US Army Corps of Engineers®
Far East District

EAST GATE EDITION

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Far East District in-house drilling and materials testing capabilities

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

The Far East District is recognized as one of only nine in-house drilling and subsurface exploration production centers (drilling production centers) and one of only eight in-house materials testing laboratories for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers providing professional services during design and construction. The exploration unit and materials testing laboratory (MTL) is part of the geotechnical and environmental engineering branch in the engineering division of the district.

FED exploration unit drilling teams collect soil and rock samples with the use of in-house drill rigs. These samples are then tested in the MTL which has the USACE validation ("corps-validated") for testing from the material testing center (MTC) at Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Mississippi. The testing helps engineers and geologists to expertly characterize the subsurface soil and rock for a future construction site. Material testing includes, but is not limited to, engineering classification of soil such as sieve analyses and density, soil consolidation and direct shear, tri-axial, and testing for aggregate, concrete and asphalt quality.

"Based on testing we can determine the engineering characteristic of the soil and how it will perform when built upon," said Pam Lovasz, geotechnical section chief. "Things like what type of soil it is, how much it will settle, compaction characteristics and bearing capacity."

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(left) CME-75 Truck-mounted drill rig at Yongsan Relocation Project site at USAG Humphreys.
(right) CME-75 Trailer-mounted drill rig at the existing boundary of USAG Humphreys. (FED file photos)

Construction is rapidly progressing at U. S. Army Garrison Humphreys as the Far East District continues to provide oversite and quality assurance on more than 100 projects at the installation. (U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys photos)


New Gas Station


New Auto Skills Center


New Car Wash


New AAFES Garage


New Commissary

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Far East District welcomes new Sergeant Major

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

The Far East District welcomed a new Sergeant Major in August as Sgt. Maj. Robert Stanek came on board. Stanek brings decades of experience to the Corps having served in the Army since 1975.

A native of North Dakota, Stanek attended North Dakota State and graduated with a degree in industrial engineering. Shortly thereafter he went to work for the 3M Company in Minnesota, while continuing to serve in the Army National Guard and later the Army Reserves.

His first assignment in the Army was in Korea in 1975.

"I wanted to end my Army career where it began," said Stanek. "It was one of those things where karma all came together and it was just perfect timing."

Throughout his Army career Stanek worked with engineering battalions, brigades, and while at the 416th Theater Engineer Command he worked quite often with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"The Army thought it would be a good match and I would fit the organization here with my background being an engineer on the civilian side and working in the engineer field on the Army Reserve side," said Stanek.

Stanek said during his time at the Far East District he will emphasize on getting personnel gaps filled on the military side and ensure that everyone is recognized for the hard work they do when their tour of duty is complete.

"I want to make sure their awards are there, their documentation is right – especially on the military side," said Stanek. "I want to get the people we need here and I think I have enough contacts that I can help and make the organization run smoother."

In his short time with the district Stanek said he admires how the organization uses all facets of its workforce to get the job done.

"I have been very impressed in how we bring the Servicemembers, Department of the Army civilians, and Korean nationals into an organization that has succeeded as well as it has," said Stanek.

This will be the third time Stanek will spend an extended amount of time in Korea. In 1988 he came to Seoul for a month to watch the Summer Olympics.

Sgt. Maj. Robert Stanek (FED file photo)

"In 1975 I learned some language skills, but not enough to be very fluent and I regretted that," said Stanek. "When I came back in 1988 I spent almost a year learning Korean so I could be more conversational. This time around I didn't have much time to study the language, but as soon as I got in country most of the language skills came back. It's helped me."

Stanek said he is looking forward to his last assignment in the Army here in the Land of the Morning Calm.

"Seeing how much this country has changed in the last 40 years is amazing and that is a testament to the hard work of the Korean people.

