



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Far East District

# EAST GATE EDITION

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## Motor pool mastery manifested at vehicle turn-in

By Eric Hamilton  
FED Public Affairs

**R**ecent vehicle turn-ins at the Far East District compound at first seem no different than any other. As a testament to tight budgets and exacting regulations, the SUVs, sedans and vans being hauled off are all obsolete, a multitude of miles on each odometer.

Since the hauling off process happens in pre-dawn hours, much of what's wrong with these vehicles is obscured by the dim lighting. Even after the dawn breaks, it can be hard to gauge what, exactly, is wrong with some of these vehicles. But this process isn't secretive, and by no means unusual. The preparation for the arrival of new vehicles requires turning in the old and obsolete, common all across the Army.

The Far East District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is headquartered in downtown Seoul, and so is the motor pool. Large hauling operations over roadways in Seoul have to be concluded early in the morning, so as not to conflict with commuters.

And just as every operational ve-

*Obsolete vehicles are hauled away from the motor pool at the Far East District Compound of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers early in the morning on Feb. 25, 2016. The transport has to happen in the early morning because of restrictions on large vehicles on Seoul roads. (Photo by Eric Hamilton)*

hicle must undergo a Preventive Maintenance Checks and Service inspection before use, each vehicle being turned in must also undergo an extensive inspection. This is a final inspection, detailing every mechanical and physical problem, estimating the costs of parts and repair, and verifying odometer readings as meeting the mandated limits, said Ken Pickler, Transportation Chief for the Far East District's Logistics Management Office.

What is unusual is that these vehicles being turned in by the Far East District have been down this road before. Each of 27 vehicles being turned

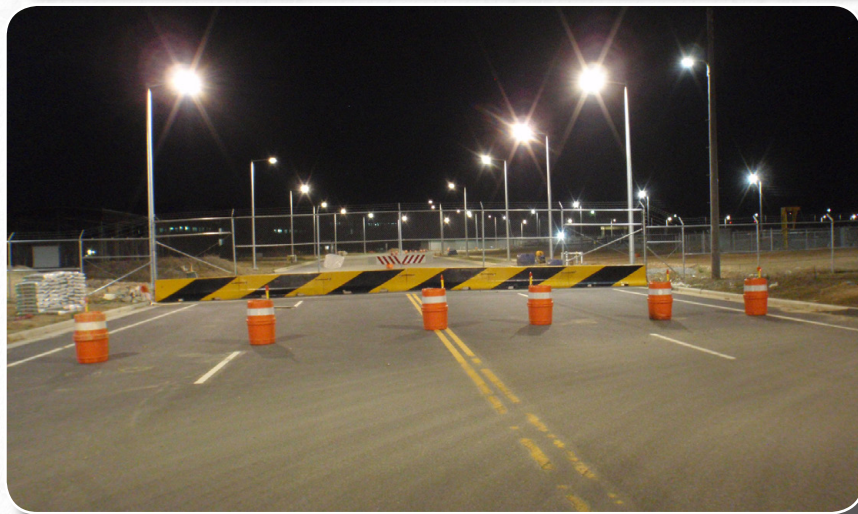
in by Pickler's motor pool was searched out and salvaged from the turn-in areas of other U.S. Army motor pools across the Korean peninsula, said Edward J. Minnerly, the Far East District's Chief of Logistics.

Minnerly said that reutilizing excess vehicles like this began in March 2012. Whether from other units or from the Defense Logistics Agency Distribution Reutilization program, the vehicles were obtained at no cost. These older vehicles were then put back into service and maintained with the rest of the fleet.

