



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Far East District

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Strengthening our ROK-U.S. Alliance



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**US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Far East District**

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On the cover



Members of the Far East District Korean National Employees Union pose for a group picture with Col. Don Degidio, FED Commander. (Photo by Yo Kyong-il)



Commander's Corner

Col. Donald E. Degidio, Jr.

To the great Team of the Far East District and our entire Team of Teams,

Thank you again for providing such a warm and heartfelt welcome to my wife Donna, my son Dakota, and me. It is our pleasure to serve here in the District with you, the Republic of Korea, our customers, and our community. Every day I am reminded of how truly blessed we are to be involved with such a culturally diverse and dynamic group of people.

August is a very dynamic month for the District. Our Service Members, Emergency Essential Civilians, and Mission Essential Civilians banded together for the 2011 Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise. My hopes and expectations are for a future of safety and stability here in the Far East, but should deterrence fail, I know that the brave men and women serving in the Republic of Korea stand ready, trained, and responsive to meet tomorrow's requirements.

As a critical element of the safety and stability in Asia, the Far East District acts as One Team, Building Strong in Korea. We have been and will continue Building Strong because as One Team we are greater than the sum of our parts. We serve our strong Alliance - the United States of America and the Republic of Korea - and our customers with equal fervor. When our great people are taken care of, they take care of our projects, and our projects will take care of our customers.

As we continue our journey together as One Team, I would ask us to take time to reflect on the things that make us great. This month I ask that we all look to our left and right, in front of us, and behind us. Who do you see? I see the people we care about – our District – and together a vision to prepare for a dynamic future.

As we prepare for a dynamic future and move on with our lives, personally and professionally, I ask that you look at the space you may someday leave in our District. Ask yourself, "Who will stand where I stood?" In each of us is the stuff that makes great leaders: compassion, trust, and wisdom. I challenge you to select and train the right people to someday stand where you stood. You make us great today; now help us be great forever.

To our great Alliance – Katchi Kapsida!

To our great Corps – Essayons!

One Team Building Strong® in Korea!

DPM REPORT

Year End Program & Look Ahead into FY 12

By Jon Iwata
FED Deputy District Engineer

Greetings to the entire FED team! Year-end crunch time is upon us once again. It is the time of the year when teamwork is so crucial in order to successfully execute our customer's programs and projects. It's also a time of the year when the entire District team gets to shine. Many of our customers, including Installation Management Command Korea, Directorate of Public Works, 7th Air Force, Base Civil Engineers, Naval Forces Korea, Navy Public Works, Marine Forces Korea, Eighth Army G-3, 1st Signal Brigade, Defense Logistics Agency, Department of Defense Education Activity and Defense Commissary Agency, specifically seek our support at this time of the year because they know they can count on the Far East District to execute their year-end program. It is because their precious Fiscal Year 11 funds expire on Sept. 30. Our customers come to the District and expect us (almost as a matter of routine) to award design and construction contracts to obligate their funds.

However, we know that it is not a matter of routine. It is the hard work, dedication and professionalism of everyone in the District that gets the job done. Many of you know that attention to detail and "dotting the i" is absolutely critical. Whether you are in Contracting Division processing the contract award; in Resource Management accepting Military Interdepartmental Purchase Requests (MIPRs) and certifying funds in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Financial Management System; in Engineering Division working on finishing designs, doing technical engineering and geotechnical reviews, completing contract specifications, preparing Independent Government Estimates (IGEs), negotiating Architect-Engineer contracts and environmental Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) delivery orders; in Construction Division conducting Job Order Contract/IDIQ site orientation meetings, negotiating delivery order prices; in Programs and Project Management and Korea Program Relocation Office issuing Purchase Request & Commitments, handling numerous Program and Project Management Information System 2, known as P2, actions, managing and orchestrating the overall program execution; in Counsel reviewing contract packages; everyone's support and teamwork are needed to ensure no awardable projects

are missed. Let's not forget the rest of the District team from Information Management Office, Logistics Management Office, Emergency Management Office, Public Affairs Office, Equal Employment Office, Safety, Workforce Management, Internal Review, Executive Office personnel, numerous contractors, and even our security guards....without their hard work and professional service that they provide, we would not be able to accomplish our vital mission here.

Looking ahead into FY 12, I see a pickup in workload coming up. Our FY 12 Military Construction and Operations & Maintenance programs appear to be similar to FY 11. However, as everyone has been anticipating, there will be an increase in workload on the Yongsan Relocation Plan/Land Partnership Plan programs at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys next fiscal year. In addition, the Program Management Consortium contract must be extended or reprocured by June 2012, so KPRO and Contracting Division will be extremely busy on this mission. However, let us not forget that we have important customers and stakeholders across the entire peninsula, so we need to continue to execute the projects under the concept that the most important project is the one you are working on!

From the bottom of my heart, thank you to "Team FED" and I look forward to another successful year-end, as well as a great year in FY 12.

Building Strong in Korea!



Chusok and Labor Day Roadway Safety

By FED Safety Office

The Korean holiday Chusok and the U.S. holiday Labor Day are two holidays that are often thought of as being worlds apart yet they have much more in common than just taking place in the same month.

The weekend of Sept. 3 marks the beginning of the U.S. Labor Day weekend and is widely recognized in the States as the symbolic end of summer. One very distinct similarity that our two nations share on dissimilar holidays is that in early September millions of people in both nations half a world away from each other will be taking to the roadways hoping to celebrate with family and friends.

Beginning the evening of Sept. 9 and ending during the early morning hours of Sept. 14, approximately 10 million Koreans will take to the roads for the annual pilgrimage to their hometowns to celebrate the harvest, pay homage to ancestors and get reacquainted with relatives. It is estimated by the Korean government that more than 30 million cars, taxis, and buses will be sharing the roadways during this holiday period.

