe flight during cold weather operations. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by 2nd Lt. Victoria Nelson) ▶

Guiding light: A crew chief guides an F-35A Lightning II after a large-scale strike against Venezuelan military targets in support of Operation Absolute Resolve in Ceiba, Puerto Rico, Jan. 3, 2026. The operation supports U.S. Southern Command objectives by maintaining regional security, enhancing deterrence and reinforcing U.S. commitments to counter transnational threats and safeguard the homeland. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Katelynn Jackson) ▲



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

January 30, 2026

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 visit-

ing 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

- 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.

- 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.

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

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

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

Osan Air Base Honor Guard
Every Monday & Wednesday | 1630-1730 | Bldg. 936 Rm. 211
The Osan Air Base Honor Guard covers ceremonies across the peninsula ac-

knowledging the achievements of our fellow members in uniform and their families. An amazing way to serve the members in your community and build lasting connections between other service members. For any questions, comments, or concerns please reach out to OsanHonorGuard@us.af.mil

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

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

Volunteer Opportunities
Mustang community, if you are looking to volunteer checkout our newsletter for opportunities and use the QR code titled "Volunteer Form"

Organizations that are looking for volunteers, you can request them using the QR code titled "Organization Form." With the same form, you can put down your upcoming events/programs to be added into next month's issue.

POC: Any questions or suggestions please email osan.afrc@us.af.mil

Osan Air Base Soccer
Every Tuesday and Thursday from 1800-2000 and every Sunday from 1800-2000 | Mustang Soccer Field Osan Varsity Soccer wants you to join the fun of playing with us every Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Open to players of all skill levels. We're focused on having a great time and developing camaraderie, all while we hone our skills and build our team to compete in the premier Seoul Saturday Soccer League. Follow the Osan Varsity Team on Facebook for daily updates.

Open Tryouts. We want to see the Messi in you as we build a team to compete in the Seoul Saturday Soccer League. Our season begins August 30th. POCs: SrA Jacob Carey and A1C Logan Gibson

Kickstart Korea
2nd Thursday of the Month | 0900-1330 | PDC, Bldg 788 POC - TSgt. Deans: 51FSS.OsanUni. CommandSection@us.af.mil or Sarah Reeves: reevespd55@gmail.com Signup (encouraged, but walk-ins welcome): <https://tockify.com/osan/detail/5/1762995600000/2> Whether you're new to Osan or just

sick of the SED, Kickstart Korea is for everyone! This fast-paced crash course shortens the learning curve of adjusting to your 'home away from home', so you can explore with confidence. You'll learn how to navigate neighborhoods in Pyeongtaek and beyond, discover your favorite new shopping and dining spots, and choose YOUR next adventure...from Art Museums to Zip Lines! You'll also explore the Community Directory (over 3000+ categorized pins) and plug into over 200 interest and hobby networks, making personalized memories that will last a lifetime. On-site and alternate scheduling available for flights/units on request.

Healthy Teen – Parent Communication
Feb 27 | 1100-1230 | Osan Chapel, Fellowship Hall

Join the Integrated Resilience Office & M&FRC for a Lunch & Learn (Lunch Provided). Healthy relationships are the foundation of strong individuals, families, and communities. Learn how to recognize the warning signs of unhealthy relationships and gain tools to have those important, yet difficult, conversations with your teens about their interpersonal connections. Together, we can foster a supportive environment that promotes respect, communication, and understanding.

POCs: Nino Serrano | nino.serrano.1@us.af.mil | 784-5440 and Ms. Sami (Unsus) Carlton | 51fw.ippw.prevention-workforce@us.af.mil | 784-4986

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

CRIMSON SKY

January 30, 2026

CRIMSON SKY | PAGE 19

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Fueling the Fight: Hot-Pit Refueling Sustains Combat Airpower at Osan

< Continued from Front Page >

Traditionally, refueling required fuel trucks to be dispatched after aircraft landed, a process that could take 15 to 30 minutes before fueling even began. By pre-positioning personnel and using fixed fuel hydrant systems, hot-pit operations eliminate much of that delay.