FED in-house drilling and materials testing capabilities

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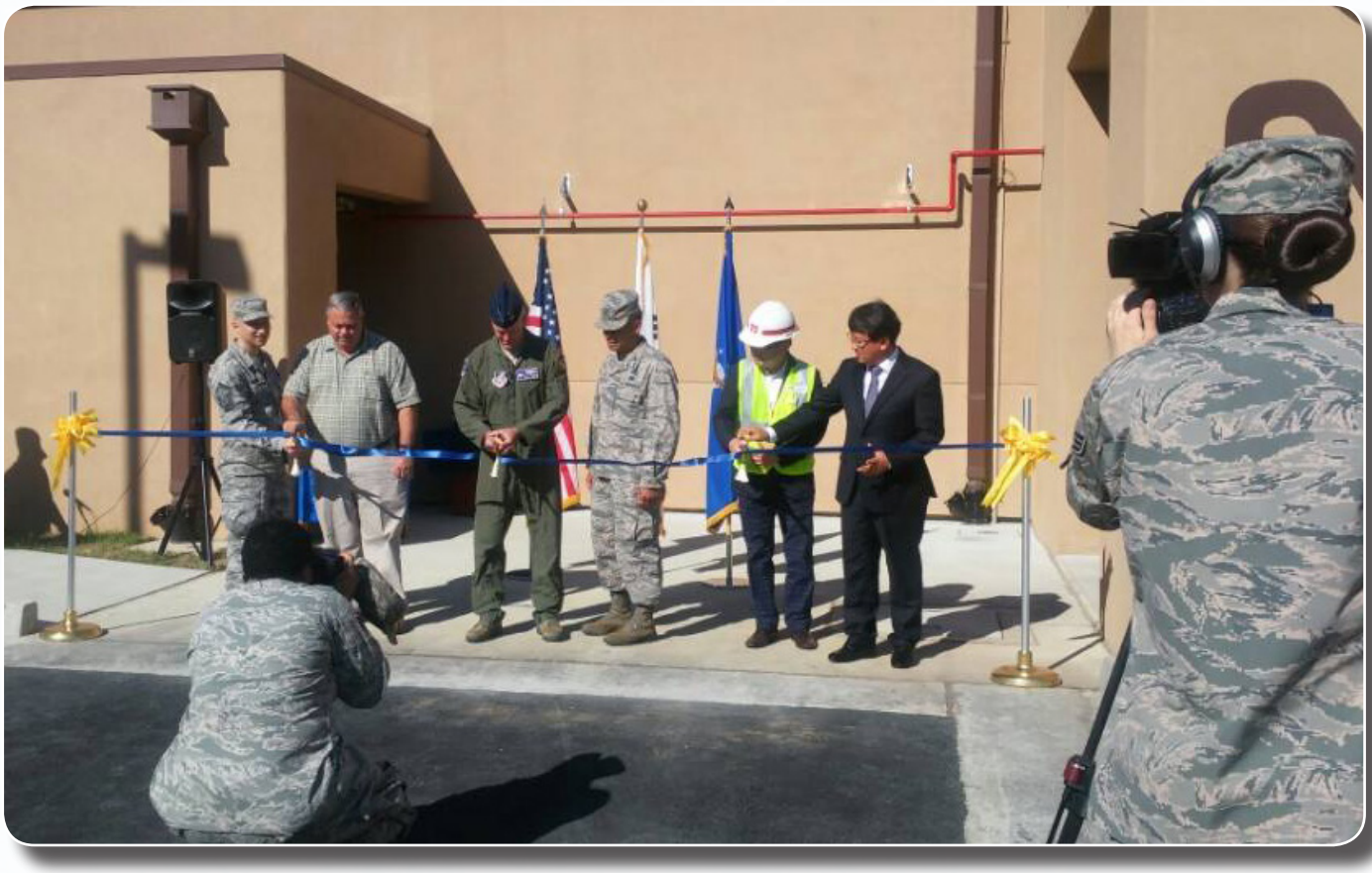
The information will then get written up in a foundation design and recommendation report by a geotechnical engineer which is a critical part of the design process. Within this report, the engineer will recommend what type of foundation should be used in the project such as a shallow footing or deep foundation supported on piles. The MTL also provides quality assurance support during pile driving using a pile driving analyzer (PDA).

"If we didn't perform a geotechnical investigation it's possible that a foundation will settle and all types of foundation problems will occur - cracks in buildings - and things of that nature," said Lovasz. "Engineers also need to know what is in the ground because you don't want to be surprised [when you are in the construction phase]. Getting an accurate view of what's underneath the ground will in the long run save time, money and reduce risk on projects. We're recognized as having this in-house ability throughout the Corps which also gives us better controls over the quality," "I am proud of the work our team does and ability to perform this work in-house."

