



US Army Corps
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Far East District

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Col. Bales receives Korean name at ceremony

By Eric M. Hamilton
FED Public Affairs

The Republic of Korea-U.S. Alliance Friendship Association presented a Korean name to Col. Stephen H. Bales, commander and district engineer of the Far East District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at a ceremony at the Korea Ministry of National Defense on Nov. 19.

The name Bales received was Kim Sin-yu, which carries a specific symbolic significance, according to Ms. Woo Hyun-euy, the association's chairwoman.

The family name of "Kim" means to be a person as valuable as gold and as strong as iron. "Kimhae" was the

chosen origin of the family name, and now Col. Bales shares the family name of Gen. Kim Yusin, the former commanding general of Silla, Woo said.

The first name, "Sin-yu," is a combination of two Chinese characters Sin and Yu.

The first character, Sin, means "new," signifies someone who displays wisdom to achieve a significant goal to become a great leader, and also gain respect from others by completing important missions.

The second character, Yu, means "to connect," refers to a person with knowledge

and virtue who will achieve success through interpersonal relationships. A person with this name will obtain the trust of supervisors and show outstanding leadership skills to subordinates.

Bales was presented with a plaque bearing his Korean name, "Kim Sin-yu" and its meaning, emphasizing the continued efforts of the U.S. Forces Korea relocation projects and strengthening of the alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States.

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The commander of the Far East District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Col. Stephen H. Bales, received the Korean name Kim Sin-yu at a ceremony held at the Ministry of National Defense Convention Center on Nov. 19, 2015. (Photos by Eric Hamilton)



The Pacific Ocean Division's Virtual Town Hall was held Oct. 22. Our leadership team built on its commitment to improving two-way communication between the District and the Division. Virtual town hall meetings provide a platform for communication between the Commanding General and District Employees; effectively conveying command guidance and giving employees at all levels the opportunity to provide feedback, ask questions and/or cite concerns. (Photos by Eric Hamilton)



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E-mail: DLL-CEPOF-WEB-PA@usace.army.mil

District Commander
Col. Stephen H. Bales
Public Affairs Officer

Stephen Satkowski

Managing Editor Kim Chong-yun

Staff Writers

Eric M. Hamilton

Yi Yong-un

Check out the Far East District web site at

www.pof.usace.army.mil

Volunteers join kimchi-making effort

By Eric M. Hamilton
FED Public Affairs

Volunteers from the Far East District joined members of the Seoul Jung-gu Saem-aul Women's Club to make kimchi for the area's needy and elderly families Nov. 18.

Volunteers at this annual event transformed 1,800 heads of cabbage into 500 boxes of kimchi, a traditional fermented Korean side dish made of vegetables with a variety of seasonings. The event was held outdoors under canopies at the Jung-gu district office, just outside the Far East District compound, preparing to distribute the boxes of kimchi to needy and elderly families in the Jung-gu area.

Ms. Sin Su-yong, a contract specialist in the Far East District's Directorate of Contracting, gave a brief overview of making kimchi. "This has been a long tradition for Korean families, preparing for the winter. Before global warming, we had four or five months

of long winter. Normally, the second or third week of November is a perfect time for kimchi making because of the weather," Sin said. "It's cool enough to prevent the kimchi from fermenting too soon. We buy red pepper, ginger, chili, onions and different kinds of vegetables and fermented fish juice to make the kimchi taste better."

From there, Sin described her memories of making the kimchi itself. "I used to buy the cabbage ... spray it with salt, and let it set overnight. It takes a long time. We put all the ingredients in one large container, and invite the neighbors to help. We also help when others invite us, and enjoy the spirit of helping and cooperation."

Sin said she volunteered to feel this spirit at the event. "Raising the awareness of helping people, with kimchi. It is time-consuming, and can

be expensive, depending on the ingredients used. It takes effort, and it takes time. I felt it was a good time for me to take leave, to volunteer to make kimchi for helping others in need," she said.

Eight other volunteers, including Lt. Col. Timika M. Wilson, deputy district commander and Ms. Hope Bales, wife of the district commander, joined Jung-gu District Mayor Choi Chang-sik and his wife, Song Won-mi, during the event. Choi expressed his gratitude to members of the district for their help in providing valued sustenance for so many in need this winter.

District volunteers have come out to support the kimchi making every year since 2008.



