

Crimson Sky

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Senior enlisted leaders pose for a group photo during a historical leadership engagement at Bugaksan Mountain in Seoul, Republic of Korea, May 28, 2026. The visit was part of the Seventh Air Force Chief Development Symposium and provided historical context on the U.S.-ROK Alliance and the defense of the Korean Peninsula.

7th Air Force chiefs strengthen leadership through alliance, history and partnership

By Tech. Sgt. Desiree Ware
51st Fighter Wing

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- Walking the same paths once defended during times of conflict and exploring the history behind the U.S.-Republic of Korea Alliance, senior enlisted leaders gathered for the Seventh Air Force Chief Development Symposium, May 27-29.

Hosted by U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Schaefer, Seventh Air Force command chief, the three-day symposium brought together

command chiefs and senior enlisted leaders from across the peninsula to strengthen leadership development, foster joint and combined partnerships, and deepen their understanding of the U.S.-ROK Alliance.

"Maintaining a continuous alliance is only possible when it is accompanied by a process of mutual understanding regarding how each side changes," said Republic of Korea Air Force Chief Sgt. In-ho Choi, Air Force Operations Command command chief. "The reason for this is to support junior personnel who have not experienced the

past and senior noncommissioned officers who know their unit's history and traditions."

A key component of the symposium was a series of panels featuring senior enlisted leaders from across the joint force, including representatives from the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy and U.S. Space Force. The discussions focused on leadership challenges, force development, readiness and the unique contributions each service brings to regional defense and security in the Indo-Pacific.

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ROK-U.S. Professionals Exchange conducted in the Republic of Korea



By Courtesy article
U.S. Army Pacific Public Affairs Office

U.S. Airmen with the 8th Security Forces Squadron participate in a ruck during Police Week at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 14, 2026. The 8th SFS and the Wolf Pack held fitness challenges, a 24-hour fallen defender memorial guard, and other activities throughout the week to honor the sacrifices of fallen law enforcement officers. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Cederique Oldaker) ▲

Republic of Korea -- The Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) Task Fleet Command and the Pacific Integrated Air and Missile Defense Center (PIC) conducted KITE 26 from April 21-23, bringing together Republic of Korea and United States personnel for a professional exchange focused on cooperation and shared learning.

The event provided a structured setting for participants to strengthen mutual understanding and exchange professional perspectives through collaborative discussions and activities. The KITE centered on building a shared approach for air, maritime, and space operations to ensure all components are synchronized and moving in the same direction.

Participants included personnel from United States Forces Korea, U.S. Naval Forces Korea, the 8th Army's 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, and the Seventh Air Force, Joint Ballistic Missile Defense Training & Education Center alongside counterparts from the Republic of Korea Navy. Observers from the Republic of Korea Air Force Air and Missile Defense Command also participated.

"Opportunities like this support continued cooperation and mutual understanding," said Col. Matthew Belote, PIC director and co-host.

KITE 26 concluded with participants identifying opportunities for continued professional engagement and future exchange, reflecting the enduring partnership between the Republic of Korea and the United States.



Senior leaders from the U.S. and Republic of Korea (ROK) armed forces convene for a KITE senior leader discussion. The participants included senior naval officers from the ROK Navy and U.S. representatives Col. Matthew Belote (PIC Director), Capt. Haynes (Deputy Commander, US Navy Korea), COL Clemente (Commander, 35th ADA Brigade), and CAPT Garbett (US Naval Attache' to Korea). ▲



U.S. Air Force Col. Matthew Belote, Korea Integrated Tabletop Event (KITE) Senior Mentor, advises students from the Republic of Korea (ROK) during a simulated Defense Design Practical Exercise. ▲



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U.S. Airmen listen to U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Ryan, 5th Reconnaissance Squadron commander, give closing remarks during the 5th RS 50th anniversary banquet at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 2, 2026. Since the Cold War, the 5th RS has provided critical high-altitude intelligence, flying the U-2 Dragon Lady as a persistent "eye in the sky" in support of stability on the Korean Peninsula.

5th Reconnaissance Squadron celebrates 50 years of excellence, sacrifice, and heritage

By Senior Airman Jessica Mun
51st Fighter Wing

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- For five decades, the 5th Reconnaissance Squadron has been the unblinking eye in the sky, serving as one of the most critical intelligence assets on the Korean Peninsula.

To celebrate their golden anniversary, members of the squadron raised their glasses to honor service, sacrifice and tradition during the 5th RS 50th anniversary banquet at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 2, 2026.

Known as the "Blackcats", the squadron has flown more than 17,000 operational U-2 sorties at an unmatched 98% mission-capable rate, making the 5th RS the most reliable intelligence asset in the Indo-Pacific theater.

"The intelligence we gather, the early warning we provide, and the deterrence we enforce ensure that our South Korean partners, our U.S. forces, our family and friends both here and back home, are never caught unaware," said Lt. Col. Michael Ryan, 5th RS commander.

After an engagement between U.S. and adversary forces in 1976, known as the "Korea Tree Incident" at the Demilitarized Zone, the 5th RS was crucial in providing continuous monitoring and coverage of the area, supplying intelligence to help prevent further escalation of conflict.

"The 5th Reconnaissance Squadron has been a



Honor Guardsmen assigned to the 51st Fighter Wing prepare for a presentation of colors at the 5th Reconnaissance Squadron 50th anniversary banquet at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 2, 2026. The presentation of colors paid tribute to the Blackcat heritage, honoring service, sacrifice and enduring tradition of the 5th RS. ▲



U.S. Air Force Col. Ryan Ley, 51st Fighter Wing commander, addresses the audience during the 5th Reconnaissance Squadron 50th anniversary banquet at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 2, 2026. Since the Cold War, the 5th RS has provided critical high-altitude intelligence, flying the U-2 Dragon Lady as a persistent "eye in the sky" in support of stability on the Korean Peninsula. ◀

critical part of the U.S.-ROK Alliance," said U.S. Air Force Col. Ryan Ley, 51st Fighter Wing commander. "Their mission has enabled combined operations, friendly interoperability and ensured that the U.S. and the ROK forces stand together."

Beyond military operations, the 5th RS has also supported humanitarian efforts, like assessing flood damage in the ROK and surveying the devastation caused by the Mount Pinatubo eruption in the Philippines.

Over the years, the 5th RS mission has evolved alongside rapid technological advancements and changing geopolitical realities.

Originally operating the U-2R aircraft after relocating to the ROK in 1976, the squadron upgraded to the new U-2S in 1995. The modernization introduced a new engine and a full analog-to-glass cockpit, significantly improving endurance, fuel efficiency, and mission capability.

Despite its modernization, the 5th RS remains deeply connected to its historical roots.

"When we call ourselves the Blackcats today, we are directly honoring the sacrifice, the heritage and the unbreakable courage of Detachment H. We do not just wear a patch; we carry the weight of their legacy on every single mission we launch."

— Lt. Col. Michael Ryan

From maintenance crews to pilots and civilian contractors, the 5th RS carries the Blackcat legacy forward with a singular focus on executing the mission.

Looking ahead, the squadron intends to continue building on that legacy providing persistent deterrence in the region.

As regional security challenges continue to evolve, the Blackcats' combination of heritage, adaptability and technological superiority underscores the 5th RS as a cornerstone of intelligence operations on the Korean Peninsula.



