



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Far East District

EAST GATE EDITION

JULY 2015 VOL. 24, NO. 9

Col. Bales takes command of the Far East District

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

Col. Stephen H. Bales relieved Col. Bryan S. Green, as commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Far East District (FED), July 24 on U.S Army Garrison Yongsan, Republic of Korea.

The ceremony was presided over by Brig. Gen. Jeffrey L. Milhorn, commander of the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers Pacific Ocean Division.

Milhorn highlighted several achievements during Col. Green's tenure including the completion of the Osan Air Base second runway, the integration of unmanned assets to the district and the continuing partnership in science, technology, engineering and mathematics in Department of Defense Dependents (DoDDS) Schools Korea.

He also spoke about the strong relationship between the U.S. and the Republic of Korea.

"I want to highlight our unified commitment in building facilities throughout the Korean peninsula to deliver to all of our partners and stakeholders," said Milhorn. "My sincere appreciation to all of them [partners and stakeholders] represented both by the ministry of National Defense-Defense Installation Agency (MND-DIA) and the Ministry of National Defense United States Forces Korea (USFK) Base Relocation Office."

Green, in his farewell remarks, recognized all district employees for supporting him throughout the last two years.

"Best job I ever had," said Green. "I wouldn't change a thing. I've loved every minute of it and you've supported us the whole way. I hope I was able to give as much as you all gave me."

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Brig. Gen. Jeffrey L. Milhorn (left), Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division, passes the Engineer Colors to Col. Stephen H. Bales (right), Far East District commander, during a change of command ceremony on U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan July 24. (Photo by O Sang-song)





Far East District contracting division contracts branch chief Michael Miyagi (center) publicly opened sealed bids at district headquarters for the Camp Walker Army family housing tower project in Daegu, Korea June 24. This is the first time the district has used the sealed bidding method to award a contract. (Photos by Yi Yong-un)



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Check out the Far East District web site at
www.pof.usace.army.mil

Col. Bales takes command of the Far East District

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Green departs for Vicksburg, Mississippi where he will be the commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Engineer Research & Development Center.

Bales arrived in Korea after attending the United States Army War College at Carlisle barracks in Pennsylvania. During his remarks he said he is eager to be able to lead and serve with USACE, FED, USFK and our partners in the Republic of Korea (ROK).

"I am personally and professionally excited about the future of the construction program," said Bales. "We have a \$10.7 billion program at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys to deliver modern and sustainable facilities to our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Department of Defense civilians, ROK counterparts and family members. I'm looking forward to working with our partners to deliver on our promises to both the United States and Republic of Korea to sustain and strengthen our alliance."

The Far East District is one of four districts within the Pacific Ocean Division and one of 45 districts in the United States Army Corps of Engineers. It is headquartered in Seoul, Republic of Korea and is the premier engineering, design, and construction agent for all Department of Defense agencies in the Republic of Korea. With a workforce of more than 500 Soldiers, Department of Defense civilians, and Korean

employees the Far East District contributes significantly to the peace and security in the Pacific region through the execution of a multi-billion dollar construction program for U.S. Forces in the Republic of Korea - worldwide, it is the largest construction program managed by the U.S. Army.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District change of command ceremony was presided over by Brig. Gen. Jeffrey L. Milhorn (center), Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division. Col. Stephen H. Bales (left) relieved Col. Bryan S. Green (right) as commander of the Far East District on U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan July 24. (Photo by O Sang-song)





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FAR EAST DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
UNIT #15546
APO AP 96205-5546**

CEPOF-DC

24 Jul 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

SUBJECT: Leadership Philosophy

1. I summarize my leadership philosophy as follows: *The true measure of leadership is the impact the leader has on their subordinates.* Good leaders have a positive impact on those around them. They establish and maintain a trusting, positive, supportive, and productive environment in which everyone can thrive and succeed. That is what I seek to provide every day.

2. As I discussed during the change-of-command, my personal priorities are my Faith, my Family, and my Work. This helps me keep all aspects of my life in balance. This approach does not mean I will not give my maximum effort toward providing leadership for the Far East District. My pledge to you is that I will always provide you my best effort and provide the leadership this extraordinary organization deserves each day.