In 2009 the American Automobile Association (AAA) projected that 39.1 million Americans would travel 50 miles or more on US roadways during the Labor Day weekend. Labor Day weekend in the States is often considered one of the largest party days of the year; but, unfortunately it is also one of the deadliest times to drive. According the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) the Sunday before Labor Day is the 8th deadliest day in the US to drive and Labor Day is the 9th deadliest day to drive.

In the five years prior to 2008 there had been over 1 million accidents on Korean roadways, over 10 thousand happening over Chusok with 343 fatalities. In the US the 6 year average from 2003 to 2008 was 490 fatalities during the Labor Day period per year.

This is why safety, particularly road safety, is so important for our two national holidays. Those numbers are not just statistics; they are real people, who had real lives, and people who cared for them. Being proactive when it comes to the safety of your loved ones and others on the road can make the difference between having good holiday memories or a holiday forever equated with the pain and loss of a loved one.

The U.S. NHTSA gives the following tips on road safety:

- Always use your seat belt and ensure that your passengers are properly wearing theirs.
- Plan your trip to allow for rest stops, share the responsibility of driving, and know that fatigue is a major factor in roadway accidents.
- Make sure your vehicle is safe to drive. Check its tires, lights, turn signals, fluids, and wiper blades.
- Adjust your speed according to road conditions. Don't just slow down because the sign says that there is police camera 500 meters up the road. The speed limits are there for a reason.
- Limit distractions while driving. Don't use your cell phone, even with hands free devices you are twice as likely to get into an accident as not using the phone at all, and above all never text while driving.
- If you are planning to drive a distance of over 50 miles/80 kilometers let someone know what your plans are, when you plan to arrive. This way if something happens to you and your family along the way they can contact the appropriate authorities.
- Do not drink and drive or ride with someone who has been drinking.
- Don't let those who have been drinking drive.



Heavy traffic during Chusok holidays (File Photo)



FED and Ministry of National Defense host Local Construction Materials Conference

By Patrick Bray
FED Public Affairs

The Fifth Local Construction Materials Conference was held at the Korea Ministry of National Defense July 27. This was the third conference to be hosted jointly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District and MND.

"This conference is a necessary forum to exchange information that will help to improve effectiveness and efficiency to increase use of local materials," said Paul Yoo, Special Assistant to FED Engineering Division Chief.

Local materials reduce construction cost, time, and make it easier to repair or replace certain things later in the building's life cycle.

When first assessed in 2006, only 48.9 percent of ma-

terials used were manufactured locally. Today, about 75 percent of the construction materials are local. Previous conferences resulted in the localization of 82 items including elevators. This conference pushed for the localization of 30 additional items such as ceiling tiles, boilers, and electrical panel boards.

Use of local material is also essential in having a building Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified, something that FED strives for in every project. LEED calls for materials to be manufactured no further than 500 miles from the building site.

MND wants more local manufacturers to participate in the Yongsan Relocation Program and Land Partnership Plan.



Chris Kim, Chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District Technical Review Branch, briefed attendees of the Local Construction Materials Conference on the role of USACE and FED July 27. (Photo by Patrick Bray)

Chris Kim, Chief of FED Technical Review Branch, briefed all of the conference attendees on the role of USACE and FED and the standards that FED follows.

"The Korean Ministry of National Defense is recruiting local manufacturers," Chris Kim. "Together, MND and FED are helping them (the manufacturers)."

Manufacturers who improve their products to fit with FED standards will not only be able to provide better products for YRP and LPP but will also become more competitive globally with higher standard construction materials.

"This information sharing is important to encourage local manufacturers to manufacture locally available construction materials that meet U.S. standards and improve utilization of those local materials," said Yoo.

Something that Yoo was able to get from the conference was a better understanding of the concerns and areas of improvement that would help small and medium size firms to manufacture local materials to be approved for meeting U.S. standards.

"I think it was a good workshop to share information among all interested parties: Korean construction materials manufacturers, MND USFK Relocation Office, Program Management Consortium, FED, ROK MND," said Yoo.

The conferences are producing results and Kim believes that this will continue to improve.

"This conference was better than the ones last year," said Kim.



Col. Craig Johnson, representing the FED Commander, addressed attendees of the Local Construction Materials Conference July 27. (Photo by Patrick Bray)



Col. Craig Johnson (left), representing the FED Commander, speaks with Republic of Korea Navy Capt. Pak Chae-sik, Chief of MND Operational Facilities, during the Local Construction Materials Conference July 27. (Photo by Patrick Bray)



Members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District enjoy the Local Construction Materials Conference held at the Korea Ministry of National Defense July 27. (Photo by Patrick Bray)



LEED training at the Far East District

By Patrick Bray
FED Public Affairs

The U.S. Government to include all branches of the military have a requirement to have 15 percent of their buildings meet sustainable guidelines. For this purpose the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District continuously places emphasis on Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification.

John Bendon, a consultant from Green Building, LLC, conducted a two day workshop July 14-15 to help prepare a group of FED engineers and interns for the LEED accreditation test.

"Why is LEED important if you are a civil engineer? Why even take the test?" asked Bendon.

The answer Bendon gave was integration. Jennifer Yoon, a civil engineer with FED, definitely plans on becoming LEED accredited in the near future.

"I think LEED is important to everyone, not just people in design and construction," said Yoon. "LEED supports building practices that are environmentally responsible throughout the lifecycle of the building, not just during construction. It promotes profit, the planet, and people. Everyone should strive for sustainability, not just builders and designers."

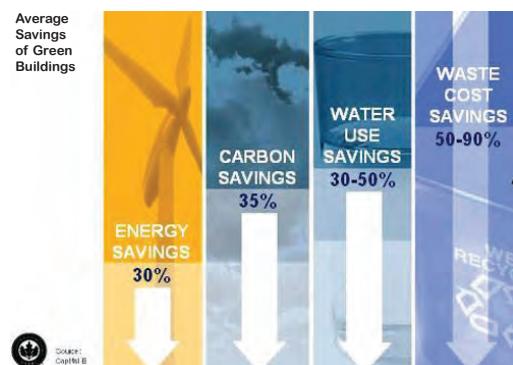


FED engineers and interns listen to John Bendon, a consultant from Green Building, LLC, during a two day workshop to prepare for the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design accreditation test July 14-15. (Photo by Patrick Bray)

LEED is a consensus based process and everyone has a part to play. Bendon emphasized that engineers, contractors, building owners, and even the tenants are all part of LEED certification for a building.

