

Crimson Sky

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Commanders, leaders and staff from various military branches pose for a group photo during the Combined Force Air Component Commander Course at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Aug. 13, 2026. The course prepares general officers from U.S. military services and international allies and partners to lead complex theater-level air operations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Makenna Patterson)

PACAF Hosts CFACC Course, Strengthening Joint and Combined Airpower

Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii

-- Senior U.S. military leaders alongside those from allied partners from across the globe gathered at Pacific Air Forces headquarters Aug. 10-14 for the Combined Force Air Component Commander (CFACC) course, a training event designed to prepare future commanders to lead complex, theater-level air operations.

Hosted by Air University's Ira C. Eaker Center

for Leadership Development, the course drew senior leaders from multiple countries including Australia, Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and the U.S.

"The value of conducting the course here is that you're in the theater the course is focused on," said retired Lt. Gen. Russel Handy, class senior Air Force mentor. "By focusing the participants, subjects, and speakers on the Pacific and the Pacific Command AOR, we get a much richer experience. The students become teachers as they share their perspectives."

Gen. Kevin Schneider, the Pacific Air Forces commander, placed a special emphasis on the personal networking and trust as a key driver of theater security, something that lays the groundwork for seamless coordination long before a crisis occurs.

"The leaders sitting in this CFACC course represent the future of our combined airpower," said Schneider. "By coming together to share our unique perspectives and align our strategies, we are removing the seams between our joint and allied forces."

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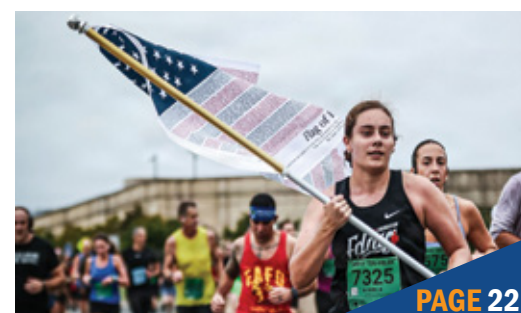
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DAF announces additional guidance implementing changes in response to SECWAR memorandums

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) -- The Department of the Air Force recently announced additional guidance for implementation for several Secretary of War directives. The changes include updates to the handling of medical shaving profiles, the requirement for Mask Fit Validation due by Dec. 31, 2026, a reform to chaplain evaluations and promotions, and Religious Affiliation Code updates.

Medical shaving profile separations

The Department of the Air Force has updated DAFI 36-3211, Military Separations to consider administrative separation for members who accumulate more than 12 months of medical shaving profiles within a 24-month period beginning Feb. 1, 2026.

These changes implement the Secretary of War's memorandum titled "Grooming Standards for Facial Hair," which directed commanders to initiate separation when a member requires a shaving waiver after more than one year of medical treatment and align with the SECWAR's implementation guidance.

For members who maintain a shaving waiver for a combined 12 months in a 24-month period, commanders will initiate discharge processing or submit a retention package. Retention is considered case by case, factoring several aspects, including the member's performance, unit manning and retention, special experience or specialized training, the cost and time to replace the member and other factors.

The policy applies only to members on medical shaving profiles. Members with an approved religious accommodation for facial hair are not subject to it and will be managed under Department of War Instruction and DAF policy.

CBRN mask fit validation

Additionally, every Airman and Guardian, including Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members, must complete two new CBRN defense requirements established by a Department of the Air Force Guidance Memorandum to DAFI 10-2503, CBRN Defense Program, by Dec. 31, 2026. Both requirements will then transition to

annual requirements for Airmen and Guardians.

The requirements are completed in order. First is the CBRN Defense Foundations Course, an annual web-based course taken through DAF e-Learning. Second is the mask validation, or negative pressure check, done in person with the unit mask fit validation monitor.

These changes align with the Secretary of War's guidance titled "Grooming Standards for Facial Hair Implementation," and reinforce how these skills are critical not only for defense against CBRN threats, but also for other hazardous mission sets where respiratory protection may be required.

Chaplain evaluations and promotions

To align with SECWAR's July 14 guidance, chaplains will now be predominantly evaluated using criteria aligned to their core religious ministry functions. Chaplains will receive a ministry performance assessment written by a chaplain: either a chaplain rater in the member's rating chain or a senior chaplain serving as a Chaplain Functional Examiner. The assessment covers four areas: providing religious services and rites, offering pastoral care and counseling, advising the command on matters of religion and morale, and executing religious support in an operational environment.

Chaplains will continue to be assessed on the Officer Performance Brief, AF Form 715, using the current Airman Leadership Qualities. The changes first apply to second and first lieutenant evaluations closing out Oct. 31, 2026. The current captain cycle, closing out Aug. 31, 2026, will route under existing processes.

When chaplains meet a promotion board, a chaplain general officer will serve as board president and at least two Chaplain Corps officers will serve as board members. The Secretary of the Air Force's Memorandum of Instructions to promotion boards will also direct board members to prioritize ministry performance to ensure chaplains have their performance as commissioned officers evaluated in a manner that prioritizes their unique and

primary role as religious ministry professionals.

These changes implement three mandates in the Secretary of War's directive: a supervisory chaplain included in the rating chain or serving as a Chaplain Functional Examiner; assessment of chaplains on their ability to deliver religious ministry; and updated promotion board instructions, procedures and membership.

Military equal opportunity and harassment

The Department of the Air Force released updated guidance in DAFI 36-2710, Equal Opportunity Program, to implement Department of War Memorandum, Military Equal Opportunity and Harassment Policy, which implements the Secretary of War's Memoranda, Implementation of Military Equal Opportunity and Equal Employment Opportunity Reform Plan, and Review of Hazing, Bullying, and Harassment Definitions.

This guidance updates policy and procedures to implement confidential reporting for prohibited discrimination and harassment; discontinue military equal opportunity processing of anonymous allegations of prohibited discrimination or discriminatory harassment (excluding bullying and hazing); implement alternative dispute resolution as an option to informally resolve allegations as an alternate to other formal resolution; allow commanders to dismiss formal military equal opportunity complaints that meet specified criteria; require all favorable administrative personnel actions for the subject of a military equal opportunity complaint be resumed or completed after the complaint is dismissed or found to be not substantiated; require that no favorable personnel actions may be withheld solely on the basis that the intended recipient is the subject of an equal employment opportunity complaint without a substantive finding of misconduct; clarify that false complaints may constitute a violation of Article 107 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice; and update definitions for harassment, bullying and hazing.



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Operation TREK808: PACAF, HING Rapidly Provide Critical Aid to Hawaii Island Recovery



The first flight for Operation TREK808 arrived at Hilo International Airport on Aug. 24, 2026. The C-17 Globemaster, from the 15th Wing based out of Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, carried three Southern California Edison (SCE) trucks loaded at March Air Reserve Base, Calif., that will assist Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) power restoration efforts on Hawai'i Island. There are still thousands of homes without electricity due to the damaged caused by Hurricane Lala from Aug. 14-16. The operation was a culmination of support and coordination between Hawai'i Governor Josh Green, Hawai'i National Guard, Department of War, Pacific Command, Pacific Command Air Forces, SCE and HECO.

By Maj. Nicolle Roose
Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii -- Because of Hawaii's geographic location, responding to natural disasters requires unique logistical capabilities. To accelerate recovery efforts following Tropical Cyclone Lala, Pacific Air Forces (PACAF), the Hawaii National Guard (HING), and state agencies executed a rapid-response airlift effort, named Operation TREK808, to deliver essential utility equipment from California to Hawaii Island from Aug. 23 - 25.

A total payload of 143,790 pounds — including six commercial power and utility repair trucks and a support trailer — was delivered to Hilo, Hawaii, by C-17 Globemaster III aircraft over the course of two airlift missions. By bypassing

traditional, slower maritime transport routes, the joint military effort delivered power restoration capabilities to the community.

What began as a simple text message from a local electric company to Gov. Josh Green evolved into a complex, multi-component defense support of civil authorities mission.