3. Below are just a few more points about my approach to leadership:

- a. Dignity and Respect are paramount. A thank you goes a long way.
- b. Trust forms the foundation of leadership; trust within and across the organization.
- c. I am committed to and passionate about the Army, USACE, and my opportunity to serve as a leader in these great organizations. My role as a leader is to serve the organization.
- d. I am approachable and available.
- e. Email is a communication tool not a leadership tool.
- f. Learn something each day to make yourself and/or the organization better tomorrow.

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**STEPHEN H. BALES
COL, EN
Commanding**

Local intern quickly becomes integral part of the team at southern resident office

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

Gu Gui-young, a senior at Yeungnam University majoring in materials science and engineering and an intern at the Far East District's (FED) southern resident office since March, is taking advantage of her time at FED by learning new skills and the American way of life.

"I saw that ACS (Army Community Service) was advertising for internships and I thought I can improve my English speaking and writing skills as well as learn more about American culture," said Gu. "I am enjoying working here. It is very nice and couldn't be better. All the engineers are nice and kind, even with some language difficulties at the construction site they understand me and let me know my errors."

Gu has been interested in the engineering field for most of her life.

"Engineering has logical answers," said Gu. "That is the fascinating thing for me. We can design something and then develop it in a better direction."

As an intern she has learned about the construction of buildings and renovations. Most of her time has been spent on large projects such as an office center on Camp Carroll and the middle and high school project on Camp Walker.

"To build big buildings like a school, I learned about driving piles, rebar work, form work, and placing concrete slabs," said Gu. "Most of all, safety is the most important thing on a construction site. There are many dangerous construction materials around us, and if careless, it's easy to be injured in an accident."

Gu has been an active part of ensuring quality at construction sites.

During concrete placement she performs tests' assuring it is not too hard or too soft.

"If it dries too fast, it becomes hard and difficult to control the shape and finish," said Gu. "On the other hand, if it is too wet, that is a sign the concrete mixture is not correct and may be too weak and may easily break. We make sure that a strength test and slump test are done whenever concrete is placed."

Elisa Beck, southern resident office resident engineer, said having an intern of her quality has been nothing but positive for her entire team.

"Having Ms. Gu working here is of great benefit for our office and our projects," said Beck. "She provides expertise in materials engineering: a branch of engineering that is not commonly seen in the construction field. She started visiting our job sites and assisting our project engineers and quality assurance representatives since her very first day. I am very happy she is here."

Gu said the internship is a way to broaden her horizons and experience a different learning environment than the one she is used to.

"As my major is about materials, and not directly related to construction, almost all the things that I learned are new and interesting to me," said Gu. "I like this phrase: all experience is good experience," said Gu.

She said knowledge and skills she



acquired at the Far East District will make her a more valuable employee in the future when she embarks on a full time career.

"This experience will be absolutely helpful for me," said Gu. "I will remember the skills and methods used here and I believe they will be a good foundation for anything I do in the future."

Gu Gui-young, a senior at Yeungnam University majoring in materials science and engineering and an intern at the Far East District's southern resident office, on site at the middle and high school project at Camp Walker. (FED File Photo)

New Kunsan resident engineer relishes his new role

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

The new resident engineer at the Kunsan resident office brings a wealth of experience and a team oriented attitude to his new role. Chris Martin officially became the resident engineer at Kunsan on June 14.

"I believe this assignment will be great, everyone here knows their job and performs it well," said Martin. "I will gain experience from everyone here, probably more so than I can teach them what I know. My goal will be to share my experiences and hopefully make this team better than it already is."

Martin arrived at the Far East District in Sept. 2012 and was assigned at the parcel 2 resident office outside US Army Garrison Humphreys working in the land, development, utility

and infrastructure area. He previously worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Afghanistan and at Fort Benning, Georgia.

"Before working for the corps I worked with the Georgia Department of Transportation so I have a lot of road construction experience," said Martin.

He caught the engineering bug as a child watching his dad work with heavy machinery.

"That sparked my interest in civil engineering," said Martin. "I enjoyed trying to figure out how things were built. Math also seemed to come natural, so engineering was an easy career choice."

Martin heard about the Far East District from co-workers while in Afghanistan and was immediately in-

terested in the possibility of landing a job with the district and learning about another culture.

"I meet a number of people over in Afghanistan that told me about Korea and the huge program here," said Martin. "I was intrigued. I like the challenge and the opportunity to see multiple cultures. I like the Asian culture. "The food is good, too. I love bulgogi and kimchi."

