



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Far East District

EAST GATE EDITION

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Key Resolve tests Far East District's strength

By Antwaun J. Parrish
FED Public Affairs

Key Resolve is one of two large scale military exercises taking place in the Republic of Korea each year. United States and South Korean troops both participate in the exercise that emulates how the allied partners would perform during contingency operations.

Its purpose is to help CFC (Combined Forces Command), the ROK (Republic of Korea) and their ministry of defense understand how these contingency operations should look.

The exercise comes amid high tensions between the U.S.-South Korea alliance and North Korea, which conducted its first ballistic missile test of 2017 in February.

“FED is participating in this exercise in order to increase everybody’s knowledge across the peninsula of what we can do in a contingency operation,” said Maj. Russell McNear, Far East District chief operations officer. “Directly in this exercise we play to the questions and situations that arise during the war game, they’ll be requests for information regarding some of the things we can or can’t do. We’ll use some real world information and fabricated information for game play and answer those questions.”



Far East District Emergency Essential Civilians (EEC), Mission Essential Competencies (MEC), and military personnel pose at the district headquarters in military uniform in support of the U.S. Forces readiness exercise Key Resolve March 23. (Photo by Yo Kyong-il)

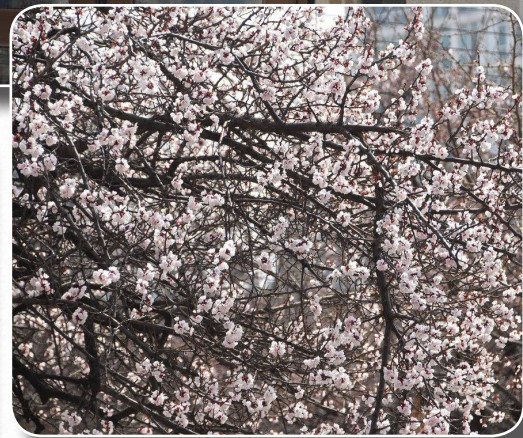
Col. Stephen Bales, Far East District commander, emphasized what role the Far East District plays in contingency operations on the peninsula.

“FED’s involvement did have an impact on the exercise given the CFC Commander’s emphasis on stability operations and infrastructure repair,”

said Bales. “Far East District and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will play significant roles in these two aspects, thus our participation enables discussions and planning associated with these two critical tasks.”

Continued on Page 1

Spring is in full bloom at the FED compound



(Photos by Antwaun J. Parrish)



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Camp Humphreys soon to open new learning facility

By Antwaun J. Parrish

FED Public Affairs

A new elementary school will soon open up at Camp Humphreys. The school is part of many projects that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District is building within the area that will serve as the new headquarters for the United States Forces Korea.

Construction for the school began in June 2013 and was established for design construction agent (DCA) acceptance in Feb. 2017.

Myles Esmele, project engineer from the family housing resident office, worked as the project engineer for the development of the facility. He joined the project midway and felt a sense of accomplishment as the school was ready to be handed over to the Department of Defense Educational Activity.

"I felt immersed in all aspects of it and of course I had a vested interest in the completion of the school," said Esmele. "There's no better feeling to

see all the work you put into the project come to fruition as you're handed the signed 1354 from real property."

The project took a little more than four years to complete and during that time a few challenges arose.

"One of the challenges was getting into the project mid-stride; it's common in overseas districts that many construction project delivery teams (PDTs) have members that come and go and I was no exception," said Esmele. "So on top of getting up to speed on the existing challenges, I had to prepare for any issues to come."

The school completion was delayed due to variances in regulations between the two nations.

"Many of the comments mentioned in the inspection reports were related to several differences between Korean and American construction practices and it's those small distinctions that can hold up turnover."

Esmele said state-of-the-art equipment including smart boards, projectors and audio-visual equipment will also serve the student's educational needs as the population at Camp Humphreys increases. The school is able to house about 875 students according to Esmele.