"Operation TREK808 demonstrates what we can accomplish when federal, state and private-sector partners respond with urgency and purpose," said Gov. Green. "Following my request for federal assistance, the Department of War, Adm. Samuel Paparo and U.S. Pacific Command, Pacific Air Forces, the Hawaii National Guard, Southern California Edison and Hawaiian Electric moved quickly to bring utility crews,

trucks and critical equipment to Hawaii Island. This coordinated mission will accelerate repairs, restore power sooner... and I am deeply grateful to everyone who answered the call."

Mobilizing under a tight timeline, total force Airmen from Team Hickam and March Air Reserve Base turned a mission concept to a full-blown rapid response in a matter of hours.

The emergency airlift began in California, where the 452nd Air Mobility Wing prepared March Air Reserve Base to serve as a critical continental staging hub. March personnel established the airfield and logistics support to process emergency cargo, working seamlessly alongside Team Hickam to execute a swift delivery across the Pacific.



A critical linchpin in ensuring the commercial vehicles were approved to fly was Hickam's 647th Logistics Readiness Squadron. Given a no-notice tasking on Sunday afternoon, Tech. Sgt. Sable Miller, an Air Transportation specialist, was packed and boarding an aircraft to California within 90 minutes. Working overnight, Miller completed all necessary hazardous material certifications for the civilian trucks, preventing aircraft delays.

Active duty and Hawaii Air National Guard aircrew and loadmasters from the 535th and 204th Airlift Squadrons were among the teams on the ground in California. Collaborating directly with civilian utility experts, the military engineering crews worked tirelessly to overcome the challenges of a massive commercial cargo load by calculating weight balances and securing the heavy electrical equipment, working through multiple days to ensure the final trucks were safely downloaded in Hilo on Tuesday, Aug. 25.

"This mission demonstrates Team Hickam's ability to respond and deliver aid during dynamic and demanding times," said Col. Kyle Clinton, 15th Wing commander. "We rise together to support our neighbors in their time of need, alongside our Guard and state partners. That's what being part of this community is all about."

For state and local utility leaders, the Air Force's presence, total force integration, and heavy-lift capability on the island were irreplaceable factors in the recovery efforts.

"Military crews worked tirelessly to incorporate civilian equipment specifications into transportability by the nation's premier Globemaster," stated Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan,

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On Aug. 25 at 2040, members from the active duty Air Force, the Hawaii National Guard, along with Hawaiian Electric (HECO), and Southern California Edison unloaded a second C-17 loaded with vehicles and supplies to assist Hawaii County with restoring power to those affected by Hurricane Lala. The Pacific Air Forces, along with the Guard, coordinated the efforts dubbed "Operation TREK808", by Hawaii Governor Josh Green. The two C-17s were used to transport trucks and work crews to bolster HECO efforts and help with longer term fixes. The Guardsmen are a part of Task Force Hawaii who also had missions including wide-area search, wellness checks, debris removal and more. ▲



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Team Osan strengthens family readiness through community resources

Family members visit a booth during the Deployed Community Connection event at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 31, 2026. By bringing families and support agencies together, the event helped ensure Team Osan families know where to turn for assistance when a spouse deploys. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Tylir Meyer) ▼



U.S. Air Force Col. Ryan Ley, 51st Fighter Wing commander, speaks with an American Red Cross volunteer during the Deployed Community Connection event at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 31, 2026. The event highlighted resources available across the installation to help families prepare for and navigate the challenges associated with deployments. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Tylir Meyer) ▲



U.S. Air Force Col. Ryan Ley, 51st Fighter Wing commander, gives opening remarks during the Deployed Community Connection event at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 31, 2026. By increasing awareness of installation resources, the event helped families build the knowledge and support networks needed to remain ready when their Airman deploys. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Tylir Meyer) ▲



Members of the Integrated Resiliency Office discuss programs with a guest during the Deployed Community Connection event at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 31, 2026. Bringing helping agencies directly to families gave attendees an opportunity to learn about the programs and services available to support them during deployments. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Tylir Meyer) ▲

Guests visit various helping agency booths during the Deployed Community Connection event at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 31, 2026. The event connected families with helping agencies and resources designed to strengthen resilience and readiness before, during and after deployments. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Tylir Meyer) ▲

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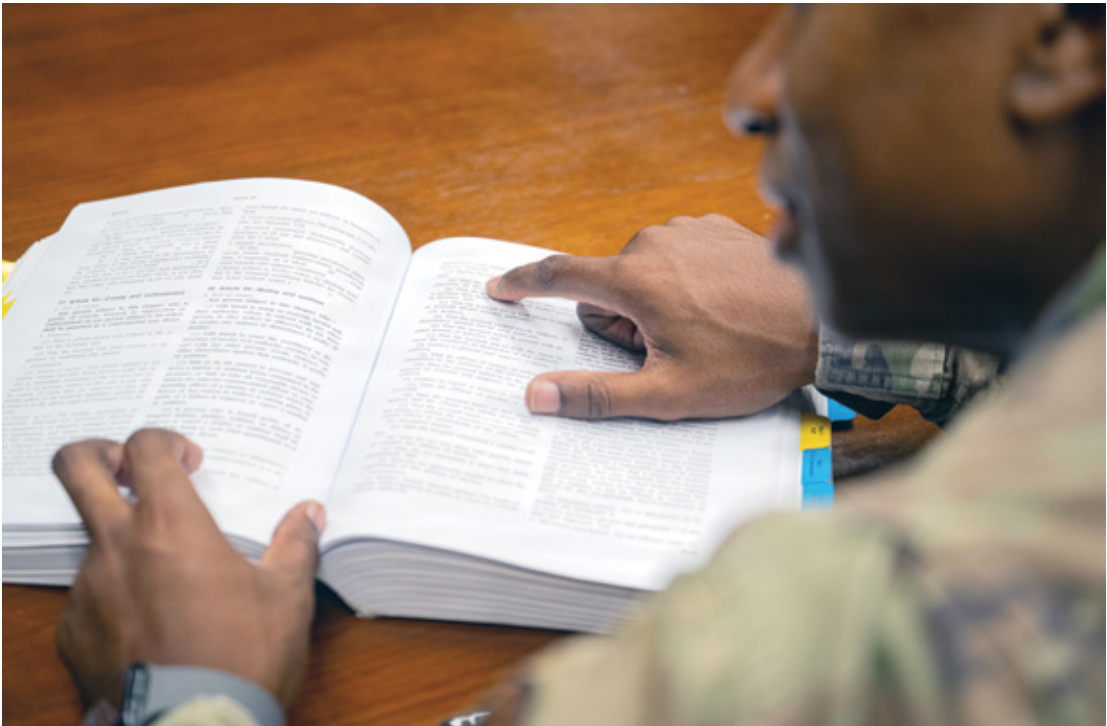
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Always In Your Corner: Wolf Pack Area Defense Counsel



By Staff Sgt. Dylan Maher
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

U.S. Air Force Capt. Christopher Willett, center, Kunsan Area Defense Counsel, and Staff Sgt. Remar Smith, Kunsan defense paralegal, consult with an Airman on courts-martial representation strategies at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 19, 2026. The Area Defense Counsel serves as the ultimate safeguard for due process, providing critical, strategic guidance on a wide spectrum of adverse actions. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Dylan Maher) ▲



U.S. Air Force Capt. Christopher Willett, Kunsan Area Defense Counsel, points to a Manual for Courts-Martial text at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 19, 2026. Through the Area Defense Counsel, representation is provided free of charge to active-duty and Reserve Air Force members facing military justice and administrative actions. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Dylan Maher) ▲

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- When an Airman's career, reputation or freedom is on the line, knowing who is in their corner changes everything. The Area Defense Counsel is here to be that advocate, providing free, independent and confidential legal defense to every Airman stationed at the Wolf Pack.

The ADC's mission is absolute: defend those who defend our freedom.

"Our job is to fiercely advocate for the individual, no ifs, ands or buts," said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Remar Smith, Kunsan defense paralegal. "We operate entirely outside the local chain of command and the base legal office, which means we answer only to our clients."