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*Far East District Parcel Two Resident Office engineers tested the lighting along more than 3 kilometers of Airfield Road at Camp Humphreys on May 3. Residents now have a great road for walking or physical training on these beautiful spring evenings in South Korea. (Photos by Bill Billiard)*



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Telephone: 721-7301  
E-mail: [DLL-CEPOF-WEB-PA@usace.army.mil](mailto: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](http://www.pof.usace.army.mil)



# Retiring reservists honored at friendship event

**By Dr. Thomas J. Karnowski**  
FED Korea Program Relocation Office

**C**ol. Philip A. Keller, Col. Michael D. Nyenhuis and Lt. Col. Mitchell A. DeMarais celebrated their upcoming retirements at a hosted dinner and friendship ceremony held at the W Wedding Hall in Pyeongtaek on Friday, April 22, 2016. Together, the three officers had more than 95 years of service.

The event honored the officers was more than just a spectacular meal, it was also an opportunity to share personal feelings.

Col. Keller was the acting KPRO chief and full-time Design Construction Agent when I arrived in Korea. A veritable encyclopedia of knowledge, he brought me up to speed within several weeks, while doing his duties as the DCA.

Col. Nyenhuis was the “master of the chess board,” fixing what had been broken within the Land Development, Utilities and Infrastructure branch. Taking a strategic view of the program, he calmly untied the Gordian knot bit by bit: one piece of road at a time; installing small segments of utilities; moving fences; chasing seemingly tiny problems that held up untold amounts of construction; he made his mark “eating the elephant,” one bite at a time.

Lt. Col. Mitch DeMarais has been our “go to guy” for training, reports, administration and awards. Our team is glued together by the friendships and working relationships that Mitch has helped build, whether in uniform or as his alter ego, the “BBQ King.” When I needed contact while moving from Germany, Mitch provided the details



*Col. Philip A. Keller (center) poses with Col. Stephen Bales (left), commander of the Far East District, and Maj. Gen. James T. Walton, director of USFK Transformation and Restationing, at a hosted dinner and friendship ceremony April 22. (Photo by Eric Hamilton)*

that made my move possible. When new people joined our team, Mitch welcomed them and helps them to help themselves.

I want to thank each of you for all the good things that you have done for our nation over the last 30 years. You have served honorably and with distinction, but most importantly you have served. There is something special about serving others; those who don't cannot possibly conceptualize the value of what they are receiving from those who do serve.

The military represents a cross section of the American culture. We mirror society as a whole, but with a

great exception. Regardless of our values, our politics, our economic separations, we all understand that we serve knowing that our patriotism crosses all boundaries and that there is something far greater than ourselves. It gives our lives purpose.

Winston Churchill once stated that “the Reservist is twice the citizen.” Since 1908, members of the Army Reserve have taken on responsibilities greater than those required of most citizens, sacrificing weeknights, weekends and summertime leisure to learn, train and prepare for the day

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## Retiring reservists honored at friendship event

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when their country might call upon them in time of war or national emergency. (Twice the Citizen, a History of the United States Army Reserve,

1908-1983)

Thank you for your selfless service and your dedication to the greater good.