Not only was Korea an opportunity to do the job in a new culture, it also provided the avenue for career development for Martin who is trying to get his acquisition level II requirement and become an administrative contracting officer.

Continued on the next page



(above) Chris Martin, new resident engineer at the Kunsan resident office, at his desk on Kunsan Air Base.

(left) Chris Martin, (2nd from left) discusses quality control issues with contractors outside a job site on Kunsan Air Base. (FED file photos)

New Kunsan resident engineer relishes his new role

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"I do like constantly learning and challenging myself," said Martin. "Experience in a different position will allow me to grow as an individual and hopefully assist others to grow."

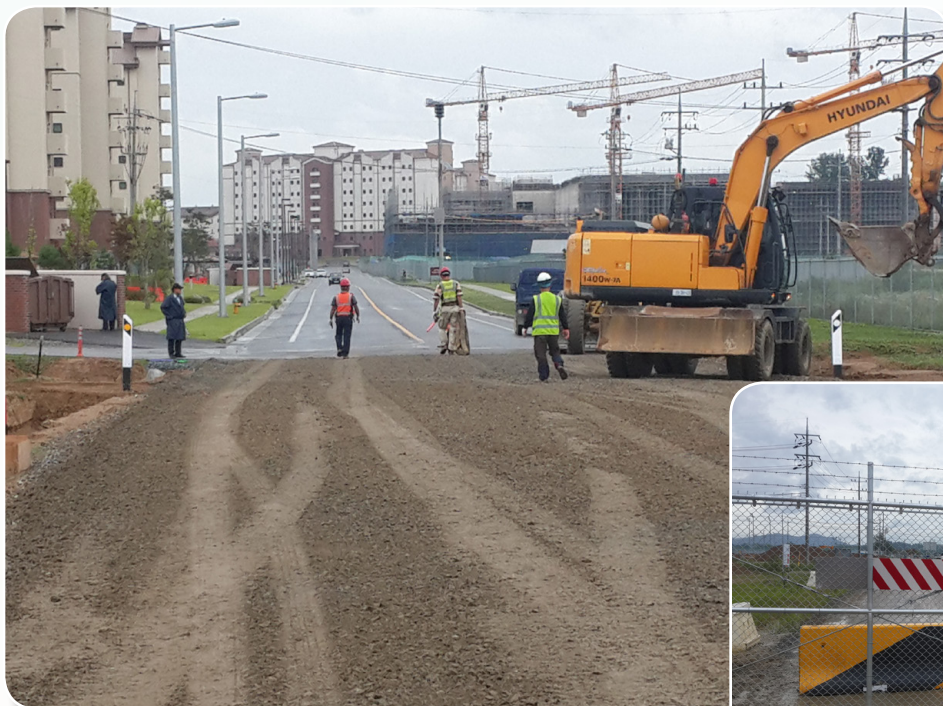
As he settles in to his new role Martin said his main goal in the immediate future is to familiarize himself with the contracts and to respond timely to any issues or concerns.

"Of course job transitions are tough at the beginning, but I have a great staff here at Kunsan that will teach me and

help me along the way," said Martin. "So far, the people that work here have treated me like family. I feel welcomed and valued. I will strive to do my best to help others feel the same. I want to promote, encourage and mentor my employees, but also have fun. After all, if work is an environment that encourages you to be the best, you can be, and it's fun and everyone wins."



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pacific Ocean Division hosted a visit by Maj. Gen. Tak Bu-young to the Corps' Division headquarters at Fort Shafter June 19. Maj. Gen. Tak, who is Commander, Defense Installations Agency Ministry of National Defense for the Republic of Korea, met with POD Commander, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Milhorn; Gene Ban, POD's Director of Programs; and other POD senior leaders to exchange views on matters of common interest, such as emergency management and the Yongsan Relocation Plan/Land Partnership Plan. The visit included a site visit to the new U.S. Army Pacific's Mission Command Facility, which, when completed, will support Mission Command of the Army or joint forces across the Asia-Pacific area of operations. The meeting was an annual event in support of a partnering agreement between both governments to work together to enhance the existing U.S.- Republic of Korea bilateral relationship and to improve engineering support in the execution of respective missions. (FED file photo)



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Humphreys area office and Korea Program Relocation office completed a new fence line and gate on the western part of U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys July 12. The new fence increased the base size by 100 percent, and also brought in 45 new facilities to USAG Humphreys. (Photo by William Billard)