"If you think you're too small to make a difference then you've never been in a sleeping bag with a mosquito," said Bendon.

Several times a year the opportunity arises for continuing education at FED, especially in LEED certification. This year previous classes were taught in February and April.



John Bendon, a consultant from Green Building, LLC, conducted a two day workshop July 14-15 to help prepare a group of engineers and interns from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District for the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design accreditation test. (Photo by Patrick Bray)



FED receives Family Readiness Award

By Patrick Bray
FED Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District received the Family Readiness Team Award at the annual USACE Summer Leader's Conference in New Orleans.

The award was presented by Maj. Gen. Bo Temple, USACE Deputy Commanding General, during the awards dinner Aug. 1. Monte Howard, Chief of FED Workforce Management, and Staff Sgt. Sung Kwon, Human Resources Specialist received the award on behalf of FED.

"The most valuable resource that any program can have is commitment from the command, managers, and its employees," said Howard. "The Family Readiness Program has that commitment to ensure that our families are taken care of during a deployment or during a non-combatant evacuation due to a military or civil contingency. That takes a team commitment from several offices within the District."

The Family Readiness Support Team consists of several members from different divisions within FED. Each provides a unique service to the overall program, whether

it is non-combatant evacuation operation program stewards or gathering donations for care packages for those who are deployed.

Since 2003, FED has deployed more than 70 military and civilian employees to the Overseas Contingency Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and civil disasters. Likewise, there is also the on-going threat from North Korea which is why FED participates in the Korea-wide noncombatant exercise twice a year. Each steward has been certified and 100 percent accountability was met.

"The Far East District is the only Forward Deployed District within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, so therefore the District must ensure their employees and families are informed of non-combatant exercises, which means Family Readiness," said Howard.

Although there have not been any real-world contingencies, the FRG has been ready with messages in the events of inclement weather such as the typhoon scare in September 2010 and as recently as this month. Every FED employee, military member, and family member was accounted for.

"Family Readiness stands at the forefront of our Army Strong values," said Col. Donald Degidio, FED Commander. "This great achievement here in Korea highlights our preparedness and commitment of our District towards our great families as we remain Family Strong."

Monte Howard (right), Chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District Workforce Management, and Staff Sgt. Sung Kwon (left), Human Resources Specialist proudly pose with the Family Readiness Team Award. The award was presented by Maj. Gen. Bo Temple, USACE Deputy Commanding General, during the Summer Leader's Conference awards dinner in New Orleans Aug. 1. (Photo by Patrick Bray)



(OSD Graphic Illustration)



USACE Emerging Leaders and Summer Leaders Conference

FED Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District's Cheon-Joo Lee participated in the USACE 2011 Emerging Leaders Program held July 29 – Aug. 4. He attended a three-day leadership training course in New Orleans with 50 other USACE "Emerging Leaders."

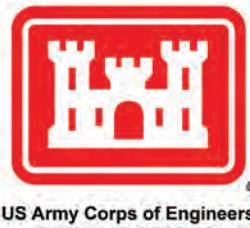
The Emerging Leaders Program provides a forum for participants to have a unique experience to identify their individual strengths and constraints. USACE supports the program in order to build the bench of the next generation of leaders.

Each year participants are selected from enthusiastic and dedicated USACE personnel who exhibit leadership talents and capabilities. Lee learned about his strengths and constraints and was able to develop leadership and communication skills. He highly recommends Flip Flippin's best-seller "The Flip Side: Break Free of the Behaviors That Hold You Back."

The USACE Senior Summer Leaders' Conference theme was "Strategic Crossroads." USACE leaders from around

the world along with key stakeholders discussed critical issues; enhanced transparency, inclusion, and collaboration; reinforced key relationships; and synchronized command resources for the coming months and years.

An event of this nature requires face-to-face interaction among senior and emerging leaders and key stakeholders to enhance USACE's value to the Nation. Lee was able to shadow a senior leader, Steven V. Cary, Deputy Director of Research and Development. He learned about the challenges in a resource-constrained environment, and the opportunities for innovation and collaboration. Lee was impressed by the military and civilian leaders' dedication in making USACE a great organization.



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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Emerging Leaders pose for a group picture during the Leadership Training held July 29 - Aug. 4 in New Orleans. (FED File Photo)



(From left to right) Cheon-Joo Lee, Far East District Engineering Division; Monte Howard, Chief of the FED Workforce Management, and Staff Sgt. Sung Kwon, Human Resources Specialist pose for a picture during the Summer Leader's Conference awards dinner in New Orleans Aug. 1. (FED File Photo)



Chandra Lewis advocates for military families at the White House

By Patrick Bray
FED Public Affairs

Chandra Lewis, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District Administrative Assistant had an amazing opportunity when she visited Washington, D.C. this summer.

Lewis visited the West Wing of the White House for a brainstorming session with some of the White House staff which included Christina Tchen, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff of the First Lady's Office; Darienne Page, Assistant Director of the Office of Public Engagement and Leader of Veterans, Wounded Warrior, and Military Family Outreach for the White House; and U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jason Dempsey, White House Fellow assigned to the Office of the First Lady.

"After I introduced myself and told them about my family and my interest in supporting military families, we began our brainstorming session. They were ready pen and paper in hand to write down my ideas for the Joining Forces initiative," said Lewis.

Lewis was able to discuss with this distinguished panel several of her ideas on how the civilian community can support those in the military community.

"I shared with them my personal experience of the ways the civilian community in Hawaii teamed up with the military to offer discounts and specials to the military family members of deployed servicemen during my husband's 13-month deployment to Iraq in 2004," said Lewis.