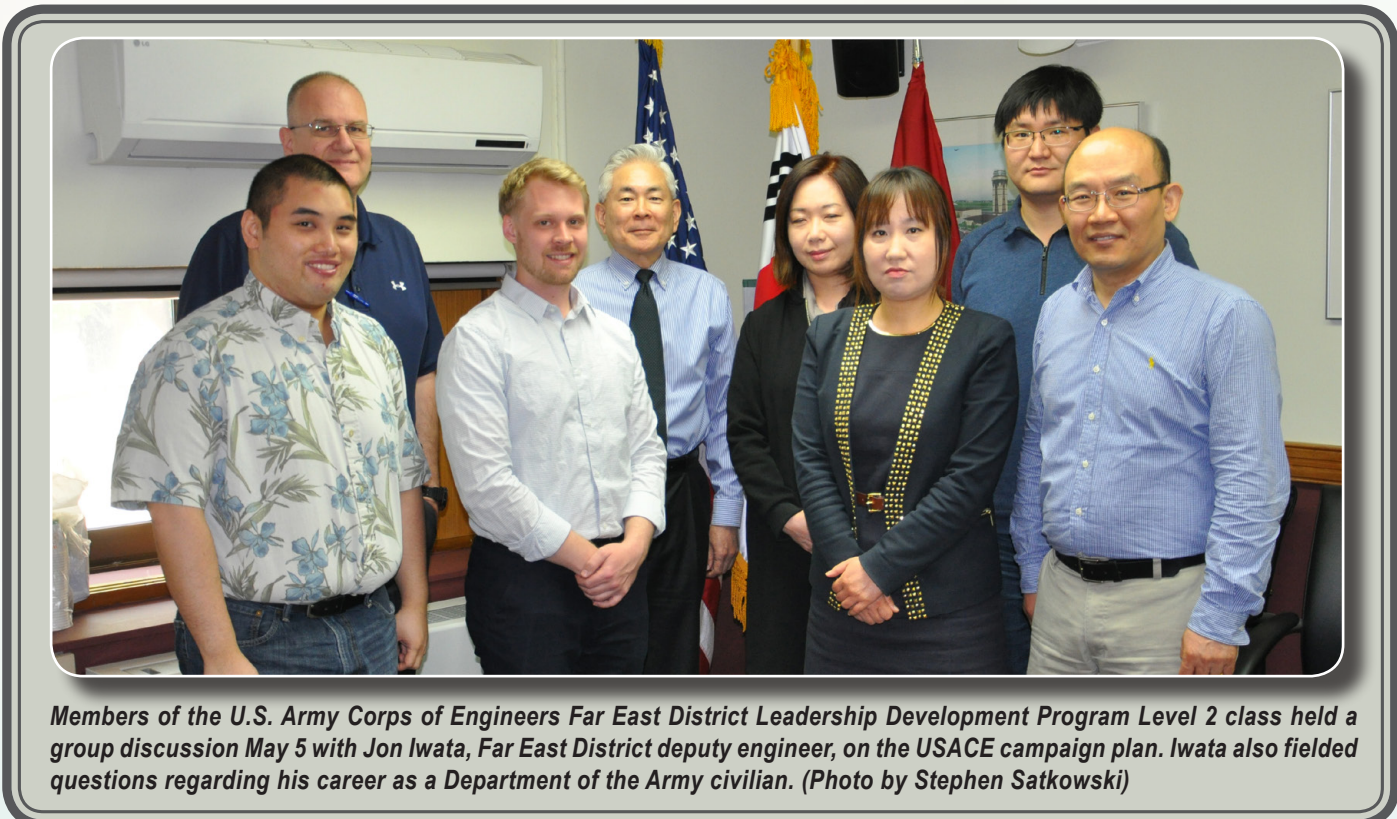
You are and will remain our friends for life.



Col. Michael D. Nyenhuis (center) poses with Maj. Gen. James T. Walton, director of USFK Transformation and Restationing and Col. Stephen Bales, Far East District commander, at a hosted dinner and friendship ceremony April 22. (Photo by Eric Hamilton)



Col. Stephen Bales, commander of the Far East District (left), poses with Lt. Col. DeMarais (center) and Maj. Gen. James T. Walton, director of USFK Transformation and Restationing at a hosted dinner and friendship ceremony April 22. (Photo by Eric Hamilton)



Members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District Leadership Development Program Level 2 class held a group discussion May 5 with Jon Iwata, Far East District deputy engineer, on the USACE campaign plan. Iwata also fielded questions regarding his career as a Department of the Army civilian. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)

## **Motor pool mastery manifested at vehicle turn-in**

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“Those 27 vehicles represent a procurement savings to the U.S. Government of over \$185,110,” Minnerly said. “The mechanics in the motor pool have gone above and beyond to maintain the district’s fleet of vehicles.”

“All my mechanics are great employees with phenomenal knowledge, skills, and work ethics,” said Pickler. Several of the mechanics who worked on the vehicles were now the same team preparing them for turn-in. Mechanic Yim Yong-sik operated the forklift, assisted by mechanic Choe Min-kwan, to load vehicles onto the trailer. Mechanic Kwon, Po-song also assisted by ground guiding the forklift through the motor pool as it loaded vehicles on the trailer.