U.S. Airmen deliver a toast during the 5th Reconnaissance Squadron 50th anniversary banquet at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 2, 2026. The toast honored prisoners of war and service members missing in action. ▲



U.S. Airmen raise their glasses for a toast during the 5th Reconnaissance Squadron 50th anniversary banquet at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 2, 2026. The banquet celebrated the legacy of excellence built by the men and women of the Blackcats and the enduring U.S.-ROK alliance. ◀

ROKAF cadets explore mission sets at Osan Air Base

By Senior Airman Rome Bowermaster
51st Fighter Wing

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- The 51st Fighter Wing hosted Republic of Korea senior cadets during a base tour at Osan Air Base, ROK, May 29, 2026. The tour provided cadets an opportunity to observe mission operations, engage with Airmen and learn about the 51st Fighter Wing's role in supporting combat airpower and readiness on the Korean Peninsula.

U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 51st Munitions Squadron perform an ammo loading demonstration to Republic of Korea Air Force senior cadets at Osan Air Base, ROK, May 29, 2026. The tour gave cadets the opportunity to interact with Airmen and observe operations supporting the wing's Fight Tonight mission. ▼



U.S. Airmen assigned to the 51st Fighter Wing give a tour to Republic of Korea Air Force senior cadets at Osan Air Base, ROK, May 29, 2026. The tour highlighted operational capabilities and provided insight into the training and responsibilities of Airmen assigned to the 51st Fighter Wing. ▲

U.S. Air Force Capt. Eric Johnson, 35th Fighter Squadron F-16 pilot, briefs F-16 capabilities to Republic of Korea Air Force senior cadets at Osan Air Base, ROK, May 29, 2026. The visit reinforced the partnership between U.S. and ROK forces through professional exchange and mission-focused engagement. ◀

8th MXG holds change of command ceremony

By Senior Airman Dylan Maher
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- U.S. Air Force Col. Daryl McCoy, assumed command of the 8th Maintenance Group from Col. Blair W. Byrem, during a change of command ceremony at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 4, 2026.

Col. Kathryn K. Gaetke, 8th Fighter Wing commander, presided over the ceremony and the event was attended by leaders and Airmen across the 8th FW and the ROK Air Force's 38th Fighter Group.

"The fleet is better than it's ever been. We did a bunch of cutting-edge things in flight generation, power projection, exercises, doing some things out over the ocean, but what I am really proud of is how we all took care of each other," said Byrem. "That's the thing that matters most. You are a national treasure, you took care of each other."

During the ceremony Byrem received a Legion of Merit medal for his accomplishment and commitment as a commander of the 8th MXG. Additionally, Byrem was presented with a certificate of commendation by ROKAF Col. Lee, Kyeong-Soo, 38th FG commander, in recognition for his dedicated service in protecting the airspace of the Republic of Korea.

Rooted in military tradition dating back to the Roman era, change of command ceremonies symbolize the formal transfer of authority and responsibility while reinforcing continuity of leadership, mission readiness and trust within the unit.

"To the maintainers of the legendary Wolf Pack, I couldn't be more excited to be standing here with you today. Of all my assignments, my time on Kunsan is one that I cherish the most. I deeply appreciate your tireless work to have the combat credible forces required to deter and win in a high-end fight," said McCoy. "As I take command today, my expectations are simple and direct. We will take care of each other, and we will ensure this wing remains lethal and ready to take the fight North at a moment's notice. I'm incredibly humbled, honored to stand here as your commander, and look forward to seeing you out in the patch. Let's get to work!"



U.S. Air Force Col. Kathryn "Wolf" Gaetke, 8th Fighter Wing commander, passes the 8th Maintenance Group guidon to U.S. Air Force Col. Daryl "Phoenix" McCoy, incoming 8th MXG commander during a change of command ceremony at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 4, 2026. Change of command ceremonies symbolize the formal transfer of authority, responsibility and accountability from one commander to another. ▲



Republic of Korea Air Force Col. Lee, Kyeong-Soo, 38th Fighter Group commander, presents U.S. Air Force Col. Blair "Phoenix" Byrem, 8th Maintenance Group outgoing commander, with a ROKAF letter of appreciation at the 8th MXG change of command ceremony at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 4, 2026. The 8th MXG provides on- and off-equipment maintenance on F-16 Fighting Falcons. ▲

U.S. Air Force Col. Daryl "Phoenix" McCoy, 8th Maintenance Group incoming commander, speaks during the 8th MXG change of command ceremony at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 4, 2026. During his speech, McCoy congratulated the leadership of the outgoing commander and expressed enthusiasm in leading the dedicated Airmen of the Wolf Pack. ▼



U.S. Air Force Col. Daryl "Phoenix" McCoy, 8th Maintenance Group incoming commander, renders his first salute to Airmen of the 8th MXG during the Change of Command ceremony at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 4, 2026. ▼



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Osan dental program celebrates graduates



By Staff Sgt. Sarah Williams
51st Fighter Wing

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Joseph Ryan, 51st Dental Flight commander, and Dental Assistant Training Program participants pose for a photo during the Dental Assistant Training Program graduation at the Osan Air Base Chapel, Osan AB, Republic of Korea, May 29, 2026. The ceremony highlighted how community partnerships and professional development opportunities strengthen both readiness and tour normalization efforts at Osan AB. ▲

"There's a lot of career limitations when families move overseas. If they're here for years, they want to develop their personal careers and expand their opportunities. The Dental Assistant Training Program gives them a chance to do that."
— Capt. Hannah Cho, 51st OMRS general dentist

The 51st Medical group recognized five military dependents during a Dental Assistant Training Program graduation ceremony at the Osan Air Base Chapel, Osan AB, Republic of Korea, May 29, 2026.

The ceremony highlighted how community partnerships and professional development opportunities strengthen both readiness and tour normalization efforts at Osan AB.

The training program is a collaborative effort between the American Red Cross, Defense Health Agency and the Department of War, providing military dependents with the education, clinical experience and mentorship needed to develop assisting skills while supporting operations within the 51st MDG dental clinic.

Once accepted into the program, participants are integrated into the 51st MDG dental clinic, where they complete more than 700 hours of training through the program, including 100 hours of classroom instruction and 600 hours of hands-on clinical experience. Throughout the



Dental Assistant Training Program participants observe a dental exam at the 51st Medical Group Dental Clinic, Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 28, 2026. Throughout the program, they work alongside active duty dental technicians, receiving instruction in chairside assisting, infections control procedures, patient care and clinical workflow. ▲

course, they work alongside active duty dental technicians, receiving instruction in chairside assisting, infections control procedures, patient care and clinical workflow.

"The requirement is not easy," said U.S. Air Force Capt. Hannah Cho, 51st Operational Medical Readiness Squadron general dentist. "They work almost full time while volunteering with us. It takes a lot of dedication, but by the end they're actively assisting with patient care and functioning much like a trained dental assistant."

As tour normalization continues to expand opportunities for Airmen and their families across the Korean Peninsula, programs like this help create career-building pathways for dependents and provide an environment to professionally develop while stationed overseas.

"There's a lot of career limitations when families move overseas," said Cho. "If they're here for years, they want to develop their personal careers and expand their opportunities. This program gives them a chance to do that."

The training program also helps military spouses and dependents gain valuable experience while exploring new career fields never considered.

"I never thought I'd get into dentistry," said Leandra Rivera, Dental Assistant Training Program graduate. "The program gave me the opportunity to learn a new skill, challenge myself and discover a career field I may not have considered otherwise."

Beyond developing new skills, participants help increase the clinic's capacity by supporting dental teams throughout their training.

"You don't really understand how big of an impact it makes until you're in it," said Rivera. "Once we got the hang of things, we were able to support the technicians and doctors and allow them to focus on other responsibilities. It was rewarding to see how our work contributed to the mission."



