

Crimson Sky

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U.S. Air Force Tactical Air Control Party operators assigned to the 604th Air Support Operations Squadron sit in a UH-60 Black Hawk at Sobaeksan National Park, Republic of Korea, April 21, 2026. TACP operators were tasked with finding critical targets during exercise Freedom Flag 26-1 to enable dynamic targeting for the 607th Air Operations Center. FF 26-1 is a combined exercise between U.S. and Republic of Korea air forces on the Korean peninsula designed to enhance readiness through realistic, complex training scenarios. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Nicholas Lawson)

Freedom Flag 26-1 Tactical Air Control Party Fast Rope Insertion Extraction System

By Senior Airman Jessica Mun
51st Fighter Wing

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea --

U.S. Air Force Tactical Air Control Party operators assigned to the 604th Air Support Operations Squadron conducted Fast Rope Insertion Extraction System training in support of exercise Freedom Flag 26-1 at Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea, April 21, 2026. TACP operators spent a total of six days in the field, moving over mountainous terrain to track targets while using advanced communication waveforms to pass critical data to the 607th Air Operations Center. FF 26-1 is a combined exercise between U.S. and Republic of Korea air forces on the Korean peninsula designed to enhance readiness through realistic, complex training scenarios.

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K-Culture Day to Celebrate Korean Culture and Partnership

Seventh Air Force Leadership Development Series



By Senior Airman Jessica Mun
51st Fighter Wing

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- U.S. senior enlisted leaders from the United States Forces Korea components gathered for the Seventh Air Force Leadership Development Series at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 24.

The series is a comprehensive and dynamic initiative designed to empower officers and enlisted personnel in the Korean Theater of Operations by connecting Airmen to the Seventh Air Force mission and the perspectives of the joint force's most senior enlisted leaders.

Panel members included SELs from Seventh Air Force, U.S. Eighth Army, U.S. Special Operations Command Korea, U.S. Marine Forces Korea, and U.S. Space Forces-Korea.

The series highlighted deterrence as a key mission, offering insights into the U.S.-ROK Alliance, while also detailing the operational and tactical impacts of ongoing efforts, including tour normalization.

Each SEL explained their distinct roles, responsibilities, and relationships of each service branch to show how the armed forces all fit into the combined operational plan, ensuring strategic alignment from the command level down to every junior service member.

"This series is dedicated to promoting education and deliberate development by aligning our talented personnel directly with our core mission objectives. It's about ensuring every single warfighter understands their role."

— U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Nathaniel Hobbs, 51st Civil Engineer Squadron non-commissioned officer in charge of fire prevention

By connecting to the unique mission on the Korean Peninsula, Airmen are able to cultivate a growth mindset that leverages knowledge and experience for continuous success.

"The goal is to elevate our operational readiness and foster a culture of continuous improvement across the force," said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Sulki Lee, 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron operations superintendent.

The series concluded with a Q&A session, allowing the SELs to mentor Airmen and equip them with the tools needed to "Deter, Defend, and Defeat."

U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to Seventh Air Force and the 51st Fighter Wing pose for a group photo after the Seventh Air Force Leadership Development Series at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 24, 2026. The LDS is a comprehensive and dynamic initiative designed to empower officers and enlisted personnel in the Korean Theater of Operations. ▲



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Schaefer, Seventh Air Force command chief, gives a briefing during the Seventh Air Force Leadership Development Series at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 24, 2026. The LDS is dedicated to promoting education and deliberate development by aligning talented personnel directly with core mission objectives. ▲



U.S. Space Force Senior Master Sgt. Ryan Canterbury, U.S. Space Forces-Korea command senior enlisted leader, speaks during the Seventh Air Force Leadership Development Series at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 24, 2026. ▲

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PACAF command chief connects with Airmen at Osan Air Base



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Katie McCool, left, Pacific Air Forces command chief, presents a coin to Staff Sgt. Daniel Karcher, 51st Security Forces Squadron Electronic Warfare Operations noncommissioned officer in charge, at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 23, 2026. Coining recognizes Airmen for their outstanding job performance, problem-solving capabilities, and leadership display. ▲

By Senior Airman Jessica Mun
51st Fighter Wing

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Katie McCool, Pacific Air Forces command chief, participated in immersion tours across Seventh Air Force and the 51st Fighter Wing, gaining deeper insight into the Airmen and operations there during a visit to Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 23-24, 2026.

McCool started the day with a briefing from the 607th Air Operations Center. There, she advocated for capable junior enlisted Airmen in higher-level positions, highlighting them as invaluable assets to the mission.

"Connection to our Airmen is what I expect of you. That connection, for me, is what makes me wake up every morning and get after every single day because I feel connected to you and I feel connected to what I owe you to make the Air Force a better place."

— Chief Master Sgt. Katie McCool



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Katie McCool, Pacific Air Forces command chief, addresses Airmen during an enlisted all-call at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 23, 2026. McCool emphasized the importance of Airmen connecting with Air Force values, the mission, and their Wingmen. ▲

Afterward, McCool hosted an enlisted all-call that emphasized the significance of connection. She elaborated by saying Airmen need to make an active choice to be connected to Air Force values, the mission, and other Airmen.

Following a Chief's lunch, McCool engaged with Airmen from the 51st Maintenance Squadron where she learned about the safety mechanics of aircraft egress systems before heading to the flightline for a tour from Radar, Airfield, and Weather Systems specialists assigned to the 51st Operations Support Squadron.

McCool concluded her first day with more hands-on demonstrations, which included working alongside entry controllers with the 51st Security Forces Squadron, learning how to save lives at the 51st Medical Group, and operating an excavator at a deployable corrosion control facility with the 51st Civil Engineer Squadron.

The immersion tours provided an opportunity to recognize exceptional Airmen and present areas of improvement. McCool was able to step back into junior enlisted Airmen's shoes and see firsthand how different units contribute to the Air Force mission as well as the innovation and resourcefulness they illustrate daily.

"The paradigm shift of how we fight war is going to be impressive, and it's all going to come down to the Airmen — the Airmen that are literally out in the trenches thinking of new ways to not only protect themselves, but protect their fellow Wingmen in pursuit of the mission," said Chief Master Sgt. Charles Patterson, 51st Mission Support Group senior enlisted leader.

The next day, McCool started her morning with a physical training session together with the 51st Civil Engineer Squadron and later provided opening remarks at the Seventh Air Force Leadership Development Series.

From briefings delivered by junior enlisted Airmen to mentoring the newest generation of the highest enlisted rank, McCool engaged with Airmen of all ranks, equipping them with mentorship opportunities and the drive to execute Osan's "Fight Tonight" mission.



