

51st Fighter Wing Commander's Talking Points

“Our ability to Defend, Execute & Sustain depends on every Airman. These warrior-leaders are the best in the world and are capable of achieving anything.”

Col. Andrew Hansen
(Mustang 1)

LEADING
THE
CHARGE

Defend, Execute and Sustain

Our mission at Osan can be summed up with these three words. They resonate as the crux of our existence on the Korean Peninsula. Our ability to defend Osan and its people, execute contingency operations in the face of a constant threat and sustain the force, which ensures we are ready to answer our nation's call -- anytime, anywhere, all depends on one thing -- U.S. Air Force Airmen being ready to Fight Tonight. This phrase is driven into us from day one on the Peninsula and is not to be taken lightly. The root of the phrase is a mindset that needs to be incorporated at every level; we could be called upon anytime to execute our wartime mission and we must be ready to accept and lead that charge. But it's not just me counting on you. It's not just the Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines -- it's the 51 million citizens of the Republic of Korea -- all counting on the promise former President Harry S. Truman made 66 years ago to defend the ROK.

US Air Force F-22 Raptors arrive

Mission First, People Always

Service Before Self is the core value that speaks loudest to me here. Yes, our mission will always be first, it must. Too many lives depend on us. However, as leaders, we must always factor our Airmen and Air Force family when we make decisions. As long as our mission and people remain a priority, our Airmen across the board will back up the decisions made. They understand the mission of "Fight Tonight" and it shows in the effort they put into their craft daily. Being people minded is something leaders need to take heed of when they make mission-oriented decisions that affect everyone. It goes hand-in-hand with taking care of each other, being a wingman, leader and a warrior. Being people minded lends itself to what leadership is all about: knowing your Airmen and inspiring them to be great. Every Airman has a story, yet not every supervisor knows it. If you have been failing in this avenue, it's not too late; you can still talk to your people; get to know them and show a honest interest in their well being. Learn their stories. Why? Because they need you, they want you to be involved. Don't wait until they burn out and fail.

Speak up before you burn out

Exercise -- Turn Weakness into Strength

March brings us the first exercise of the year for the 51st Fighter Wing and with it comes the opportunity to test our might in a simulated contingency. These exercises allow us to seek out and find our weaknesses and forge them into strengths. They allow us to create intricate scenarios that focus on the areas that need it most. We will continue this trend on a quarterly basis until later this year when we fully integrate our processes with that of our allies in one large, joint exercise. Our goal will remain the same: strengthen an already powerful force (Airmen and assets) that makes our enemy hesitate and rethink taking aggressive action. Keep that end goal in mind when these exercises take place. Step up to the challenge and improve the processes already in place. Find the weak link and temper it into one that is impervious. We will continue the deterrence, we will defend this base and the nation that houses it. We are Mustangs, ready to Fight Tonight.

Buddy Wing 16-2 takes flight over Osan skies This is Team Osan