(above left) Soil Automated Consolidation Testing Equipment
(above right) Soil Tri-axial Compression Testing Equipment
(left) High-Strain Dynamic Testing of Deep Foundations
(right) Soil Hydraulic Conductivity Testing Equipment (FED file photos)



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for precision measurement equipment laboratory (PMEL) facility at Osan Air Base Sept. 9. The facility was finished thanks to the efforts of Far East District central resident office engineers and the Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense-Defense Installation Agency. (Photo by Frank Meleton)

Far East District central resident office and Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense-Defense Installation Agency finished repairs on the Osan Air Base Runway and construction on the southern portion of the new taxiway "C" Sept. 14. Taxiway "C" connects the new outside runway with the existing inside runway. (Photo by Frank Meleton)

Autumn Safety Tips

Autumn brings one of the most beautiful times of the year with colorful leaves and pumpkins littering the ground. The season also brings up safety issues for the entire family. Prepare for the changing weather of the fall to ensure that your family is both happy and healthy the whole season long.

Colder Weather

As autumn comes into full swing, the temperatures may lower in your area, which can lead to several safety issues.

- Have your chimney and furnace cleaned and inspected on a regular basis. This helps prevent chimney fires and carbon monoxide buildup.
- Keep your fireplace hearth free of newspapers, magazines, toys, or anything combustible.
- Do not burn cardboard boxes of trash in your fireplace, as they can cause chimney fires.
- Be sure the house is well ventilated when painting or using other chemicals.
- Leave at least three feet of space around your space heater. Remember to unplug it when it's not in use.
- Use candles with care. Keep them away from flammable objects. Never leave them unattended and always extinguish them before leaving the room.

Fall Driving

There are multiple autumn safety issues that relate to the road.

- Since days are getting shorter during the fall, more driving will occur when it is dark out. This can lead to drowsiness while, which leads to more accidents. Plan for more rest throughout the season.
- School buses will now be present in the morning and small children walking to the bus.
- Leaves may cover the road and become slippery with weather. This requires careful road travel, especially for bicycles and motorcycles.
- Tire pressure can be affected by the cool nights and warm days of autumn. Make sure to check on tire pressure throughout the season.

Staying Healthy

One of the downsides of fall is that with it comes cold and flu season. Some recommendations to keep in mind:

- Always get a flu vaccination. While it's not pleasant, it's much better than coming down with the flu, which can linger for weeks, and in some cases it can even be fatal.
- If you do get sick, don't go to work unless you absolutely have to. A cold or flu can spread around an office quickly, ruining productivity.
- Always wash your hands carefully. One of the best ways to avoid a cold or the flu is to wash your hands regularly. Make sure the water is hot, use plenty of soap, and keep the hands under the water for at least 30 seconds.

Following autumn safety practices gives you piece of mind that you are taking the proper precautions to keep your family safe as they enjoy this special time of year.

Welcome to FED

BJ Mata
Information Management
Came from Naval Hospital 29 Palms, Ca.

Eric Hamilton
Public Affairs
Came from USAG Japan

James Horine
Construction
Came from Kadena Air Base, Okinawa

Jessica Raulerson
Construction
Came from Arsenal, Alabama

Robert Derrane
Resource Management
Came from Galveston District

Steven Morehead
Construction
Came from Veterans Affairs, Nevada

Capt. Frederick Garcia
Construction
Came from 85th Support Command, Ariz.

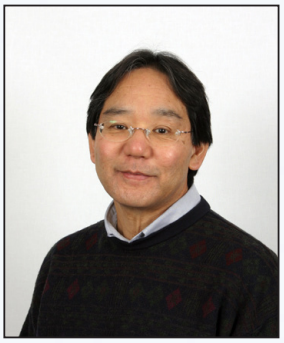
Capt. Wayne Brown
Security, Plans and Operations
Came from USACE HQ

See You Again...

Kim, Ha-na
Engineering
Transferred to Camp Henry

Mark Johnson
Information Management
Transferred to Portland District

Martin Thieleman
Information Management
Transferred to Randolph Air Force Base, Texas



Michael Miyagi
Contracting
Transferred to Seattle District

You can't watch TV while talking on the phone.
So why use a phone and drive?
The consequences can be deadly.

Calls kill

Hands-free is not risk-free

Find out why at **nsc.org/cellfree**