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Katie McCool, Pacific Air Forces command chief, receives a mission briefing from a 607th Air Operations Center Airman at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 23, 2026. 607th AOC's mission is to plan, direct, and assess air and space operations in support of combined U.S. and ROK. forces. ▲



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Giovanni Villamizar, 51st Maintenance Squadron egress systems journeyman, delivers a briefing on aircraft escape systems to Chief Master Sgt. Katie McCool, Pacific Air Forces command chief, at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 23, 2026. Egress systems technicians are responsible for inspecting, maintaining, and repairing escape systems — such as ejection seats and canopy initiators — for F-16 Fighting Falcons. ▲

U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Katie McCool, Pacific Air Forces command chief, greets and verifies an Airman's identification during an immersion with the 51st Security Forces Squadron at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 23, 2026. Participating in immersion tours allows leaders to step into Airmen's shoes and experience firsthand how different units contribute to the Air Force mission. ◀





Staff Sgt. Tyrone Wilson

By Senior Airman Tabatha Chapman
8th Fighter Wing

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Tyrone Wilson, 8th Civil Engineer Squadron heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration journeyman, poses for a portrait at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 30, 2026. Wilson was selected as the Wolf Pack's Pride of the Pack for the week of April 27 - May 1 due to his achievements within his career field and his impact on the readiness and well-being of the Wolf Pack. ▲

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Tyrone Wilson, a native of Virginia Beach, Virginia, and 8th Civil Engineer Squadron heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration journeyman was awarded the 8th Fighter Wing's Pride of the Pack for the week of April 27 - May 1 for reinstating cooling for the 8th Operations Support Squadron Operations Center, ensuring optimal working conditions for 157 personnel across five sections, while enabling the support to generate 4,900 flight hours & 5,300 sorties.

As an HVAC journeyman, Wilson serviced three degraded distribution valves to supply vital equipment cooling to 8th Communications Squadron network facilities worth \$55 million, ensuring continuous network accessibility. His efforts led to receiving a letter of appreciation from the 8 CS commander.

Wilson also co-lead the training of 200 medics on contingency air conditioning equipment, advancing the Expeditionary Medical Support Unit Type Code bed down & extending trauma care to 3,000 patients.

He partnered with 8 FW Public Affairs to launch a mold mitigation campaign, creating an educational video to preserve quality of life for 2,900 Airmen residing in Pacific Air Force's largest unaccompanied housing annex.

Finally, Wilson drove the completion of the \$36,000 Radar project, upgrading three cooling units to protect the \$3.5 million radio equipment.

Thank you, Staff Sgt. Tyrone Wilson, for your outstanding leadership and dedication to the Wolf Pack mission. Congratulations on being this week's Pride of the Pack!



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Tyrone Wilson, 8th Civil Engineer Squadron heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration journeyman, checks wire continuity on a pump motor at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 30, 2026. Wilson was selected as the Wolf Pack's Pride of the Pack for the week of April 27 - May 1 due to his achievements within his career field and his impact on the readiness and well-being of the Wolf Pack. ▲



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5th Annual ROK-U.S. Friendship Children & Family Taekwondo Exhibition Festival

By Tech. Sgt. Desiree Ware
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- U.S. service members and their families participate in the 5th Annual Republic of Korea-U.S. Friendship Children & Family Taekwondo Exhibition Festival alongside ROK community participants at Osan Air Base, ROK, May 2, 2026. The event offers service members stationed in Korea and their families the opportunity to learn about and experience Korean culture firsthand, thereby strengthening the ROK-U.S. Alliance through cultural exchange and community engagement.

U.S. service members and spouses perform warm-up exercises during the 5th Annual Republic of Korea-U.S. Friendship Children & Family Taekwondo Exhibition Festival at Osan Air Base, ROK, May 2, 2026. The event offers service members stationed in Korea and their families the opportunity to learn about and experience Korean culture firsthand, thereby strengthening the ROK-U.S. Alliance through cultural exchange and community engagement. ▲

A U.S. Soldier spars with a teammate during the 5th Annual Republic of Korea-U.S. Friendship Children & Family Taekwondo Exhibition Festival at Osan Air Base, ROK, May 2, 2026. The event offers service members stationed in Korea and their families the opportunity to learn about and experience Korean culture firsthand, thereby strengthening the ROK-U.S. Alliance through cultural exchange and community engagement. ▼



A Camp Humphreys taekwondo master cheers for U.S. soldiers during a speed kicking competition at the 5th Annual Republic of Korea-U.S. Friendship Children & Family Taekwondo Exhibition Festival at Osan Air Base, ROK, May 2, 2026. ▲



Participants of the 5th Annual Republic of Korea-U.S. Friendship Children & Family Taekwondo Exhibition Festival gather in the base gym at Osan Air Base, ROK, May 2, 2026. The festival aims to provide a meaningful platform where U.S. and ROK service members and families come together through taekwondo to promote physical fitness, harmony, mutual understanding, and friendship. ▲

A U.S. Soldier competes in the hand blade pine board breaking event during the 5th Annual Republic of Korea-U.S. Friendship Children & Family Taekwondo Exhibition Festival at Osan Air Base, ROK, May 2, 2026. ►



U.S. Soldiers receive hand stamps after medaling in an event during the 5th Annual Republic of Korea-U.S. Friendship Children & Family Taekwondo Exhibition Festival at Osan Air Base, ROK, May 2, 2026. ▲

Mr. Kim Mun Ok, Foreigners Taekwondo Cultural Association president, delivers opening remarks during the 5th Annual Republic of Korea-U.S. Children Friendship Taekwondo Exhibition Festival at Osan Air Base, ROK, May 2, 2026. ▼



Osan Air Base senior leaders and the Foreigners Taekwondo Cultural Association stand for the playing of Republic of Korea and U.S. national anthems during the 5th Annual ROK-U.S. Friendship Children & Family Taekwondo Exhibition Festival at Osan Air Base, ROK, May 2, 2026. The event offers service members stationed in Korea and their families the opportunity to learn about and experience Korean culture firsthand, thereby strengthening the ROK-U.S. Alliance through cultural exchange and community engagement. ▲

Osan Builds First ESAP on Peninsula



U.S. Airmen assigned to the 51st Civil Engineer Squadron use a crane to assemble an expeditionary storage and protection facility at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, 2026. The ESAP facility is a hardened, modular structure that provides protected storage for critical equipment while enhancing the base's readiness and ability to operate in contested environments. (Courtesy photo)

By Airman 1st Class Megan Cusmano
51 FW/PA

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- U.S. Airmen from the 51st Civil Engineer Squadron, in coordination with the 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron, completed construction of the only expeditionary storage and protection facility on the Korean Peninsula at Osan Air Base, March 2, 2026.

The ESAP is a hardened, modular structure designed to protect critical assets and aircraft from the elements in contested or deployed environments.

The structure offers a flexible alternative to traditional hardened aircraft shelters. While hardened shelters are permanent concrete structures that provide maximum protection, ESAPs are designed for speed, adaptability and employment in expeditionary environments.

