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Far East District

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Employee Spotlight: A lifetime reputation of integrity

By Maj. Michael S. Lohrenz
FED Pyeongtaek Resident Office

Most ordinary 73-year-old men might be perfectly content to tinker around with a favorite hobby, play golf or simply enjoy retirement.

A few rare men are anything but ordinary.

In 1964, one man was drafted into the Army, spent five years in Vietnam and retired from the service 26 years later, only to then begin a second career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers simply because someone suggested it.

Simon Saucedo is a quality assurance representative for the Pyeongtaek Resident Office of the Far East District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He has served the Army in one way or another for the last 55 years and is driven to do what's right and tell the truth, no matter the consequences or situation. His dedication to the Far

East District's mission has earned him a reputation.

"Simon's military background gives him a dedication to tackle his assigned tasks until completion, no matter the adversity," said Steve Kim, resident engineer for the Pyeongtaek resident office. Kim said Saucedo has a sense of humor, especially when giving presents: "You have to open at least five boxes to finally see the gift."

Greg Reiff is the Humphreys area engineer and used to supervise

Saucedo. Saucedo always brought three things to any team he was on: "strict enforcement of all construction standards, pride of ownership in his projects, and

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Simon Saucedo, a construction control representative from the Pyeongtaek Resident Office, pointing out corrections to contractors on Camp Humphreys. Saucedo is verifying coolant lines are pressurized properly on a military construction project on Camp Humphreys on Feb. 2, 2016. Saucedo's job includes inspecting the job sites for safety and quality assurance concerns, a responsibility he has wholeheartedly embraced as a reflection of his personal values of honesty and integrity. (Far East District photo by Dallas Carlisle)





Far East District Parcel 2 Resident Office recently placed the last of four water towers at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys. The towers are 50 meters high and can each hold 250,000 gallons of water. These towers will provide a safe and steady supply of water for drinking and fire protection for the army community. (Photos by RT Hodge)



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saying what no one else is willing to say,” Reiff said.

In 1964, Saucedo was driving tractors and truck as a seasonal worker in California when he received his draft notice for the Army. He went to the Army and agreed to join as a combat engineer on one condition: that he could go to Germany. The recruiter said that Germany was only available for those who signed up for an additional year above the two required of draftees, so he agreed to serve an extra year. Upon arriving in country and talking to other soldiers, he learned drafted soldiers in Germany were only serving two years, but he took it in stride, he said.

Saucedo said that it was an era where being ethical and doing the right thing wasn’t always easy. He said that telling the truth was a standard he lived by, regardless of consequences. He wound up in the battalion commander’s office several times for misunderstandings about how he took care of his soldiers by doing what’s right.

One such time was at Camp Carroll, when he was a company first sergeant. He supervised 50 Korean soldiers and a full company of U.S. Soldiers. Upon finding out that the Korean Sergeant Major had slapped a Korean soldier, Saucedo promptly fired him. While slapping Korean soldiers was not uncommon at the time in the Republic of Korea Army, Saucedo thought it was unacceptable. As a result, he had to explain his actions to the garrison commander, who agreed that Saucedo did the right thing.

“Those Korean soldiers thought I walked on water after that!” Saucedo

said.

Saucedo didn’t want to leave Korea. A chance run-in with a former commander led Saucedo to apply for a job with the Far East District. His honesty and integrity would become valued assets over the years he spent as a quality assurance inspector with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Safety on construction sites is Saucedo’s top concern. He’s been known to shut down job sites for not following proper procedures, even when he’s off-duty. Though his bosses would often get complaints about his actions, Saucedo was usually right.

Saucedo always brought three things to any team he was on: “strict enforcement of all construction standards, pride of ownership in his projects, and saying what no one else is willing to say,”

On one occasion, Reiff sent Saucedo to Kunsan Air Base to inspect the basketball court in a new gymnasium. Saucedo was having challenges with a basketball floor he was working on and wanted to see what made the other floor better. Reiff told Saucedo to bring along a co-worker, Brian Williams, who was a basketball player and could assist with evaluating and comparing the floors. Saucedo and Williams agreed to leave at 7 a.m.

“Simon, ever mission-focused, left promptly at 7 a.m. without Brian,” Reiff said. Williams showed up at five



past seven but Saucedo was already gone.

“To Simon, he was following strict mission directions. To me, he missed half the mission by leaving the basketball player behind,” Reiff said.