Volunteers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Far East District volunteered to help make kimchi on one brisk November day. (Photos by Eric Hamilton)

Col. Bales receives Korean name at ceremony

Continued from Page 1

After this presentation, Bales thanked Chairwoman Woo and the association for this honor. Noting the symbolism of his Korean name, Bales explained its personal significance to the audience.

"The first name of Sin-yu, meaning "new" and "to connect" appropriately defines my responsibilities as the new commander of the Far East District," Bales said. "It will be my duty to ensure the Far East District closely supports and enables our partners in the ROK Ministry of Defense and United States Forces Korea."

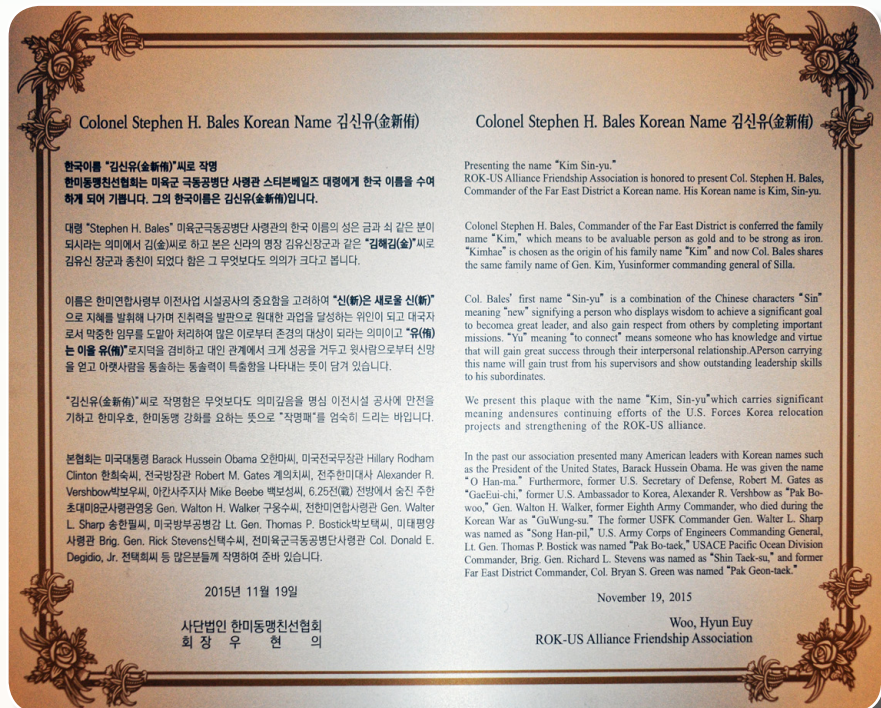
Bales mentioned the lasting strength of the alliance, and compared his current tour with the first he'd served in Korea more than 23 years ago, as a platoon leader in the 44th Engineer Battalion. Much has changed in the years since his first assignment in Korea, he said, such as Korea's growth into the 11th biggest and one of the most technologically advanced economies in the world. But what hasn't changed is the steadfast partnership between our two militaries and countries. In fact,

few alliances in history have proven as effective as ours. We truly have no better partners than those here in the Republic of Korea, Bales said.

"As we move forward with the Yongsan and Korea Relocation Plans," Bales said, "I give you my personal assurance that all of our projects will

stand strong, just as our great Alliance has stood strong for over sixty years."

The Far East District is currently expanding U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys into the largest U.S. Army garrison in Asia. As the commander of the Far East District, Bales has oversight for this entire construction project.



Student gets grounded in geotechnical engineering

By Eric M. Hamilton
FED Public Affairs

Kelly Wun, a high school senior, had a chance to learn directly from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District employees at the district compound in Seoul on Nov. 5.

Scott Bittner, a science teacher at Seoul American High School, selected Wun for this job-shadowing opportunity from eight student-candidates, in recognition of her leadership and academic interests.

The opportunity came with a bit of a sacrifice, however, because the SATs were to be held the same day. Wun said her father felt the job shadowing was clearly a unique priority.

"He said I can take the SAT next month," she said.