"What hot-pits do is eliminate that entire waiting period," stated Lucas. "We're already in position before the jet lands, so when it pulls in, we're fueling immediately. It cuts down roughly 80 percent of the time it takes to get fuel on the jet."

To support the expanded operations, the 51st LRS increased the number of Airmen qualified to conduct hot-pit refueling from two to more than two dozen, ensuring coverage 24/7. The effort required close coordination with maintenance leadership and a deliberate training plan to certify Airmen through multiple qualification phases.

"Our goal is to make sure everyone from our newest Airmen all the way to the Superintendent is capable of executing the mission," said Lucas. "Hot-pits give us the flexibility to respond at a moment's notice, no matter the shift or the situation."

That flexibility depends not only on the trained personnel, but also on meticulously maintained fueling infrastructure.



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Benjamin Patterson, 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron petroleum, oils, and lubricants distribution operator, monitors a refueling during a hot-pit refueling operation at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 27, 2026. 51st LRS increased the number of Airmen qualified to conduct hot-pit refueling from two to over two dozen, ensuring rapid response at a moment's notice. ▲



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Daniel Romero, 35th Fighter Generation Squadron crew chief, marshals an F-16 Fighting Falcon during a hot-pit refueling operation at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 27, 2026. Hot-pit refueling allows F-16s to land, refuel with engines running, and return to the air within minutes, sustaining Osan's ability to fight tonight.

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Benjamin Patterson, 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron petroleum, oils, and lubricants distribution operator, moves a pantograph during a hot-pit refueling operation at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 27, 2026. Fixed fuel hydrant systems and pantographs, Airmen refuel aircraft directly from base fuel storage, reducing delays and sustaining combat airpower. ▶

"Every day, our team inspects the fuel pits for leaks, system issues, and fuel quality," explained Tech. Sgt. Darian Chenault, 51st LRS noncommissioned officer in charge of fuels hydrants. "If something isn't right, it could slow down an aircraft that needs to be back in the air within minutes. Our job is to make sure that never happens."

The Super Squadron test has significantly increased demand on Osan's fuel hydrant systems, making the base one of the highest-utilization locations in the Air Force. Unlike fuel trucks, hydrant systems provide a continuous fuel supply directly from base storage, enabling repeated refueling without interruption.

"With the increased tempo, hydrant systems are a force multiplier," said Chenault. "They don't run out of fuel like trucks do, and that allows us to sustain high-volume operations while preserving our vehicle fleet for when it's needed most."

Beyond efficiency, expanded hot-pit operations directly contribute to deterrence and regional stability by enabling U.S. and allied forces to rapidly generate airpower and respond decisively to emerging threats across the Korean Peninsula.

"This isn't just about exercises," Lucas stated. "In real-world scenarios, being able to launch, refuel, and relaunch aircraft quickly could be the difference between mission success and failure. Fuel powers the fight."

By expanding hot-pit refueling capabilities, Osan Air Base has strengthened its ability to project combat power, support allied operations, and remain ready to fight tonight.

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Benjamin Patterson, 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron petroleum, oils, and lubricants distribution operator, inspects an F-16 Fighting Falcon tire during a hot-pit refueling operation at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 27, 2026. Maintenance and POL Airmen worked side by side during hot-pit operations to safely refuel and rapidly relaunch aircraft. ▶





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

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

The One and Only 'Me' in the Universe

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

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

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

Here, the self-esteem of this being called 'I' begins to shrink endlessly once more. But as mentioned in the introduction, since this being called 'I' is unique

in this universe, there is truly nothing to compare it to. Whether one has much or little money, a large or small house, if one strives to live their own life, the lives of others or the gaze of others will cease to matter.