Tchen was very interested in Lewis's idea to establishing a program dedicated to getting expired coupons to military family members at all overseas commissary locations. Prior to Lewis's visit, Tchen was not aware that military family members could use manufacturer's coupons up to six months after the expiration date at Defense Commissaries in overseas locations.

Tchen, who is also the Executive Director of the White House Council on Women and Girls, agreed with Lewis's sentiment that many of the suggestions could be used by groups such as the Girl Scouts as well as high school students who may be interested in earning hours for community service.

Page took interest in Lewis's idea of developing a mentoring program in which new military spouses are paired with more experienced spouses to share valuable information about their newly acquired roles.

After about an hour and a half, the brainstorming session produced several pages of notes with ideas for further research.

"After posing for a picture with me in her West Wing office, Tchen presented me with her business card and encouraged me to remain in contact with her," said Lewis. "She also gave me a parting gift: two white boxes of M&M's bearing the Official Seal of the President of the United States and his signature."

Page also gave Lewis a brief tour of the West Wing and even a peek into the Oval Office.

"We ended our tour with a walk through the Presidential Rose Garden and although I was not allowed to take pictures with my digital camera, the images remain imprinted in my mind," said Lewis.



Chandra Lewis, Far East District Executive Office poses with Christina Tchen, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff of the First Lady's Office. (Photo Courtesy of Chandra Lewis)



To Test or Not to Test

By Steve Haselman
FED Construction Division

To test, or not to test – that is the question. Well, that was the question that wouldn't cease from popping up in my mind for many, many years until I finally answered it last September.

The question, more correctly stated, was whether or not to retake the Civil Professional Engineer exam after having previously taken it three times in the early 1990s, and having long ago given up the hope of passing. This article is about why I decided to retake that intimidating, eight-hour PE exam last April (even though the memory of the failures still struck fear into my heart) and about how I prepared for taking it, and YES – PASSING IT!

The efficacy of professional licensure is thought by many engineers to be arguable, and whether or not it is worth the considerable effort of getting it depends on the aspirations of the individual engineer. For me, though, the PE had always been a very highly desired object just for its significance as a measure of personal achievement.

I was also aware, of course, that a PE license would provide tangible benefits as well. As a GS-12 engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, it opens doors to many positions for which professional registration is a key requirement. This was another motivator because I was continually getting discouraged from searching the Civilian Personnel Online jobs website only to find that a PE license was required for most of the positions that interested me.

The decision to try again was not easily made though. I had to overcome some negative factors as well, foremost of which was my age (61). How could I now possibly expect to do something I couldn't do when I was younger (and supposedly sharper)? And did I really want to "forsake" my family and give up all my personal interests for an extended period of preparation (I had determined that seven months would be needed to properly prepare)? And, biggest of all: WHAT IF I FAILED AGAIN?

The pros and cons were about equal, but the real influence behind my decision to "go for it" came from my wife (who later accused me of loving the books more than her) and a few friends and coworkers who provided their very valued encouragement. Without that I would not have attempted it.

The real difficulty of passing the PE exam is in having an effective study plan, which I did not have when I took the exam three times in the early 1990s. My preparation for the April 2011 exam began September 1, 2010. I decided to use the Civil Engineering Reference Manual by Lindberg as the



Col. Donald Degidio, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District, congratulates Steve Haselman, Central Resident Office Project Engineer, on passing the professional engineer exam while Haselman's wife Mylene looks on. (Photo by Patrick Bray)

main reference, but I had bunches of other books that I was going to use for sample problems.

My first plan was to catalog all types of problems from my vast collection of reference books and create a quick and easy reference for every kind of problem. When I explained this plan to my co-worker, Kim Tong-kun, known as "TK", (who has a U.S. PE license himself), he quickly advised me of my folly. He spoke with such confidence that I decided his ideas about test preparation were probably a lot better than mine (thinking of my past record).

Recognizing that I needed guidance for the next six months of preparation, I requested TK's help and he graciously agreed. Not only did he get me started on an effective preparation plan, but over the next six months he met with me almost daily and kept me on the right road. The key to the plan was having a detailed study schedule (I made a seven-month Gantt chart on Microsoft Project) for going over every major subject twice, and going over my depth subject (geo-tech) three times. It was more important to understand the principles than knowing how to work every kind of problem. The plan worked.

If you are trying to decide to take the PE exam, let me encourage you to "go for it", and to help you succeed – seek encouragement, get organized, stick to a schedule, and give TK Kim a call.



Heavy rains hit Korea

By Patrick Bray
FED Public Affairs

During the first week of August, Tropical Storm Muifa produced severe weather throughout Korea. U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan reported about 8 inches of rain within a 24-hour period, but most of the damage caused by flooding occurred in Area I.

A team of engineers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District Geotechnical and Environmental Engineering Branch conducted an initial recon of landslide and flood-related damage which occurred Aug. 3 at Camp Casey and Camp Hovey.

The damage was the result of excessive surface runoff and landslides triggered by a period of intense rainfall. Facilities constructed immediately adjacent to impacted slopes and drainage courses were not protected from the extreme surface runoff, slope failures, and debris flows.

Korea also experienced heavy rains and thunderstorms from July 26-29 which resulted in landslides and some fatalities around the peninsula. In the Seoul area, about 4 inches of rain fell in this period.

Some minor flooding occurred on the FED compound causing minor damage to personal property and flooding of space used by Army and Air Force Exchange Service.



A low-lying area on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District compound is submerged in water July 26. Some flooding occurred on the compound causing minor damage to personal property. (Photo by Patrick Bray)



Several feet of mud buried equipment in this utility room on Camp Hovey Aug. 3 after a mudslide. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District Geotechnical and Environmental Engineering Branch accessed the damage in Area I in the following days. (FED File Photo)



A section of the wall which forms the channel flowing through Camp Casey and Camp Hovey was washed away by a mudslide Aug. 3. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District Geotechnical and Environmental Engineering Branch accessed the damage in Area I in the following days. (FED File Photo)



FED members immerse themselves in Korean culture

By Patrick Bray
FED Public Affairs

Chief Warrant Officer Susan Bostick, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District Logistical Operations Officer, and Cadet Hilary Thomas from California Polytechnic State University, training with FED for the summer, attended a Korean cultural tour July 27-28.

The Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense sponsors several tours each year designed to introduce U.S. Forces Korea service members and their families to Korean history, customs, culture, and traditions. This particular tour included visits to Kyungbok Palace, Korean National Museum and a visit to the ROK Navy Base in Pyongtaek to see the recovered ROKS Cheonan. It also included a “Temple Stay,” a non-secular event which MND included based on feedback from previous USFK tours.

The “Temple Stay” portion provided the participants

with the opportunity to live the life of a monk at a Buddhist temple. That includes getting up long before sunrise.

“We learned the different prayers, bows and ways of eating,” said Thomas. “Getting to participate in all of these events gave us a better understanding of the lifestyle of a monk.”

Bostick also was grateful for this enlightening opportunity.

“I thought the tour was very informative,” said Bostick. “I learned a lot about Buddhism and the richness of the Korean culture. The traditional meals were very good and the chance to properly use chop sticks was interesting.”

The visit to the ROKS Cheonan was Thomas’s favorite part of the tour.

“It was astounding to see the Cheonan lifted up right



Members of U.S. Forces Korea await their meal during a visit to a Buddhist temple as part of a Korean Cultural Tour July 27-28. The Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense sponsored the tour designed to introduce USFK service members and their families to Korean history, customs, and traditions. (U.S. Army Photo)

there in front of you in two pieces,” said Thomas. “As a service member it really resonated with me the sacrifice that those Sailors made for their country.”

The Korean naval vessel was sunk by a North Korean torpedo in 2010.

“The tour guide who led us around the ship provided very detailed and scientific reasoning as to how the ROK was so confident it had been sunk by a North Korean torpedo,” said Thomas.

One of the most highly visited National Treasures is the main palace of Korea’s Josen Dynasty, Kyungbook Palace,

which was built in 1395.

“The architecture was amazing,” said Thomas. “It was so incredible to see the detail in the design and artworks withstand the test of time.”

Overall, the tour was well received by both Bostick and Thomas.

“The guides were excellent; they were very versed on the history and did an outstanding job at translating the information,” said Bostick. “Thank you for providing the opportunity to enhance my knowledge and understanding of the Korean Culture.”



Members of U.S. Forces Korea visited a Buddhist temple as part of a Korean Cultural Tour July 27-28. The Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense sponsored the tour designed to introduce USFK service members and their families to Korean history, customs, and traditions. (U.S. Army Photo)



Chief Warrant Officer Susan Bostick, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District Logistical Operations Officer, stand with her Buddha “friends” during a Korean Cultural Tour July 27-28. The Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense sponsored the tour designed to introduce USFK service members and their families to Korean history, customs, and traditions. (U.S. Army Photo)



Kotas promoted to Staff Sgt.

Sgt. David Kotas, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District Construction Representative, was promoted to Staff Sgt. Aug. 3 at Osan Air Base. In attendance were Kotas’s friends and family who congratulated him after his wife attached his new rank. (Photo by Patrick Bray)

UNION SPOT LIGHT

FED Korean National Employees Union invite Col. Degidio to its Representatives' Meeting

A meeting with FED Korean National Employees Union representatives from each office was held on August 8 at a local restaurant.

Col. Degidio and FED Division Chiefs were invited to the meeting and had a constructive and informative time with FED KNEU members.

Before the meeting Yi Won-son, President of the FED Sub-Chapter U.S. Forces Korea KNEU, mentioned that the pay raise issue is still pending due to the U.S. Department of Defense's decision of a government-wide pay freeze. The USFK KNEU continuously requested the exclusion and discussed with the USFK Command to find the best way to achieve our goal. More information will be provided when a decision is made.

In his opening remarks, Degidio again emphasized that his concern is the people as he mentioned when he earlier met all FED KN employees. He believes that if we take care of people, the people will take good care of projects. The Commander expects a good and close relationship with KNEU in accomplishing our PLAN as one team.

At the end, Yi suggested an Exchange Program for KN employees (i.e. sending people to the States for several months or a year) and asked the Commander's favorable consideration. Degidio responded that he will survey and find if it is feasible.



Chon Yong-man, Construction Division, receives a coin from Col. Don Degidio, Far East District Commander during the FED Korean National Employees Union Representatives' Meeting, Aug. 8 at a local restaurant.
(Photo by Patrick Bray)

FED 한국인직원 부서별 노조 대표 회의에 디지디오 대령초대

FED 한국인직원 노조가 8월 8일 각 부서별 노조 대표 회의를 열었습니다.

디지디오 대령과 FED 부서장들이 회의에 초대되었고 한국인 노조 대표들과 건설적이고 유익한 시간을 나눴습니다.

회의에 앞서 이원선 노조분회장께서 임금인상 문제에 대해 이야기를 했는데, 미국방성의 미정부 임금동결 결정에 따라 한국인직원들의 임금인상 문제의 최종결정이 늦어지고 있습니다. 주한미군 한국인 노조에서는 한국인직원의 임금동결 예외를 요청하고 목적 달성을 위한 최상의 방법을 찾기 위해 주한미군 측과 지속적으로 논의하고 있습니다. 차후 결정이 내려지면 다시 알려드리도록 하겠습니다.

FED 한국인직원 노조 부서별 노조 대표 회의에 참석하신 디지디오 대령은 한국인노조 조합원들과의 만남에서 언급했듯이 자신이 가장 신경쓰는 부분은 바로 사람이라고 강조했습니다. 그는 사람을 잘 보살피면 그 사람들이 프로젝트를 잘 수행해 낼 것이라고 믿는다고 했습니다. 사령관은 하나의 팀으로 우리의 계획들을 달성해 나가는데 있어 한국인 노조와 긴밀하고 좋은 관계를 기대한다고도 말했습니다.

