



US Army Corps
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Far East District

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New Employee Spotlight: Meet Richard Byrd

By Eric M. Hamilton
FED Public Affairs

It's entirely possible that you've not yet met new Far East District employee Richard T. Byrd, but he started as the Chief of the Army/Navy/Marine Corps and Funds Management Branch in the Programs and Project Management Division in November 2015.

Though he arrived here most recently from Wiesbaden, Germany, he's no stranger to Korea. It's his fifth tour

here and first as a civilian. Byrd served as an Army Combat Engineer as both an enlisted man and later as an officer, retiring after 24 years of service. He logged about a third of his active-duty time in Korea. While it's his second time in Seoul, he's still getting used to apartment life, especially with two West Highland terriers.

He's also no stranger to working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engi-

neers. Byrd began with the Corps in 2009, working at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington. He earned his Master's degree in construction management from the University of Oklahoma.

One of the key duties assigned to Byrd and his team is funds management, a job Byrd compares to being "our bankers" with regard to managing appropriated funds for projects at the programmatic level. Though this responsibility is high-level planning and execution, it's critical to meeting schedules for allocation and disbursement, Byrd explained.

Another of the team's functions is to evaluate customer requirements, specifically as relates to renovation, build or design, "whatever they require," Byrd said. It's an essential component of good project management: "helping stakeholders define what's needed and then defining what can be done to meet the need," Byrd said.

Meet new Far East District employee Richard T. Byrd, who started with the Far East District as the Chief of the Army/Navy/Marine Corps and Funds Management Branch in the Programs and Project Management Division in November 2015. (Photo by Eric Hamilton)





Greg Reiff, Humphreys area office area engineer, presents an update briefing on the status of construction at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys to officers and non-commissioned officers during leadership professional development on Jan. 14 at Camp Humphreys. (Photos by Jamie Hagio)



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Corps cadre complete course, claim certification

By Eric M. Hamilton
FED Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers values lifelong learning, as recently demonstrated by four Far East District employees who recently earned certification as Project Management Professionals.

According to the Project Management Institute, which administers the PMP exam and certification program, “the PMP signifies that you speak and understand the global language of project management.”

Certification as a project management professional attests to an engineer’s ability to complete projects on time, within budget and to established standards. Two of the employees who completed the rigorous coursework and testing to achieve this certification were Kim U-kon, from the Kunsan Resident Office and Philip L. Siu, from the Programs and Project Management Division.

Kim was the first to pass the Project Management Professional exam on Dec. 4, 2015. He studied “relentlessly” for this test, according to his boss, Christopher D. Martin, Resident Engineer at the Kunsan Resident Office. Martin said his office supported and encouraged Kim every day.

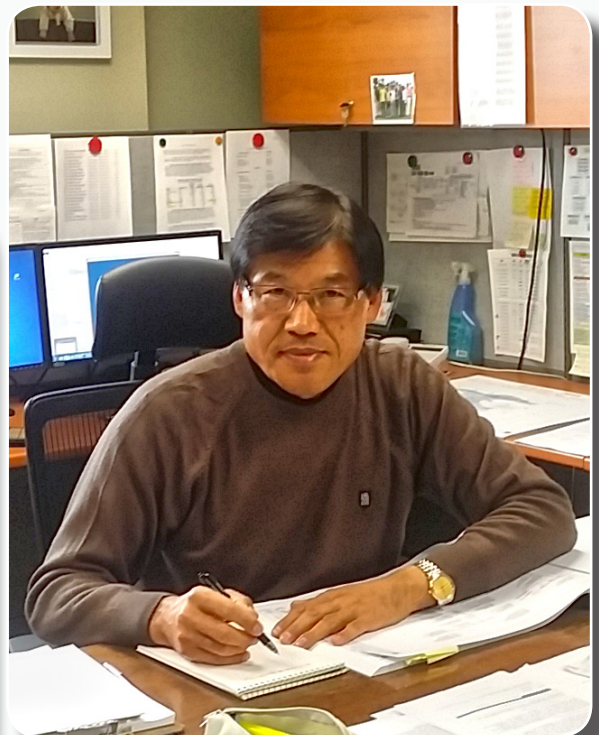
“We are really proud of him for passing this test,” Martin said. “By studying and passing the PMP, Mr. Kim refined and confirmed his knowledge of the project management process. The knowledge that he gained will not only help him in his day-to-day duties as a project engineer, but will also support his entire team.”