There is no single perfect answer in life. Even if you were to step into the life of someone you envy, you would invariably face a new set of problems within it, yearning for yet another person's life and living a life that constantly tears you apart. So, if there is no perfect answer in life, but you recognize that there is this one and only being called 'I' in this world and this universe, what should you do? I will tell you a very simple method.

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

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

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

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

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

KUNSAN AIR BASE

Weekly Worship Services @ Bldg #501

Catholic Holy Mass
Sunday at 0900 (Chapel)

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

Protestant Worship
Sunday at 1100 (Chapel)

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

Point of Contact:
Kunsan Chapel, 782-HOPE

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

OSAN AIR BASE

Osan AB Chapel (Building 780)

Protestant Service

Sunday Worship Service
Sunday @ 0930

Children's church
Sunday @ 0945

Halftime Bible Study
Monday – Friday @ 1100 (Classroom 5)

Catholic Mass

Catholic Sunday Mass
Sunday @ 1130

Confession
Sunday @1100-1125 (Blessed Sacrament Room)

Catholic Daily Mass
Monday – Thursday @ 1130 -1200
(Blessed Sacrament Room)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Come to me class
Thursday @ 1900

Fellowship
Friday @ 1900

Earth-Based Meeting

Wednesday @ 1830 (Classroom 6)

For the most current updates and announcements,
Please visit our "Osan AB Chapel" Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/OsanABChapel>

HUMPHREYS

PROTESTANT

Sundays -
0900 Christ The King Liturgical Service - Pacific Victors Chapel
0930 & 1100 Agape (Contemporary Service) - 4CMC
1000 Burning Bush Gospel Service - Warf Chapel
1100 Christ The King - Pacific Victors Chapel
1200 Common Ground (Traditional) - 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 Droege; 010-8685-2976; shawn.a.droege.mil@mail.mil

RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND MINISTRY AUXILIARIES

MON/WED 1830 Catholic Men of the Chapel - Freedom
TUES 1000-1200 Korean Ladies Bible Study (KLSB) - 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 Break until 2030 until 30 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 Kamzany daniel.j.kamzany.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 Rim 110 / 1800-1900 Pagan Fellowship

POC: CPT Ryan S. Robinson; ryan.s.robinson14@mail.mil

BUDHIST

Tuesdays - Warrior Chapel / 1800-1900 Buddhist Service

POC: CH (CPT) Somya Malasri; 010-7460-1281; somya.malasri.mil@mail.mil



Aerial pit-stop: An F-15 Eagle with the 159th Fighter Wing receives mid-flight refueling from a KC-135 Stratotanker assigned to the 128th Air Refueling Wing during Sentry Aloha off the coast of Honolulu, Hawaii, Jan. 15, 2026. The exercise provides cost-effective and realistic, large-scale training scenarios to prepare warfighters and support the Air National Guard's role as a crucial component of the nation's operational force. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Lauren Kmiec) ▲

Return to training: U.S. Air Force Academy cadets walk up a library staircase during the first day of the spring semester at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., Jan. 7, 2026. The start of the semester marks the cadets' return to academic and military training. (U.S. Air Force photo by Ray Bahner) ▲

Commanding view: Gen. Adrian Spain, commander of Air Combat Command, and Staff Sgt. Tory Steen, a loadmaster with the 418th Test and Evaluation Squadron, rest on the ramp of an HC-130J Combat King II overlooking an area near Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Jan. 10, 2026. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Lauren Clevenger) ▼



Red light ops: Staff Sgt. Joshua Lapooh, a tactical air control party specialist with the 124th Air Support Operations Squadron, documents targeting information during a night training exercise at Saylor Creek Range, Idaho, Jan. 9, 2026. The specialists directed A-10 Thunderbolt II pilots from the 190th Fighter Squadron through training gun runs to improve their proficiency in supporting ground forces in low-light conditions. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mercedes Wilds) ▲



BOSS Leadership Empowers Soldiers Through Opportunities

By Pfc. Draven Garcia

CAMP CASEY, South Korea -- As people are getting seated and beverages are being poured there is an individual marching through the crowd to the sound of the performers. He flows through the crowd with purpose, an iconic trait of Army leadership. As he makes his rounds, he ensures everyone is having a good time.

