

Osan Departs for Red Flag Alaska

by Staff Sgt. Brian Ferguson
51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from Osan Air Base joined military members from across the world this week to participate in what is considered the most intense training opportunity available to combat flying units- RED FLAG-Alaska 09-03, scheduled for July 23 - Aug. 7.

This Pacific Air Forces commander-directed field training exercise for U.S. and coalition forces provides joint offensive counter-air, interdiction, close air support, combat search and rescue, and large force employment training in a simulated combat environment.

“Red Flag Alaska provides a high intensity training opportunity that is not available on the Korean Peninsula,” said Col. Mark D. Mattison, Red Flag Alaska deployed forces commander. “It is the culmination of a six month training plan for combat flying units. You can only get that training at a Red Flag.”

What makes the training so intense is the presence of a dedicated aggressor unit. In addition to focusing on air combat at the tactical and operational levels, the aggressor role expands training opportunities across the board, to include ground, space and cyberspace. This provides the most realistic simulated combat environment possible.

“Outside of combat, Red Flag is the only training opportunity where you can pull all the different building






F-16 Falcons and A-10 Thunderbolt IIs fly over the Republic of Korea. Airmen from Osan joined Airmen from across the world to participate in Red Flag Alaska 09-03, scheduled for July 23 - Aug. 7. The exercise is considered by many as the most intense training opportunity available to combat flying units. (U.S. Air Force photo/Lt. Col. Judd Fancher)

blocks of training together,” said Colonel Mattison, who is also the vice commander of the 51st Fighter Wing. “In addition, the Red Flag Alaska airspace and range complex offer an area the size of South Korea for training.”

Airmen from Osan’s two fighter squadrons, the 25th and the 36th, as well as their maintenance squadrons and support personnel, will participate in the 10-day exercise. Support squadrons from across Osan will also help to get almost 300 people to and from Alaska.

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Osan 3-day Outlook

Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
High: 84	High: 78	High: 83
Low: 74	Low: 74	Low: 67
		

51st Civil Engineer Squadron
Structures Flight ...
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Spread The Word...
Air Force Personnel Center
briefing team to visit Osan ...

“The Spread the Word briefing provides information on personnel issues and delivery transformation, as well as allows all Air Force members direct, face-to-face contact with AFPC personnel ...”

... see more on pg. 3



Career Advisor's Corner

by Master Sgt. Mark Reuss
51st Fighter Wing career advisor

There is a story of an elderly woman who was going through some tough times in her life.

Financially speaking, she was drowning in debt. In fact, a bank official stopped by her home and repossessed her car.

Brokenhearted, she went to church and prayed that God would let her win the lottery. One week later, she lost her business.

Again, she went to church and prayed that God would let her win the lottery.

Finally, another week passed and this time, she lost her marriage.

Frustrated and confused, she cried out, "Lord, why did you allow these awful things to happen to me. I lost my marriage, my business, and my car. Why didn't you answer my prayer about the lottery?"

To which God replied, "Woman, you never bought a ticket!"

Promotion in the Air Force is really quite similar ...

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■ **SOAR:** Scholarships for Outstanding Airman Program (SOAR)/Commissioning: If applying for the FY10 board, waivers must be received at AFROTC/RRUE between July 15 and Sept. 1. Packages without a waiver should be turned in NLT 15 Aug 09; November board. Application process: <http://www.au.af.mil/au/holmcenter/AFROTC/EnlistedComm/SOAR.asp>

■ **Women's Equality Day:** The EO office is calling for volunteers for the Women's Equality Day (August 26th). Committees are open to all base personnel, their family members and retirees. You do not have to ascribe to a particular group to participate. The only requirement is a passion to enlighten and educate others on the contributions these groups have made to society. To volunteer or for more information, contact the EO Staff at 784-4040 or 51fw.eo@osan.af.mil.

■ **Osan Animal Shelter Volunteers:** The Osan Animal Shelter is seeking volunteers 16 years or older to walk and play with dogs and puppies, play with cats and kittens, and help with shelter cleaning. Applications can be picked up at the Osan Veterinary Treatment Facility, Bldg 766.

■ **USO:** The Osan USO is seeking volunteers to help out at Bldg 429 from 0900-1700 Mon-Sat. However much time you donate will be very helpful. Duties will consist of answering phones, assisting with the planning of future USO events and restocking the snack area. This is a great opportunity to assist your friendly neighborhood USO and receive volunteer hours. Please coordinate with SSGT Chung Q. Ta or Mrs. Lim (aylim@uso.org) for sign up information and general correspondence.

■ **Sunday night at the movies:** The Osan Chapel is hosting a free movie night each Sunday this summer at the McPherson Community Center beginning June 28 at Sunday at 7:36 p.m. For more information, contact the Chapel at 784-5000.

■ **Victim Advocates needed:** Victim advocates provides essential support, liaison services and care to victims of Sexual Assault. Eligibility restrictions apply. For more information, contact Capt. Tresa Strickland at 784-2832.

