



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Far East District

EAST GATE EDITION

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Kang Kil-su marks 50 years at the Far East District

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

Kang Kil-Su, a quality assurance representative (QAR) at the Far East District's southern resident office (SRO) surpassed 50 years of service to the district this past summer. After studying engineering in the late 1950's and early 1960's at Yonnam University in Daegu, Kang began working for the Far East District in 1966 and has seen the massive growth of U.S. military construction in the Daegu area as well as advancements in engineering technology.

"I enjoy my job and I feel so much satisfaction when I look [at Area IV] I can see my accomplishments [in all the military construction]," said Kang. Seeing the difference here in the last 50 years I can say I am part of this growth."

Kang said when he began work at FED there were no computers, so all documents were filed and hard copied in cabinets and QAR daily reports were prepared by hand using carbon paper.

He said one project, the space track observation facility, stands out from the rest. The facility is at a mountain site south of the Daegu area and it required

blasting the rock to ensure the building had a strong and steady foundation.

"It was very cold and it snowed severely at that time," said Kang. You wouldn't believe we were in Korea, it felt and looked like we were in Alaska."

Throughout his time at the district Kang's work was recognized by leadership. In 2000 he was selected as the Far East District's nominee for Pacific Ocean Division's Hard Hat of the Year award. His current supervisor, Elisa Beck, southern resident office resident engineer, says Pak's dedication and hard work has been crucial to her entire staff.

"Mr. Kang's years of experience have given him an invaluable wealth of knowledge that he applies to his day



Kang Kil-su, quality assurance representative for the southern resident office, with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Command Sgt. Maj. Antonio S. Jones. (FED file photo)

to day activities at SRO," said Beck. While things have definitely changed from 1966 until today, Mr. Kang has been successful in adapting to new processes, technologies, and personnel.

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Far East District engineers at Camp Humphreys participated in a traditional shamanistic Korean safety prayer ceremony on Sept. 9. The ceremony was organized by Hyundai Engineering & Construction for the United States Forces Korea Operations Center project. The ceremony included burning incense and inserting money into the mouth of a pig's head, which in Korea represents good fortune. Also in attendance were members of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), who were cordially invited by Hyundai to observe the event. Participants in the ceremony included James J. Lee (white shirt), senior project engineer from construction surveillance resident office (CSRO) and Clayton E. Tallman (orange shirt), project engineer from CSRO. (FED file photos)



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Check out the Far East District web site at
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District Geotechnical Branch showcases geological experiments for local students

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District partnership with Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS) Korea promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) entered its fourth school year as employees of the district's geotechnical branch performed numerous geological experiments at Seoul American Elementary School Sept. 30.

The experiments centered on, geography, maps, population studies, terrain analysis, and soil permeability.

"I thought it'd be a good learning opportunity for the students if we could somehow relate our work to the topic of

STEM and visualize it with experiments so the students could better understand the topic," said Steve Kim, Far East District geotechnical section acting chief. "Since the students are currently learning about the geography of ancient civilizations in their social studies class, I thought we could make the learning more effective by going into details about the geography and geology of Egypt."

The idea for the lesson came from Seoul American Elementary School's sixth grade social studies teacher and former engineer Charles Perryman. Perryman was familiar with earlier presentations the Far East District had previously made at the school.

"I reached out to the Far East District so the students would better understand the importance of using maps, and why certain regions, with their climate, rainfall and soil are better at fostering civilizations," said Perryman. "I want to help develop within them a skillset they can take with them for the rest of their life. With these experiments they see some reality to it and they can teach it, understand it and see why it's important."

Three separate sixth-grade classes took part in the experiments showcasing how soil retains water and what made for the best soil for farming in ancient Egypt.