Far East District commander Col. Bryan S. Green and Ministry of National Defense - Defense Installation Agency Air Force Col. Lee Keon-seop hosted a DIA-FED partnership hiking trip at Inwangsan July 17. A total of 30 engineers from both organizations participated in the event which brought fellow engineers together and helped develop better bond and trust between the two organizations. (FED file photos)





Building *Safety* Strong

ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG

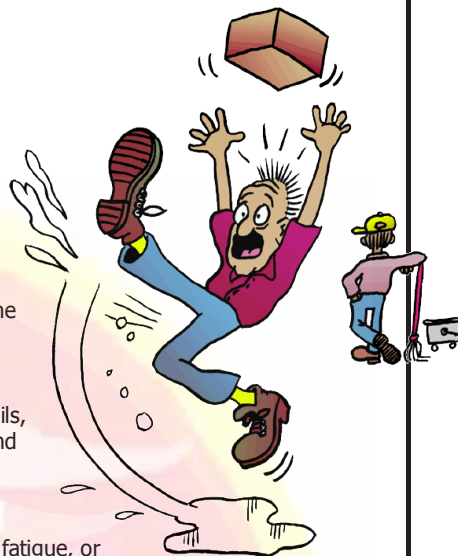


Don't Fall Down On Safety

A fall might not seem like the most serious kind of accident. Often, it is not. However, did you know the number one workplace killer is slips and falls?

The main causes of slips, trips, and falls in the workplace are:

- ◆ **Poor housekeeping:** Scrap on floors, spilled liquids, equipment cluttering the aisles all of these scenarios can lead to someone slipping and falling if we simply ignore these hazards. You may think someone else will take care of it, but that may not happen in time to prevent an accident.
- ◆ **Dangerous surface conditions:** Broken or cracked surfaces, protruding nails, different elevations which are unmarked, torn carpets, loose or curled mats and slippery finishes are all hazards.
- ◆ **Insufficient lighting:** Dim or incorrect lighting, glare in areas where it is dangerous or lights which flicker or "strobe" and cause perception difficulties.
- ◆ **Inattention to tasks:** Carelessness brought on by inexperience, horseplay, fatigue, or personal problems.
- ◆ **Improper footwear:** Shoes which are not properly fastened, are too big, too small, have slippery bottoms or oversized heels.



Here are some ways to prevent this common but sometimes deadly kind of accident:

- ◆ Conduct regular safety inspections of your work area to identify and remove slipping and tripping hazards.
- ◆ Keep your work area and traffic areas free of tripping hazards such as stored materials, scrap, cables, cords and unnecessary equipment or tools. Tool boxes are common tripping hazards, so keep them out of the way.
- ◆ Close drawers and cabinet doors to prevent someone from falling over them.
- ◆ Promptly clean up all spills. Rainwater in a doorway, coffee on a hall floor and oil leaking from machinery are all common slipping hazards. Help keep the floors dry in lunchrooms and washrooms, too.
- ◆ Watch where you are going. Don't try to walk while focusing on your smart phone, reading something, or carrying an object you can't see over.
- ◆ Don't walk backwards. Many tripping accidents occur when a person backs up and trips over something.
- ◆ Take your time; don't run or rush. It is especially important to slow down on wet floors, icy pavement and sloped surfaces.
- ◆ Wear footwear that helps you to stay on your feet. Shoes should be well-fitting with low heels. Soles should be made of a non-slip material for most work situations. Footwear with treads or cleats may be called for in some jobs.
- ◆ Make sure the lighting is good in your work and traffic areas. Many accidents involving falls occur in dark storerooms and dim hallways.
- ◆ Have your vision checked regularly and change your prescription eyewear as required.



Check your work area and your work habits frequently to make sure you are doing all you can to prevent slips, trips, and falls. Practice good worksite housekeeping, wear well-fitting shoes, and pay attention to where you are stepping.