Spc. Malcom Clark, the U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan-Casey Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) president, can be seen mingling with junior enlisted Soldiers, senior leaders and key figures in South Korean communities during the 23rd annual Korea-America Friendship Night. The evening is a more formal celebration of the lasting friendship and enduring strength of the U.S.-ROK alliance.

The Plaza Seoul, a five-star hotel, has hosted the event every year since its establishment in 2002. Each year an award is given to a special Soldier that exemplifies that spirit of togetherness and is dedicated to the protection and aid of South Korea.

The BOSS program aims to improve



U.S. Army Pfc. Malcom Clark, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USAG Yongsan-Casey, wipes the monument during the Soysan spring cleanup & flower planting event, Dongducheon, South Korea, Mar. 19, 2025. U.S. Soldiers, KATUSA, ROK Army Soldiers, ROK veterans and civilians gather together to clean up and plant the flowers around the monuments for Korean War veterans throughout the event. (DoD photos by Pfc. Tae Kyung Lee, KATUSA) (Pfc. Tae Kyung Lee) ▲

Camp Casey Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) and People to People International Dongducheon Chapter (PTP) hosted a children's day for local Dongducheon kids at Cherry Blossom Park, Camp Casey, May 31. Soldiers from BOSS and PTP volunteers prepared food, played games and gave out gift bags to over 70 kids who attended the event with opening remarks from USAG Yongsan-Casey CSM William J. Fritzinger. The Camp Casey BOSS program and Dongducheon PTP continue to host events supporting the local community and strengthening the ROK-U.S. alliance. (U.S. Army photos by Cpl. Philemon Tan) (Cpl. Philemon Tan) ▶

the Quality of Life (QoL) of single and unaccompanied Soldiers by boosting morale, welfare and recreation. Soldiers willing to go above and beyond the call of duty are essential to the program's continued success.

"BOSS primarily helps single Soldiers, but it also benefits units and leadership by improving morale, communication and overall readiness," said Clark. "When Soldiers feel supported, they perform better and are more motivated."

Three years ago, Clark joined BOSS to help improve the QoL of his fellow Soldiers and create more positive experiences outside of work. His time at BOSS has enabled him to grow as a leader and make a difference. While being in this position he has improved upon his confidence and his leadership skills while simultaneously improving his time management and understanding of how the Army operates beyond his MOS, Camp Casey and South Korean culture.

"Working with KATUSAs is a positive and educational experience," said Clark. "It encourages teamwork, cultural exchange and mutual respect while strengthening relationships between U.S. and Korean Soldiers. On a personal level, it helped me become more outgoing, confident and adaptable. It also taught me empathy and the importance of listening to others."

Several Yongsan-Casey KATUSAs laud Clark as a very respected and hard-working individual.

"I think he sacrificed himself for the events and the KATUSAs," said Sgt. Joo Won Kim, a KATUSA assigned to USAG Yongsan-Casey Community Relationship Office. "He wanted to help as many people as he can. I guess that's the reason why so many US Soldiers and KATUSAs like him."

While having the opportunity of being in Korea, Clark has gotten the chance to learn about Korean culture and customs and gained a better understanding of how important respect, community and teamwork is in Korean society. Through his personal experiences here in Korea his advice to new Soldiers coming to Korea for the first time is to be open-minded, respectful and willing to learn.

"Take advantage of opportunities like BOSS, explore the country and build relationships," said Clark. "Korea is a unique experience, make the most of it."

In a few months Clark is slated to finish his tour in Korea and continue as an Information Technology Specialist with the 1st Multi Domain Task Force at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Tacoma, Washington.