Dental Assistant Training Program participants receive graduation gifts during the Dental Assistant Training Program graduation. The training program is a collaborative effort between the American Red Cross, Defense Health Agency and the Department of War, providing military dependents with the education, clinical experience and mentorship needed to develop assisting skills while supporting operations within the 51st MDG dental clinic. ▲
U.S. Air Force Capt. Hannah Cho, 51st Operational Medical Readiness Squadron general dentist, gives opening remarks during the Dental Assistant Training Program graduation at the Osan Air Base Chapel, Osan AB. ◀

Osan community celebrates the Class of 2026

By Senior Airman Rome Bowermaster
51st Fighter Wing

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- U.S. Department of War Education Activity students participate in the annual Osan Middle High School graduation parade at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 2, 2026. The annual tradition celebrates graduating seniors and provides the Osan community an opportunity to recognize their accomplishments as they prepare for the next chapter of their academic, military, and professional journeys.



Graduates from Osan Middle High School participate in a graduation parade at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 2, 2026. The event highlighted a longstanding Osan tradition recognizing graduating seniors and their accomplishments. ▲
Students from Osan Middle High School cheer for graduates during the Osan Middle High School graduation parade at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 2, 2026. The annual event brought together families, educators and community members to celebrate the Class of 2026. ◀

First Defender Weapon Trainer Course at Kunsan

By 1st Lt. Lyca Steelman
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- The 8th Security Forces Squadron achieved a notable milestone in local training capabilities by integrating nonspecialized personnel into instructor roles during the inaugural Defender Weapon Trainer course at Kunsan Air Base, May 26-27, 2026.

This initiative marked the first time the unit utilized 8th SFS defenders, rather than combat arms specialists, as the primary instructors. Additionally, this marked the first time the unit partnered with a Republic of Korea Army detachment to utilize their range for these qualifications. The two-day course paired classroom instruction with a day of live-fire qualification.

"The aim of the course is to bolster the reach of combat arms training and maintenance, which is a critically manned career field," said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Lynn Cartagena, 8th SFS noncommissioned officer in charge of combat arms training and maintenance. "By expanding on the 'leader-led' training concept, we allow our NCOs to leverage their practical experience and credibility to develop our defenders."

Coordinating the course required a squadron-wide effort, Cartagena explained, aligning the armory, training flight, vehicle control teams, and more to meet strict safety standards. By utilizing the nearby ROKA range, the squadron also bypassed traditional logistical hurdles. This approach directly addresses the unit's training load and expands CATM's capabilities with the unit's primary focus to train the base populous how to confidently handle and employ firearms.

"It's impressive to think that we were able to save about 12 hours of training time," Cartagena expressed.

U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Bridger Boyd, 8th SFS flight commander and a student in the course, explained, "Cops teaching cops' allows more of a coaching environment rather than a teaching environment. Just by the title there is a mutual understanding, foundation, and standard operating procedure between student and instructor. The instructor understands how the defenders work and can sharpen the skills said defender much easier."

The course is designed to decentralize training authority, dispersing instructor capabilities across the entire squadron rather than concentrating it solely within a specialized flight.

"By utilizing 'cops to teach cops,' we are identifying and training experienced Technical Sergeants, Staff Sergeants, and more to serve as fire team leads who can qualify their own members," said Senior Airman Gregory Webber, 8th SFS combat arms training and maintenance instructor. "This approach shifts our training culture to ensure that well-suited individuals within the standard Security Forces career field are capable of performing and instructing at a high level, rather than relying solely on specialized combat arms personnel."

"DWT is just part of the big picture to make CATM more flexible and dynamic," Cartagena stated regarding the future of the program.

As Kunsan continues to strengthen its defense posture, initiatives such as this course demonstrate the Wolf Pack's commitment to defending the base through combined partnerships.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Lynn Cartagena, 8th Security Forces Squadron combat arms training and maintenance supervisor, instructs 8th SFS members on how much ammunition to prepare for training at a Republic of Korea Army shooting range, ROK, May 27, 2026. The course is designed to decentralize training authority, dispersing instructor capabilities across the entire squadron versus a specialized flight. ▲



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Gregory Webber, 8th Security Forces Squadron combat arms training and maintenance instructor, front, and U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Shelby Gordon, 8th Security Forces Squadron defender weapon trainer, back, declare the shooting range safe during the defender weapon trainer course at a Republic of Korea shooting range, ROK, May 27, 2026. ▲

Members of the 8th Security Forces Squadron fire during the defender weapon trainer course at a Republic of Korea shooting range, ROK, May 27, 2026. The course is designed to decentralize training authority, dispersing instructor capabilities across the entire squadron rather than concentrating it solely within a specialized flight. ◀

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8th, 51st OSS Airmen attend LZSO course at Kunsan AB

By Senior Airman Tabatha Chapman
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- "Take the Fight North" is more than a slogan for the Wolf Pack. It reflects the unit's ability to generate airpower anytime and anywhere, often in austere or remote locations where established airfields and landing zones may be limited.

To support that mission, Airmen from the 8th Operations Support Squadron and 51st OSS completed a Landing Zone Safety Officer course at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 18-29.

The course instructs airfield operations students from specialties including air traffic control, radar, weather systems, and airfield management to plan, assess, setup, and operate austere landing zones in remote or challenging environments. The certification also supports the development of mission-ready Airmen capable of operating in contingency environments.

The primary responsibility of a LZSO is to mitigate risks and ensure safe and efficient execution of operations assigned to their landing zone. This includes assessing current conditions, weather, soil and surface integrity, and potential obstacles while maintaining the safety of both air and ground personnel.

U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 8th Operations Support Squadron and the 51st OSS, participate in the Landing Zone Safety Officer course at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 25, 2026. This two-week course provided the qualifications and expertise needed to establish a landing zone in remote-operating environments. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua DeGuzman) ▶

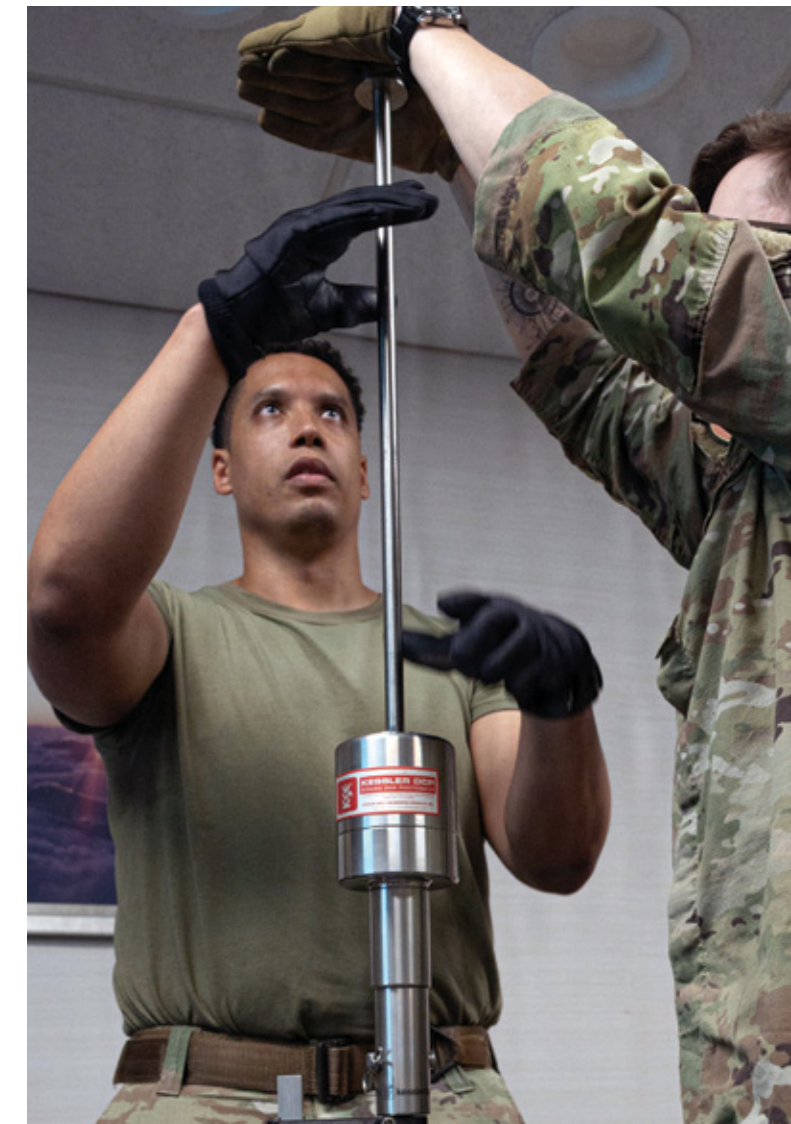
U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Andrew Huntoon, left, 8th Operations Support Squadron radar, airfield and weather systems noncommissioned officer in charge of production control and Master Sgt. Kyle Ralston, right, 51st OSS NCOIC of training, establish radio communications during the Landing Zone Safety Officer course at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 25, 2026. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tabatha Chapman) ▼