Whether a member is facing a court-martial, an Article 15, or a sudden commander-directed investigation, the Area Defense Counsel serves as the ultimate safeguard for due process. The office provides critical, strategic guidance on a wide spectrum of adverse actions, including:

- Administrative discharges.
- Letters of counseling, admonishment or reprimand.
- Unfavorable information files.
- Referral performance briefs.

- Demotions.
- Suspect rights advisements under Article 31.

At the Area Defense Counsel, confidentiality is not just a policy; it is an ironclad legal shield. Every conversation held behind closed doors is protected by strict attorney-client privilege, giving Airmen a safe space to get honest, unfiltered advice without fear of command disclosure.

"We are here to be the reasonable voices in the room, but we are zealous, uncompromising advocates fighting for every single human being who walks through our door. We ensure no Airman has to face the military justice system alone," said U.S. Air Force Capt. Christopher Willett, Kunsan Area Defense Counsel.

Airmen are strongly advised not to wait until charges are formally filed to seek help. If you are questioned, suspect you are under investigation or believe your rights are at risk, reaching out early is critical to protecting your options.

To help streamline the defense process, clients are encouraged to complete the Area Defense Counsel intake form prior to their first visit.

The Kunsan Area Defense Counsel office is located in Building 250. Walk-in hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., with appointments available in the afternoons. Accommodations are readily available for shift workers, as well as appointments all day Friday. The office is closed on federal holidays and Pacific Air Forces family days.

To connect with the Kunsan Area Defense Counsel, call DSN 782-4848.



U.S. Air Force Capt. Christopher Willett, left, Kunsan Area Defense Counsel, and Staff Sgt. Remar Smith, Kunsan defense paralegal, pose in front of the Area Defense Counsel office building at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 19, 2026. The mission of the Air Force Area Defense Counsel is to protect the rights of Airmen and Guardians by providing independent, zealous, and confidential legal representation. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Dylan Maher) ▲

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U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Gabriel Rothbart, 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron unit deployment manager, poses for a photo at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 19, 2026. Rothbart was recognized as Mustang of the Week for his reliability, leadership and commitment to ensuring Airmen are prepared to support military operations around the world.

By Senior Airman Megan Cusmano
51st Fighter Wing

OSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Gabriel Rothbart, 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron unit deployment manager, was recognized as Mustang of the Week at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 14, 2026.

Rothbart's journey to becoming a UDM began in vehicle maintenance, where he spent approximately seven years developing his technical expertise and leadership experience. After serving as the noncommissioned officer in charge of his section, he sought an opportunity to expand his perspective beyond his career field.

"I felt like I had kind of become a technical expert, and I felt like the next step was going to the squadron or getting outside of my career field," Rothbart said.

As a UDM, Rothbart helps ensure LRS Airmen maintain the medical, training and equipment requirements needed to remain ready for deployment. He also serves as a security manager for the squadron.

"We're sending assets and people all over the world to support the military and operations," Rothbart said. "None of those deployments happen if our people aren't ready."

His supervisor, Staff Sgt. Kenneth Serzynski, 51st LRS NCOIC of unit readiness, said Rothbart has earned the trust of his leadership through his reliability, initiative and willingness to take ownership of his responsibilities.

"Whenever I give him any task to do, I can trust that it's going to be done in a timely process, the way it should be processed," Serzynski said. "He's willing to do the research and look into certain things."

Serzynski highlighted Rothbart's work on the squadron's monthly readiness report, where he took ownership of the process, reviewed documentation and researched recurring discrepancies.

Moving from vehicle maintenance to the squadron level has also allowed Rothbart to build relationships across the LRS and gain a broader understanding of the squadron.

Outside of his primary duties, Rothbart is pursuing a degree in art and graphic design and uses his skills to support the 5/6 Council. As the memorabilia subcommittee chair, he creates designs for squadron events and morale initiatives, including jerseys, flyers, patches and coins.

Through his initiative, reliability and willingness to take on challenges outside his comfort zone, Rothbart exemplifies the dedication and leadership of a Mustang and continues to make a positive impact across the 51st Fighter Wing.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Gabriel Rothbart, 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron unit deployment manager, briefs Airmen on deployment readiness requirements at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 20, 2026. As a UDM, Rothbart helps ensure LRS Airmen maintain the medical, training and equipment requirements needed to remain ready for deployment. ▲



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Gabriel Rothbart, 51st Logistics Readiness Squadron unit deployment manager, reviews documents at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 19, 2026. Rothbart was recognized as Mustang of the Week for his initiative and dedication to maintaining deployment readiness by ensuring Airmen meet required medical, training and equipment standards. ▲

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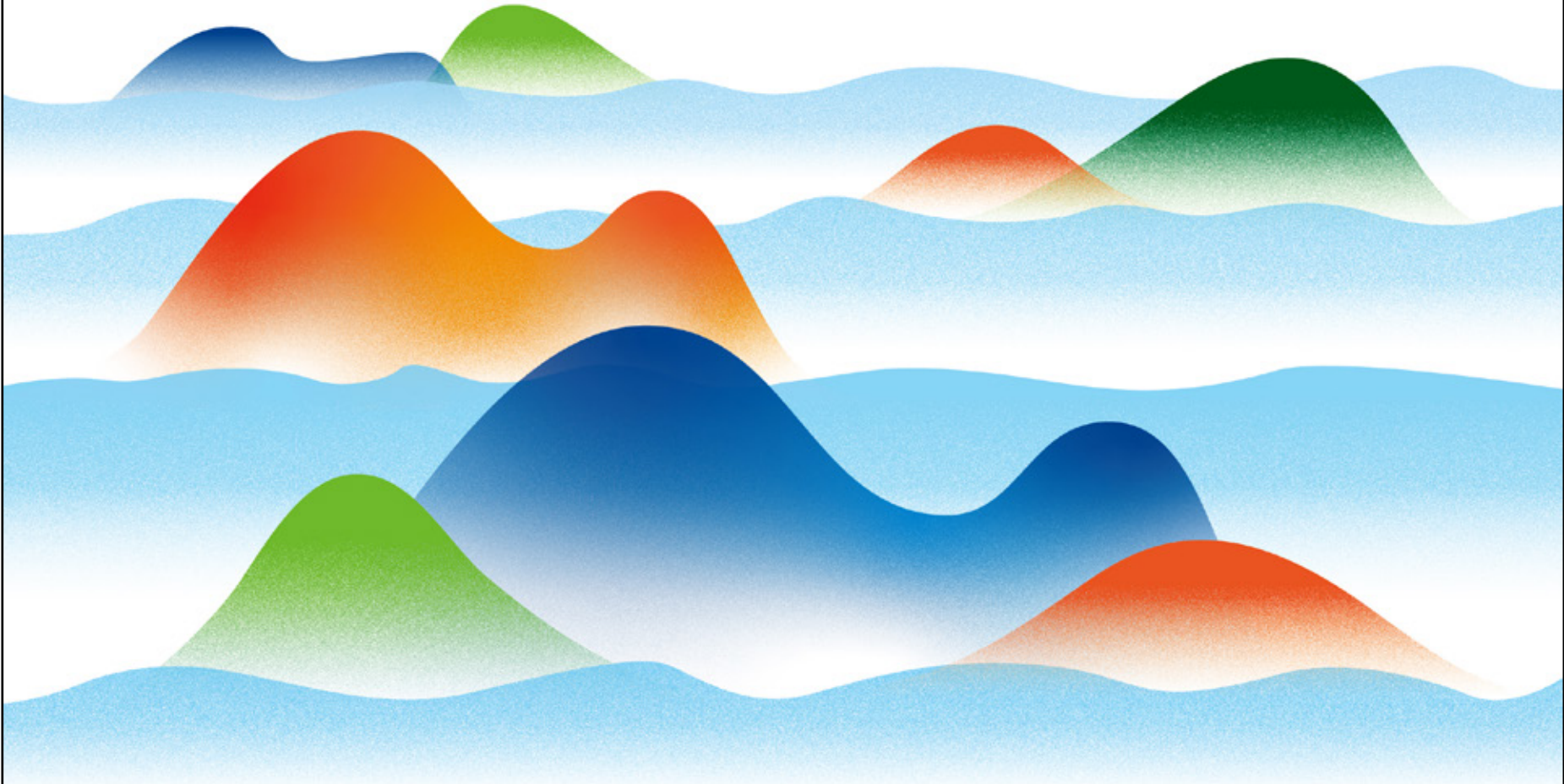
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September 4, 2026

NEWS

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Hawaii Adjutant General. “The total force integration relationship between Pacific Air Forces and the Hawaii Air National Guard accelerated execution, an absolute necessity given the state’s archipelagic construct and geographic separation from the continental United States.”