But, Martin added, even before he completed the PMP certification, Kim had already demonstrated a thorough knowledge of project development and how multiple job functions come

together to deliver a project to the user. Martin said that Kim has worked for the District for more than two decades and about 30 years of government service as an engineer in total. For Mr. Kim, this certification only enhanced his professional standing, and wasn’t a requirement for the type of work he does.

By comparison, Siu said he decided to pursue PMP certification because he believed it to be a great opportunity to learn more about the Corps of Engineers, particularly its acquisition process. For him, the PMP is required for career advancement.

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Philip Siu (left) and Kim U-kon (right) pose for a picture. (Siu's photo by Eric Hamilton, Kim's photo by Chirstopher Martin)

Chapel: integral part of Humphreys' military city

By Eric M. Hamilton
FED Public Affairs

One critical aspect of any military installation is a space that allows for service members to exercise their freedom of religion. For a military city, greater numbers and diversity demand more than just a single space. The first of four new chapels was recently completed, and is slated to be put into use by mid-2016.

"Many of us in the Far East District have been personally invested in the construction of these chapels, and we're going to be just as excited as the rest of the Chapel community to see this and our other new chapels open up," said David M. Talbot, resident engineer of the District's Family Housing Resi-

dent Office at Camp Humphreys. "'I've been part of the chapel community here for the past four and a half years. I'll be just as excited as the rest of the chapel community to see this and our other new chapels open up.'"

But the Far East District's personal involvement with the chapels at Camp Humphreys doesn't begin there.

"Mr. Chi Young-hae, one of the project engineers in my office, actually worked in the early '80s as a quality assurance representative for the construction of the prior garrison chapel," Talbot said. "Now my office was responsible for demolishing that chapel as part of the Humphreys transformation."

Until around 2014, U.S. Army Garrison-Humphreys personnel exercised their freedom of religion using one small chapel (the Freedom Chapel) and a small worship space in the 501st Military Intelligence area, said Chaplain (Col.) Raymond A. Robinson, Jr., the USFK command chaplain. Since the Freedom Chapel was demolished, the chaplains have been holding services in the Humphreys high school through a facility usage agreement with the Department of Defense Education Activity.

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On April 30, 2013, the garrison chaplain met with the FED construction team and the construction contractor, and held a prayer ceremony on the freshly placed floor slab of Chapel #1 in lieu of a traditional groundbreaking. (Photo by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)



Corps cadre complete course, claim certification

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“As someone who is just starting my career, having additional certifications helps prove my skills when competing for promotions with other applicants that have more experience than I do,” Siu said.

Siu said the value goes beyond just being competitive for promotion. “The result of this certification is that I will have more tools at my disposal to perform my job. I will be able to perform

my job proficiently and will be able to successfully accomplish project in an efficient and proactive manner, instead of waiting for problems to appear and reacting to them.”

Siu said he took a few months to prepare for the exam, and he studied solo to minimize distractions. He also picked a test date that would keep him motivated. “I knew that if I didn’t pass, Christmas would be ruined for me, and

since Christmas is the best time of year for me, failure was not an option.”

Whether enhancing an established career or helping launch a new one, the desire for self-improvement and life-long learning is an impressive character trait common to the best of the Corps.

Congratulations to the newly certified PMP-packing professionals of the Far East District!



Sumaiya Irfan, a student at Seoul American high school, looks through a microscope as Kim Kyong-ho, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District environmental section chemist, explains how to identify asbestos under a microscope. Irfan toured the district compound Jan. 20 as part of a student shadow day aimed to educate students interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The Far East District promotes STEM activities throughout all DoDDS schools in South 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 STEM initiative. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)

Chapel: integral part of Humphreys' military city

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"The previous religious facilities were insufficient in capacity and functionality to meet the total religious support needs of the community," Robinson said. "Having dedicated religious support facilities (will be) critical enablers that empower the chaplaincy to help the commander fulfill his or her Title X responsibilities of providing for the opportunity for the free exercise of religion for the personnel within his or her command."

Army chapels follow standard designs so they are properly configured to support the free exercise of religion for the supported population, Robinson said. The role of the Command Chaplain for U.S. Forces Korea was to provide strategic guidance, feedback and oversight in the development of these chapels, ensuring compliance with Army standards.