■ **Join Osan Toastmasters:** Toastmasters meet every Tuesday at noon in the Professional Development Center Bldg. 788. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped millions of men and women become more confident in front of an audience. The network of clubs and their learn-by-doing program are sure to help you become a better speaker and leader. Osan Toastmasters are here to help you accomplish just that. Toastmasters will give you the skills and confidence you need to effectively express yourself in any situation, it is the most efficient, enjoyable and affordable way of gaining great communication skills. For more information, contact Toastmaster Kim, Son I at 784-7975 or TM John J. Koehler at 784-3839.

■ **Becoming an Honor Guard Member:** Do you have what it takes to become a member of the Base Honor Guard? As a member of the Honor Guard you will be representing the Air Force in both official and public forums. They are looking for officers and enlisted men and women to join their team. If you are interested in joining, please contact the NCOIC at 784-0962.

■ *If you would like to submit a News Brief, e-mail the 51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs office. For more information, call the Public Affairs office at 784-4044.*

Got a burning question for the wing commander? Or perhaps you'd just like to voice a gripe, grief or complaint? The Commander's Action Line is your direct link to the commander. Call 784-4811 or direct e-mails to Osan.CommandersActionLine@osan.af.mil. *Note: If the issue affects the entire Osan community, your action line may appear anonymously in the Mig Alley Flyer; however, please address issues to your chain of command first.

Osan GSA Mart manager recognized for excellence

by Ms. Amber Park

U.S. General Services Administration

In culmination of many awards throughout his career, the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) presented the Commissioner's Award of Excellence to Mr. Charang Chon, Osan GSA Mart Manager, in recognition of his exemplary leadership.

The Director of Far East/Pacific Retail Operations, Ms. Linda Steves, presented the award; on behalf of GSA Commissioner Mr. Jim Williams; to Mr. Chon at his retirement ceremony.

Mr. Chon is the first foreign national to receive such an award. The award is given for sustained contribution to GSA in a management or leadership role.

Mr. Charang Chon, a Korean Government Service employee, retired after serving 27 years for the US Government on Osan Air Base.

As Manager of the GSA Osan Mart, Mr. Chon's notable successes were the unparalleled customer service

to the Air Force community, coupled with his ability to coordinate and manage the separation of Chemical Warfare Defense Equipment and Individual Equipment programs, an upgraded sprinkler system, floor and wall painting, installation of new carpeting, new lighting, ceiling renovation, construction of store display enhancements, coordinating office upgrades, security fencing, supporting IT issues, support of ongoing Air Force/Army exercises and expanding the storage footprint by obtaining CONEX boxes from the 8th Army.

He has also been the mentor of his staff, as well as to the staff of the Kunsan Wolfpack Mart.

Mr. Chon's outstanding leadership and personal contributions throughout his long and distinguished career provides him the satisfaction of departing his US Government service with honor.

"He is a credit to himself and GSA," said Ms. Steves. "To receive such an award speaks volumes about how he is respected by his staff, peers, and administrators and the US War fighter."

RED FLAG *Continued from pg. 1*

... The fighter squadrons, however, are not the only squadrons that have been working for the last three months to prepare.

In early May, wing leadership approached the Maintenance Group with a challenge: "fly dual external tanks on our A-10s to Red Flag."

"Dual tanks had not been used since at least 2002 here in Korea," said Capt. Donald Hutchison 25th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, officer in charge. "The challenges to ready the aircraft have been a huge undertaking that required a team effort by our ops sisters, the logistics readiness squadron and maintenance squadrons to accomplish."

"Despite the long hours, to include weekends in preparation, our commitment is high," said Captain Hutchison. "The maintainers have truly worked tirelessly and are excited about the flying opportunity going to

Red Flag brings."

Originally named Cope Thunder, the exercise was moved to Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, from Clark Air Base, Philippines, in 1992, after the eruption of Mount Pinatubo forced the curtailment of operations, June 15, 1991. Cope Thunder was re-designated Red Flag-Alaska in 2006.

The Alaska exercises take place over Alaskan and Western Canadian airspace. The entire airspace is made up of 17 permanent military operations areas and high altitude training areas, plus two restricted areas, for a total airspace of more than 67,000 square miles.

"Our pilots plan, brief and fly missions against very capable, professional aggressors in the air and on the ground," said Colonel Mattison. "The opportunity to debrief with the aggressors and learn from our mistakes makes us the best Air Force in the world."

Spread the Word

An Air Force Personnel Center "Spread the Word" briefing team arrives at Osan Air Base July 30..

An All Call briefing is scheduled for July 30 from 8:30-10:00, and then again from 2-3:30 at the base theater. All Airmen and civilians are encouraged to attend.

"One of the Air Force's top priorities is to develop and care for our Air Force people, and we want to hear from you about what works and what we can improve. Our AFPC teams look forward to sharing useful information with you and receiving feedback on what's important to you," said Maj. Gen. K.C. McClain, Air Force Personnel Center commander.

The Spread the Word briefing provides information on personnel issues and delivery transformation, as well as allows all Air Force members direct, face-to-face contact with AFPC personnel to address concerns and provide feedback.