The Operation TREK808 flights ran parallel to extensive ground operations by the HING, which currently has 222 personnel deployed

across the islands. On the Big Island alone, Guard members are assisting with wide-area search operations, debris clearance and hundreds of community wellness checks in the wake of the storm.

Imagery and video of Operation TREK808, including the C-17 uploads in California and downloads in Hilo, are available on the official DVIDS feature page: <https://www.dvidshub.net/feature/TREK808>.

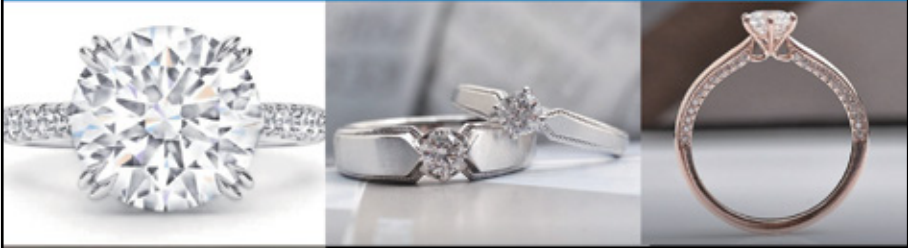
On Aug. 25 at 2040, members from the active duty Air Force, the Hawaii National Guard, along with Hawaiian Electric (HECO), and Southern California Edison unloaded a second C-17 loaded with vehicles and supplies to assist Hawaii County with restoring power to those affected by Hurricane Lala. The Pacific Air Forces, along with the Guard, coordinated the efforts dubbed “Operation TREK808”, by Hawaii Governor Josh Green. The two C-17s were used to transport trucks and work crews to bolster HECO efforts and help with longer term fixes. The Guardsmen are a part of Task Force Hawaii who also had missions including wide-area search, wellness checks, debris removal and more. ▲

107th CES renovates Wolf Pack Park

New York Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Schuster, 107th Civil Engineer Squadron structures assistant noncommissioned officer in charge, cuts drywall for building refurbishments at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, July 8, 2026. Members of the 107th CES worked with the 8th CES to complete projects around Kunsan and ensure base facilities are maintained. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Cedrique Oldaker) ▶

New York Air National Guardsmen assigned to the 107th Civil Engineer Squadron, Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, New York, put up drywall during a refurbishing project at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, July 8, 2026. Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Airmen built and refined their tactical engineering skills while augmenting the 8th CES. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Cedrique Oldaker) ▲

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- ✓ Support for Addiction Recovery & Healing
- ✓ Cultural Experience in Korea
- ✓ Open to U.S. Military Members & Families

• By appointment only, with donations appreciated.

Contact : innerlightmc@gmail.com Naver Map
010-9082-7955

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Rev. Donald L. Brown, Pastor



Community Revival
14-16 Sep, 7:00 PM

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday School 10:00 AM
Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 PM
Lord's Supper 1st Sunday
Missions Sunday..... 4th Sunday
Men's Fellowship..... 2nd Sat 8:00 AM

Zoom meeting ID: 422 616 0881
Zoom Passcode: fcfcc
Church email: fcfckorea@gmail.com
Web: www.fcfckorea.com
Waze: Faith Christian Fellowship Church:
<https://waze.com/ul/hwyd670hps>

We are located 0.5km from
Camp Humphreys Main Gate.
FCFC, Songhwa-ri, 60-1, Paengseong-Up,
Pyeongtaek-si

For more information, call 010-4854-8783.

*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
(Romans 10:17)*

Electrical Vehicle Fire Safety



As electric vehicles (EVs) become increasingly common, OSAN Fire Department is focusing on the unique challenges and opportunities they present. While EVs are generally safe and subject to rigorous safety standards, their lithium-ion batteries pose different fire risks compared to traditional vehicles powered by gasoline or diesel.

Understanding these risks and adopting appropriate safety measures is critical for both the public and emergency responders.

The main fire risk in an EV comes from its high-energy lithium-ion battery. If the battery is damaged, overheated, or improperly charged, it can enter thermal runaway which is a chain reaction that produces intense heat, toxic smoke, and sometimes explosions. Unlike gasoline fires, which can often be controlled quickly, EV battery fires may burn for hours and even reignite days later.

The following safety tips can help minimize EV fire hazard/risks:

1. Use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
2. Read and follow all manufacturer directions.
3. Check chargers and cords for damage before using. Never use if damaged.
4. Do not use extension cords with the charger.
5. Install charging equipment in safe locations. Keep away from busy areas and things that could catch fire.
6. Keep charging items out of reach of children and animals when not in use.
7. Cover charging station outlet to keep water out.
8. Before charging an electric vehicle at home, have a qualified electrician:
 - Check your electrical system to see if it can handle charging.
 - Install a new circuit just for your charging device.

Electric vehicles are an important part of our transportation future. With precautions and responsible use, the risk of fire can be greatly reduced. Ultimately, community safety begins with everyday habits.

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

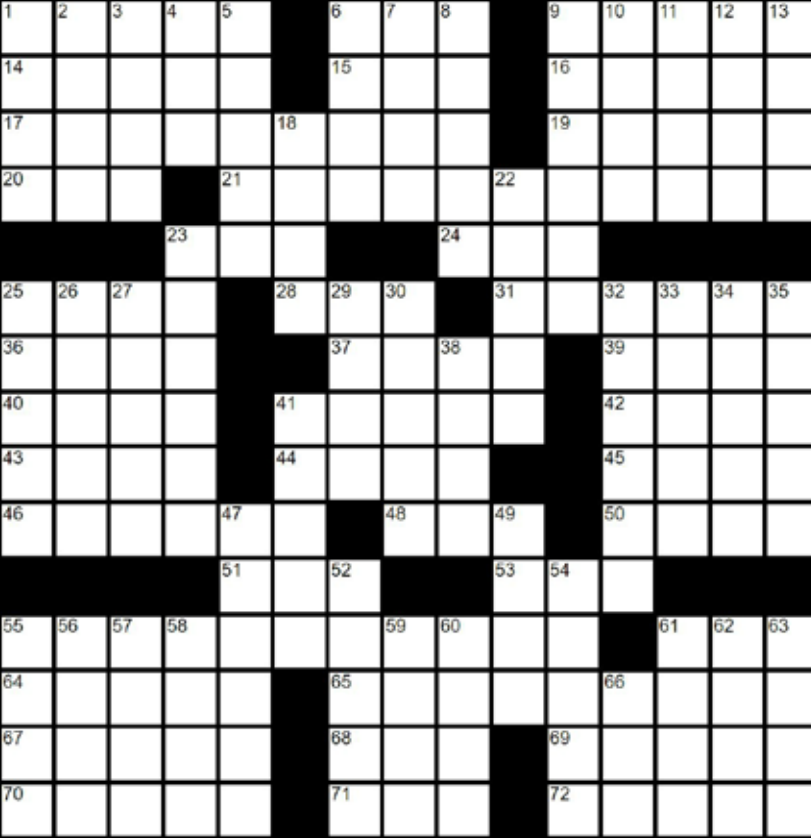
Are You Saved?

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.hbcginsungsan.com
Redeem this AD for a FREE COFFEE at church!