U.S. Army Soldiers stationed on Camp Casey and Camp Hovey participated in a USFK Culture and Security tour in Icheon, South Korea, Oct. 18, 2024. The Gyeonggi Government Office introduced parts of Korean culture to the group of 31 Soldiers and expressed their appreciation for both military service members serving in South Korea. The tour highlighted local events and attractions, including the Icheon Ceramics Festival and the Samsung Transportation Museum. (DoD photo by Song A. Kim) ▲



Camp Casey Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) and People to People International Dongducheon Chapter (PTP) hosted a children's day for local Dongducheon kids at Cherry Blossom Park, Camp Casey, May 31. Soldiers from BOSS and PTP volunteers prepared food, played games and gave out gift bags to over 70 kids who attended the event with opening remarks from USAG Yongsan-Casey CSM William J. Fritzinger. The Camp Casey BOSS program and Dongducheon PTP continue to host events supporting the local community and strengthening the ROK-U.S. alliance. (U.S. Army photos by Cpl. Philemon Tan) ▲



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U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Anthony Pena, 51st Fighter Wing occupational safety technician, refers to a base map at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 22, 2026. As an occupational safety technician, Pena's duties range from conducting inspections, documenting mishaps, assisting investigations, and ensuring members of Team Osan are performing their jobs in safe work conditions.

< Continued from Page 6 >

"I was getting toward the end of my contract and I was looking for a change in my career," he said. "As I was doing TAPS I met a career advisor who told me about safety and despite it being a harder career field to cross train into, I thought it would be a rewarding experience."

Commitment, effort, and experience are essential qualities of an effective safety technician.

Staff Sgt. Ryan Lal, occupational safety technician and Pena's supervisor, highlights Pena's professionalism and dedication to the role.

"He's dependable, mission focused, and someone you can trust to step up when it matters," Lal stated. "He represents exactly what we want in our airmen in this career field."

Beyond his primary duties, Pena remains actively engaged in the Osan community. He

serves as the treasurer for the WSA Booster Club, acts as the action officer for the annual awards program, and is coordinating a Paws for Cause and Integrated Resiliency Office partnership event scheduled for May in support of Mental Health Awareness Month.

"I'm proud to be part of the team," said Pena. "We have a lot of good people here and I'm glad it's my job to make sure everyone is safe."



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Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Hernandez-Mendez

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

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Hernandez-Mendez, 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels maintenance technician, was recognized as the Mustang of the Week at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 9, 2026.

When Hernandez-Mendez isn't ensuring that the fuel trucks remain safe and ready to go, he is functioning as a fuels distribution operator. His responsibilities range from daily truck inspections and fuels recirculation to documenting discrepancies and coordinating repairs to keep fueling assets mission-ready.

"Our duty day starts at 6 a.m., and he's out there in the cold starting trucks and performing maintenance checks before the flying mission even begins," stated Tech. Sgt. Henry Nelson II, 51st LRS fuel distribution noncommissioned officer in charge. "Then he goes straight into fueling operations without complaint. He does everything with a smile, and he genuinely cares about the people he's working with."

Each fuel truck carries approximately 6,000 gallons of fuel, enabling Hernandez-Mendez to support an average of eight to ten aircraft per day. With the addition of the super squadron and the increase in operational tempo, his dependability and judgment has become more valuable.

"What I enjoy the most about my job is having a direct contribution to the mission," said Hernandez-Mendez. "Being that close to the jets and knowing I'm

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Hernandez-Mendez, 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels maintenance technician, pulls a hose at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 14, 2026. He served as the secretary of the Rising Four, supporting volunteer events and developing leadership skills, while regularly assisting new Airmen in his squadron with in-processing, flightline orientation and adjusting to life on base. ▲



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Hernandez-Mendez, 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels maintenance technician, inspects a ground wire at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 14, 2026. Hernandez-Mendez was selected to assist with preparing fuel trucks for shipment and inspection during a recent President of the United States visit. The task required draining, drying and certifying trucks before they were transported and later re-certified for aircraft fueling under Secret Service oversight. ▲



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Hernandez-Mendez, 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels maintenance technician, poses for a picture in front of a fueling truck at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Jan. 14, 2026. Hernandez-Mendez's responsibilities range from daily truck inspections and fuels recirculation to documenting discrepancies and coordinating repairs to keep fueling assets mission-ready. ▲

a part of something bigger than myself is amazing. Without POL, pilots wouldn't be able to fly."