Pickler described three specific vehicles saved in this manner, summarizing the value they represented.

“First was TMP-37, a 1997 Hyundai Galloper, picked up from CID in April 2007. We received the vehicle with 55,784 miles on it. After our mechanics worked the vehicle over completely, we assigned it to the Southern Resident Office. Since then, the Galloper served faithfully and reliably for an additional 32,523 miles until it was replaced. The vehicle was retired at 19 years old with a total of 88,307 miles on it,” Pickler said.

“Next was TMP-410, a 2006 SsangYong Rexton, picked up from DRMO in June 2012. We received the vehicle with 87,275 miles on it. After the District mechanics worked the vehicle over bumper-to-bumper, it was assigned to Construction Surveillance Resident Office. Since that time, the majority of the miles that vehicle traveled over was virgin land with unimproved or new dirt roads, but still operated reliably for 15,747 miles until the vehicle’s engine and transmission needed to be rebuilt,” Pickler said. “The repairs surpassed the

authorized maintenance expenditure limits for a 14-year old vehicle, so it was retired with 103,022 miles.”

“Third: TMP-83, a 2006 Kia Sportage was picked up by the district in July of 2012. We received the vehicle with 129,992 miles on it. After the mechanics worked this vehicle over, it was assigned to the Family Housing Resident Office. From then, the vehicle was driven with a majority of its miles over virgin land with unimproved or new dirt roads. Despite the rough terrain, the Sportage operated reliably for 16,741 miles until its transmission, front steering and suspension system needed to be rebuilt. These repairs exceeded the authorized maintenance expenditure limits for a 15-year old vehicle, so it was retired with 146,733 miles,” Ken said.

These vehicles were permanently assigned to the offices annotated and were on extended dispatch. As a result, each of the resident offices used these

vehicles on a daily basis to get to and from job sites, and over some very rough terrain. Yet the work done by the Far East District motor pool team ensured that the mission was met, by using innovation and ingenuity to re-use vehicles others had discarded.

But now these vehicles are being loaded up onto tractor-trailers contracted by the 25th Transportation Battalion. They’ll be hauled to Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services Gimcheon (also known by its old name, “DRMO”) for final disposition, after which the vehicles might be sold for parts or for recycling.

Regardless of where they end up, these vehicles prove the skill and talent of the mechanics who fixed them for re-use and gave them second lives. It also demonstrates the Far East District’s commitment to the principles of responsible stewardship, both of the environment and of taxpayer dollars.



***Morning came early at the Far East District motor pool, as tractor-trailers arrived just after 5 a.m. to haul obsolete vehicles to the Defense Reutilization Management Office. The obsolete vehicles were loaded by forklift, tied down and departed the compound in about an hour. (Photo by Ken Pickler)***



# FED Resource Management team and Internal Review earn their DoD FM certifications

By Robert Derrane  
FED Resource Management

It's official! All eligible employees of the Resource Management Office and the Internal Review Office have earned their DoD Financial Management Certifications.

The certification program was authorized under the fiscal year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act and will provide a DoD-wide framework to guide our professional development and help us better adapt to future requirements. The program has three different levels and establishes baseline requirements for each level that incorporates experience, education,

training and leadership development. The program was implemented in July 2014 and eligible employees in the 500 series (Financial Management) had two years to complete the requirements as a condition of employment.

The program also identifies training gaps and provides leaders the ability to prioritize future training and allocate resources. Much of the training is online but the program allows employees to use past college courses and professional developmental assignments to fulfill the requirements. Employees are required to take 80 continuing profes-

sional education credits over the next two years to maintain their certification. It is expected that the program will be expanded to include employees in the 0343 series (Management & Program Analysts) in the foreseeable future.