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Kwon Ku-hyon, Far East District geotechnical engineer, helps Seoul American Elementary School sixth-grade students Sarah Burton, Gage Hatalosky and Oden Kickhofel during a soil permeability experiment Sept. 30 at Seoul American Elementary School. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)

District Geotechnical Branch showcases geological experiments for local students

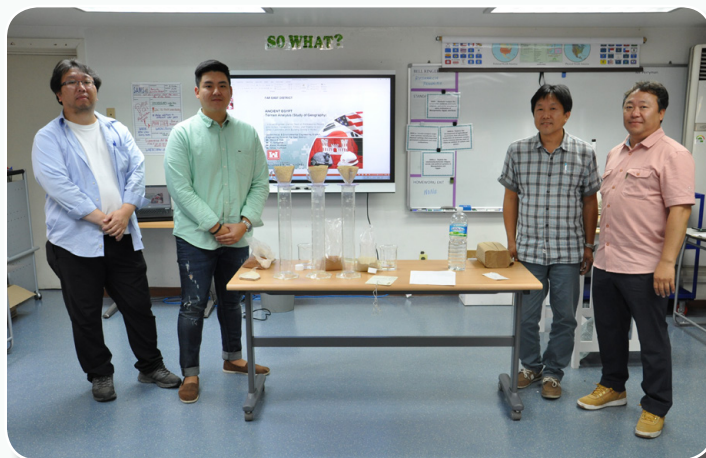
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"I think it is interesting to look at the scientific aspects of how ancient cultures developed," said Gavin Hatalosky, a 6th grade student at Seoul American Elementary School. It's pretty cool that the Far East District turned it [the subject matter] in to more visual displays so kids can enjoy it more."

Perryman said even if only a handful of students walked away saying that it was interesting it was well worth the effort since they will take those engineering principles even further in their lives.

"If we can make education less about text books and more about discovery of learning then we are advancing technology in the education field," said Perryman.

Activities such as these are part of an education partnership agreement signed in 2013 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and DoDDS Korea. The partnership centers on support for the science, technology, engineering and mathematics initiative.



Yi Song-pok, Steve Kim, Kwon Ku-hyon and Choe Ye-kwon, all of the Far East District's geotechnical section provided students of Seoul American Elementary School with a lesson in terrain analysis and soil permeability Sept. 30. Activities such as these are part of the district's science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) initiative throughout all DoDDS schools in the Republic of Korea. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)



(Left) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District welcomed Hon. Katherine Hammack, assistant secretary of the Army, Installations, Energy and Environment, Lt. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Chief of Engineers, and Lt. Gen. Gwen Bingham, Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management on a tour of military construction sites at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Sept. 22. The group of leaders took an aerial tour of the rapidly progressing construction at Camp Humphreys, part of the Korea Relocation Program, one of the largest transformation, construction and re-stationing projects in Department of Defense history. During their tour they visited the Hospital and Ambulatory Care facility as well as the Communications Center facility.

(Right) Michael Burke, Far East District project engineer, briefs Lt. Gen. Todd T. Semonite (center), commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Chief of Engineers on the Hospital and Ambulatory care facility. (Photos by Stephen Satkowski)



Kang Kil-su marks 50 years at the Far East District

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He is a very professional QAR that simply gets the work done. He is trusted and regarded by his colleagues as one of the best, and he is able to transmit his positive energy to others working around him.”

Kang’s coworker, Bayani Apuya, a quality assurance representative at SRO said Kang is respected by all the contractors and is a joy to work with.

“Working with Kang Kil-Su is a privilege and honor,”

said Kang. We accomplish a lot and he has a big impact regarding the quality of workmanship of all our projects. He is an FED Legend.”

Kang plans on retiring in September 2017 after more than 51 years of service.