"Hardened shelters are built for long-term, high-level protection," said Capt. Joshua Werfel, 51st Civil Engineer Squadron requirements and optimization



The 51st Civil Engineer Squadron, in coordination with the 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron, completed construction of the only expeditionary storage and protection facility on the Korean Peninsula at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 27, 2026. The ESAP facility is a hardened, modular structure that provides protected storage for critical equipment while enhancing the base's readiness and ability to operate in contested environments. ▲

U.S. Airmen assigned to the 51st Civil Engineer Squadron position a steel beam during construction of an expeditionary storage and protection facility at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, 2026. The ESAP facility is a hardened, modular structure that provides protected storage for critical equipment while enhancing the base's readiness and ability to operate in contested environments. (Courtesy photo) ▶

officer in charge. "What ESAPs provide is balance. They're faster to build, adaptable and can be employed where and when we need them."

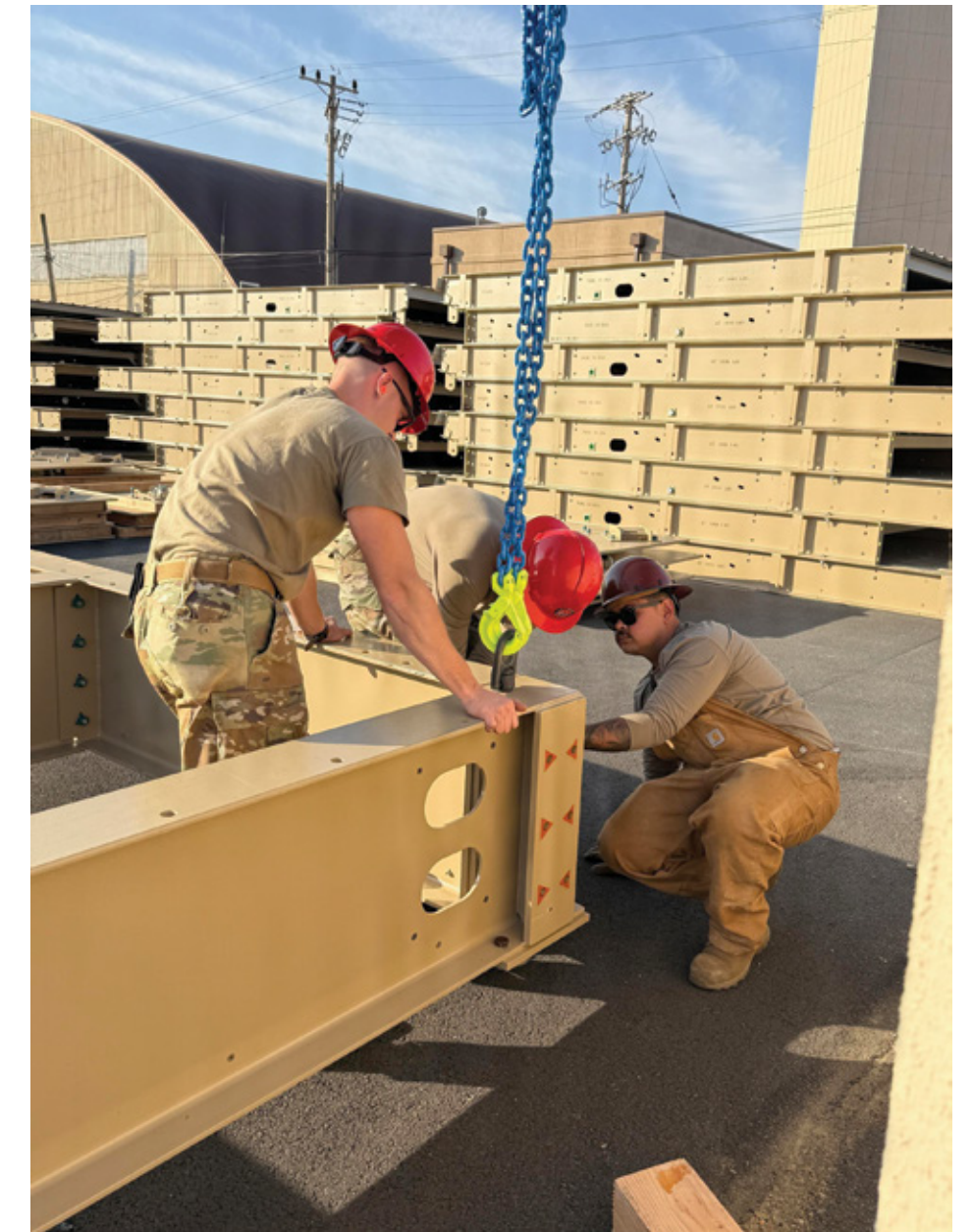
"What ESAPs provide is balance. They're faster to build, adaptable and can be employed where and when we need them." — Capt. Joshua Werfel, 51st CES requirements and optimization OIC

This flexibility directly supports agile combat employment, or ACE, an operational concept that emphasizes the ability to operate from multiple locations.

The ESAP strengthens Osan's readiness for future contingency operations and is already meeting an immediate need for the 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron. The facility currently provides additional protected storage space for individual protective equipment, helping alleviate warehouse constraints on a space-limited installation. This facility centralizes the processing and documentation of unserviceable equipment destined for Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services (DLADS) disposal. By alleviating 100% warehouse capacity, it ensures mission readiness by preventing the accidental issuance of faulty gear to warfighters.

"We've needed more storage space for a long time," said 1st Lt. Sydney Shimomura, 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron asset management officer in charge. "This allows us to store individual protective equipment here and free up room in our main warehouse as mission demands continue to grow."

The completion of the Korean Peninsula's first ESAP demonstrates Osan's ability to innovate, adapt and prepare for operations in contested environments.





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Osan Welcomes Its Newest Chiefs



U.S. Air Force airmen assigned to the 51st Fighter Wing and Republic of Korea airmen, pose for a group photo during a chief master sergeant recognition ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 24, 2026. The recognition marks a transition into greater responsibility as chiefs continue to lead, mentor and advocate for Airmen. ▲

By Senior Airman Rome Bowermaster
51st Fighter Wing

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- U.S. Air Force newly selected chief master sergeants were recognized during the Chief Recognition Ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 24, 2026. The event highlighted the importance of senior enlisted leadership in guiding Airmen and sustaining mission readiness across the installation.