Nelson emphasized that Hernandez-Mendez's maturity and initiative helps him to stand out amongst his peers, with his name being one of the first mentioned when asked who could be trusted.

That trust was evident during a recent presidential support mission, when Hernandez-Mendez was selected to assist with preparing fuel trucks for shipment and inspection. The task required draining, drying and certifying trucks before they were transported and later re-certified for aircraft fueling under Secret Service oversight.

"He kept leadership informed every step of the way," said Nelson. "For an A/C to brief everything clearly and in order like that is incredibly impressive."

Outside of his primary duties, Hernandez-Mendez remains actively involved in the Osan community. He served as the secretary of the Rising Four, supporting volunteer events and developing leadership skills, while regularly assisting new Airmen in his squadron with in-processing, flightline orientation and adjusting to life on base.

Throughout his involvement with the Rising Four, Hernandez-Mendez has been able to take the skills he's learned to adapt, problem-solve and support his teammates. Within his squadron, he is frequently relied on by other Airmen for guidance and is recognized by leadership for his professionalism and ambition.

"It feels good knowing that my leadership trusts me and can rely on me," expressed Hernandez-Mendez. "It's a reminder that you just have to keep pushing through the tough moments and continue to improve."

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Winter Street Food Battle: What's Your Pick?

As you wander through Korean streets in winter, the cold-crisp air fills with the irresistible aroma of warm and delicious street foods that are impossible to ignore. Winter in Korea is truly a season of indulgent treats, each with its own cozy charm. Here we've put together Korea's most favorite winter treats up for comparison. Read on to see if you can choose your favorite!



A sip to comfort even your soul, Eomuk vs. Janchi Guksu

A sip of hot eomuk (fishcake) and janchi guksu (banquet noodles) soup immediately brings a warm sensation all over your body, soothing you on a cold day. While eomuk and janchi guksu are both excellent to enjoy in winter, each has its own unique charms. Eomuk is a ground fish fillet that is usually fried or grilled. It's commonly cooked in a broth to bring out the deeper flavors of eomuk. If you happen to pass by a food stall selling eomuk, stop by to enjoy a bite with an eomuk skewer in one hand and a cup of hot soup in the other. Its opponent, Janchi guksu is a noodle soup served in a bowl. The noodles are cooked in anchovy and sweet kelp stock, topped with sliced eggs and zucchini, and garnished with laver flakes.



Breads, but better! Potato Corn Dog vs. Gyeranppang

Hot dogs and corn dogs are a favorite treat worldwide, but the potato corn dog, often called the "Korean-style potato hot dog," is an original characterized by crispy potato bits in the bun that enhance the taste and texture to a whole new level. Koreans coat the corn dog with sugar and add condiments like ketchup, creating a combination of salty and sweet flavors, a favorite among Koreans. In contrast, gyeranppang (egg muffin), which earned a spot on CNN's list of "Top 50 Breads in the World," is topped with a whole egg. This hefty dessert has the nutrients and the subtle sweetness that make for an excellent light meal.



A taste of spicy kick! Tteokbokki vs. Dakgangjeong

If you are a fan of spicy food, tteokbokki is a must-try. Chewy cylindrical rice cakes stir-fried in gochujang (red chili paste), paired with eomuk and boiled eggs, come together to make the perfect bowl of tteokbokki. The spicy flavor may leave your tongue numb, but it'll instantly relieve you of stress. In contrast, dakgangjeong (deep-fried and braised chicken), starts with sweet and savory flavors, followed by a slow-burn spiciness that will have you craving for more. If you want to challenge yourself to spicy Korean food, opt for tteokbokki; if you're looking for the perfect balance of sweet and spicy flavors, opt for dakgangjeong.