U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 8th Operations Support Squadron and 51st OSS pose in front of a KC-130J Hercules assigned to the Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, during the Landing Zone Safety Officer course at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 25, 2026. Airmen who participated in the two-week course learned the techniques and procedures needed to safely land aircraft in remote-operating environments. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tabatha Chapman) ▶



U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 8th Operations Support Squadron and 51st OSS take turns establishing radio communications to a KC-130J Hercules assigned to the Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, during the Landing Zone Safety Officer course at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 25, 2026. Airmen participating in the two-week course were taught the qualifications and expertise needed to establish a landing zone in remote-operating environments. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tabatha Chapman) ▲



U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 8th Operations Support Squadron and 51st OSS, set up a K-Visual Assault Zone Marking Panel during the Landing Zone Safety Officer course at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 25, 2026. K-VAMPs are used as a visual identifier to arriving aircraft in an intended landing zone. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tabatha Chapman) ▲

U.S. Master Sgt. Paul Hooten, 51st Operations Support Squadron radar, airfield and weather systems section chief, uses a dynamic cone penetrometer as part of the Landing Zone Safety Officer course at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 25, 2026. The penetrometer is used to determine if unpaved landing zones, airfields, or taxiways can safely support specific aircraft, calculating soil bearing capacity in austere environments. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua DeGuzman) ◀

By accurately assessing and preparing landing zones, LZSOs enable the rapid deployment and sustainment of forces. Their work supports the efficient movement of personnel and cargo, helping to maintain operational tempo and directly prevents accidents and loss of life.

"The skills learned directly support 'Taking the fight North' as it increases our ability to establish a vast network of spoke locations across the Indo-Pacific Command, allowing for expedient port opening, asset dispersal, and combat turn locations," said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Cameron Piontek, 8th Operations Support Squadron air traffic control tower assistant chief controller. "Annual and semi-annual training at Kunsan should be a bare minimum to ensure our operators are keeping their teeth and their skills as sharp as possible."


This course challenged students to operate with an out-of-the-box mentality through a combination of hands-on field training with classroom instruction. Participants learned how to establish radio communications, measure and assess landing zones, evaluate surface integrity and make decisions in high-pressure environments.

"The course definitely pushed me out of my comfort zone. The sheer volume of data we needed to analyze, and the levels of responsibility placed on the LZSO are immense," said 2nd Lt. Keeley Dolan, 8th Operations Support Squadron airfield operations officer. "Making a judgment call on whether a surface is safe for a multimillion-dollar aircraft and the lives of its crew, based on the team's calculations and observations, was a challenging but incredibly valuable experience."

Dolan said that the course not only touched on technical precision but also instilled a command level perspective. Students relied on one another's expertise to make informed decisions to accomplish the mission safely and effectively.

"This course was one of the most practical and impactful training experiences of my career so far," said Dolan. "It connected the theoretical aspects of airfield operations to the tangible, high-stakes reality of contingency environments. I am excited to work with everyone in the class in the future, as well as all other LZSOs that have taken the time and effort to expand their contingency knowledge base. This type of contingency response is the wave of the future for all airfield operations personnel, so it's exciting to be the next generation of LZSOs!"

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**2026 WORLD ISLAND EXHIBITION
 YEOSU KOREA**
 2026 여수세계섬박람회

September 5th – November 4th, 2026

Dolsan Jinmo District, Yeosu
 Geado & Geumodo Island & Expo Ocean Park

2026 WORLD ISLAND EXHIBITION
 YEOSU KOREA

JeollaNamdo YEOSU CITY



Summer Fire Safety

As the temperatures rise and summer activities ramp up, the risk of the fire incidents increases. Ensuring summer fire safety is crucial for protecting lives, property, and the environment. Here are essential tips to keep you and your loved ones safe during the summer months.

1. Barbeques, Gas Grills, Gas Fryers:

- Grills, smokers, and gas fryers shall be located a minimum of 15 feet from buildings when in use and 50 feet from areas subject to having flammables. (Exception, gas grills/barbeques may be used on the balconies of the Military Family Housing towers, Building 211, 1014, and 1015)
- At no time will grills, smokers, or gas fryers be used indoors or under overhangs, canopies, or carport unless specifically approved by Fire Prevention Office.
- Only approved type charcoal lighter fluid (combustible liquid only) shall be utilized.
- Charcoal residue both hot/cold shall be disposed of in a safe manner.
- Propane bottles will not be stored inside any base facility. Propane should be stored outside at least 20 feet away from any source of ignition.
- All outdoor cooking appliances will be monitored at all times.

2. Open Flame:

- Open burning, outdoor open flame fire places, and fire pits are allowed in designated locations approved by and coordinated with the Fire Prevention Office.
- Only fire wood will be utilized for in the burn pit.
- The users must notify the Emergency Communication Center (0505-784-4741) prior to lighting the fire and after the fire is out. There will be no burn pit use after 2200 hours.

3. Fireworks:

- The use of fireworks on OSAN AB is prohibited.

4. Home Fire Preparedness:

- Smoke Alarms: Test monthly and replace batteries annually.
- Fire Extinguishers: Keep fire extinguishers accessible and know how to use them.
- Escape Plan: Practice a fire escape plan with your family.

Fire safety during the summer requires awareness, preparation, and responsible behavior. By following these guidelines, you can enjoy a safe and fire-free summer. Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Fire Prevention Office at 784-3370/ 4741.

Are You Saved?

Jesus Saves!