The Crossword

By Jon Dunbar



ACROSS
1 Contingency
6 Man ____
9 Bennifer box office bomb
14 Divided country
15 Color
16 One more time
17 Newb
19 Bottoms of feet
20 Mediterranean or Caspian
21 Cartoon Network boorish character
23 Fires an arrow
24 Opposite of nay
25 Angel's head cover
28 Alternative to kilograms
31 Shocked
36 Japanese noodle
37 Emanate
39 Petri dish medium

DOWN
1 Mail deliveries (abbrev)
2 Myth
3 Length times width
4 Born as
5 Bluegrass instrument
6 "Oh no"
7 Rotate
8 Diner owner
9 Blabbermouth
10 Frankenstein's assistant
11 Big event
12 Actor Schreiber
13 Not ____ many words
18 Coyote sound
22 Poet W.B.
23 Japanese tree art
25 ____ and puffs
26 "Skyfall" singer
27 Beck song
29 Pollen collectors

ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD
ACROSS
1 JET
4 SOT
7 DMZ
10 BBQ
13 ODA
14 LAW
15 RIO
16 AYE
17 EUJIRO
18 SLOSHED
21 KAMD
22 KMPR
23 JIM
25 ESSAY
29 CAMP
32 SENSE
34 PEP
35 CAIRO
36 AIG
37 TROOPER
40 NIS
41 HUT
42 LOU
43 REL
46 ANTOINE
48 MIA
51 EUJIN
53 EVE
54 LYING
56 TEST
57 TRADE
59 ESSE
60 SETH
62 NILS
64 CRIMSON
67 ENGLISH
70 EON
71 ASH
72 DUO
73 LITE
74 TOE
75 REL
76 MIR
77 EXO
DOWN
1 JOE
2 EDU
3 TALKING
4 SLIM
5 GARDE
6 TWO
7 DRS
8 MILKY
9 ZOOM
10 BAHRAIN
11 BYE
12 QED
18 JAMS
20 SPCA
23 JSA
24 JEI
26 SPOTTER
27 SEO
28 APPLIED
30 MRI
31 POS
33 ETHAN
35 CRUEL
38 RUIN
39 EON
43 ACT
44 THE
45 MASSIVE
47 OVA
48 MISSILE
49 INS
50 AGE
52 ITEM
55 YELL
30 Comic book hacker Felicity
32 Horse's headcollar
33 Open space
34 Japanese wines
35 Three-wheeled bike
38 Data
41 Vital sign
47 Testify
49 Mentally healthy
52 Ghostly
54 Inuit home
55 Close friends
56 Entrepreneur Musk
57 Tropical root vegetable
58 Bullets
59 Amos or Spelling
60 Extra-large movie screen
61 " ____ ho!"
62 Less than twice
63 PC owner
66 "Days of ____ Lives"



Youth football coach: Senior Airman Vicente Thompkins, a 337th Air Control Squadron weapons simulation technician, coaches a youth football team in Panama City, July 31, 2026. Thompkins balances active-duty military service with his roles as a husband, father of four, and mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters and New Horizons. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Amanda Alvarez) ▲



Breaking the barrier: Capt. Nick Le Tourneau, F-22 Raptor Demonstration Team commander and pilot, performs an aerial demonstration during the Chicago Air and Water Show in Chicago, Ill., Aug. 14, 2026. Condensation forms around the aircraft due to rapid changes in air pressure and humidity during high-speed maneuvers. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mary Bowers) ▲

Jet blast: U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Sullivan Cox, a 48th Component Maintenance Squadron aerospace propulsion journeyman, demonstrates jet engine testing for military families during a spouse immersion tour at RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom, Aug. 19, 2026. The tour provided families with a behind-the-scenes look at the squadron's role in sustaining the 48th Fighter Wing's mission readiness. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Evan Manalastas) ▲

Extending the mission: A U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon receives fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility Aug. 7, 2026. Aerial refueling extends the range and endurance of combat aircraft supporting operations throughout the region. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. James K. Thomas) ►



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 Thursdays | 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 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

Call for Volunteers - 2026 Q3 PIEF Talk Café
Jul - Sep | Tue/Thu: 1000-1200/1900-2100 | Songtan International Community Center
Looking to connect with local residents and experience cultural exchange? Join PIEF Talk Café, an English conversation program that brings together local residents and the USFK community. Share conversations, build friendships, and experience meaningful cultural exchange. Registration: <https://forms.gle/dK-dr68JA6wVCToja7>
Find out more: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1DxAhPwUDK/>

Osan Air Base Airman’s Attic
Tuesdays and Thursdays | 1100 – 1300 | BLDG 386, RM 417 and 421
The Airman’s Attic is open weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1100 to 1300. Operations of the Airman’s Attic rely HEAVILY on volunteer support, so please sign up via SignUpGenius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4FA9AD29A6FCCF8-64180519-airmans#/> to help us continue supporting the Mustang Community. POCs: SSgt Onterio Davis | onterio.davis@us.af.mil; SSgt Dannyson Abril | dannyson.abril@us.af.mil

Unlock the Local Life! – Pyeongtaek Living 101!
September 8–11 | Tuesday–Friday | 1830–2030 | Songtan International Exchange Center
New to Pyeongtaek? Not sure how to get around, visit a local clinic, shop in Korea, recycle properly, or find useful

services off base? PIEF (Pyeongtaek International Exchange Foundation) invites USFK-affiliated members and their families to Pyeongtaek Living 101, a practical four-day program designed to make everyday life in Pyeongtaek easier. Learn the essentials of local life, including transportation, healthcare, shopping, recycling, local services, and useful community resources. Spend less time figuring things out and more time enjoying life in Pyeongtaek. Live like a local!
Fill out the sign-up form below to apply: <https://forms.gle/nYKE3L7lWv-AbKoR68>

Osan Men’s Basketball Team Tryouts
08 Sep 2026 (Tue) | 1800 – 1930 | Osan Fitness Center
10 Sep 2026 (Thu) | 1800 – 1930 | Osan Fitness Center
12 Sep 2026 (Sat) | 1100 - 1300 | Osan Fitness Center
Calling all hoopers! The 2026-2027 basketball season is here and it’s time to dust off your sneakers, bring the energy, and your A-game! Open to all Active Duty, Reserve, Guard, Civilians, and eligible dependents.
For questions, please contact Coach Marcus Hollins 010-8457-2981

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



Wings over Washington: Air Force One, flanked by F-35A Lightning II aircraft, performs a flyover near the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Aug. 23, 2026. The flyover was part of the Freedom 250 Grand Prix held along a portion of the National Mall. (U.S. Airforce photo by Andy Morataya) ▲

S purs and stripes: The 97th Air Mobility Wing command team participates in the 28th Annual Cattle Drive at Altus Air Force Base, Okla., Aug. 20, 2026. Hosted at the installation since 1999, the tradition honors the region’s ranching heritage and strengthens community relations in southwest Oklahoma. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kari Degraffenreed) ◀

Air Faro: Faro, a 509th Security Forces Squadron military working dog, leaps through training drills with his handler at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Aug. 14, 2026. Military working dogs support global strike missions and base security by detecting explosives and neutralizing physical threats. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Joshua Hastings) ▼



Acceptance Day: Basic cadets from the U.S. Air Force Academy Class of 2030 stand in formation during the Acceptance Day Parade at Stillman Field in Colorado Springs, Colo., Aug. 5, 2026. The parade marks the conclusion of Basic Cadet Training and formally welcomes the Class of 2030 into the Cadet Wing as fourth-class cadets after six weeks of mental, physical and military training. (U.S. Air Force photo by Ray Bahner) ◀



Staff Sgt. Kevin Remmenga

By Staff Sgt. Tabatha Chapman
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KUNSAN AIR BASE, Republic of Korea -- U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Kevin Remmenga, an 8th Security Forces Squadron standardization and evaluation noncommissioned officer in charge and Leavenworth, Kansas, native, was recognized as the 8th Fighter Wing's Pride of the Pack for the week of Aug. 17-21, 2026.

As a key leader in theater readiness, Remmenga orchestrated Wing Inspection Team operations for two major exercises, including a U.S. Forces Korea peninsula-wide event. In partnership with the Inspector General, he drove 104 multiagency exercise scenarios across U.S. Air Force squadrons, U.S. Army divisions and Republic of Korea forces. His meticulous process uncovered critical deficiencies and resolved major communication gaps, directly enhancing joint emergency response and fortifying the U.S.-ROK strategic alliance.

