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Far East District

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Far East District partnership teaches hands-on engineering tools

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District continued its partnership with Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS) Korea promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) with its third annual earthquake tower challenge competition Dec. 16 at Seoul American Middle School.

Students were tasked to build structures out of straw, paper clips and straight pins, and district engineers tested their ability to hold sandbags and withstand an earthquake on a specially designed shaker table.

“The thing just exploded after eight [sandbags]!” said Charles Floyd, a middle-school student in the applied technology class. “Squares are

bendable. Triangles aren’t. Studying geometry helped me because I know the three-sided figures, the triangles, are sturdier. All this connects to engineering.”

Floyd’s father was on hand for the competition, but both his parents encourage their son’s interest in STEM-related activities and education.

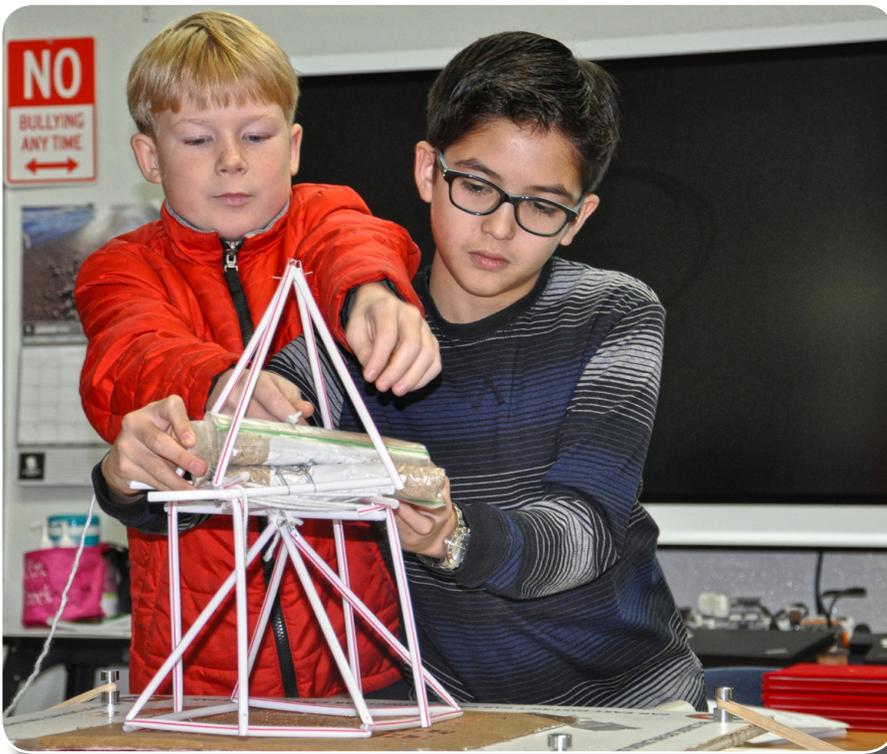
“His mom is an engineer, so math and science are focal points of his education,” said Charles’ father, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Floyd.

“He’s definitely getting challenged,” said Floyd. “Projects like this make me feel comfortable that my child is in a good place with his education. The teachers do a great job challenging him and pushing him harder.”

Charles said his dream is to one day work for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). This goal is fine with his father. “Who doesn’t want their son to be a rocket scientist?”

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Seoul American Middle School students Charles Floyd (right) and John Shirley strategically place sandbags to the tower they created during an earthquake tower challenge competition at Seoul American Middle School Dec. 16, 2015. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)





Brig. Gen. John Sullivan, 19th ESC Commander and Col. Ted Stephens, U.S. Army Garrison-Daegu commander, join Jamie Hagio, the deputy chief of the Far East District construction division, in breaking ground for the Family Housing Tower 1 at Camp Walker, near Daegu, Korea, on Dec. 11, 2015. (Photos by Pfc. Mikayla A. Livingston, Area IV Visual Information Support Center)



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Seoul American Middle School student Hannah Sullivan also took part in the competition. Her tower held seven sandbags.

“I learned a lot about teamwork,” said Sullivan. “My partner and I helped each other out quite a bit. This is definitely my favorite class.”

Sullivan’s mother, Kristi Sullivan, is an interior designer and took part in similar activities as a student when studying for her degree. She said many of her interests rubbed off on her daughter.

“She (Hannah) has a natural ability for seeing how things are put together and making things strong,” said Sullivan. “My major was in commercial design and we had to do a lot of struc-

tural studies so maybe she is going to come by it more naturally.

Pam Lovasz, STEM coordinator for the Far East District, said events like these will be incorporated into the school year all year long.

“Last month, we gave a presentation on earthquakes and provided tips on designing earthquake resistant structures to the students,” said Lovasz. “In the spring we will hold our toothpick bridge competition. This is all part of the district’s outreach to students to hopefully spark interest in STEM-related classes and eventually careers in STEM. We hope to provide the students with a fun learning experience.”

The Far East District promotes STEM activities throughout all

DoDDS schools in the Republic of Korea. Activities such as these are part of an education partnership agreement signed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and DoDDS Korea. The partnership centers on support for the science, technology, engineering and mathematics initiative.

Seoul American Middle School student Hannah Sullivan prepares to see if her tower can withstand the force of an earthquake as Far East District science, technology, engineering and math coordinator Pam Lovasz (right), Seoul American Middle School applied technology teacher Kelly Brock (far right) and district engineering division design branch chief Son Ha (left) look on. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)



Division Commander addresses town hall



Brig. Gen. Jeffrey L. Milhorn, P.E., 31st Commanding General and Division Engineer for the Pacific Ocean Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, addresses a town hall gathering at the Far East District Compound in Seoul on Dec. 8, 2015. One of the subjects Brig. Gen. Milhorn addressed was the upcoming relocation to Camp Humphreys. "I know what it's like to move. I know that it's like to be geographically separated," he said, referring to some of the relocation-related decisions facing FED employees. Brig. Gen. Milhorn also addressed communications with clients and stakeholders. "My commitment to Lt. Gen. Champoux is that we will communicate more routinely." (Photos by Eric Hamilton)



Brig. Gen. Milhorn recognizes Pamela Lovasz, chief of the Geotechnical Section and lead for the District's STEM program.



Brig. Gen. Milhorn recognizes Pak Chae-hyong, an Engineering Technician with the Programs and Project Management Division.



Brig. Gen. Milhorn recognizes IT specialist Suzanna Chong, for her work on the District's SharePoint site.



Brig. Gen. Milhorn recognizes Mal Passmore, the executive administration officer, for her excellent service and professionalism.

Far East District headquarters held a holiday party at Dragon Hill Lodge Dec. 16. Thank you all of attending this event, and special thanks to the Wellness Committee for organizing! Happy Holidays everyone. (Photos by O Sang-sung)