Snacks that represent winter in Korea, Bungeoppang vs. Hotteok

It's not an overstatement to say that some Koreans look forward to winter because of bungeoppang (fish-shaped small bun) and hotteok (syrup-filled pancake). The most commonly found bungeoppang filling is sweet red bean paste, but you can also find other fillings like custard cream, chocolate, and others, adding a twist to the classic flavor. Hotteok is a chewy pancake filled with brown sugar, along with cinnamon and nuts, which dissolve into a syrup once the dough is grilled on a hot pan. If you prefer a soft texture with sweet cream, opt for a bungeoppang; if you like chewy texture and mouthwatering sweetness, opt for a hotteok.



Soft steamed dishes, Jjinppang vs. Wangmandu

When the winter cold has your hands freezing, jjinppang and wangmandu, straight from the hot steamer, are perfect treats to wrap you in warmth. Jjinppang is characterized by soft and tender steamed bun that melts your cold away. Sweet red bean paste-filled jjinppang and milk is a classic combo, while the pizza-flavored jjinppang goes well with a soft drink. While similar in shape, wangmandu, which can be translated to "king dumpling," is characterized by chewy skin with savory and scrumptious fillings like meat or kimchi. The best way to enjoy wangmandu is to eat it with a hot soup on a cold day. You can find them easily in convenience stores during winter, so pop in for a warm treat on a cold day.



Old-fashioned winter treats, Baked Chestnuts vs. Baked Sweet Potato

The delicious aroma wafting through the streets in winter comes from none other than gunbam (baked chestnuts) and gungoguma (baked sweet potatoes). Although delicious on their own, they are roasted with their skin on a brazier, infusing them with a tasty smoky flavor. They both have in common the crusty outer layer, but while the chestnuts are a convenient bite-sized delish, the sweet potatoes bring a tender and heavenly sweetness to your palate. Baked sweet potatoes go surprisingly well with kimchi, a combination that is worth a try if you get the chance. These baked goods were once often found on the streets, but now you can find them at convenience stores or inside subway stations.



Desserts reimagined the Korean way, Waffle vs. Churros

Crispy waffles and chewy churros may not be authentic Korean desserts, but they have found their way into the hearts of locals with a unique Korean twist. Baked crispy and filled with toppings like whipped cream, apple jam, and many other variations, waffles have become another beloved winter treat. Churros, on the other hand, are fried dough coated in sugar and cinnamon, often served in bite-sized pieces and paired with ice cream. Grab these crunchy, sweet desserts with irresistible visuals—perfect for snapping that drool-worthy food shot for your social media.



How many skewers can you eat? Tteok kkochi vs. Dak kkochi

Tteok kkochi (rice cake skewer) is a sweet and sour Korean snack prepared by deep-frying rows of rice cakes on a skewer and coating them with sweet and spicy sauce. The result is a rice cake that is crispy on the outside and chewy on the inside, complemented by a delicious sauce. On the other hand, Korean-style dak kkochi (chicken skewer) is grilled over charcoal before coating it with sauce, which results in tender, juicy meat. Sometimes, green onions are also added to the skewer to enhance the flavor profile. Common dak kkochi seasonings or sauces consist of salt, soy sauce, and spicy marinade.



A convenient and light meal, Street Toast vs. Cup Bap

A Korean-style "street toast" is not a typical toasted bread slice, but it's closer to a grilled sandwich. The most common form of Korean-style street toast includes thinly sliced cabbage strips and omelet-style egg as the main filling ingredients, with sugar, ketchup, and mayonnaise as the sauce. Cup bap, on the other hand, is a quick, one-dish meal where toppings are added over rice in a cup. Common cup bap toppings include fried eggs, bulgogi, tuna and mayonnaise, and laver flakes, which you can add or subtract according to your preference. Both dishes are cheap and convenient, making them a go-to option for students and busy workers who are looking for a quick meal.





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