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

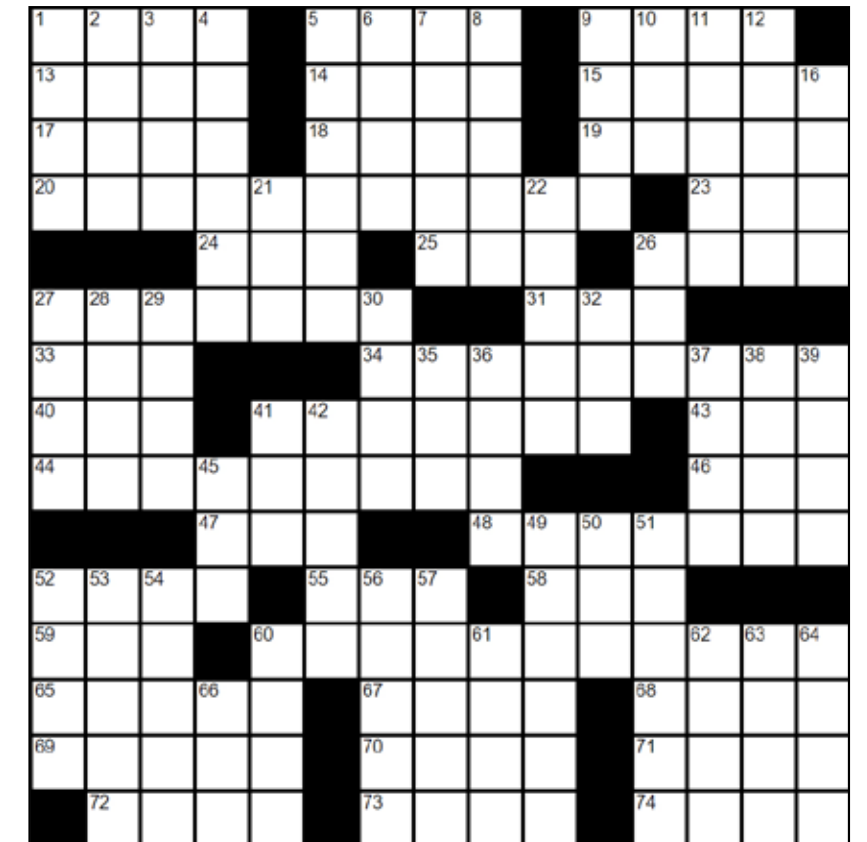
Haven Baptist Church
 Just outside the Front Gate at Kunsan AB
 – Preaching Christ 50+ years.

www.hbcingunsan.com

Redeem this AD for a FREE COFFEE at church!

The Crossword

By Jon Dunbar



ACROSS

- 1 Hocked a loogie
- 5 Pub projectile
- 9 Baldwin or Guinness
- 13 Millennial's carpe diem
- 14 Radio conversation word
- 15 Chunks of flammable rock
- 17 Newbie
- 18 Qatar capital
- 19 Star Wars: ___ One
- 20 President Moon's house
- 23 Myung-bak or Bruce
- 24 Mineral deposit
- 25 Fresh Prince of ___-Air
- 26 Cubicle furniture
- 27 Buddha's name
- 31 Seoul Metro transfer station on lines 4 and 7
- 33 Hospital workers
- 34 Another name for 20 across

DOWN

- 40 DoJ law enforcement organization
- 41 Bluegrass brothers band
- 43 Goes with 55 across
- 44 Relations between two countries
- 46 Convenience store Mart brand
- 47 Korean TV channel
- 48 Osan Air Base site
- 52 Goes with Verde or Grande
- 55 Goes with 43 across
- 58 Grassy land
- 59 CTRL+___+DEL
- 60 Confounding
- 65 One who fathers a cow
- 67 United ___ Emirates
- 68 Altair spacecraft
- 69 City near Pusan
- 70 Nevada city
- 71 Backed ___ a corner
- 72 Help a weightlifter
- 73 June 6, 1944
- 74 Corporate tech leaders

DOWN

- 1 In lock step
- 2 Winnie the ___
- 3 ___ vera
- 4 In addition
- 5 Bumper car
- 6 Swear
- 7 Hospital for alcoholics
- 8 Ministry of ___, Industry and Energy
- 9 4,047 square meters
- 10 Latrine
- 11 "The ___ has landed"
- 12 Hints
- 16 Hide and ___
- 21 LaPierre's org.
- 22 Sigourney Weaver movie
- 26 Pair
- 27 Grasp
- 28 Opposite of pro
- 29 1980s NFL competitor
- 30 Shortened word
- 32 Opposite of he
- 35 Mauna ___
- 36 Web addresses
- 37 Military formation
- 38 Epic story
- 39 Actress Rachel Wood
- 41 Nonprescription drug
- 42 "My spider ___ is tingling"
- 45 K-pop girl group
- 49 2003 Park Chan-wook film
- 50 Born as
- 51 Common Korean food ingredient
- 52 Actors of a play
- 53 Alter-identity
- 54 Throat problem
- 56 Prize
- 57 Exhausted
- 60 Extremely dry champagne
- 61 Del Rey or Turner
- 62 "___ it Romantic"
- 63 Collective security bloc
- 64 DNA-edited food
- 66 Psyche part

Answers to Previous Crossword

- | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------|----------------|-----------|
| ACROSS | 26 NSA | 55 STO | 8 ASKS | 35 EMOTES |
| 1 ALPHA | 29 YURI | 56 CSIS | 6 AKE | 42 UNDOCK |
| 6 AMC | 30 ANO | 57 COULEES | 7 MAL | 43 TSO |
| 9 SASHA | 31 SSIREUM | 60 COL | 8 CITE | 47 AKS |
| 14 FIDOS | 33 SHE | 62 ASSAD | 9 SUTUM | 50 HEEDED |
| 15 XAU | 36 MCU | 63 TAEKKYEON | 10 ARMOR | 51 AYE |
| 16 CRUEL | 37 OATES | 69 THEME | 11 SUBMISSIONS | 54 BLAME |
| 17 BLACKBELT | 38 SAM | 70 APP | 12 HIEB | 56 CLYDE |
| 19 UMBRA | 39 MIN | 71 ADDLE | 13 ALAS | 57 CATE |
| 20 USO | 40 SIR | 72 EASED | 18 BONSAI | 58 OSHA |
| 21 ENTOMBS | 41 PUT | 73 RCA | 22 NYU | 59 STAR |
| 23 HERS | 44 IWO | 74 YEMEN | 23 HAMMER | 61 OKAY |
| | 45 END | | 24 ENGINE | 64 APC |
| | 46 EARNIS | | 25 ROUNDHOUSES | 65 EPA |
| | 48 OAT | | 27 SITREP | 66 EDM |
| | 49 ROH | | 28 ARE | 67 OLE |
| | 50 HAPKIDO | | 2 LIL | 68 NEN |
| | 52 NIE | | 32 ESPRIT | |
| | 53 OBEY | | 34 HAWAII | |



Graduation celebration: Graduating cadets from the U.S. Air Force Academy Class of 2026 toss their hats in the air as the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds fly over Falcon Stadium in Colorado Springs, Colo., May 28, 2026. A total of 931 cadets received commissions as second lieutenants in the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force. (U.S. Air Force photo by Adalyn Greene) ◀

Fountain to the future: Senior cadets celebrate the completion of final exams by jumping into the Air Garden fountains at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo., May 12, 2026. The longstanding tradition, beginning with the first class of graduates in 1959, takes place before graduation each year. (U.S. Air Force photo by Ray Bahner) ▲



Rapid response: U.S. Air Force Airmen and U.S. Army Soldiers walk toward a U.S. Marine Corps MV-22B Osprey assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 362 (Reinforced) during a mass-casualty exercise at Chabelley Airfield, Djibouti, April 22, 2026. The exercise tested the capabilities of the Spartan Helicopter Landing Zone and evaluated rapid patient movement procedures in a contingency environment. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Abigail Duell) ▶

Surf's up: An HH-60G Pave Hawk assigned to the 920th Rescue Wing trails an HC-130J Combat King II during the Hyundai Air and Sea Show in Miami, Fla., May 24, 2026. The aircraft demonstrated the Air Force's combat search and rescue capabilities while showcasing the coordination required to recover and support isolated personnel in contested environments. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Darius Sostre-Miroir) ◀