Members of the 51st Fighter Wing Honor Guard set the Missing Man Prisoner of War/Missing in Action table during the chief master sergeant recognition ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 24, 2026. The Missing Man table is a solemn tradition dedicated to the fallen, missing, or imprisoned U.S. military service members. ▲



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Carl Vogel, foreground, 51st Fighter Wing command chief, stands alongside other chiefs during a chief master sergeant recognition ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 24, 2026. The event highlighted the importance of senior enlisted leadership in guiding Airmen and sustaining mission readiness across the installation. ▲

Biographies of U.S. Air Force chief master sergeant selects are on display during a chief master sergeant recognition ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 24, 2026. The recognition underscores the critical role Chiefs play in advising commanders and leading the enlisted force. ▼



U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. David Iverson, Seventh Air Force commander, gives closing remarks on-stage during a chief master sergeant recognition ceremony at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 24, 2026. The event highlighted the importance of senior enlisted leadership in guiding Airmen and sustaining mission readiness across the installation. ▲

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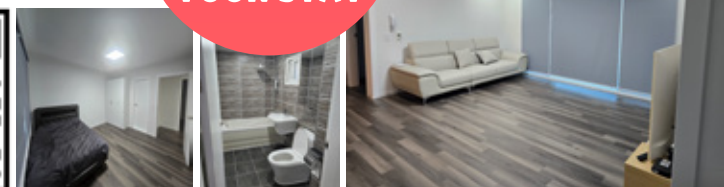
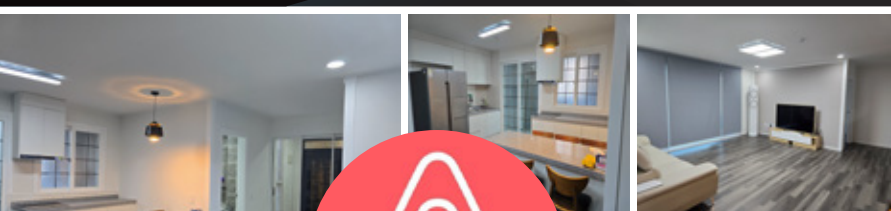
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Personal Transportation Device Safety

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

1. Battery Fire Hazards

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

2. Residential Fire Risks

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

3. Key Risk Factors

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

4. Fire Safety Recommendations

To mitigate fire risks, the following safety practices are recommended:

- Always follow the instructions from the manufacturer.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Do not charge overnight or while unattended.
- Do not store batteries in direct sunlight or inside hot vehicles and keep them away from children and liquids.
- Store e-bikes, e-scooters, and batteries away from exit doors and anything that can get hot or catch fire.
- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Contact HazWaste Office, Building 833 at 784-6508/6714.

Conclusion

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

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

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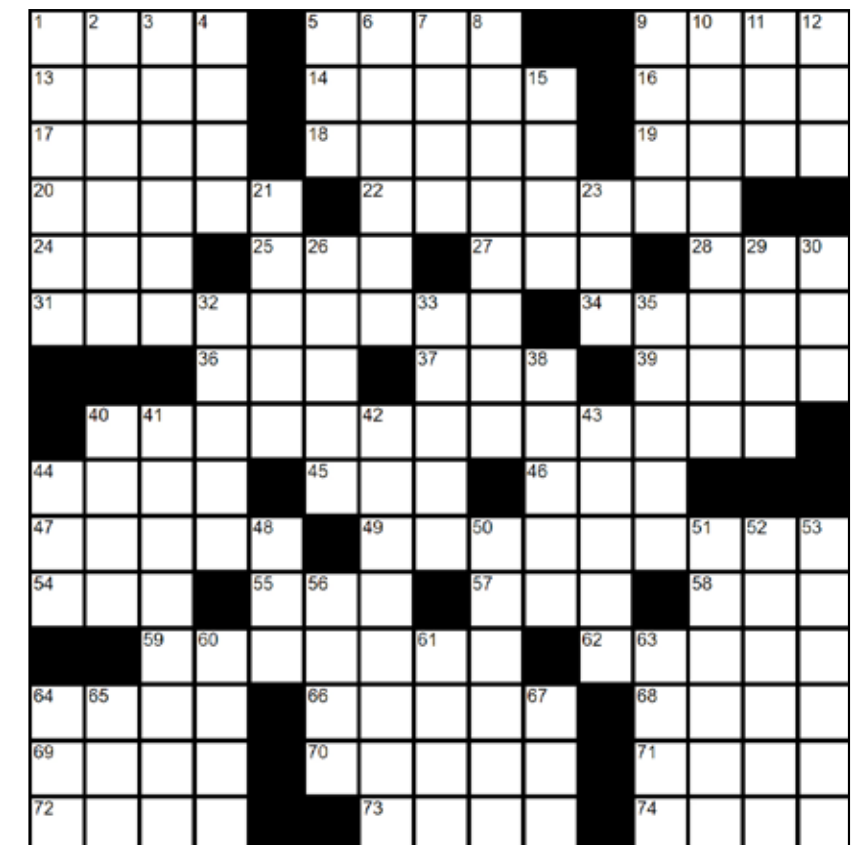
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By Jon Dunbar



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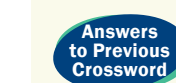
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Super Delta: The Navy's Blue Angels and the Air Force's Thunderbirds conduct a Super Delta flyover off Pensacola Beach, Fla., April 14, 2026. The Super Delta formation highlights precision, discipline and teamwork. (U.S. Air Force photo) ◀

River Hercs: Four Kentucky Air National Guard C-130J Super Hercules fly over the Ohio River during the Thunder Over Louisville air show at Louisville, Ky., April 18, 2026. The Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing served as the base of operations for military aircraft participating in the show. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Phil Speck) ▲



Mission ready: Airmen assigned to the 317th Airlift Wing walk across the flightline in preparation for a maximum endurance operation supporting exercise Balikatan 2026 at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, April 15, 2026. Balikatan is an annual exercise between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and U.S. military designed to strengthen alliance capabilities and regional security. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class William Neal) ◀

Spring training: Aircrew operating a C-130J with a Modular Aerial Fire Fighting System conduct a water drop during MAFFS spring training at Tahoe National Forest, Calif., April 20, 2026. Training prepares military and civilian crews for wildfire response operations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Garrett Wake) ▲

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.

Osan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Women's Slow Pitch Softball Base Team Try-Outs
May 11 & 13 | 1745-2000 | Osan Baseball Fields behind Mustang Fitness Center
Calling all lady softball players! The Osan Base Women's Slow Pitch Softball Team is looking recruit new members (warm weather permitting), and we want YOU to come out. All skill levels are welcome – AD, spouses, and civilians (18+) are encouraged to come try-out, build camaraderie, and play competitive softball! Please reach out

via Facebook page: 'Osan AFB Women's Softball' with any questions or inquiries. Hope to see you out there!