끝으로 이원선 노조분회장께서 한국인직원들을 미국으로 6개월 내지 1년정도 보내는 교환 프로그램을 제안하고 사령관의 긍정적인 검토를 부탁했습니다. 이에 디지디오 대령은 실현 가능성은 검토해보겠다고 대답했습니다.



Yun Sun-han, Engineering Division, receives a coin from Col. Don Degidio, Far East District Commander during the FED Korean National Employees Union Representatives' Meeting, Aug. 8 at a local restaurant.
(Photo by Patrick Bray)



EEO CORNER —

Women's Equality Day

On August 26, 1920, the 19th amendment was added to the United States Constitution. The 19th amendment, also known as the Woman Suffrage Amendment, gave women the right to vote. Fifty years later, Representative Bella Abzug established a bill to appoint August 26th as Women's Equality Day. The next year, 1971, the bill was accepted.

Ninety-one years after the passing of the Woman Suffrage Amendment, the amendment is still commemorated on Women's Equality Day. However, Women's Equality Day does not celebrate just the amendment; it also emphasizes women's continuing fight to gain full equality.

Changing Culture of the Far East District

By Sharon Garay-Rodriguez
FED Korea Program Relocation

Prior to my arrival to the Far East District family back in June 2010, I was wondering how a female engineer would fit on the Construction field in the Asian culture. To my surprise, I found a female Resident Engineer, Earnetta Brady at the Parcel 2 Resident Office. She was overseeing the Land Development and Utility Infrastructure project, the pillar for the Yongsan Relocation Program. Shortly after my arrival, I visited the Fiscal Year 09 Family Housing Towers; I was amazed with the respect and formality the contractor showed me. Then I knew I was welcome to the Korean culture!

Similar to many other women, my professional career has been full of challenges. The engineering field is a career field which has been male-dominated. Back in my college days, I was the only woman in the classroom, and always had to work harder than anyone because eyes were always on me. That has not changed over time, but it is not as marked as it used to be. Making a mistake is something women cannot afford to, in particular male dominated fields. If given an opportunity, women have to do the best possible to make sure doors are not closed for other women following their steps.

One of the most challenging jobs I had earlier in my career was working with the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority as a transmission and distribution engineer. I still remember one occasion on which we had to conduct operations and repair on a 38-kilovolt transmission line and the high voltage line could not be sectionalized—de-



The Garay Family. (From left to right) Luis, Krystal and Sharon. Their son, Jean, a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy not available for picture. (Photo Courtesy of Sharon Garay-Rodriguez)

energized. One of the workers challenged me to get on the bucket truck and connect myself to the live line. I said, “why not?” I actually did get on the bucket truck and “clipped” myself to an energized 38-kilovolt line. After that moment, it was evident the pride the workers showed on their faces when they worked with me or when they talked about me. They told the story to everyone! They used to call me “la jefa”, which means the boss.

Continued on the next page

Changing Culture of the Far East District

Continued from the previous page

During my professional career, I have faced very difficult times. But I have not been discouraged; on the contrary, difficult times make me stronger. Women need to be confident and perseverant, and always take advantage of all the professional opportunities that are presented. The Far East District counts with many women whom portray these characteristics in different ways. I have had the opportunity to meet some of these talented women who work in different areas: Sarah Woo from Engineering Division, Anisha Downs and Keysha Cutts from Korea Program Relocation Office, Monte Howard from Workforce Management, and Tamara Watts-Stephens from Equal Employment Office. These are just a few women who have very important roles within the Far East District family.

After various job experiences in different engineering areas, working in different countries, with different cultures and working environments, I have to say that I have had great

people around me whom have valued hard work and have trusted me when an opportunity has arisen. At the Far East District I have had the opportunity to work in construction, participate in career fairs, participate in events like Kids in Hard Hats, and now with KPRO on the planning and execution of the Yongsan Relocation Program. As a professional, working mom, and military spouse; I hope to be an inspiration and have the opportunity to mentor many other women. With every opportunity or challenge that is entrusted to me, comes my commitment to help others and continue to build stronger bridges for other women. The Far East District has offered me the opportunity to be if not the first one, one of the few women to obtain a senior position within the District. This shows the cultural change not only in a male-predominated career field, but a country on which women posses a more traditional role. I am proud to be part of the Far East District family...thank you team!



Good Neighbor Program Book Drive for “Kids in Hard Hats”

Books may be dropped off at the Far East District Public Affairs Office, Room 201, Building S-68. Please call for more information at 721-7501/7115.

*Sorry, no magazines.



Thanks for your warm welcome

By Hilary Thomas
ROTC Fighting Mustang Battalion

I first arrived in Korea on a Saturday, the 16th of July. I was new to the country, food and culture and had very few expectations for what I was about to encounter. As I leave now, just a few short weeks later, I reflect back on an incredible educational and cultural adventure.

For me, the journey all began when I applied for the Engineering Internship Program in late November. The internship mentioned a possibility of an overseas trip, but I did not think much of it. I had no idea the internship was going to offer me an abroad opportunity to observe both construction and the culture of another country.

The majority of my time in Korea was spent at the Pyongtaek Resident Office. At this office I rotated between the various Construction Representatives on their individual projects. This offered me the opportunity to see a multitude of project types. From high-rise construction to underground parking to maintenance facilities, I got to see it all! Acting as a shadow, I followed each Construction Representative and was exposed to many different phases of construction, documents and meetings. Each of the Construction Representatives was extremely helpful and knowledgeable as they spent time answering my countless questions and explaining documents. One Construction Representative created daily assignments for me on the job site, giving me an opportunity to put what I had been learning to the test.