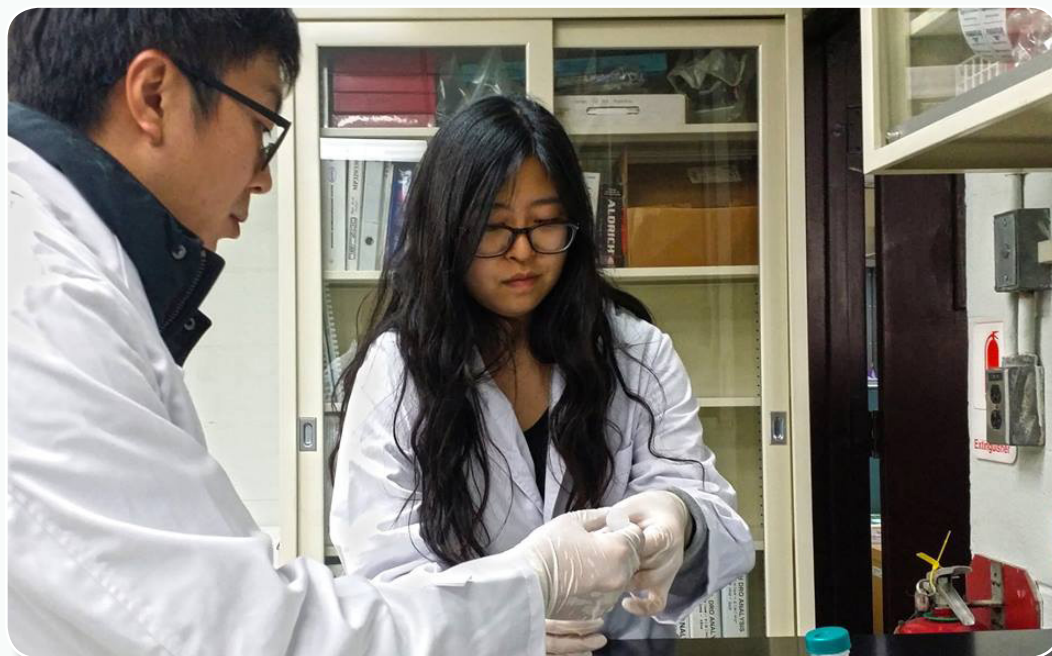
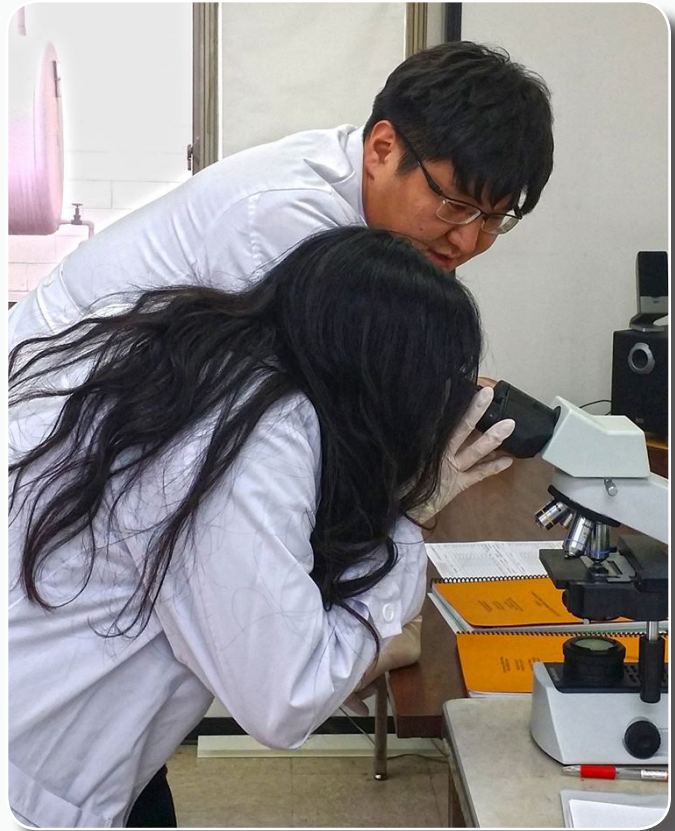
Ms. Pamela J. Lovasz, geotechnical section chief, explained why this was such a great opportunity.

"Our geotechnical branch is very unique because we perform most of our work in-house, which means we have operational testing laboratories where we test for soil and rock properties in order to provide design recommendations that will go to construction," Lovasz said.

Before the job shadowing, Wun said she considered herself to be more interested in biology, and somewhat uninformed about this particular science.

"I didn't know anything about geology," she said.