PT Session with CMSgt Tiffany Zaloudek (Workout like a SERE Specialist)
May 14 | 1500-1600 | Mustang Field
Don't miss the opportunity to build resilience and work out with CMSgt Tiffany Zaloudek, SERE Specialist. Chief Z will run through a unique blend of exercises designed to boost both your physical and mental health resilience. Come ready to challenge yourself and your fellow Airmen!
POC: SSgt Marta Bugos | 784-2350 | SSgt Justin Smith | 784-5616 |

ERAU & UMGC Education Open House
May 20 | 1200-1400 | Bldg. 787 Rm. 10
The ERAU & UMGC representatives will be hosting an open house on Wednesday, 20 May 2026 from 1200-1400 hrs., this is open to all Osan AB personnel. The representatives will provide information on degree programs offered, unit and in person class options, the application/registration process, and how to register to take a CLEP or DSST exams.
For questions/assistance, please contact Ms. Kathleen Farris, 51 FSS Force Development Flight Chief, at kathleen.farris@us.af.mil or DSN 784-3867

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)	

Emergency Services (Fire, Medical, Security Police)	911	Commander's Hotline	784-4811
Off Base/Cell Emergency	031-661-9111	Crime Stop: (to report a crime)	784-5757
Emergency Room:	784-2500	IG Complaints FWA Reporting:	784-1144
Base Locator: (after duty hours)	784-4597	Emergency Leave	784-7000
Force Protection Information Hotline:	115	Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)	784-7272
Chaplain (After duty hours)	784-7000	Security Forces Control Center	784-5515

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U.S. Air Force Tactical Air Control Party operators assigned to the 604th Air Support Operations Squadron conduct preflight checks on a UH-60 Black Hawk at Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea, April 21, 2026. TACP operators were tasked with finding critical targets during exercise Freedom Flag 26-1 to enable dynamic targeting for the 607th Air Operations Center. FF 26-1 is a combined exercise between U.S. and Republic of Korea air forces on the Korean peninsula designed to enhance readiness through realistic, complex training scenarios. ▲

**Freedom
Flag 26-1 Tactical
Air Control Party
Fast Rope Insertion
Extraction System**

< Continued from Front Page >



U.S. Air Force Tactical Air Control Party operators assigned to the 604th Air Support Operations Squadron conduct fast rope insertion training during exercise Freedom Flag 26-1 at Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea, April 21, 2026. TACP operators spent a total of six days in the field, moving over mountainous terrain to track targets while using advanced communication waveforms to pass critical data to the 607th Air Operations Center. FF 26-1 is a combined exercise between U.S. and Republic of Korea air forces on the Korean peninsula designed to enhance readiness through realistic, complex training scenarios. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Nicholas Lawson) ▲



U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade set up a Fast Rope Insertion Extraction System bar on a UH-60 Black Hawk in support of Tactical Air Control Party operators at Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea, April 21, 2026. ▲

U.S. Air Force Tactical Air Control Party operators assigned to the 604th Air Support Operations Squadron prepare for fast rope insertion at Sobaeksan National Park, Republic of Korea, April 21, 2026. ►

U.S. Air Force Tactical Air Control Party operators assigned to the 604th Air Support Operations Squadron, practice Fast Rope Insertion Extraction System out of a UH-60 Black Hawk at Sobaeksan National Park, Republic of Korea, April 21, 2026. ▼



The Warfighter's Spirit

Not Every Game Has a Winner



By Chaplain, Captain Nathan Smith, 51 FW

My family loves games. Card games, board games, video games, and sports. Every one of these games' shares something in common: they end. They also have a start and they have an agreed-upon way to determine the outcome. Without these limitations, every family game night and every Olympic competition would

dissolve into chaos, with everyone claiming victory.

These are what the philosopher James Carse called Finite Games. They only work because they are limited in scope, duration, and possible outcomes. In other words, finite games are played within boundaries.

There is another type of game afoot that Carse called Infinite Games. They do not come with a fixed rulebook. They have no finish line, and players come and go. In fact, at times we may not even know who the other players are. The goal or purpose of these games is not to win, but to keep the game going. The only way to "lose" an infinite game is to quit or runout of the resources needed to stay in the game. Examples of infinite games include the childhood game of tag and goes on to include personal development, nation building, and scientific discovery. Instead of simply playing within boundaries, participants of infinite games

adapt and reshape those boundaries.

One of the greatest differences I see among people is whether we are living life to "win" or living life for something greater.

When we approach life with a finite mindset, we tend to focus narrowly on outcomes: promotion, recognition, comparison, or external validation. While these things have their place, they can hamper how we engage in what matters most: relationships, health, learning, and growth.

Playing the long game shifts our focus on how and why we play. Instead of trying to win, we seek to grow, we desire to contribute, and we stay engaged over time. Instead of resenting our worthy rivals, we cultivate an appreciation as we learn from them. We pursue goals that are bigger than ourselves; goals that may never fully be achieved, but that give us direction and purpose. Through which we have

real resilience as we view our failures and losses merely as data points observe and learn from, rather than endpoints.

This perspective changes how we view apparently ordinary moments. For example, a parent approaching a chess game with a child focused on "winning" risks a weakened family relationship. However, when parents use the playing of that finite game with their children, not to win, but to strengthen their connection, they help spur the child's development and growth.

The same mindset shift affects other finite games such as grocery shopping and military careers. When we connect these finite games to a more infinite purpose, such as service, growth, or commitment, they take on deeper meaning.

Our goal in life should not simply be to win any given moment, but to remain faithful to something that endures long after that moment has passed.

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

KUNSAN AIR BASE

Weekly Worship Services @ Bldg #501

Catholic Holy Mass

Sunday at 0900 (Chapel)

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

Protestant Worship

Sunday at 1100 (Chapel)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Sunday at 1300 (Chapel)

Point of Contact:

Kunsan Chapel, 782-HOPE

Visit us on SharePoint:

<https://kunsan.eis.pacaf.af.mil/8FW/HC>

OSAN AIR BASE

Osan AB Chapel (Building 780)

Protestant Service

Sunday Worship Service

Sunday @ 0930

Children's church

Sunday @ 0945

Halftime Bible Study

Monday - Friday @ 1100 (Classroom 5)

Catholic Mass

Catholic Sunday Mass

Sunday @ 1130

Confession

Sunday @ 1100-1125 (Blessed Sacrament Room)

Catholic Daily Mass

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

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Come to me class

Thursday @ 1900

Fellowship

Friday @ 1900

Earth-Based Meeting

Wednesday @ 1830 (Classroom 6)

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

HUMPHREYS

PROTESTANT

Sundays -

0900 Christ The King Liturgical Service - Pacific Victors Chapel

0930 & 1100 Agape (Contemporary Service) - 4CMC

1000 Burning Bush Gospel Service - Warrior Chapel

1100 Church of Christ - Pacific Victors Chapel

1100 Common Ground (Traditional Service) - Freedom Chapel

1300 Apostolic Pentecostal (Oneness) - Warrior Chapel

1330 Spanish Service - Pacific Victors Chapel

Wednesdays -

1200 Christ The King Eucharist Service - Pacific Victors Chapel

1800 KATUSA Service - Pacific Victors Chapel

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (LDS)

