

# 51st Fighter Wing Commander's Talking Points

## Back to the future -- know your history

The Mustangs continually train to fight and we must also periodically test our readiness to Fight Tonight. The ultimate test is actual combat which we simulate to the best of our ability with Operational Readiness Exercises, challenging our aptitude to defend the base, execute contingency operations, and sustain the force. Take a look at our last two exercises; Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2015 and Vigilant Ace. These robust readiness events allowed us to exercise while simultaneously taking inputs from operational and strategic levels. Take a moment to remember why we are here. It is in our Airman's Creed -- we are guardians of freedom and justice, we are warriors, and the Mustangs must show we are ready to protect the freedom of 51 million. We must learn from past lessons and after-action reports to push forward and show why we are the most elite and dominant Air Force in the world.

[Korean War vet returns after 60 years -- amazed at transition](#)

## Valor in the face of adversity

By now, you've probably heard from me what it means to step up and step in. This idea isn't new; every Airman in our Air Force is already a wingman and leader. The concept is for all Airmen to make smart decisions when intervening, to assess the situation and recognize when help is needed. This requires us to know all of our people well. This requires us to be responsible. But stepping up isn't just about drinking responsibly or respecting each other, it's about having personal resilience. I experienced the Storytellers event here for the first time and I was truly moved by the stories of adversity these Airmen endured. But it wasn't about the hardships, it was what pulled them out of the slump that was most touching. Whether it was a supervisor, friend, first sergeant or their parents, this batch of Airmen showed a packed house what the true meaning of resiliency really is. Thank you Joe, Janna, Joseph, Ashley and Petra for sharing your stories with us all.

[Mustang 1 speaks to Osan Airmen, outlines mission, priorities](#)

## Relations with host nations -- be an ambassador

As guests in a friendly country, we must do our part in being respectful and conscious of the customs and culture of our Korean partners who have embraced our presence here so warmly. All it takes is a single step outside Osan's gates to see the influences our two cultures have woven together. Events like the annual Korean-American Friendship Festival strengthen our ties, uniting us as the alliance that has stood for more than 60 years. This alliance is what has kept the peace in this region all these years and every chance we have to interact with the local Korean population only strengthens that connection. We have a responsibility to represent our nation well and be the face of America in a foreign land. However, the overconsumption of alcohol can hinder that relationship and place a bad light on all American Airmen here. Step up -- take responsibility and be an ambassador. Step in -- help stop a situation before it looks bad on all of us.

[ROK/US alliance on display at Seoul ADEX 2015](#)

[ROK/US celebrate 12th annual Korean American Friendship Festival](#)

“We have to step up to the commitment we made to one another as wingmen, and have the moral courage to step in at the appropriate time and stop someone from hurting themselves or somebody else.”

- Col. A Hansen  
(Mustang 1)

LEADING  
THE CHARGE