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Mr. Song Yo-sep demonstrates a field testing kit to student Kelly Wun. The field testing kit is used for screening of petroleum contaminated soil. Ms. Wun is a senior at Seoul American High School, and shadowed Far East District staff members on Nov. 5 to learn more about what they do. Mr. Song is a chemist in the Geotechnical and Environmental Engineering Branch in the Far East District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. (Photos by Dr. Chong Son-chu)

Student gets grounded in geotechnical engineering

Continued from Page 5

By the end of her day with the Far East District, meeting and shadowing several employees, and observing the use of various types of equipment on hand in the geotechnical branch, she'd learned quite a bit. Wun's morning began with a grounding in the applied geotechnical engineering expertise. This know-how is needed at the ground level for the enormous amount of construction taking place at Camp Humphreys.

After this grounding in the practical value of the earth sciences, Wun shadowed geotechnical engineers and had a tour of the materials testing lab from Mr. Kim Kwang-chin, who

explained basic theories and concepts of soil and concrete testing to her, and provided some handouts to take home.

In the afternoon, Wun shadowed employees in the environmental section. She watched chemists Mr. Kim Kyong-ho and Mr. Song Yo-sep, led by supervisory chemist, Dr. Chong Son-chu. Kim demonstrated identification of asbestos fibers in a lab, and Song showed how to use a field testing kit to screen for petroleum-contaminated soil.

The day concluded by meeting with Lt. Col. Timika M. Wilson, Deputy Commander of the Far East District. Because she is the battalion commander

in her school's Junior ROTC program, Wun said she appreciated this particularly relevant mentoring opportunity, and she had many questions to ask. Wilson delivered not only the answers and advice Wun sought, but offered a plethora of other guidance about her future.

"The world is your oyster," Wilson said. "Don't just do the school-endorsed tour."

Asked what she would change if she could, Wun offered only one suggestion:

"I would like to come here more often," she said. "I would definitely sign up again."



The beginning of Oct. 28 began with placing the last section of the first roadway to traverse all the way across U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, from east to west. By the end of the day, an asphalt/concrete pathway extended from the front gate to the railhead. While it will still take time to be fully operational, drivers can traverse the whole eight kilometers and never leave a paved road--a "milestone" at one of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' biggest projects. (Photos by William Billard)



From the commander: ***Thank you for doing GREAT things:***

Congratulations to these employees who were recognized for their hard work and dedication!



Yi Min-ho
Engineering
5 Years of Service Award



Choe Chong-uk
Engineering
15 Years of Service Award



Kim Kyong-hwan
Engineering
15 Years of Service Award



Pak U-hyon
Engineering
15 Years of Service Award



Nam Chi-hwa
Logistics Management
20 Years of Service Award



Danny Bolden
Workforce Management
25 Years of Service Award



Cho Yong-wol
Resource Management
30 Years of Service Award



Yo Tong-hui
Contracting
35 Years of Service Award



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District central resident office project engineer Maj. Brian Becker (left) received a certificate of commendation from Ministry of National Defense - Defense Installation Agency Col. Lee Keon-seop Nov. 5 at Osan Air Base. Maj. Becker received this award for his efforts in work coordination and providing assistance to ensure proper quality on the 2nd runway paving project. (Photo by Frank Meleton)



***Sim Chae-hwa
Logistics Management
Transferred to USAG Humphreys***



***Capt. Lex Oren
Security, Plans and Operations
Transferred to Salt Lake City, Utah***



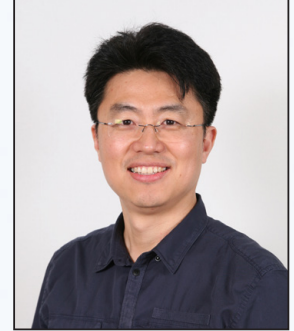
Anibal Barrios
Construction
Came from Philadelphia District



Anirban Bhattacharyya
Engineering
Came from Lakes and Ohio River
Division Headquarters, Ohio



Brady Hales
Construction
Came from Defense Logistics
Agency, Hill Air Force Base, Utah



Daniel Koo
Construction
Came from Crofton, Maryland



James Brooks
Construction
Came from Fayetteville, North
Carolina



Mark Lumen
Counsel
Came from Galveston District



Nadia Newkirt
Construction
Came from Fort Rucker,
Alabama



Patrick Mulkey
Construction
Came from Fort Bragg, North
Carolina



Richard Byrd
Programs and Project Management
Came from Europe District



Richard McKibben
Construction
Came from Wilmington District



Song H. Bong
Construction
Came from USA Tori Station,
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Thomas Karnowski
Korea Programs Relocation
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Point of Contact:

Pete Gitto, POD Military Planner

Tel: 808.349.8715

Email: peter.gitto@usace.army.mil