Sundays -

1400-1600 Worship Meeting - Freedom Chapel

POC: CH Droge; 010-8685-2976; shawn.a.droge@mail.mil

RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND MINISTRY AUXILIARIES

MON/WED 1830 Catholic Men of the Chapel - Freedom

TUES 1000-1200 Korean Ladies Bible Study (KLBS) - Freedom

TUES 1800-2000 Club Beyond Christian Youth Group - 4CMC

* Summer Break until 30 August

WED 0930-1145 Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) - 4CMC

* Summer Schedule: 1800-2030 (until 28 August)

1830-2030 PWOC Evening Study - 4CMC

WED 1000-1200 Korean Catholic Women Bible Study - Freedom

1730-1930 Catholic Women of the Chapel (CWOC) - Freedom

WED 1830-2000 Church of Christ Mid-Week Bible Study - Pacific

THUR 0915-1130 Catholic Women of the Chapel (CWOC) - Freedom

THUR 1800-2000 Protestant Men of the Chapel (PMOC) - 4CMC

* POC: CH Underhill 010-8520-7217

1st SAT/Month 0830 Knights of Columbus - Freedom

CATHOLIC - Freedom Chapel

1600-1700 Adoration (Saturdays)

1600-1700 Reconciliation/Confession (Saturdays)

1640 Rosary/Benediction (Saturdays) * 1730 Vigil Mass (Saturdays)

0900 Mass (Sundays) * 1730 Daily Mass (M-F)

POC: usaghcatholiccoordinator@gmail.com

JEWISH

2nd and 4th Fridays - 4CMC

1800-2100 Shabbat Evening Service

POC: CH (CPT) Daniel Kamzan; daniel.j.kamzan@mail.mil

ISLAMIC - Pacific Victors Chapel

Fridays: 1200-1330 Jumrah Service

Sundays: 1300-1500 Islamic / Arabic classes

POC:CPT Anouar Bencheqroun 010-3382-7231 anouar.k.bencheqroun.mil

PAGAN Traditions

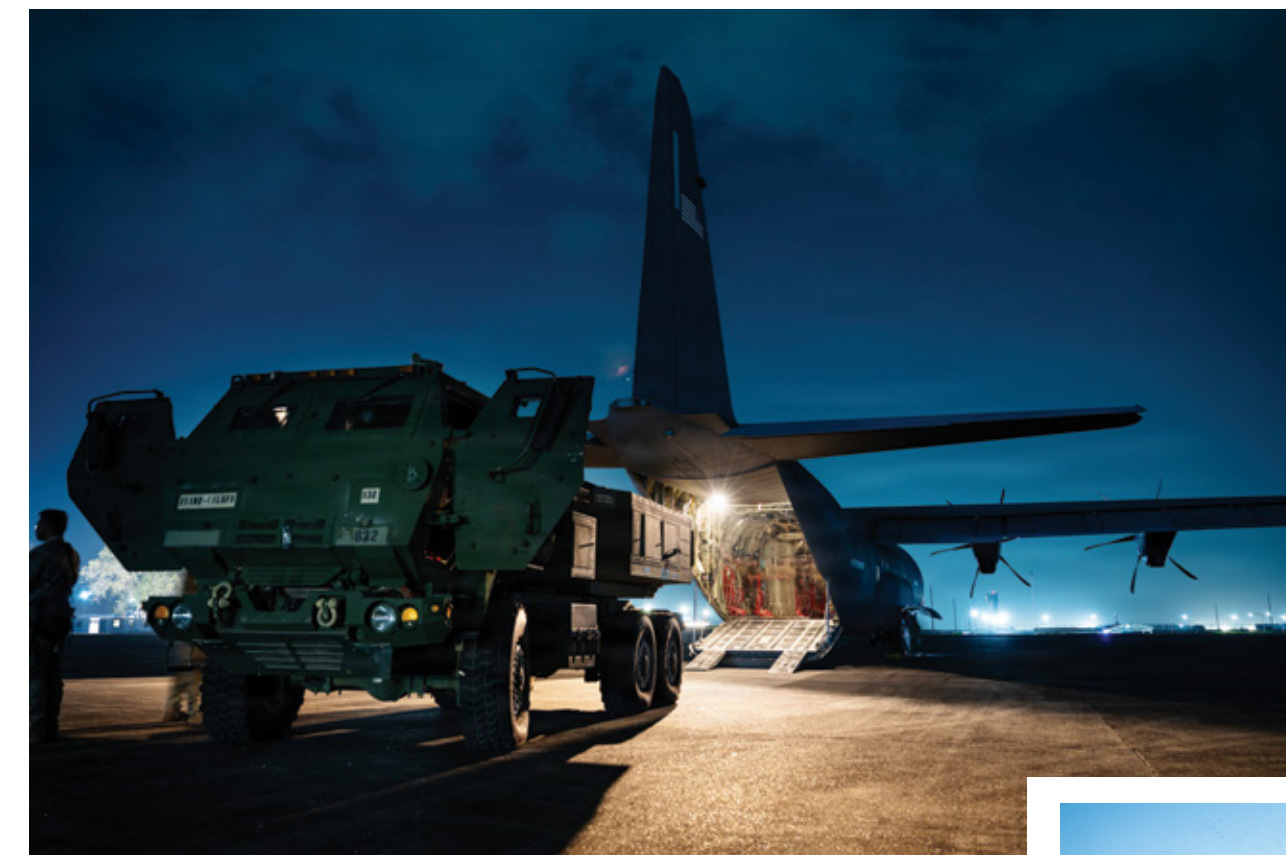
Fridays: Freedom Chapel Rm 110 / 1800-1900 Pagan Fellowship

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@mail.mil



Integrated airpower: A Singapore Air Force F-16D Fighting Falcon, a Belgian Air Component F-35A Lightning II and an F-35A Lightning II aircraft assigned to the 56th Fighter Wing bank in formation near Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., April 10, 2026. The training reinforces interoperability and combat effectiveness across partner nations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Belinda Guachun-Chichay) ▲

Rapid insertion: A U.S. Army M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System sits near a C-130J Super Hercules assigned to the 40th Airlift Squadron after a rapid insertion during exercise Balikatan 2026 at Clark Air Base, Philippines, April 23, 2026. The operation demonstrates joint force mobility and alliance strength. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jade M. Caldwell) ◀

Pushing limits: Senior Airman Isaiah Nichols, 99th Communications Squadron, moves a tire during the Nellis Operational Readiness Trials at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., April 10, 2026. The event tested teamwork, endurance and mission-focused execution across the installation. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Annika Schermerhorn) ▼

Trigger time: Tactical Air Control Party Airmen assigned to Detachment 2, 6th Combat Training Squadron, conduct small arms training with an M4 carbine at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis, Texas, April 8, 2026. The training focuses on weapon proficiency, close-quarters battle and combat scenarios to prepare Airmen for integrating airpower with ground maneuver units. (U.S. Air Force photo by Melissa Hydrick) ◀



U.S. service members, Republic of Korea service members, and their families attend the K-Culture Day event at Osan Air Base, ROK, April 30, 2026. K-Culture Day encouraged service members and their families to engage with Korean culture while strengthening connections across the installation. ▲

Osan Hosts K-Culture Day to Celebrate Korean Culture and Partnership

By Senior Airman Rome Bowermaster
51st Fighter Wing

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- U.S. and Republic of Korea service members and their families attended K-Culture Day at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 30, 2026. The event, held under the theme “Stronger Together through K-Culture,” brought the base community together to experience Korean culture through interactive activities, food and performances.