Among his accomplishments, Remmenga solidified the

installation's Integrated Defense Plan, enhanced unit mission readiness through the evaluation and certification of mission-essential positions, revamped the management internal control toolset program to standardize compliance across seven work centers, and overhauled the unit's security manager program to eliminate vulnerabilities and restore wing wide compliance. Beyond his official duties, Remmenga is a proven community leader. As a member of the 8th SFS Unit Morale Council, he organized six events, built partnerships across multiple wing organizations, and raised \$3,000 to boost quality of life for Wolf Pack members.

"I have learned that our Airmen are only as good as we allow them to be," Remmenga said. "Challenge them, help them, and let them fail so they learn to pick themselves back up, because one day we won't be here and they will be in our shoes leading."

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Kevin Remmenga, 8th Security Forces Squadron standardization and evaluation noncommissioned officer in charge, works at his desk at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 20, 2026. Remmenga was named Pride of the Pack for the week of Aug. 17-21 for his career field achievements and his impact on Wolf Pack readiness and well-being. ▲



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Kevin Remmenga, 8th Security Forces Squadron standardization and evaluation noncommissioned officer in charge, reviews a map at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 20, 2026. ▲



SEPTEMBER HOTEL EVENTS

Come to Dragon Hill Lodge for our Festive Fall Line-up

WINEFEST

Saturday, September 12
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Enjoy an afternoon of wine tasting paired with chef-prepared hors d'oeuvres as you discover new wines and expand your palate.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wine Tastings
- Chef-Prepared Hors d'oeuvres
- Premium Wine Selection
- Elegant Afternoon Experience

OKTOBERFEST

Saturday, September 19
4:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Celebrate an evening of authentic Bavarian traditions featuring live music, delicious German cuisine, exciting games, and fun for the whole family.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Authentic Bavarian Cuisine
- Live Music & Entertainment
- Oktoberfest Games
- Family Activities

LOCATION

Dragon Hill Lodge

US Army Garrison Yongsan Seoul, Republic of Korea

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.DRAGONHILLLODGE.COM



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION

Never Forget: Capt. Hanna Born runs 2,977 miles to honor 9/11 victims



U.S. Air Force Capt. Hanna Born, 23rd Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, carries the "Flag of Honor" during the 2025 Army Ten-Miler in Washington, D.C., Oct. 12, 2025. The flag is inscribed with the names of all 2,977 victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The race is part of Born's "Run to Remember 2,977" mission, a personal commitment to run 2,977 miles, one mile for every life lost, to ensure the next generation continues to honor our nation's promise to Never Forget. (courtesy photo) ◀

Both daughters followed their parents into military service. Hanna graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 2020, and her younger sister, U.S. Marine Corps 1st Lt. Heather Born, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2023. Heather now serves as a communications strategy officer with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit in Okinawa, Japan.

Growing up in a military community helped shape the family's sense of purpose. "We were surrounded by people who were committed to something greater than themselves," Born said. "That environment makes you want to contribute in the same way."

Running has long been part of her life. Raised in Colorado, Born developed a love for the sport at an early age, influenced by her parents. Over time, running became more than physical training and took on deeper meaning. She also recognized that many of the Airmen she trains today were not yet born when the attacks occurred.

"I wanted to do something honoring our promise to Never Forget — not just once a year every September, but every day — and something that could be shared with the younger generation," Born said. "Even though they were not here to have memories of 9/11, they have never known a world untouched by its impact."

Her first organized run took place Sept. 11, 2025, with members of her squadron at Fort Rucker. About 30 Airmen gathered before morning flight operations to run 9.11 miles together in remembrance.

Since then, the effort has expanded beyond the squadron, reaching a global audience of participants who follow her progress and dedicate miles of their own through social media.

"To memorialize every person who lost their lives during what was such a devastating moment for our nation is a great commitment to undertake," said 2nd Lt. Mackenzie Lucas, an undergraduate helicopter training student with the 23rd Flying Training Squadron. "Capt. Born's actions highlight the greater purpose we all have — in military training or not — to support our nation and care for those around us."

Balancing the project with the responsibilities of being an instructor pilot has not always been easy.

"The time management can be challenging," Born said. "But the miles themselves are the easy part. I want to run them for the person I'm honoring and for their loved ones who still feel the weight of their loss."

Born said she often reflects on the individuals who helped evacuate children from the Pentagon Child Development Center that morning.

"They were unsung heroes," she said. "They saw what was happening and stepped in without hesitation, never seeking recognition. We still don't even know their names."

That example continues to guide how she trains her students today. "Above all, it highlights the passion aviators, service members and Americans alike have to honor those who have fallen during our darkest moments," Lucas said. "Capt. Born has inspired me to embody service before self in and out of uniform, as she has for countless others."

Born said the running project was never about athletic achievement, but about honoring lives and keeping a promise alive for a new generation.

"I hope people understand the promise to Never Forget is still being carried forward," she said. "For any larger purpose you care about, there's always a way to share it and make an impact."

For Capt. Born, that impact is measured one mile at a time:

2,977 miles.

2,977 names.

2,977 lives.

And the promise to Never Forget.

By Airman 1st Class Nelvis Sera
Maxwell Air Force Base Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. -- At Fort Rucker, Alabama, U.S. Air Force Capt. Hanna Born, an instructor pilot with the 23rd Flying Training Squadron, trains the next generation of rotary-wing aviators in the TH-1H Huey.

Outside the cockpit, Born is leading a personal mission to honor the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks by running 2,977 miles — one mile for each person killed that day. She launched the effort on Sept. 11, 2025, with the goal of carrying their stories forward to the 25th anniversary of the attacks.

Born's connection to Sept. 11 is personal. She and her younger sister were inside the Pentagon Child Development Center when American Airlines Flight 77 struck the Pentagon.

"We were safely evacuated and reunited with our family, which is an outcome thousands of others never received," Born said. "We've always felt a deep obligation to honor the lives and families who were not as fortunate."

With each mile, she shares a victim's name and story on social media, ensuring the lives behind the numbers are remembered.

"I want to make sure people hear their names," Born said. "Not just the number — the people."

Service runs deep in the Born family. Her mother, retired U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Dana H. Born, graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1983 and later served in senior leadership roles, including dean of the faculty.

Her father, retired U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Tim Born, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1975 and served 21 years on active duty.



United States Forces Korea Year-round SPA 50% Discount

For Soldiers, Families and DOD Civilians (U.S. & KN)

Information

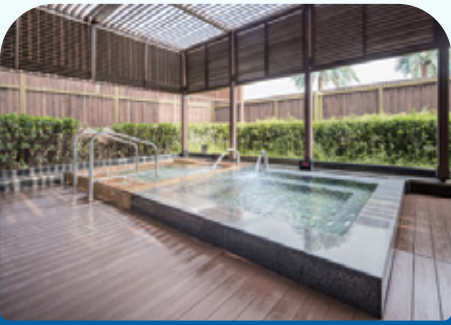
- ➔ Discount available for up to 3 accompanying guests
- ➔ Discount applied upon presenting valid ID at the ticket booth
- ➔ Free admission for children under 36 months (proof of age required)



Outdoor Pool



Indoor Bade Pool



Hot Spring Grand Bath

Location

176 Dogooncheon-ro, Dogo-myeon, Asan-si,
Chungcheongnam-do Paradise Spa Dogo



English website



Korean website





U.S. Navy Adm. Samuel J. Paparo, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, speaks with attendees of the Combined Force Air Component Commander course at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Aug. 10, 2026. US PACOM is committed to enhancing stability in the Pacific region by promoting security cooperation, encouraging peaceful development, responding to contingencies, deterring aggression and, when necessary, prevailing in conflict. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Makenna Patterson) ▲

PACAF Hosts CFACC Course, Strengthening Joint and Combined Airpower
< Continued from Front Page >

That level of integration—and the personal trust that comes with it—is exactly what we need to maintain stability and security across this theater.”