Hilary Thomas (right) discusses issues with Maj. John Burrescia (middle), Resident Engineer of the Central Resident Office and Tom Larkin (left), Deputy Resident Engineer, CRO at the construction site of 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Headquarters. (Photo by Patrick Bray)

Aside from the educational experience I received on the job site, I was learning just as much off the job site. I was very fortunate to take part in a Ministry of National Defense two-day cultural tour. This tour exposed me to all types of Korean food, history and the ways of living as a Buddhist monk. Through my own adventures I took trips to Seoul, Osan, downtown Pyongtaek and Daecheon Beach. Often facing the challenges a foreign traveler comes across: getting on the wrong train, being clueless to what you are ordering or eating, and packing a backpack for the weekend with little idea of what is in store. I reflect back on my time here in Korea and feel like I have checked just about everything off my list. I have delighted in the shopping, food and incredible people of Korea and am sad to see my time here come to an end.

I would like to extend a final thank you to the Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District for making all of this possible, and to Col. Don Degidio, FED Commander who immediately made me feel welcome. To my awesome sponsor Maj. John Burrescia who enthusiastically answered my endless questions about branching and the Army, who always made sure I was learning and exploring. Finally thank you to all the Construction Representatives, Engineers and other professionals I interacted with, thank you for taking the time out of your day to entertain and educate me while I was here.

Kamsah hamnida!



Hilary Thomas poses for a picture at a local Korean restaurant. (Photo Courtesy of Hilary Thomas)



Being a part of FED

By Youheum Son
FED Public Affairs Summer Hire

As I am heading for graduation for next year in 2012 at Seoul American High School, and plan on going to college, the whole summer hire experience I had during a portion of my break was a great chance to make valuable work experience and construct a strong portfolio. I did plan to do several things before my last year, and I am glad that I made the choice to include “working” as part of it, because through this experience, I’ve learned the ways of becoming a successful graphic artist, and most importantly the value of interacting with co-workers and building partnership.

Most of the days at the office started out with the other summer hire and volunteering student stacking and packaging books to send out to Korean students. My task were a bit different, I usually sat at the desk making spread sheets, editing images, and searching for photos on the web. Although, most of my time was spent in front of the monitor, once I had the chance to take pictures of a Union meeting with the Colonel. It was difficult managing not to get in the way of the photographers, and still attempt to get some good shots of the scene. Overall, I’m not sure how the photos turned out to be, but I believe that the opportunity itself was good enough for me.

Besides being an amateur photographer for a moment, another challenging but yet fascinating work given to me was to create a caricature of a Korean student from the Good Neighbor Program wearing a Far East District safety hat. Drawing sketches, coloring, and, working with Adobe Photoshop are all something that I always enjoyed, I also took an AP Studio Art class during my junior year, so I had plenty of fun getting the job done. Although it took hard work, I was glad to see my own work on a spread when the “East Gate Edition” was published. It was something that I wouldn’t have got the chance to do in my Software or Multimedia class at high school.

Within the four weeks of working as a summer hire in the FED compound Public Affairs Office, I was able to work in a field among professionals. It was quite a challenge to keep up with the pace of such specialists, but as we worked on certain projects and assignments together, I felt like I was a part of them. Although I’m still just a rookie, it seemed to me that I was becoming more mature through accumulating

various experiences of working with graphic designing and publishing. It was a valuable and memorable time for me, and in conclusion, I can most definitely say that my twenty days in the Public Affairs Office was a time well spent.



Youheum Son, FED Public Affairs Summer Hire, receives a Dongdaemun Plaque from Joe Campbell, FED Public Affairs Officer, August 12. (Photo by Patrick Bray)



Youheum Son, FED Public Affairs Summer Hire, works on at her desk in the Public Affairs Office. (Photo by Patrick Bray)



Glimpse of Working as a Federal Employee

By Forrest Boozer-Lockridge

FED Public Affairs Summer Hire

To say that working as a Summer Hire employee was hard would be an understatement, when the truth is the work itself was way more tough then I anticipated previous to my work experience. On the first day of the job I was instantly put to work, sorting through thousands of books which were donated for the Good Neighbor Program and to be distributed throughout many various Korean schools which lack English Literature. By sorting through books I mean going through each box and withdrawing literature with adult themed content, profanity, religious content, and basically anything not suitable for children or teenagers of 18 years of age and below. Anything that was picked out of the boxes was transferred to a variety of other boxes which included books that are to be delivered to troops

in Afghanistan. After I sorted through them, they had to be wrapped and ready for transport.

My next task included going through thousands of picture slides arranged in 46 different binders and selecting pictures of various buildings the Army Corps of Engineers had built from the 50s to the 80s. After selecting nearly 200 photographs I devised a system to keep track of each photo and the locations of each one. After the task was complete we had the slides converted into digital files to be used in Power Point presentations and possibly even the East Gate Edition. Aside from other small tasks here and there, those were my primary objectives during the short month I worked in the Public Affairs office. Overall, my experience as an FED employee was both interesting and educating at the same time. This special opportunity gave me a glimpse of how it is to work as a federal employee.



FED Public Affairs Summer students, (from left) Youheum Son, Forrest Boozer-Lockridge and Dakota Degidio pose for a group picture after receiving Dongdaemun Plaques from Joe Campbell, FED Public Affairs Officer, August 12. (Photo by Patrick Bray)

Ken Pickler

FED US Union Rep



My Plan

I help the Corps Build Strong in Korea by...

- Settling disputes at the lowest level possible
- Mediate between bargaining unit members and management as necessary
- Keep the Chain of Command apprised of union issues and concerns

My Face



I am a key person in the Corps by...

- Spreading merriment and love as "Bo-Bo" a Shriner Clown at local orphanages
- Provide holiday cheer as "Santa" during seasonal events
- Dream of going back to my rusted out 1969 Porche in Fayetteville, NC
- I served 22 years on active duty and my heart is still with the 307th Engineer Bn, 82nd Airborne Division.

Yi Won-son

FED KN Union Rep



My Plan

I help the Corps Build Strong in Korea by...