*Employees of the Far East District Resource Management Office showcase their DoD Financial Management Certifications. (left to right) Sitting: Chris Choi, LaShun Medlock. Standing: Robert Derrane, Haekyung Cho and Young Phoenix. (Young Jin and Sgt. 1st Class Diomedes Tuazon were unavailable.) (Photo by Yo Kyong-il)*





# 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:*

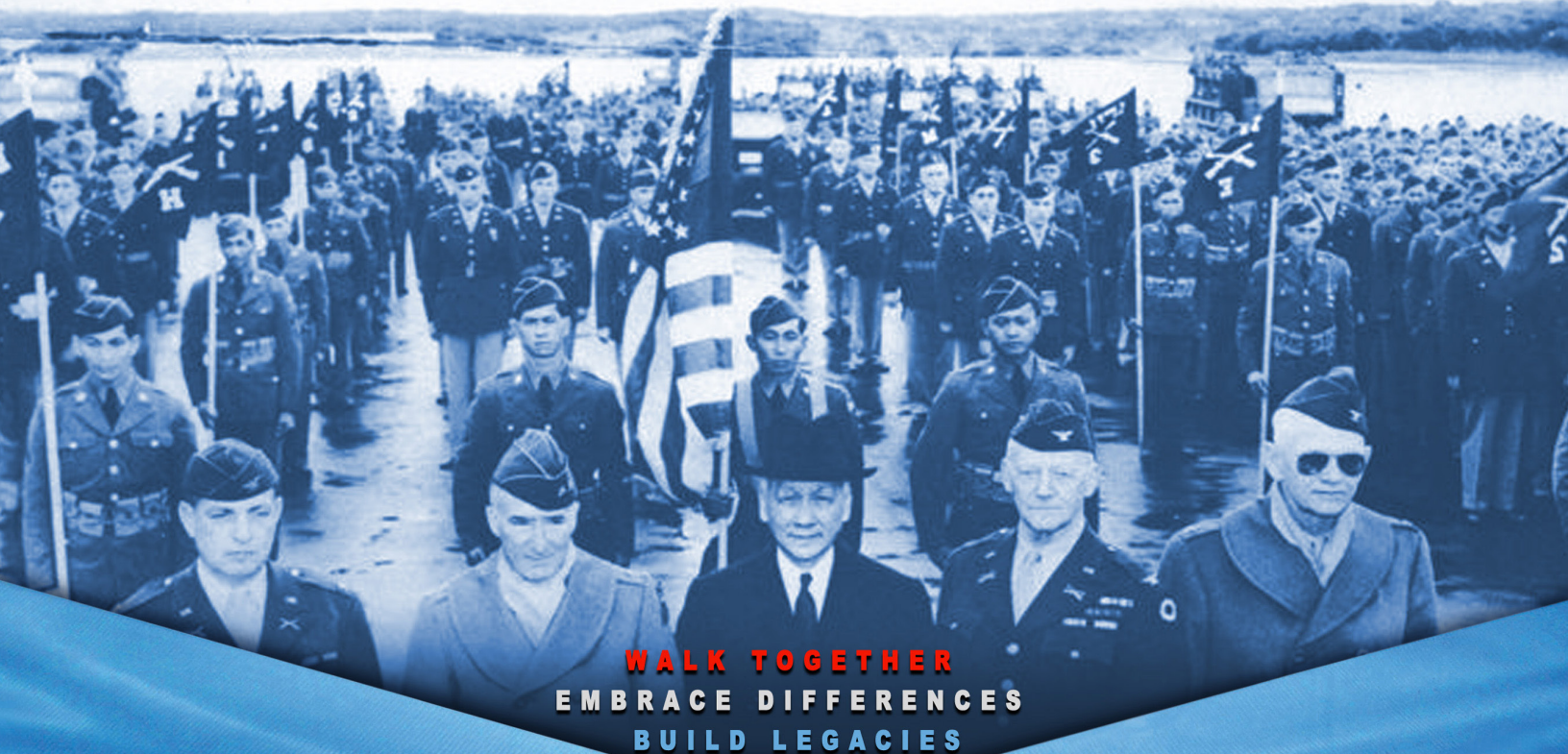
- ◆ Do not handle any workplace chemical unless you are trained and equipped to do so safely.
- ◆ Read labels, which will tell you the hazards and what to do in an emergency.
- ◆ Study the Safety Data Sheet for each workplace chemical. You'll find details about the hazards, safe handling, storage, protective 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.