Another key takeaway for those attending the course was the sheer vastness of the region and how countries must work together to overcome the challenges that geography provides.

“The tyranny of distance became absolutely apparent throughout all our briefs this week,” said Royal Canadian Air Force Brig. Gen. Mark Hickey, vice director of operations at U.S. Pacific Command. “Understanding how difficult it will be to carry out military operations in this region showed me that none of us could do it alone.”

As the nature of conflict changes and technology continues to advance, the course will continue to be refined to ensure it meets the demands of the air domain.

“We stay plugged into real-world operations and bring those lessons into the classroom,” said Handy. “One of the bigger things about the evolution of the course is keeping up with technology and the way command and control has evolved, including the use of AI and large language models.”

The importance of integrating across forces and countries was underscored by those briefing, including combatant commanders and service component leaders.

Briefers included Adm. Samuel J. Paparo, commander of U.S. Pacific Command; Adm. Rich Correll, commander of U.S. Strategic Command; Gen. Gregory Guillot, commander of U.S. Northern Command; Adm. Steve



U.S. Navy Adm. Steve Koehler, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, briefs the maritime commander perspective during the Combined Force Air Component Commander course at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Aug. 11, 2026. The U.S. Pacific Fleet delivers combat-ready naval forces to defend the homeland and U.S. interests, provide credible deterrence, and strengthen U.S. alliances and partnerships to ensure a secure and prosperous region. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Makenna Patterson) ▲



Republic of Korea Air Force Choong Oh, Commander, Cadet Wing & Vice Superintendent of the Korea Air Force Academy speaks with U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Lucas Teel, Deputy Commander, Canadian North American Aerospace Defense Region, and Deputy Joint Force Air Component Commander for 1 Canadian Air Division, during the Combined Force Air Component Commander Course at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Aug. 13, 2026. The course prepares general officers from U.S. military services and international allies and partners to lead complex theater-level air operations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Makenna Patterson) ▲

Koehler, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet; Gen. Kevin Schneider, Pacific Air Forces commander; Lt. Gen. Joel B. Vowell, deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Pacific; and Maj. Gen. David Mineau, commander of Twelfth Air Force (Air Forces Southern).

“As a young general officer, as a one-star, it’s amazing to be able to listen to their vision, get inside their heads a little bit and understand what they’re trying to do in this theater,” said Hickey. “This course has allowed me to build those relationships with senior leaders and general officers from different countries who are now serving in the region.”



U.S. Air Force Gen. Kevin Schneider, Pacific Air Forces commander, speaks at the Combined Force Air Component Commander course at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Aug. 10, 2026. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Makenna Patterson) ▲



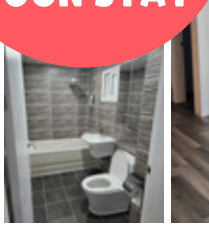
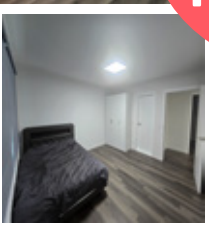
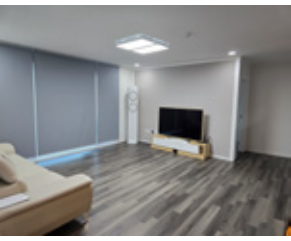
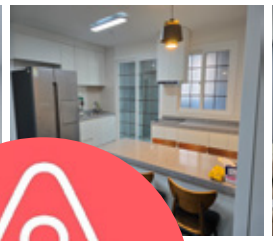
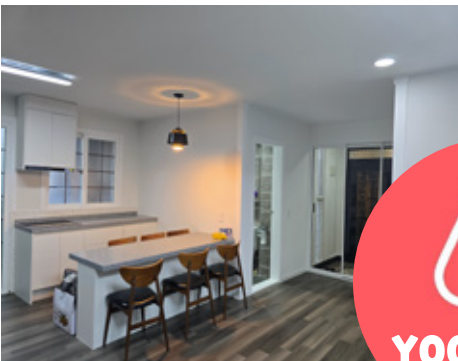
U.S. Air Force Gen. Kevin Schneider, Pacific Air Forces commander, greets U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Joel B. Vowell, deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Pacific, at the Combined Force Air Component Commander course at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Aug. 13, 2026. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Makenna Patterson) ▲

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Korea's Top 14 Autumn Festivals in 2026

Pt. 1/2

Cool breezes, clear skies, vibrant foliage, special foods, and diverse festivals all make fall the best season to visit Korea. From magical fireworks and traditional mask dances to local foods and regional specialties, discover Korea's diverse festivals celebrating the season of harvest!



Traditional Culture Festivals

Festivals rooted in Korean culture and traditions are handed down the most popular among international tourists. These festivals include royal parade reenactments from the Joseon period, traditional dances and music that have been passed down for generations, and other events where the past and present coexist.



Suwon Hwaseong Festival

- Region: Suwon, Gyeonggi-do
- October 4-11, 2026

This festival is held in the area surrounding Hwaseong Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The main highlight is a large-scale reenactment of the royal procession honoring the filial piety and reform spirit of King Jeongjo of the Joseon dynasty. Visitors can also enjoy nighttime access to the fortress and traditional performances.



Andong Maskdance Festival

- Region: Andong, Gyeongsangbuk-do
- September 24 – October 4, 2026

This festival takes place in Andong, a city home to heritage sites and traditions inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage, Memory of the World, and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity lists. In addition to Korean mask dance performances, the festival features mask dance troupes from around the world, celebrating mask dance traditions from diverse cultures. With a spectacular parade, diverse traditional and contemporary performances, and an abundance of food and attractions, the festival is a must-visit event.

Nighttime & Fireworks Festivals

Korea after dark presents a different charm than during the day. Korea's signature nighttime festivals in fall feature lanterns floating on the river and fireworks that light up the sky, offering picture-perfect scenes for an unforgettable travel experience.



Seoul International Fireworks Festival

- Region: Seoul
- September 5, 2026

Held in the Hangang Park area, this is one of the largest fireworks festivals in Asia. Professional fireworks teams from around the world come together to create a magnificent show across the night sky against the backdrop of the Hangang River.

Muju Firefly Festival

- Region: Muju, Jeonbuk State
- September 4-12, 2026

This ecological festival takes place in Muju, home to pristine natural surroundings, and offers opportunities to explore firefly habitats. Watch in awe as the glow of fireflies turns your night into something magical.



Jinju Namgang Yudeung Festival

- Region: Jinju, Gyeongsangnam-do
- October 3-18, 2026

This special festival features more than 70,000 lanterns floating along the Namgang River in Jinju. From fireworks over the water to spectacular drone light shows, there's plenty to see and do. Immerse yourself in the enchanting atmosphere of this nighttime festival.

Cultural Arts Festivals

Travelers who enjoy music and performances, take note! The Seoul Street Arts Festival is an event open to everyone, held around the Hangang River in Seoul. In Busan, internationally renowned film and rock music festivals are held every year. With artists and tourists from around the world coming together, these festivals offer a vivid glimpse into global cultural exchange in Korea.



Seoul Street Arts Festival

- Region: Seoul
- September 19-20, 2026

Seoul's leading outdoor performing arts festival is expanding to the Hangang River this year, with events held at Seoul Forest and Ttukseom Hangang Park. A variety of street performances, music, and shows featuring works from France, Brazil, and other countries as well as Korea will take place throughout the festival.



Busan International Rock Festival

- Region: Sasang-gu, Busan
- October 2-4, 2026

This is one of Korea's leading outdoor rock festivals, held at Samnak Eco Park for 27 years. Camp out and rock out in nature with popular bands from Korea and abroad.

Busan International Film Festival

- Region: Haeundae-gu, Busan
- October 6-15, 2026

As Asia's largest international film festival, the Busan International Film Festival screens acclaimed films from around the world in the Haeundae area and features a variety of special events.