- Representing the ideas of Korean Employees
- Being a good listener and addressing concerns of our Union Employees
- Strengthening relationships and partnerships

My Face



I am a key person in the Corps by...

- Devoting myself to my family and fellow employees
- Participating in special events with Korean Employees
- Proudly serving the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District for over 25 years

FED Block Builders

finish second season



By Patrick Bray
FED Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District Block Builders finished the season in the U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Company Level Softball League which concluded July 12.

This summer was the second season for the Block Builders which was organized last year by Djuan Franklin and Adrian DeVillasee. One of the successes this year was the increase in FED's fan base at the games. The team hopes to continue this increase in fans for next year.



(Clockwise) David Ham is safe on third base before the baseman could tag him during a game with the 348th Quartermaster Co. June 28.

Djuan Franklin leaps for a fly ball during FED's game with the 348th Quartermaster Co. June 28. Franklin along with Adrian DeVillasee organized the team last year. FED's fan base has grown throughout the season with hopes of continuing next year.

Adrian De Villasee returns the ball to the pitcher during practice before a game May 26. DeVillasee along with Djuan Franklin organized the team last year. FED's fan base has grown throughout the season with hopes of continuing next year. (Photos by Patrick Bray)



Chon Chong-ki
Korea Program Relocation



Dussing, Scott P.
Korea Program Relocation



Kim Kyong-in
Information Management



Kim Nam-hui
Korea Program Relocation



Kiwawa, Kurtis
Contracting



Kye, Yong
Engineering



Lee, Kyung Yol
Construction



Mau, Cecilla J.
Korea Program Relocation



Messier, Jean-Pierre
Korea Program Relocation



Sugahar, Chun Chong
Resource Management



Talbot, David M.
Construction



Yi Sung-hwan
Construction

From the Commander

Thank you for doing GREAT things:



Kim Hyon-cha, Resource Management (FED File Photo)



Kim Chong-o, Engineering Division, Cost Engineering (FED File Photo)



Song Un-ho, Engineering Division, Geotechnical and Environmental Engineering (FED File Photo)



Sin Hyon-chun, Engineering Division, Geotechnical and Environmental Engineering (FED File Photo)



Choe Min-kwan, Logistics Management (FED File Photo)



Central Resident Office (FED File Photo)



Pyongtaek Resident Office (FED File Photo)



Parcel II Resident Office (FED File Photo)



Korea Program Relocation Office, Army Branch at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys (FED File Photo)



사령관 코너

Col. Donald E. Degidio, Jr.

최고의 극동 공병단 팀과 모든 팀들에게,

제 아내인 도나와 제 아들 다코타 그리고 저는 따뜻하게 환영해 주신데 대해 다시 한번 감사를 드립니다. 대한민국에서 여러분들과 함께 우리 공병단, 우리의 고객들 그리고 우리 공동체를 위해 봉사하게 된 것은 제게 큰 기쁨입니다. 매일 저는 매우 다양한 문화를 가진 역동적인 사람들과 함께 하고 있는 것이 우리에게 얼마나 큰 축복인가를 느끼고 있습니다.

극동 공병단에게 있어 8월은 매우 역동적인 달입니다. 우리 군인들과 EEC/MEC 멤버들이 함께 2011년 을지 자유 수호 훈련에 참가했습니다. 제 바람과 기대는 이 곳 극동지역의 안전과 안정이지만, 만일의 경우 전쟁 억지가 실패한다면 대한민국에서 복무하고 있는 용감한 남녀들이 내일의 요구에 응하기 위해 준비되어 있고, 훈련되어 있으며 즉각 응답할 수 있어야 한다는 것을 저는 잘 알고 있습니다.

아시아의 안전과 안정을 위해 매우 중요한 조직인 극동 공병단은 한반도에 강한 건설을 수행하는 하나의 팀이어야 합니다. 부분의 합보다는 하나의 팀이 더 강한 법이기 때문에 우리는 하나의 팀으로 강한 건설을 수행해왔고 또 계속 그렇게 일할 것입니다. 우리는 한미 양국의 강한 동맹과 우리의 고객들을 위해 똑같이 열정적으로 일합니다. 최고의 사람들이 잘 보살핌을 받을 때 그들이 프로젝트를 잘 수행하고 그 프로젝트는 또한 우리의 고객들을 만족시킬 것입니다.

하나의 팀으로 함께 일해 나가면서, 저는 여러분께 우리를 최고로 만들어주는 것들에 대해 생각해 보시기를 부탁드립니다. 이번 달에는 우리의 양 옆과 앞 뒤 주변을 돌아보시기를 부탁드립니다. 누가 보이십니까? 저는 우리가 아끼는 사람들과 - 우리 공병단 - 그리고 역동적인 미래를 준비하기 위한 비전이 보입니다.

개인적으로나 직업적으로 역동적인 미래를 준비하고 나아가면서, 저는 여러분이 언젠가 우리 공병단에 남겨두고 떠날 자리를 봐주시기를 바랍니다. 스스로에게 물어보십시오. “내가 있던 자리에 누가 있게 될까?” 우리 모두는 최고의 리더를 만드는 구성요소들입니다: 연민, 믿음, 지혜. 저는 여러분이 언젠가 떠날 그 자리에 있게 될 적격의 사람을 골라서 교육시키시기를 바랍니다. 여러분은 우리의 오늘을 최고로 만들고 있습니다; 이제 우리가 영원히 최고가 될 수 있도록 도와주십시오.

우리의 최고의 동맹에게 – 같이 갑시다!

우리의 최고의 공병단에게 – 에세이온!

한반도의 강한 건설을 수행하는 하나의 팀!

In case you missed it...

Col. Donald Degidio, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District, cuts the cake with Jon Iwata, Deputy District Engineer, during the FED Change of Command Ceremony July 8. (Photo by Patrick Bray)

For more photos from the FED Change of Command, visit us on Flickr at www.flickr.com/photos/fedpao



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