Saucedo has taken those lessons learned in the Army and brought them to the Far East District. His strict attention to detail and focus on safety are all about protecting the Corps of Engineers and his supervisors.

“I have to say something if it isn’t right,” said Saucedo.

After twenty years, Saucedo said he loves the people he works with in the Pyeongtaek resident office; that’s what keeps him going. He also enjoys constructing and delivering buildings to help Soldiers live a better life while they’re here in Korea.

Saucedo said when he retires, it will be in Korea since this is now his home.

“It’s safe here and people are respectful of others,” he said.

New barracks opened for 2ID junior enlisted soldiers at Camp Carroll

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the 2nd Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade's new barracks at Camp Carroll Feb. 22. Junior enlisted soldiers on Camp Carroll have a new place to call home while stationed here. Far East District engineers are doing our best to improve quality of life for those who serve. (Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Stephanie Widemond)





Building *Safety* Strong

ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG



Be Ready to Handle a Chemical Emergency

A chemical spill or exposure is a serious emergency. The effects may not be immediately apparent, but chemical contact can cause severe burns, blindness, poisoning, fire, and other possible lethal effects.

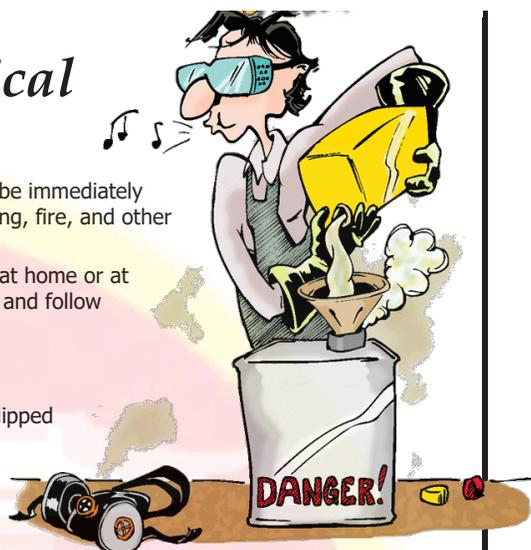
You should know how to handle a chemical emergency which could occur at home or at work. Pay attention to workplace training in chemical safety. Read labels and follow instructions for storage and handling of household and garden chemicals.

Here are some chemical safety basics:

- ◆ Do not handle any workplace chemical unless you are trained and equipped to do so safely.
- ◆ Read labels, which will tell you the hazards and what to do in an emergency.
- ◆ Study the Safety Data Sheet for each workplace chemical. You'll find details about the hazards, safe handling, storage, protective equipment and emergency response.
- ◆ Wear the recommended Personal Protective Equipment, which may include goggles, faceshield, gloves, and boots made of chemical-resistant material, an apron and a specific type of respirator.
- ◆ Know where to find materials to clean up a spill, if you are trained and authorized to do so. Special absorbent materials are designed to soak up spills so they can be safely discarded or recycled.
- ◆ If a hazardous chemical splashes onto your skin, quickly get to the safety shower in your work area and rinse for 20 minutes. Remove contaminated clothing while you are in the stream of water.
- ◆ For a chemical splash in the eye, use a safety eyewash for 20 minutes, holding the eye open. If the incident occurs at home or anywhere away from these workplace emergency facilities, improvise with any clean water source.
- ◆ Brush away dry chemical particles before rinsing.
- ◆ For chemical inhalation, get to fresh air immediately.
- ◆ In all chemical exposure incidents, call for medical help immediately.
- ◆ To prevent a chemical fire, observe all storage and handling instructions. Some chemicals should be stored away from ignition sources and oxygen. Some must be handled gently to prevent an explosion.
- ◆ If a fire breaks out, use an extinguisher of the correct type if you are sure you can handle the fire and get out safely. Have someone call the fire department or facility fire squad immediately.

- ◆ At home, store chemicals in a secure area out of reach of children. Keep them in original containers with labels. Get in the habit of reading labels even before using familiar chemicals, and following instructions to the letter.

Be prepared to handle a chemical emergency at work, home, or elsewhere. Good training and quick thinking can prevent chemical release or exposure incidents from escalating into serious injury incidents.



SEE AND BE SEEN

Use all your senses when near an area with moving vehicles. Avoid walking when impaired.



2 TRACKS



Stay off the tracks!

READY ...OR NOT?

