

51st Fighter Wing Commander's Talking Points

“After 62 years, the ROK-U.S. Alliance continues to be one of the longest standing and successful alliances in modern history.

Col. Andrew Hansen
(Mustang 1)

LEADING
THE
CHARGE

Strong, Enduring Partnership With the ROKAF

Most of us have heard or read by now about the increased tensions and provocations from the North, (the alleged underground nuclear bomb test, propaganda leaflets and the intent to fire rockets into the sea on the Lunar New Year Feb. 8). All these acts appear as to intentionally test our resolve. However, what KJU does not understand is that we remain steadfast in the defense of the great Republic of Korea. We stand shoulder to shoulder and wingtip to wingtip with our Korean air force partners and that cooperation and trust is tempered every time we train together. Buddy Wing 16-1 is a perfect example of that trust. We took off on the five-day training exercise to learn from each other and better understand how each other flies, fights and wins in the air. Mission planning plays an important part in that understanding; our pilots must work in unfamiliar airspace and rely on the ROKAF pilots' expertise, because they know the landscape the best. The trust built from that partnership is irreplaceable.

[Buddy Wing 16-1 showcases ROK/US Alliance](#)

Our Mission, Always Ready

We are great at what we do--always ready to Fight Tonight. We do this through the help of our greatest asset (Airmen) who consistently keep our second greatest asset (aircraft) in a constant state of readiness. However, anything worth doing is worth doing better, and we improve by testing ourselves through exercises. Being able to find a vulnerability in a seemingly impervious process, strengthens that capability. We owe it to the men and women of the United States and Republic of Korea to look for those imperfections in order to hone our ability to react in a difficult environment. All of these capabilities wouldn't be possible without your help. Much like our structural maintenance specialists who mold, meld, and fabricate parts to ensure corrosion and other structural imperfections are accurately identified and expertly mended. Without them and the Airmen who support that specialty, our capabilities diminish and we fail--and as our creed states: we, as Airmen, will not fail.

**[Corrosion control: Prolonging the life of Osan's aircraft
Airmen of steel -- structural maintenance specialists](#)**

Every Airman Has a Story -- What's yours?

As we enter 2016, we must remain committed to our deterrence mission. Each Airman plays a part in that mission and is an essential element who drives our operational success. However, it is just as important to maintain that drive and commitment in your off-duty time as well. Take care of each other, look out for one another, and keep each other from making a costly mistake when you are out enjoying what South Korea has to offer. I know most of you are already accomplishing that mission and I would really like to hear about the times when you were a wingman that helped someone in their time of need. Tell me how you stepped up to prevent a situation from escalating or how you stepped in and took action to prevent something potentially terrible from happening. If you have such a story and you are willing to share it, contact me. Send your stories to 51fw.cc@us.af.mil. I'd love to share with everyone what it really means to Step Up and Step In.

[25th ASOS Airman saves drowning civilian](#)