Kang Kil-su, quality assurance representative for the southern resident office, poses for a picture in 1979 outside the Space Track Observation Facility. He worked as the quality assurance representative for this project. (FED file photos)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District Sgt. Maj. Robert (Bob) Stanek was honored at a farewell luncheon at the Dragon Hill Lodge in Seoul, Korea Sept. 19. Sgt. Maj. Stanek is retiring after serving in the U.S. Army more than 41 years, enlisting on April 3, 1975. His 15,151 days in the military were spent in all three components: Active Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve. Sgt. Maj. Stanek spent the past 13 months serving as the Far East District Sergeant Major and capped off a career that began in Korea 41 years ago, serving near the Demilitarized Zone in 1975. A native of North Dakota, Stanek attended North Dakota State and graduated with a degree in Industrial Engineering. Stanek worked with engineering battalions and brigades throughout his distinguished career. Sgt. Maj. Stanek heads home to his wife Carol and their two daughters in Lino Lakes, Minnesota. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)



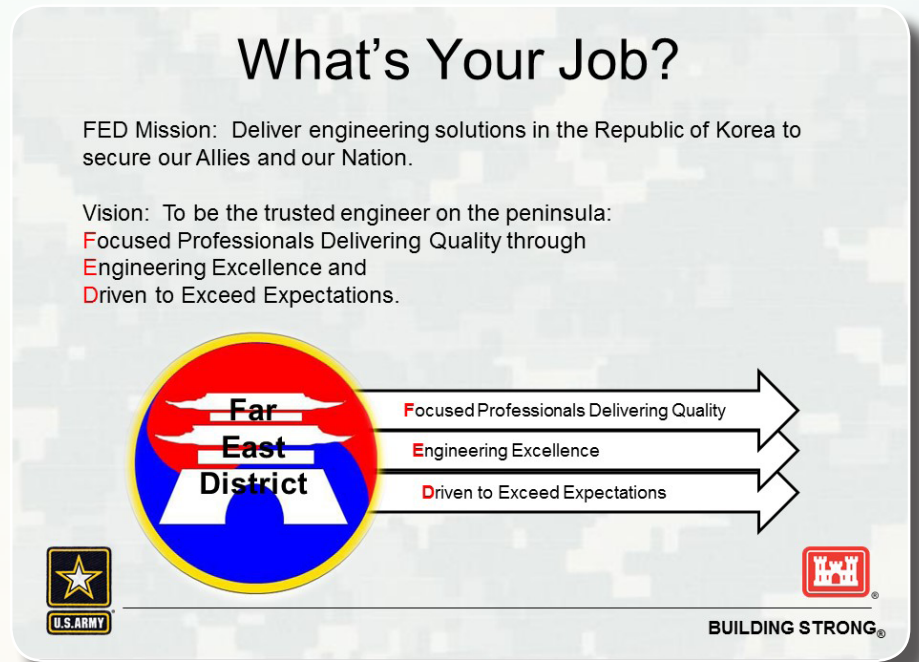
Resource Management team building exercise

By Robert E. Derrane
FED Resource Management

A few months ago, the Resource Management Office conducted a team building exercise aimed at improving communication, increasing cultural awareness and understanding ‘What’s Your Job?’ It is critical that employees actively consider how their efforts contribute to the overall success of an organization. Likewise, it is equally important to identify and eliminate non-value added efforts. Employees are the most important resource an organization has and providing for them is the most important task that management has.

There are many different types of team building depending on the desired results and they usually focus on problem solving, role clarification, creating effective relationships and aligning goals. The ultimate goal of any team building is to increase organizational performance while accomplishing the mission. The task for resource management was to think about, explain, and discuss how each individual in RM contributes to the mission to ‘Deliver engineering solutions in the Republic of Korea to secure our Allies and our Nation.’ Our team building exercise that day started in the office and would eventually end at the top of Namsan Tower.

One may wonder how a team of accountants, budget analysts, financial specialists and management analysts contribute to the success of an engineering organization. On its surface, the ‘bean counters’ know very little about designing, engineering or construction; the three largest business components of the district. We do know that there are 90 degrees in a right angle, but beyond that, we need help. It was only through



active dialogue among ourselves that we were able to shine some light on the valuable contributions that RM makes to the success of the district.

To start the conversation, we analyzed the overall mission of resource management. We determined that the basic foundation of the RM mission was to ‘provide, account and safeguard the resources entrusted to us so that the district could fulfill its mission.’ These three tenets are fairly common in the resource management world but becomes increasingly important when the resources are funded by taxpayers from two different countries. It seems fairly obvious that providing, accounting and safeguarding resources would directly contribute to the success of any organization, but how do the daily efforts of individual RM employees contribute to the district’s success? In order to answer that question, we must look closer at the tasks performed by RM.