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 their

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

Maintain Cyber Awareness and Avoid Phishing Attempts
Instructure, a parent company for Canvas, was recently breached by a cyber actor and some organizations are experiencing phishing attempts while using ASU accounts. Due to the scope of the attack some organizations are experiencing phishing attempts while using ASU accounts. Users are reminded that no one from ATSD or ASU will send an email with a link asking the user to confirm their

login credentials. If you have questions or receive an email asking you to confirm login credentials do not click on any link and report immediately to usarmy.leavenworth.tradoc.mesg.army-cybersecurity-team@army.mil
Primary POC: 688 CW/A3O (AMAC)
Email: nos.cyoo.crewcc@us.af.mil
DSN: 312-945-4411
COMM: 210-925-4411
VoSIP: 302-969-4411

Pass & Registration | Temporary Office Hours
Starting: 2 June 2026 | Time: 0800-0930 | Location: Pass & Registration Office, Bldg. 765

Pass and Registration will be closed the morning of 2 June 2026 from 0800-0930 for a mandatory office appointment. Any member with an appointment during that time has been rescheduled to a later time that day to meet their request. If you were affected by the sudden shift in hours, please contact our office at (315) 784-5594 and we will inform you of your new appointment time.
POC: SSgt GUMATAOTAO, JESSEJOE J. DSN: 784-5594

Updated Housing Operation Hours
Monday – Thursday: 0745-1600
Friday: 0745-1500
Call the housing office 784-1840

| 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 |

Wolf 66 takes her last flight as 8th FW CC

Leadership from the 8th Fighter Wing salute U.S. Air Force Col. Kathryn "Wolf" Gaetke, 8th Fighter Wing commander, as she parks her aircraft after her final flight at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 5, 2026. The fini-flight is a longstanding tradition where a pilot is honored for their time flying an aircraft. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Cedrique Oldaker) ▶



U.S. Air Force Col. Kathryn "Wolf" Gaetke, 8th Fighter Wing commander, prepares for her final flight at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 5, 2026. The fini-flight is an Air Force tradition celebrating a pilot's career and achievements prior to a permanent change of station or retirement. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Cedrique Oldaker) ▲



U.S. Air Force Col. Kathryn "Wolf" Gaetke, 8th Fighter Wing commander, poses for a photo with her family after her final flight at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 5, 2026. The flight commemorated the time Gaetke dedicated to leading and supporting the 8th FW as its commander. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Cedrique Oldaker) ◀

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7th Air Force chiefs strengthen leadership through alliance, history and partnership

Senior enlisted leaders walk along the Seoul City Wall during the Seventh Air Force Chief Development Symposium in Seoul, Republic of Korea, May 28, 2026. The historical engagement encouraged participants to reflect on the history, partnerships and shared experiences that continue to shape the U.S.-ROK Alliance. ▲



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Schaefer, Seventh Air Force command chief, provides remarks during the first day of the Seventh Air Force Chief Development Symposium on Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 27, 2026. The three-day symposium brought together senior enlisted leaders from across the peninsula to strengthen leadership, foster partnerships and deepen their understanding of the U.S.-ROK Alliance. ▲



Republic of Korea Air Force senior enlisted leaders listen to a joint-service panel during the Seventh Air Force Chief Development Symposium at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 27, 2026. The panel featured senior enlisted leaders from the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy and U.S. Space Force discussing leadership, readiness and joint-force integration. ►

According to event organizers, the symposium was designed to encourage strategic thinking among senior enlisted leaders and provide opportunities for chiefs to refine their vision, mission and lines of effort while learning from leaders across the joint force. "The intent was to create a three-day event that would professionally develop senior enlisted leaders through strategic engagement, events and joint discussions," said U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Julian Hobson, 51st Operations Support Squadron radar controller and event organizer. "We wanted chiefs to think about where they were with strategic thinking, what they had learned and how they could apply those lessons to their units." The symposium also featured engagement with ROKAF senior enlisted leaders, reinforcing the enduring partnership between the two allied air forces. Through open dialogue and professional exchanges, attendees explored common leadership principles, discussed the importance of enlisted development and strengthened relationships that support the combined mission. Choi noted that engagements between U.S. and ROKAF leaders create opportunities to better understand one another's perspectives and strengthen cooperation between the two allied forces.

"Since each nation's Air Force has different systems and values, it can be difficult to identify and resolve our own strengths and weaknesses," Choi said. "Forums like this present an excellent opportunity to provide mutual support, and I hope these engagements will continue in the future." Beyond leadership discussions, chiefs participated in a historical leadership trail along portions of the Seoul City Wall and visited the War Memorial of Korea. These experiences provided attendees with a deeper appreciation of Korea's history, the sacrifices made during the Korean War and the partnership that emerged from that conflict. According to Hobson, the historical engagements were intentionally selected to connect leadership development with a deeper understanding of the alliance and mission. "The War Memorial tour not only offered historical insight but also gave chiefs a sense of purpose behind why they and their Airmen are here today," Hobson said. For Choi, understanding history is essential to understanding the future of the alliance. "There is a saying that a nation that forgets its history has no future," Choi said. "Understanding and sharing our common history between Korea and the United States heightens the importance of the ROK-U.S. Alliance, making our continued partnership absolutely essential." As the symposium concluded, chiefs departed with strengthened professional networks, expanded perspectives and a renewed appreciation for the alliance that remains central to regional security and stability. By bringing together senior enlisted leaders from across services and alongside Republic of Korea partners, the Seventh Air Force Chief Development Symposium reinforced a shared commitment to developing leaders capable of strengthening the alliance, enhancing readiness and leading Airmen in support of the combined mission.



Senior enlisted leaders participate in a team-building fitness activity during the Seventh Air Force Chief Development Symposium in Seoul, Republic of Korea, May 29, 2026. The activity encouraged collaboration and relationship-building among chiefs from across the Korean Peninsula. ▲



Republic of Korea Air Force Chief Sgt. In-ho Choi, Air Force Operations Command command chief, speaks to attendees during the Seventh Air Force Chief Development Symposium in Seoul, Republic of Korea, May 28, 2026. The discussion provided chiefs from across the peninsula an opportunity to exchange perspectives, strengthen partnerships and deepen their understanding of the U.S.-ROK Alliance. ◀

Advertisement for Inner Light Seon Meditation Center. Includes text: Experience Korean Seon Meditation, Inner Light Seon Meditation Center, Discover a peaceful space near Camp Humphreys where you can relax, recharge, and experience a variety of meditation practices. Lists services like Authentic Korean Seon (Zen) Meditation, Stress Relief, Mindfulness, Loving-Kindness Meditation, etc. Includes contact info and a QR code.

Advertisement for Osan AB Jewelry Concession. Includes text: OSAN AB Jewelry Concession, The Best Jewelry Store with 35 years of experience in USAG Yongsan, USAG Humphreys, and Osan AB. Jewelry Repair Service Available. Store Location: Osan BX Mall (Bldg. 965) Island Kiosk.

The Warfighter's Spirit

Too Many "Cool Rocks" in Your Hands?



By Ch, Capt Joseph C. Kim, 694 ISRG, Osan AB, ROK

Does anyone have a child who is obsessed with rocks and sticks? My eight-year-old son, Judah, used to bring them home by the handful. He'd stash them in his treasure box or, more often, forget them in his pockets. My least favorite

part was discovering them rattling around in the dryer. "What's that noise?" Yep. Judah's rocks.

A while back, while stationed at Hill Air Force Base, we were enjoying a family walk on a local Utah trail. True to form, Judah found more rocks—cool ones, at least in his eyes. The problem was his pants didn't have any pockets, a fact I was secretly thankful for. So, he scooped up as many as he could hold, filling both of his hands. He was proud of his collection, but he had his hands full.