"Personally, I had a small role from 2005-2007 while serving as the Area III Chaplain in helping the command determine the total number of facilities and square footage required to afford the future supported community with the opportunity for the free exercise of their religious faith," Robinson said.

While assigned to the Army Chief of Chaplains Office from 2008-2010, Robinson also had an indirect role in shaping the type of facilities being built through his work on the Army Standards and Standard Designs for religious facilities.

"It was very helpful to have reviews from the chaplains during the project's construction, particularly from Chaplain Robinson. He was very familiar with the requirements and his input will help us avoid problems as we complete the other chapels," Talbot said.

When construction is finished at USAG Humphreys, a total of four



Chaplain (Col.) Raymond A. Robinson, Jr., the USFK command chaplain (right), receives a briefing on the recently completed chapel #1 from David M. Talbot, resident engineer of the Far East District's Family Housing Resident Office at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys (left). (Photo by Robert H. McElroy)

chapels and two religious education/family life centers will support the garrison. The criteria for determining the number, size and types of facilities are based on the projected population size of the garrison, Robinson said.

"These dedicated facilities not only provide a sacred space and atmosphere that facilitates worship and the faith development of attendees, but also represent the most effective and efficient means to manage the total religious support program for the Humphreys community," Robinson concluded.

Dedication isn't unique to the facility itself, but seems to be a feature in the chapel community.

"As a member of the chapel community, I volunteered a lot my off-duty time to design the audio conduit runs and the sound booth for this and the other Troop Chapel," Talbot said. While the actual audio system will be installed through a follow-on garrison contract, the underlying design came through Talbot's extra work and personal devotion.

For a sacred space like a post chapel, it's a blessing to have Far East District engineers dedicated to the project.



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5 January 2016

Dr. Ignaz Semmelweiss and Your Health

Washing Hands Prevents Infection

All too frequently, we each know individuals who come down with serious infection problems. Now you ask, who in the world is Dr. Ignaz Semmelweiss and what does he have to do with infection problems? In 1847, Dr. Ignaz Semmelweiss, a physician in a Vienna hospital, discovered that fatal infections were spread among patients by doctors who failed to wash their hands between examinations. Semmelweiss immediately instituted a disinfecting procedure whereby physicians were required to wash in a chloride of lime solution after autopsies and with soap and water between patient visits. Doctors also had to change into clean lab coats before examining patients. As a result, hospital mortality rates from infectious diseases declined greatly.

Today, hand washing should be a simple, standard, antiseptic technique employed by everyone to prevent the spread of illnesses, especially in this environment. However, studies over the past three decades have shown that many individuals do not follow this practice. I have often noticed that some individuals will simply wet their hands, use no soap, and dry them on the paper towels. ***Of all the things you can do to maintain your health, thoroughly washing your hands with soap for at least 15 seconds should be your number one priority.***

Acquired Infections

The CDC estimates that 2.4 million Americans acquire an infection in hospitals each year and that half of these infections are preventable by proper hand washing. Furthermore, hospital-acquired infections cause or contribute to 100,000 deaths annually, according to CDC officials. Transmission of infectious microorganisms can often occur via the hands of personnel and this is especially true of contact with contaminated individuals. Some viruses can survive for up to three hours on inanimate surfaces, such as doorknobs. ***Hand washing is our first line of defense against infectious diseases.***

Use Proper Hand Washing Techniques - Protect Your Health

Here are hand washing tips for your consideration: Consider the sink, including the faucet controls, contaminated and avoid touching the them. Using a paper towel, turn the water on and wet your hands and wrists and work soap into a lather. Vigorously rub together all surfaces of the lathered hands for 15 seconds. Friction helps remove dirt and microorganisms. Wash around and under rings, around cuticles, and under fingernails. Rinse hands thoroughly under a stream of water. Running water carries away dirt and debris. Dry your hands completely with a clean paper towel. Use a dry paper towel to turn faucet off. During the course of your work day use hand sanitizers frequently.

Treatment for Scratches, Scrapes, Bug Bites, etc.

Remember if you get a cut, abrasion, bug bite, etc., clean it, treat it with topical ointments like Neo-Sporin on other antibiotic applications. Watch it closely and if infection sets in, get help immediately for treatment to avoid serious infection.



**The discipline to
give up your keys ...**

**Have a designated
driver before you
can't see the signs .**

**The signs are all around
- it's up to *YOU* to recognize
and act on them.**



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