

Vance At A Glance

May 19, 2026

“Learn to give your absence to those who don’t appreciate your presence.”

This week in pilot training – The Ballers’ & Dragons’ T-6s flew 566 sorties; the Shooters’ T-38s flew 290 sorties; and the Peugeot’s T-1s flew 44 sorties, for a total of 900 training sorties this past week. Every member of Team Vance contributed to delivering 220 world-class pilots in fiscal year 2026. Vance Proud!

Dorm/Single Airmen dinner, May 21 – The Vance First Sergeants are hosting the Dorm/Single Airmen dinner from 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, May 21, in the Chapel Community Activity Center, Building 528. The Star Wars themed dinner will feature beef and chicken Kebobs and rice samosas. For more information, call 580-213-7668.

Murph Challenge, May 21 – The 71st Security Forces Squadron is hosting the Murph Challenge beginning at 8 a.m., Thursday, May 21, at the Base Track. The challenge is held in honor of Navy Lt. Michael P. Murphy, a Medal of Honor recipient. Registration is now open. For more information, call 580-213-7670.

Blood Drive, May 21 – The next Vance Blood Drive is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday, May 21, in the Chapel Community Activity Center, Building 528. To make an appointment to donate, go to https://www.yourbloodinstitute.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/679773. For more information, contact Airman 1st Class Lucie Bednar, lucie.bednar@us.af.mil.

Red Dirt Run of Honor, May 23 – The Red Dirt Run of Honor is scheduled for May 23 at Woodring Wall of Honor and Veteran's Park at Woodring Airport in Enid. The event includes an in-person 5K run/walk and a virtual option that allows participants to complete a course from any location and submit a verified time. Registration is on-line through May 20, or in person at Woodring Wall of Honor. All finishers will receive a finisher's medal, and awards are presented to overall male and female top finishers and in age divisions. Visit <https://reddirtrunofhonor.itsyourrace.com/event.aspx?id=9073> for more information and to register.

Memorial Day flag planting – The American Legion and the Vance Soaring 5 are teaming up to place an American Flag at the graves of veterans in the Enid Cemetery and the Memorial Park Cemetery over the Memorial Day weekend. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Hannah Summers, hannah.summers.1@us.af.mil.

Aviator Expo, July 14 – Mark your calendar for the 71st Student Squadron's Aviator Expo, July 14, at the Crosswinds Club.

Combat Dining Out, June 5 – Tickets for the Combat Dining Out scheduled for Friday, June 5, are available at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/vance-cdo--2026>. NOTE: Airmen (E-1 to E-4) can get free tickets by contacting their first sergeant by May 20. The deputy wing commander will pick up the tab. Food for the event will include BBQ Brisket; Turkey; Hot Links and Baked Potatoes.

33rd FTS change of command, May 21 – The 33rd Flying Training Squadron has scheduled a change-of-command ceremony at 9:33 a.m., Thursday, May 21, in Hangar 199. Lt. Col. Scott Meskimen will relinquish command to Lt. Col. Andrew Crawford. A shuttle bus will run from the Crosswinds Club to Hangar 199 beginning at 8:45 a.m. A reception will follow in the 33rd FTS auditorium. For more information, contact Toni Meacham, 580-213-6640 or toni.meacham@us.af.mil.

71st OSS change of command, May 21 – The 71st Operations Support Squadron has scheduled a change-of-command ceremony at 10:45 a.m., Thursday, May 21, in Hangar 199. Lt. Col. Courtney Waltman will relinquish command to Lt. Col. Matthew Palandech. A shuttle bus will run from the Crosswinds Club to Hangar 199 beginning at 10 a.m. If you plan to attend, see the RSVP form at <https://forms.osi.apps.mil/r/Sd6hN6niJU?origin=lprLink>. For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Anthony Cornell, 580-213-6184.

Movies on base – The movies are on temporary hold in the Professional Development Center auditorium due to equipment failure. Stay tuned for further developments.

Radiology closed May 23-30 – The Vance Clinic's Radiology department will be closed from May 23 through May 30. For more information call 580-213-7652.

TMO closed May 22-29 -- Due to manning constraints, there will be no Traffic Management Office services available from May 22 to May 29. All appointments have been cleared from the calendar for that period. If you have an emergency, contact the Tinker Air Force Base TMO – 405-739-3059; or the Altus Air Force Base TMO – 580-481-6830 or 6829.

Tax tip for gamblers -- If you had fun gambling and finally hit it big, the IRS requires a percentage of the take. To reduce the tax bite, you must have written records of your losses. The IRS accepts ATM withdrawals from gambling establishments as written records of such losses. However, these losses are documented on Schedule A and will only reduce the tax if your itemized deductions on the schedule exceed your standard deduction. The IRS rules state that you are only allowed to deduct losses up to 90 percent of your gambling earnings. The state in which you won may also tax your gains. A log of winnings may prove helpful if the W-2G is lost in the mail. Most gambling establishments will also reprint a winning receipt if requested. For more information, contact Greg Butterfield, 580-213-7859.

Today's chuckle – I'm having trouble with my reverse origami class. I'll let you know how it unfolds.