Carol Spratley
Korea Program Relocation
Came from Blue Grass Army Depot,
Kentucky



Dale Raffield
Logistics Management
Came from Mississippi Valley Division



Judy Whitefield
Construction
Newly hired



Tommy Penrose
Safety
Came from U.S Army Pacific, Hawaii



Lt. Col. Mitchell DeMarais
Korean Program Relocation
Individual Ready Reserve



Maj. Luke Koerschner
Security, Plans and Operation
Came from Portsmouth Naval Shipyard,
Maine



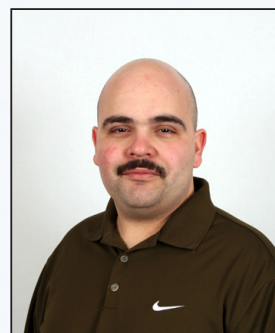
1st Lt. Michael Mouw
Korea Program Relocation
Came from Federal Aviation Administration



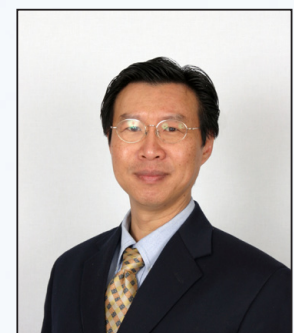
Amanda Boucher
Logistics Management
Moved to Nebraska



David Wilson
Security, Plans and Operation
Transferred to Fort Hood, Texas



Gabriel Garcia
Information Management
Transferred to NAVFAC, Hawaii

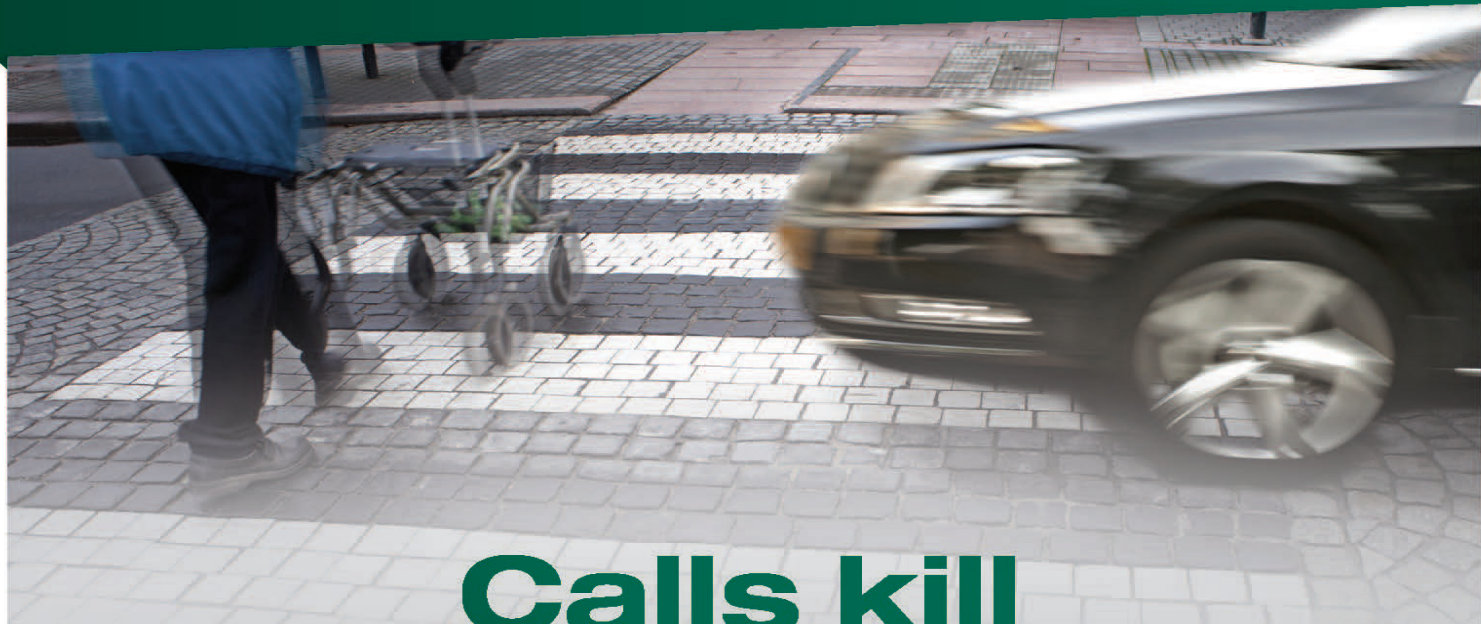


Loren Chin
Programs and Project Management
Transferred to Washington D.C.



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Drivers talking on cell phones, handheld or hands-free, can miss seeing 50% of what's around them.



Calls kill

Hands-free is not risk-free

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