As we continued our walk, it became clear he couldn't pick up anything else—no interesting walking sticks, no fallen leaves, not even a cooler rock. He couldn't climb a tree or even hold my hand.

When we stopped for a snack, reality hit him: he couldn't hold the rocks and the snack at the same time. He had a choice to make, and he chose to let the rocks go. Those fascinating treasures were hindering him from fully enjoying our family outing.

The world, much like that trail, offers us so many things that seem appealing, fascinating, and even necessary at first glance. We all have "rocks" that we choose to pick up and carry. These could be the desire for the perfect follow-on assignment, chasing after the latest tech or possession, or the pressure to maintain a certain "highlight reel" or "image" for others. We fill our hands, our minds, and our time with them. But how often do we stop to ask if

they are truly valuable? Or are they, like my son's stones, simply weighing us down and preventing us from embracing the things that really matter?

We know our time and energy are finite and limited resources. We have a mission to do and people who depend on us. It's a healthy exercise to pause and take inventory of the "rocks" in our own pockets. What are we carrying that might be hindering our journey? What could we accomplish if we freed our hands? Perhaps by letting go of what seems important in the moment, we can make room for what is truly valuable in the long run: our relationships, our physical and spiritual health, and our commitment to something larger than ourselves.

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@mail.mil

PAGAN Traditions

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

BUDDHIST

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



Arsenal of Freedom Formation: A B-52 Stratofortress leads a formation of a B-1 Lancer, A-10 Thunderbolt II, F-16 Fighting Falcon, F/A-18 Hornet, F-22 Raptor and F-35 Lightning II during the Hyundai Air and Sea Show in Miami, May 23, 2026. Known as the Arsenal of Freedom Formation, the flyover highlighted the Air Force's ability to project combat power through a diverse fleet of aircraft. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Lauren Diaz) ▲

Wingman: Master Sgt. Austin Tyler, 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron superintendent of ground transportation, carries a fallen teammate during a simulated maneuver-under-fire exercise at the Warrior Gauntlet at Kadena Air Base, Japan, May 8, 2026. The event emphasized teamwork, resilience and combat readiness under pressure. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Francisco Huerta) ◀

Through the haze: Capt. Nick Le Tourneau, F-22 Raptor Demonstration Team commander and pilot, performs during the Air Dot Show Tour in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., May 9, 2026. Le Tourneau showcased the capabilities of the F-22 Raptor through a series of aerial maneuvers. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mary Bowers) ▼



Festival fireworks: Fireworks illuminate the sky behind a U.S. Air Force C-130J Super Hercules assigned to the 36th Airlift Squadron during the Japanese-American Friendship Festival 2026 at Yokota Air Base, Japan, May 17, 2026. The two-day event celebrated the enduring U.S.-Japan alliance through aircraft displays, cultural exchanges and live entertainment. (U.S. Air Force photo by Yasuo Osakabe) ◀



Tour Normalization Town Hall

By Airman 1st Class Megan Cusmano
51st Fighter Wing

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- U.S. Air Force Col. Jeff Elliott, 51st Mission Support Group commander, hosted a Tour Normalization Town Hall at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 27, 2026.

During the briefing, Elliott highlighted command sponsorship program growth and Osan's phased approach to tour normalization as the installation gradually increases command-sponsored billets during the next several years. Leaders discussed where the installation currently stands, projected future growth and how ongoing infrastructure improvements are designed to support Airmen and families as the community expands.

"We know traffic, parking and medical capacity are concerns for our community," Elliott said. "A lot of these projects are designed to address those issues now while also preparing the base for future growth."

Elliott provided insight into some of the initiatives that have already occurred as Osan transitions from the standard short tour format to the 36/24/12 tour structure and the increase in command sponsorship billets from 1,250 to 1,650 by the end of the year. He highlighted the reopening of an Airman Leadership School here for Airmen across the peninsula and opening the third lane at the main gate during morning traffic hours to reduce congestion.

The town hall outlined several projects that will begin over the next few years, placing them into near, short and long-term timeframes.

Near-term projects, planned for summer 2026 through 2027, include roadway improvements near schools and housing areas, additional parking expansions, new community support initiatives and dormitory renovations.

Midterm projects, planned for 2027 through 2029 include additional traffic flow improvements, expanded fitness and family support spaces, roadway repairs and continued infrastructure updates designed to support increasing numbers of

U.S. Air Force personnel attend a Tour Normalization Town Hall at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 27, 2026. The event highlighted infrastructure improvements, parking expansions, medical support initiatives and future development projects supporting Airmen and families at Osan. ▲

U.S. Air Force Col. Jeff Elliott, 51st Mission Support Group commander, speaks during a Tour Normalization Town Hall at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 27, 2026. The briefing focused on recent improvements, future construction projects and ongoing efforts to support the installation's growing number of command-sponsored families. ▼



command-sponsored families arriving at Osan.

Finally, long-term projects planned for 2029 and beyond include a new temporary lodging facility, future gate realignments, major fitness center expansion projects, tower renovations and additional community infrastructure improvements supporting Osan's continued tour normalization efforts.

Additional updates included expanded services from the commissary and exchange, as well as a new Tricare Prime Remote Overseas pilot program designed to help support future medical capacity needs while connecting families with local health care resources.

The town hall concluded with a question-and-answer session, allowing community members to provide feedback and discuss future improvements planned across the installation.

"We're taking a deliberate approach to tour normalization to make sure we grow responsibly and continue providing the support our Airmen and families need. The improvements happening across Osan are focused on building a stronger community while maintaining mission readiness."
— Col. Jeff Elliot

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Wolf Pack executes Bev. Sent. 26-3



Members of the 8th Medical Group load simulated patients into a transport vehicle during Beverly Sentinel 26-3 at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 20, 2026. Every Airman, from security forces to maintenance, utilizes these exercises to hone their technical skills and build the combat-credible mindset required for the modern battlefield. ▲



U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 8th Security Forces K-9 unit conduct military working dog controlled aggression training during Beverly Sentinel 26-3 at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 19, 2026. Rigorous training events such as this are essential to ensure the Wolf Pack maintains its "Fight Tonight" readiness and can rapidly respond to any crisis. ▲



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Damien Clayton, 8th Security Forces Squadron military working dog trainer, dons a bite suit and plays as a "decoy" for the dogs during exercise Beverly Sentinel 26-3 at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 19, 2026. ▲

By Senior Airman Tabatha Chapman
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- Bev. Sent. 26-3 challenged Airmen to execute mission-critical decisions under intense circumstances while maintaining the tempo required to defend the base and sustain combat operations.

Exercise scenarios emphasized adaptability, rapid response, and clear communication as key components of mission success, ensuring personnel remained prepared to survive, operate, and prevail in contested environments.

"Ability to Survive and Operate exercises give us the opportunity to rehearse skills that we don't get to practice during our day-to-day duties," said U.S. Air Force Col. Valerie "Hawk" O'Brien, 8th Medical Group commander. "Having the basic maneuvers be second nature so leaders and Airmen can focus on solving more complex situations that may arise is critical to mission success."

Each Wolf Pack unit, including communications, civil engineering, security forces, finance, and more, strengthened mission-essential skills while refining life-saving techniques and strategies such as Tactical Combat Casualty Care and emergency response procedures to maintain operational readiness.

"It is important to train how you fight," said U.S. Senior Airman Dorian Cain, 8th Force Support Squadron readiness and plans technician. "I don't believe we should just wait until we get attacked then start planning. We are doing it the right way; learning enemy capabilities and strategizing through scenarios on how to adapt to their tactics."