Specific topics covered in the Spread the Word briefings will include, among others, 365-day deployment options, the Global AEF tempo-banding system, civilian hiring procedures, and assignment processes.

The teams also include military and civilian assignments experts, as well as deployment experts, who will be available for questions after each briefing session.

For more information, contact Capt. Jeff Bosque at 784-8393.

51st CE Structures Flight



Airmen from the 51st Civil Engineer Squadron guide a folded fiberglass mat into place during airfield damage repair training here July 15. The 30x54 foot mats are used to quickly repair runway damage, and can be connected to cover a large areas.

Photos by
Staff Sgt.
Brian Ferguson



CAREER ADVISOR *Continued from pg. 2*

... Everyone knows studying, and studying early, is an important key to promotion.

I would like to share a quote with you from a great friend of mine. He was very instrumental in me being where I am today because of his great personality and kind words—just when I needed them --“If it is to be-it is up to me.”

Tommy Hanson, a golf professional said that to me when I told him I was about to begin studying for the rank of technical sergeant in 2003.

Tommy was like a father to me and always had encouraging words at the right time.

These words have always stuck with me because they can be used in virtually any scenario we face in the military today.

Since I was testing for technical sergeant very early on in my career, I began approaching the test date with questions like “why study?” or “why not go to school now and just wait to get more time- in-service and time-in-grade?”

Tommy kept me on track with his words and because of his encouragement I made the stripe that I worked very hard for.

If you are testing for promotion, I hope to do the same for you with this article.

What strikes me about his words is the honesty, truthfulness, and

bluntness of it. “If it is to be-it is up to me” is but ten words with twenty little letters ... but can have a huge impact if you put it in perspective.

What it really means is this-if something good is going to happen, you will be behind it.

Don't think things will happen if you are standing by watching. Get involved and make it happen. You should not expect a “promotion fairy” to come to your home and study for you.

What I would like to do is break down this quote and focus on each part:

If it is to be: In the world of promotion, the fact is that if you study hard, everything else will take care of itself.

A Chief once told me that you can break down eligibles in one of three categories:

- 33% of them won't study
- 33% of them will study two weeks prior to their test date
- 33% will study

If you study early and often, you stand a great chance of promotion.

Although it is true that you may compete against people with more points than you (especially if you are young), you will have more points than those people if you study hard.

The playing field is level if you compare a young person who studies hard compared to someone with a lot

of time in grade or time in service points that chooses not to study.

VERY IMPORTANT: If you study hard and just do not make the cut, don't get frustrated. It does no good to get disappointed—the test result won't change.

Understand this--there is a reason for everything. I missed master sergeant my first time by 2.4 points. What did I do? My family and I went out to celebrate at Salsalito's Café in San Antonio, Texas.

I had nothing to be ashamed of because I studied no less than two hours a day for six months. It just was not meant to be. I made it the next year. Besides, I found that the extra year as a TSgt helped me grow more.

It is up to me: Promotion is based solely on you.

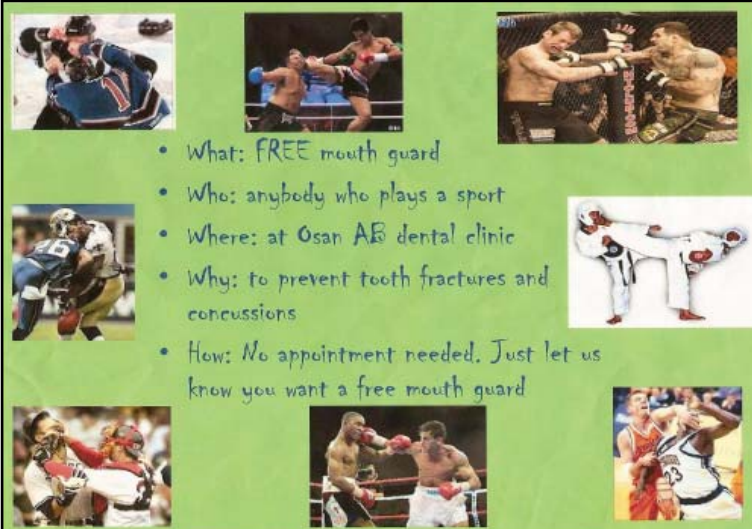
Your performance report is based on your performance. Decorations you receive are based on your contributions to the Air Force mission. Your TIS/TIG applies to everyone based on when they came in and when they got promoted—you won't gain a lot of points here.

However, for SKT and PDG, your scores on these tests play a tremendous role—and for those, you directly have influence.

This area is one where you can ensure that you get your name on the promotion list!

Got A Story to Tell?

The 51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office is here to tell the Air Force story, but we can't do it without the rest of Team Osan. If you or your unit has done or is doing something interesting, whether it be volunteering or creating a new “Best Practice,” let us know! For more information, call 784-4044 or send an email to MigAlleyFlyer@osan.af.mil



- What: FREE mouth guard
- Who: anybody who plays a sport
- Where: at Osan AB dental clinic
- Why: to prevent tooth fractures and concussions
- How: No appointment needed. Just let us know you want a free mouth guard