We solicited input from all the team members and below are some of the responses:

1. Haekyung Cho – District Customer Service Representative – “I ensure that everyone is paid correctly which allows them to focus on their jobs. If they are not focused on their jobs, nothing gets done.”

We all feel exceptional pride working for the Far East District, but we wouldn’t do it for long if we weren’t getting paid correctly. By providing accurate and timely payroll services, we allow other employees to excel in their positions. Payroll services is the top mission of RM.

2. Sang Ku-pak – Budget Analyst – “I load all the funding; without funding in the system, you cannot obligate contracts. If you cannot obligate contracts, you cannot build anything.”

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Resource Management team building exercise

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Funding in Corps of Engineers Financial Management System (CEFMS) is crucial to the daily operations of the district. Funding is necessary to obligate contracts, reimburse employees for travel and training expenses and pay annual performance awards. Obligating contracts is a key performance measurement that Congress, Department of the Army and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers headquarters use to measure the district's success. Additionally, other systems (P2, SPS, and Disbursing) all rely on the proper loading of funds to execute successfully.

3. Hwang Ui-cha – Systems Accountant – “I make sure that everyone has the correct roles in CEFMS. Without the correct roles, supervisors would not be able to sign time or travel vouchers. If they have the wrong roles, they might do something in CEFMS that they are not authorized or trained to do.”

CEFMS, at times, can be confusing. That is why it is important to have professionals like Hwang manage the system. The district conducted over two million transactions last year. It is RM's responsibility to ensure employees have the proper tools (roles) so that they can perform their jobs efficiently.

4. Young Phoenix and LaShun Medlock – Staff Accountant, FAO Chief – “We make sure that the district is green for the Chief Financial Officer's Act (CFO). If we are green it means we are protecting the resources that Congress and others entrusted to us.”

USACE has received an unqualified (clean) opinion on its Annual Financial Statements for the last seven years. It is the only U.S. federal agency to have accomplished this since the enactment of the CFO Act of 1990. Ensuring the public and members of Congress that USACE can safeguard

resources has led to increased credibility and trust among our stakeholders which will lead to future projects and missions.

Resource Management is one of the few organizations that impacts the entire district. The above is just a small sample of the tremendous contributions that the professionals in RM perform on a daily basis. Each individual contributes to the success of the district by ensuring financial operations run smoothly and in accordance with regulation and law. We act as enablers, allowing other employees, (project managers, engineers, construction representatives) to perform their missions efficiently and effectively and in turn, allows the district to: *“Deliver engineering solutions in the Republic of Korea to secure our Allies and our Nation.”*



At the top of Seoul Tower. Our next team building exercise will focus on Why We Serve. (Photo provided by Resource Management Office)



Chang H. Lee
Construction
Came from Department of Agriculture,
Oregon



Christopher Campbell
Korea Relocation
Came from Middle East District



Christopher Caywood
Engineering
Came from Austin, Texas



Daniel Shin
Contracting
Came from USACE Headquarters



Mark E. Keast
Construction
Came from Colorado



Moo H. Kim
Construction
Came from Hurlburt Field, Florida



Nathan Henshaw
Construction
Came from Portland District



Philip Keller
Korea Relocation
Retired from Far East District



Steven Cho
Programs and Project Management
Came from Marine Corps
Headquarters

HERE IT COMES

Frontal Collisions

In a collision, you can't escape the laws of physics. Always leave room to maneuver.

READY ...OR NOT?

Ready ... or Not is a call to action for leaders, Soldiers, Army Civilians and Family members to assess their readiness for what lies ahead - both the known and unknown.

Throughout our professional and personal lives, events happen all around us. We are often able to shape the outcome of those events, but many times we're not. Navigating life's challenges is all about decision-making.

So are **YOU** ready ... or not?



<https://safety.army.mil>