Cain explained that his unit was successful in taking charge during a simulated opposing force scenario by using weapons training and rehearsed tactical fundamentals, including shoot, move, and communicate techniques for close-quarters battle scenarios. By the time security forces arrived, his unit had already successfully taken back complete control of the facility.

Routine ATSO exercises provide integrated training designed to test coordination, decision-making, and operational effectiveness during prolonged crises and sustained stress scenarios.

"Exercises showcase our resolve and resilience to our allies and adversaries alike," said O'Brien. "This increases the confidence of our allies and makes our adversaries take note and question their own desire to engage in combat with us. Deterrence defined!"



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Anthony Heath, 8th Security Forces Squadron drone operator, ties a simulated explosive device to a drone as part of a simulated opposing forces ground attack during Beverly Sentinel 26-3 Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 19, 2026. This iteration of the Beverly Sentinel exercise series focuses on evaluating the wing's ability to maintain base operations and sustain airpower projection under simulated contested conditions. ▲

Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness visits the Wolf Pack



The Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness Anthony J. Tata, center, is welcomed to the Wolf Pack by U.S. Air Force Col. Kathryn "Wolf" Gaetke, 8th Fighter Wing commander, at Kunsan Air Base, May 15, 2026. Tata serves as the principal staff assistant and advisor to the Secretary of War for force readiness, force management, health affairs, National Guard and Reserve component affairs, education and training, and military and civilian personnel requirements and management. ▲

The Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness Anthony J. Tata walks with Ae Ran Kim, the base commissary store manager, at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 15, 2026. During his visit, Tata met with base commissary staff to better understand and discuss ways to improve quality of life for service members and their families. ▼



5th Reconnaissance Squadron celebrates 50th Anniversary

By Senior Airman Jessica Mun
51st Fighter Wing

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- The 5th Reconnaissance Squadron hosted an open house event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Blackcats at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 1, 2026. Open house tours help strengthen public trust, boost unit pride, and showcase history and capabilities, while offering a rare glimpse the mission.

U.S. Army Cpl. Devondre Austin, 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade engagement controller, throws a cornhole bag during the 5th Reconnaissance Squadron open house event at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 1, 2026. The event celebrated 50 years of the squadron's unwavering dedication to providing critical intelligence and ensuring stability on the Korean Peninsula ▼



U.S. soldiers pose for a group photo with Oscar, 5th Reconnaissance Squadron mascot, during the 5th RS open house event at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 1, 2026. Open house tours help strengthen public trust, boost unit pride, and showcase history and capabilities, while offering a rare glimpse into the mission. ▲



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Ryan, 5th Reconnaissance Squadron commander, gives a tour of a U-2 Dragon Lady cockpit during the 5th RS open house event at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 1, 2026. Open house tours help strengthen public trust, boost unit pride, and showcase history and capabilities, while offering a rare glimpse into the mission. ◀



Staff Sgt. Grace Colister

By Senior Airman Dylan Maher
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Grace Colister, 8th Security Forces Squadron flight sergeant, poses in front of a Humvee at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 4, 2026. Colister was selected as the Wolf Pack's Pride of the Pack for the week of June 1 - 5 due to her achievements within her career field and her impact on the readiness and well-being of the Wolf Pack. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Cedrique Oldaker) ▲

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Grace Colister, a native of Tafuna, American Samoa and 8th Security Forces Squadron flight sergeant, was awarded the 8th Fighter Wing's Pride of the Pack for the week of Jun 1 - 5 for directing 35 Airmen while fulfilling an E-6 position for 11 months.

As a flight sergeant, Colister led an eight-member team 42 kilometers off installation to establish a cordon for an In-Flight Emergency. Her leadership thwarted multi-vectored threats and secured a downed AH-64 Apache helicopter valued at \$52M. She also leveraged 6 subject matter experts and a \$46M counter-drone suite to neutralize 37 unauthorized aerial systems, protecting 4.6K joint personnel earning her team the Mission Support Group Team of the Year award.

She employed readiness for PACAF's largest Ready Reserve Force, where she instructed 300 personnel, refined advanced tier proficiency, standardized 17 critical TTPs, reinforcing joint lethality & enabling 8 FW's #1 LOE "Defend the Base."

Additionally, Colister revamped development for five duty positions using her certification as a Green Belt, driving kinetic training. She also earned highest duty qualifications amongst six flights with 18 "Exceptionally Well Qualified" ratings, surging unit effectiveness by 16%.

Finally, she coached and managed 29 defender athletes and directed the unit's first ever dual intramural volleyball teams, facilitating over 100 hours of practice drills, forging unit cohesion and enhanced dynamic teamwork while elevating squadron morale through competitive sportsmanship.

Thank you, Staff Sgt. Colister, 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. Grace Colister, 8th Security Forces Squadron flight sergeant, performs administrative work to balance work shifts schedules and programs for her Airmen at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, June 4, 2026. Colister was selected as the Wolf Pack's Pride of the Pack for the week of June 1 - 5 due to her achievements within her career field and her impact on the readiness and well-being of the Wolf Pack. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Cedrique Oldaker) ▲



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Senior Airman Patrick Somado-Hemazro

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Patrick Somado-Hemazro, 51st Maintenance Squadron phase support journeyman, poses for a photo at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 19, 2026. Somado-Hemazro was recognized as Mustang of the Week for his willingness to take on tasks and reliable work ethic. ▲

By Senior Airman Jessica Mun
51st Fighter Wing

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Patrick Somado-Hemazro, 51st Maintenance Squadron phase support journeyman, was recognized as Mustang of the Week at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 19, 2025.

Somado-Hemazro plays a critical role in supporting the Osan mission by ensuring maintenance equipment is readily available for personnel under any contingency. He manages tools, conducts quality inspections throughout the day, and runs programs for hazardous materials, vehicles, radios and other equipment.

"To maintain the 'Fight Tonight' posture is to make sure all the tools are ready and serviceable so maintenance can be executed without delaying mission readiness," said Somado-Hemazro.

Acting on this mindset, he took initiative to put two mobile generators into service, contributing to operational support and readiness. Additionally, Somado-Hemazro ran mid shift by himself for over three months as a junior enlisted Airman, and managed the transfer of tools from Kunsan Air Base and Misawa Air Base into their Consolidated Tool Kit.

His commitment has become especially important as the 51st MXS adapts to organizational



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Patrick Somado-Hemazro, 51st Maintenance Squadron phase support journeyman, logs equipment at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, May 19, 2026. Somado-Hemazro handles tools, conducts quality inspections of equipment and manages inventory to ensure maintainers can execute the "Fight Tonight" mission. ▲

changes aimed at improving operational efficiency across the wing.

Previously, maintenance personnel and equipment were aligned under the 35th and 36th Fighter Generations Squadrons. To optimize capabilities, the U.S. Air Force consolidated heavy maintenance, fabrication, intermediate-level repairs, and specialized support functions into the 51st MXS, supporting both FGs from a single squadron.

During this change, Somado-Hemazro has been a constant in his unit, filling in manning

gaps by working off shifts and taking the initiative to work on extra tasks.

"He's a high-speed phase support technician who stays ahead of the flow and absolutely crushes customer service and inspection details," said Staff Sgt. Jacob Ornelas, 51st MXS phase support noncommissioned officer in charge. "He is always the first to lean in when the phase hits a snag."

As the 51st MXS continues adapting to evolving mission requirements, Airmen like Somado-Hemazro remain essential to maintaining operational readiness across the wing.



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