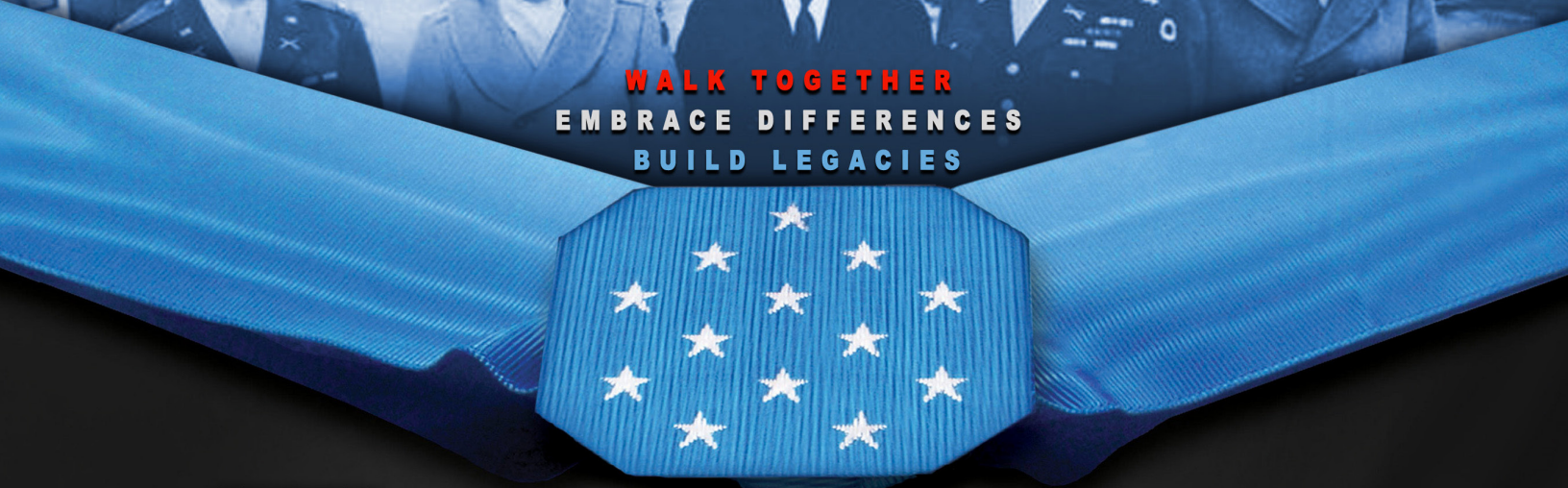
***Be prepared to handle a chemical emergency at work, home, or elsewhere. Good training and quick thinking can prevent chemical release or exposure incidents from escalating into serious injury incidents.***



# ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH



**WALK TOGETHER**  
**EMBRACE DIFFERENCES**  
**BUILD LEGACIES**



1<sup>ST</sup> Filipino Battalion



Chinese-American Composite Wing  
 14<sup>TH</sup> Air Force



442<sup>ND</sup> Infantry Regimental  
 Combat Team



100<sup>TH</sup> Infantry Battalion

The photo is of the 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment with dignitaries in forefront. From Left to Right: Colonel Robert S. Offley, Major General Alvan C. Gillem, Jr., Vice President Sergio Osmeña Sr., Colonel Roger S. Fitch, Colonel Clinton A. Pierce.  
 (Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army)

SCAN AND VIEW MOMENTS IN HISTORY