K-Culture Day was organized in partnership between U.S. and ROK units, highlighting the strength of the alliance beyond daily operations. The event provided an opportunity for service members and families to engage with one another in a setting focused on cultural exchange and shared experiences.

“K-Culture Day is a chance to share and experience Korean culture while showing how strong the ROK-U.S. relationship is as we spend time together outside of the normal workday,” said U.S. Air Force Capt. Megan Nobuoka, 36th Fighter Generation Squadron



A Republic of Korea airman instructs a child during the K-Culture Day event at Osan Air Base, ROK, April 30, 2026. The event featured traditional Korean performances, hands-on activities and cultural experiences designed for all ages. ▲

U.S. Airmen assigned to the 51st Fighter Wing participate in the K-Culture Day event at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 30, 2026. K-Culture Day highlighted the strength of the U.S.-ROK alliance by fostering cultural exchange and mutual understanding across the Osan community. ▶

sortie generation officer in charge.

Attendees participated in a variety of hands-on activities designed to showcase traditional Korean culture. Experiences included trying on hanbok, participating in folk games and exploring traditional arts and crafts.

A dedicated “K-Food” zone offered a selection of Korean dishes, giving attendees the chance to experience local cuisine in a convenient, on-base setting. The event also featured a picnic area where families could gather and enjoy the day together.



Members from the local community perform a traditional Korean dance during the K-Culture Day event at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 30, 2026. K-Culture Day highlighted the strength of the U.S.-ROK alliance by fostering cultural exchange and mutual understanding across the Osan community.



Republic of Korea airmen participate in the K-Culture Day event at Osan Air Base, ROK, April 30, 2026. The event brought the Osan community together to build relationships beyond the mission through shared cultural experiences. ▲

Live performances throughout the event highlighted both traditional and modern elements of Korean culture. Demonstrations included taekwondo, traditional percussion performances and K-pop showcases that drew crowds across the installation.

“ Culture has a unique power to create connections across differences, and the bonds formed through shared experiences build the foundation of trust that strengthens the alliance.”
— Republic of Korea Air Force Maj. Soohyoung Lee, Air Force Operations Center combined policy officer

K-Culture Day emphasized the importance of building relationships beyond the mission by encouraging interaction between U.S. and ROK personnel and their families. Through continued collaboration and engagement, the event highlighted the value of cultural exchange in strengthening the U.S.-ROK alliance and reinforcing readiness at Osan Air Base.

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Tech. Sgt. Maegan Evanisko

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Maegan Evanisko, 51st Medical Group education and training flight noncommissioned officer in charge, poses for a photo at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 29, 2026. Evanisko was recognized as Mustang of the Week for her dedication to ensuring medical personnel across Osan remain trained, certified and ready to provide patient care. ▲

By Airman 1st Class Megan Cusmano
51st Fighter Wing

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Maegan Evanisko, 51st Medical Group education and training flight noncommissioned officer in charge, was recognized as Mustang of the Week at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea.

As the NCOIC of the 51st Medical Group's Education and Training Flight, Evanisko ensures medical professionals across Osan maintain the certifications, qualifications and lifesaving skills required to provide exceptional care. She manages advanced life support, basic life support and tactical combat casualty care, helping ensure Airmen are prepared to respond effectively in emergency situations.

"Education and training are essential to patient care because they ensure our medical professionals have the knowledge and skills needed to provide safe, effective treatment. Our job is to make sure every medical professional is trained, confident and ready when lives are on the line."
— Tech. Sgt. Maegan Evanisko

Evanisko's clinical background and hands-on experience make her a vital part of the 51st Medical Group. Her experience also helps connect medical operations with training, ensuring Airmen receive the instruction they need to succeed.

"She keeps everything together," said Senior Master Sgt. LaTasha Compton, 51st Medical Group education and training flight chief. "I rely on her

heavily because of her clinical expertise. She goes beyond assisting, she leads."

Beyond managing certifications and training records, Evanisko teaches life support courses, supports large scale exercises and helps prepare Airmen to respond effectively in high pressure situations. Whether coordinating time-sensitive certifications for deploying providers or leading realistic medical simulations, she consistently

ensures Osan's medical professionals are prepared for any scenario.

Through her leadership, professionalism and commitment to developing others, Evanisko strengthens the readiness of the 51st Medical Group and directly supports the mission. Her dedication to excellence makes her a valued leader and an outstanding representative of Team Osan.



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Maegan Evanisko, 51st Medical Group education and training flight noncommissioned officer in charge, instructs Airmen during a basic life support course at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, April 29, 2026. Evanisko oversees critical medical training and certification programs, helping ensure Airmen are prepared to respond effectively in emergency situations. ▲

A Guide to 2026 Yeon Deung Hoe (Lotus Lantern Festival)

Each year in April and May, Korea lights up with Yeon Deung Hoe, the Lotus Lantern Festival, in celebration of Buddha's Birthday, which falls on the eighth day of the fourth lunar month—May 24 in 2026. Dating back more than 1,200 years to the Silla period, Yeon Deung Hoe is now one of Korea's most celebrated cultural festivals and is inscribed on UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Read on for this year's schedule in Seoul, Busan, Jeonju, and Gyeongju, including festival highlights and nearby places to visit.



1. Seoul Yeon Deung Hoe

1) What makes Seoul Yeon Deung Hoe special?

Seoul Yeon Deung Hoe, or the Seoul Lotus Lantern Festival, is Korea's largest lotus lantern celebration, attracting around 300,000 visitors each year. In 2026, the festivities begin on Friday, May 8, when traditional lanterns and large ceremonial lanterns light up Jogyesa Temple, Bongeunsa Temple, and Cheonggyecheon Stream. On Sunday, May 17, the street in front of Jogyesa Temple will come alive with hands-on activities, including paper flower making and traditional pattern painting, along with festive performances of pungmulnori and Korean traditional music.

2) Highlights of Seoul Yeon Deung Hoe

The highlight of Seoul Yeon Deung Hoe is the Lotus Lantern Parade, held on Saturday, May 16. It stretches for about 3 kilometers, starting at Heunginjimun Gate, passing through Jongno, and ending at Jogyesa Temple. More than 100,000 lanterns light up the procession, joined by samulnori percussion groups, dance troupes, and chwita marching bands that bring the streets to life. After the parade, the festivities continue with Daedong Hanmadang, a lively finale where everyone can join in.