High-Fives and Hanbok: ROK, U.S. children build friendships at PIEFriends Summer Camp

By Chihon Kim

Yoo, Yechan, student, Minse Elementary School in Pyeontaek, was not alone in building these new bonds. His experience echoed across 50 Korean and 50 American children participating in the 2026 PIEFriends Summer Camp. Hosted by the Pyeongtaek International Exchange Foundation (PIEF) from Aug. 5 to 7, the three-day event united students across the Korean-English language barrier, turning hesitant greeting into high-fives and laughter.

The following day's cultural activities at the Paengseong International Exchange Center offered a deeper chance to connect. Standing face-to-face, the children followed instructions to tie traditional Hanbok ribbons, using the close moments to learn each other's faces and names. When an American student missed the beat during a K-pop routine, the group abandoned the choreography. Breaking into a freestyle dance and erupting in laughter, they washed away any remaining awkwardness.

"It was rewarding to see the kids play so freely and become genuine friends so effortlessly, despite their different backgrounds," said Kim, Yu-kyung, team manager, PIEF.

Friday's mini-Olympics at a Camp Humphreys gymnasium tested these new friendships through teamwork. Waiting for a plush dice as big as themselves to reach their side of the tarp, teammates exchanged glances before launching it upward in perfect sync.

After an active morning, the group headed to a nearby military dining facility. Many children piled their trays with classic American staples like pizza, snacks and burgers. Sharing these meals on base, after enjoying traditional Korean dishes like Bulgogi and Bibimbap off-installation the previous day, provided a true two-way cultural exchange.

Returning to the gym, the energy remained high. For the military children, these immersive activities offered a unique chance to step outside their usual routines and connect with their host nation.

"My dad wanted me to experience something I wouldn't normally get to do here in Korea," said Anne Bowler, student, Humphreys Middle School. "The shoe toss game was hilarious and had me laughing."

Those shared moments of laughter were exactly what organizers intended. By focusing on interactive games rather than formal instruction, the camp created an environment where children connected across language barriers.

The three-day journey culminated Friday evening, Aug. 7, with a graduation ceremony. Korean and American families laughed together at a

Students from the 2026 PIEFriends Summer Camp wearing color-coded red, blue, yellow and teal shirts raise their hands and cheer during a group photo at the PIEFriends Summer Camp held Aug. 7, 2026, at Camp Humphreys, South Korea. (Chihon Kim) ▲

Students from the 2026 PIEFriends Summer Camp wearing red and blue team shirts compete in a log roll relay race during a youth sports event inside a base gymnasium on Camp Humphreys. The camp brought together 100 Korean and American children took part in the 2026 PIEFriends Summer Camp, an event hosted by the Pyeongtaek International Exchange Foundation (PIEF). Throughout the three-day event, from Aug. 5 to 7, participants enjoyed recreational activities like bowling and a mini-Olympics, strengthened community bonds, and engaged in various cultural experiences designed to enhance connection and mutual respect among the future leaders of the ROK-U.S. alliance. (Chihon Kim) ▼



highlight video and cheered as one when the children received their medals.

Acknowledging the event organizers, U.S. Army Col. Kristin E. Steinbrecher, commander, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, thanked PIEF for providing a valuable opportunity for the children to experience each other's cultures firsthand.

"You are the future leaders of the ROK-U.S. alliance," Steinbrecher said during her closing remarks. "As you continue to learn from one another and grow in mutual understanding and respect, I am confident that the alliance between our two nations will remain strong."

As the event drew to a close, the children lingered in the hall, gathering for final photos, sharing last high-fives, and exchanging contact information.

"We didn't speak the same language, but I realized we could be a perfect team," Bowler said. "I definitely want to come back next year and make even more Korean friends."

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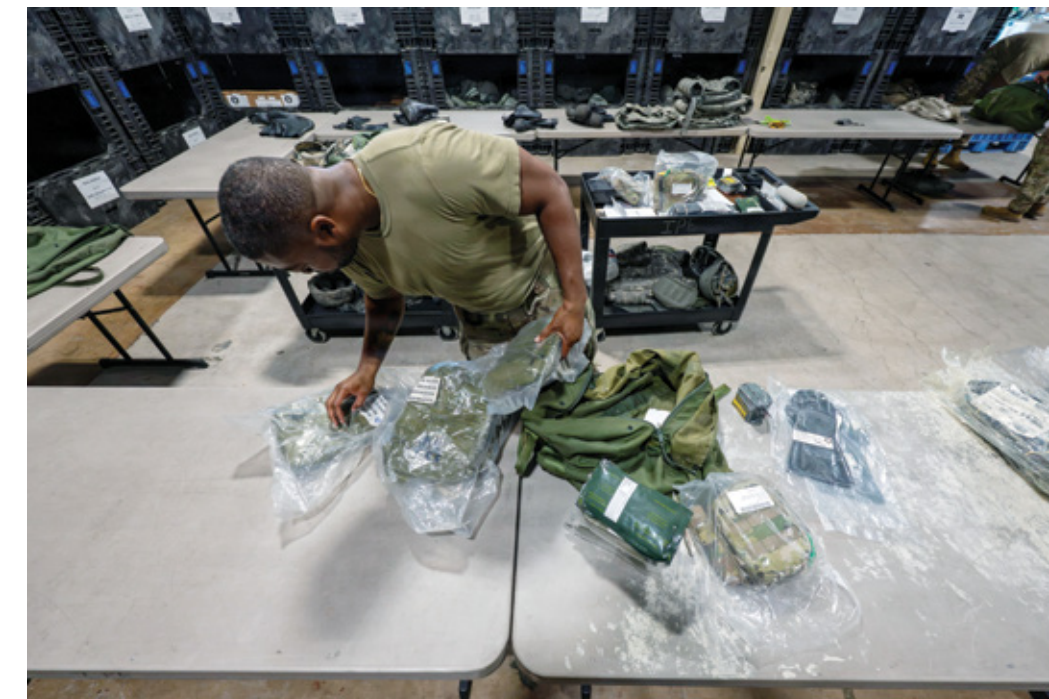


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8th LRS IPE keeps the Wolf Pack safe and ready



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Caron Edouard, 8th Logistics Readiness Squadron individual protective equipment supervisor, inspects IPE to ensure it is suitable to be issued to members at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 3, 2026. Airmen assigned to the 8th LRS IPE flight provide combat-ready support and ensure operational readiness by maintaining and issuing protective gear to the Wolf Pack. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Cedrique Oldaker) ▲



U.S. Air Force Airmen recently assigned to the 8th Fighter Wing try on training gear at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 3, 2026. The 8th LRS' daily efforts are vital in providing ready, reliable logistics to enable combat power and ensure Kunsan AB is outfitted to perform its mission and remain ready to "Fight Tonight." (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Cedrique Oldaker) ▲

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Caron Edouard, 8th Logistics Readiness Squadron individual protective equipment supervisor, inspects IPE to ensure it is suitable to be issued to personnel at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 3, 2026. Airmen assigned to the 8th LRS IPE flight inspect equipment, verify hand receipts and process military personnel to ensure preparedness and accountability for all members stationed with the Wolf Pack. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Cedrique Oldaker) ▶



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Caron Edouard, 8th Logistics Readiness Squadron individual protective equipment supervisor, inspects IPE to ensure it is suitable to be issued to personnel at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 3, 2026. The 8th LRS IPE flight is responsible for ensuring in-processing personnel receive mobility gear such as chemical suits and gas masks. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Cedrique Oldaker) ▼



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Nathan Saldia, 8th Logistics Readiness Squadron individual protective equipment journeyman, inspects returned training IPE at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 3, 2026. The 8th LRS IPE flight plays a critical role in maintaining and distributing essential gear, ensuring Airmen are equipped for both training exercises and real-world missions in the Pacific region. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Cedrique Oldaker) ▲



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Dylan Eckard, 8th Security Forces Squadron patrolman, inspects protective ballistic vest plates at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 3, 2026. The 8th Logistics Readiness Squadron's individual protective equipment flight is responsible for ensuring in-processing personnel receive mobility gear such as chemical suits, gas masks, and ballistic protection plates and vests for use in training exercises and real-world missions (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Cedrique Oldaker) ▲



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