3) Places to visit near Seoul Yeon Deung Hoe

Set in Jongno 5-ga, Gwangjang Market is one of Seoul's most iconic traditional markets and a great spot to enjoy affordable K-food favorites such as yukhoe (beef tartare), bindaetteok (mung bean pancake), and tteokbokki. For a different side of the city, head to Ikseon-dong Hanok Street, where cafés and restaurants in renovated hanok buildings offer a charming blend of old and new Seoul.

2. Busan Yeon Deung Hoe

1) What makes Busan Yeon Deung Hoe special?

Busan Yeon Deung Hoe (Busan Lotus Lantern Festival) brings a range of cultural experiences to the heart of the city. From Friday, May 1, Songsanghyeon Square will be illuminated with traditional and character lanterns, along with a wish lantern program where visitors can write down their hopes for the year. The festival also features traditional Korean Buddhist rituals and customs, including the Neutitteok Sharing Ceremony, where rice cakes are offered to the Buddha and then shared with others in the hope of forming good connections. A memorial rite will also be held to honor those who dedicated their lives to the country.

2) Highlights of Busan Yeon Deung Hoe

The highlight of Busan Yeon Deung Hoe is the Lotus Lantern Parade, held on Saturday, May 16, at Dasom Square in Busan Citizens Park. The evening opens with Eoullim Hanmadang, a lively mix of performances across different genres, before the parade begins around sunset. Procession groups carrying lotus lanterns then make their way along a 2.2-kilometer route from Busan Citizens Park to Songsanghyeon Square, accompanied by large ceremonial lanterns shaped like the Buddha, a phoenix, and an elephant.

3) Places to visit near Busan Yeon Deung Hoe

Jeonpo Café Street is one of Seomyeon's trendiest spots, lined with stylish cafés and creative shops. It was featured in The New York Times "52 Places to Go in 2017." Samgwangsa Temple is also worth a visit during the season, especially after sunset, when thousands of lanterns light up the temple grounds. Its lantern display is so memorable that CNN named it one of "50 beautiful places to visit in Korea."



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3. Jeonju Live Your Dreams with Lantern Festival

1) What makes Jeonju Live Your Dreams with Lantern Festival special?

The Yeon Deung Hoe held in Jeonju takes place under the name "Live Your Dreams with Lantern Festival." It begins earlier than other lantern festivals, with around 4,000 lotus lanterns and 1,800 octagonal lanterns decorating the streets from Sunday, April 25. On Saturday, May 16, Jeolla Gamyeong hosts a variety of events open to everyone. Highlights include the annual Youth Music Festival, a favorite among visitors, as well as traditional hands-on programs at the Traditional Culture Plaza, from making hanji (traditional Korean paper) lotus lanterns and paper flowers to making sorghum and red bean rice cakes.

2) Highlights of Jeonju Live Your Dreams with Lantern Festival

The main highlight of Live Your Dreams with Lantern Festival is the Lotus Lantern Parade, held on Saturday, May 16. Starting at Jeolla Gamyeong, the parade winds past Pungnammun Gate, Gyeonggijeon Shrine, and Omokdae Pavilion before returning back to Jeolla Gamyeong. The sight of Jeonju Hanok Village lit with lanterns is something you can only experience here. Visitors can also join the parade by carrying LED lotus lanterns handed out on site.

3) Places to visit near Jeonju Yeon Deung Hoe "Live Your Dreams with Lantern Festival"

Jeonju Hanok Village, where the festival takes place, is full of things to see and do. Visitors can dress up in hanbok for photos at Gyeonggijeon Shrine and Jeondong Catholic Cathedral, or try traditional hands-on activities such as hanji crafts and handmade seal carving. For cinephiles, Jeonju Movie Street—the hub of the annual Jeonju International Film Festival—is also worth a stop.



4. Gyeongju Hyeongsangang Lotus Lantern Festival

1) What makes Gyeongju Hyeongsangang Lotus Lantern Festival special?

The Yeon Deung Hoe held in Gyeongju is called the Hyeongsangang Lotus Lantern Festival and it carries on one of the earliest forms of Yeon Deung Hoe, a tradition that began some 1,200 years ago. From Thursday, May 14, Geumjangdae Peak and the Hyeongsangang River area will glow with around 10,000 lotus lanterns, large ceremonial lanterns, and LED photo spots. The festival opens with a lantern-lighting performance and fireworks show, followed by programs such as lotus lantern making and lotus lantern plogging, where visitors can experience the Buddhist spirit of compassion in action.

2) Highlights of Gyeongju Hyeongsangang Lotus Lantern Festival

The festival's most memorable moment, the Lotus Lantern Parade, is held on the evening of Thursday, May 14. Once the Lantern Forest near Geumjangdae Peak, decorated with some 5,000 lotus lanterns, lights up, local residents set out from Geumjangdae carrying lanterns they have made themselves. The procession then winds through downtown Gyeongju to Bonghwangdae Tomb. The long trail of lanterns reflected on the calm waters of the Hyeongsangang River makes for a striking scene.

3) Places to visit near Gyeongju Hyeongsangang Lotus Lantern Festival

To carry the glow of the lantern festival into the evening, visit Donggung Palace and Wolji Pond. With palace site, a tranquil pond, and soft lighting, it offers one of Korea's most beautiful night views. Hwangnidan Street, known for its atmospheric cafés and boutique shops, and the grand Daereungwon Ancient Tomb Complex are also well worth visiting.



TIP. Korean Buddhist Tourism in the Global Spotlight: Templestay

To take a deeper dive into Korean Buddhist culture, join a Templestay program. You can experience daily life at a Buddhist temple, share in the rhythm of monastic life, and enjoy healthy temple cuisine, while finding a sense of peace through the teachings of the Buddha. In May, international visitors can also enjoy "Double Happiness Templestay", a special discount program for foreign participants.



More Information

Seoul Yeon Deung Hoe
 Period: May 8-25, 2026
 Location: 55 Ujeongguk-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul
 Inquiries: +82-2-2011-1744/7
 Website: www.lf.or.kr

Busan Yeon Deung Hoe
 Period: May 1-17, 2026
 Location: 121-1, Dongseong-ro 112beon-gil, Busanjin-gu, Busan
 Inquiries: +82-51-867-0501/3
 Website: www.bba48.or.kr (Korean only)

Jeonju Live Your Dreams with Lantern Festival
 Period: April 25 - May 24, 2026
 Location: 55, Jeollagamyong-ro, Wansan-gu, Jeonju-si, Jeonbuk-do
 Inquiries: +82-63-224-4447
 Website: liveyourdreams.kr (Korean only)

Gyeongju Hyeongsangang Lotus Lantern Festival
 Period: May 14-31, 2026
 Location: San 38-8, Seokjang-dong, Gyeongju-si, Gyeongsangbuk-do
 Inquiries: +82-54-770-2114 (Dongguk University WISE Campus)



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