"Aside from accommodating a larger amount of students, it's the capability to enroll in different schools," said Esmele. "It may or may not happen at the K-6 level, but having friendly competition in sporting events down the line is a welcome notion."

The turnover of the elementary school wasn't done by any single person's effort said Esmele.

"I'd just like to thank the entire PDT [Project Delivery Team], including former members for their contributions to a fantastic school."

The school is scheduled to be ready for students by June 2017.



The newly built Humphreys West Elementary School is scheduled to be ready for new students by June 2017, photo taken March 29, 2017. (Photo by Antwaun Parrish)

Strong relationships prove key to hospital completion

By Antwaun J. Parrish
FED Public Affairs

As a part of the Yongsan Relocation Program at Camp Humphreys, the United States Army Corps of Engineers Far East District, along with other key components, have been actively engaged for the past few years with the development of a new hospital.

The long-term project has proven to be a feat that can finally see a silver lining.

“We have experienced a big turnaround,” said Bruce Kim, resident engineer MRO. “About six months ago the schedule was unclear.”

A recent Tier II governance meeting held March 29 at the Medical

Resident Office (MRO) provided all organizations involved a chance to sync and discuss any concerns and the latest progress. During the meeting, it was announced that the current completion date has been set at June 2018 and the hospital is expected to welcome its first patient by June 2019.

Kim explained that developing a hospital is a bit more tedious than most projects because each room is different based on its function. He said although hospitals are a complicated system, having a good working relationship with the contractor, MRO, Health Facility Planning Organization (HFPO), and all the stakeholders, is important

and has contributed to the success with this project.

The turnaround of this project was not only headed by Kim, but his deputy resident engineer who has a long history with the district and is excited about the direction it has recently taken.

Harvey Robinson, deputy resident engineer for the Medical Resident Office, explained in more detail some of the specifics in how hospitals are built and all the aspects that have been taken into account for this project.

Continued on Page 5



Hospital and Ambulatory Care Center/Dental Clinic at USAG Humphreys is scheduled to be completed in June 2018. (Photo by Antwaun Parrish)

Strong relationships prove key to hospital completion

Continued from Page 4

“Hospitals are now being designed for patients comfort and warm feeling,” said Robinson. “They (medical professionals) feel that by giving them a good feeling the patient recovers faster. They also have accommodations for the family. It’s more of an environment thing that is important in newer hospitals, such as this.”

At the conclusion of the Tier II governance meeting, the FED commander congratulated the team on the success and stated the project had come a long way.

Robinson stated that it was nice to feel that they’re accomplishing the mission and although confident and ready to see the hospital completed, he won’t lose sight of what must continue for the facility to be ready on time.

“Most importantly, relationships between all the key players are key to a project like this, said Robinson.



Brig. Gen. Kang Dae-nam (left), Ministry of National Defense U.S. Forces Korea Relocation Office (MURO) chief and Col. Stephen Bales, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District commander, take notes during a recent Tier II governance meeting held March 29 at the Medical Resident Office, Camp Humphreys, South Korea. The meeting provided all organizations involved in the completion of the hospital project a chance to sync and discuss a completion date. (Photo by Antwaun Parrish)

Key Resolve tests Far East District’s strength

Continued from Page 1

Specific aims were outlined for the district to accomplish during this year’s iteration.

“First and foremost my objective for the exercise was to improve our mission command processes every day,” said Bales. “We achieved that objective. Finally, I wanted to enhance our integration with specific components of CFC and USFK.”

Lessons learned during this iteration of the exercise will prove critical for the district moving forward.

“Throughout the exercise, we identified areas we must continue to improve based on our lessons learned in Key Resolve for implementation in the Ulchi Freedom Guardian training exercise later this year. Our efforts during Key Resolve will yield increased participation with DIA (Defense Intelligent Agency), during UFG-17 and beyond. This partnership represents a significant enhancement for CFC, USACE, and our ROK partners,” said Bales.



Far East District Emergency Essential Civilians (EEC), Mission Essential Competencies (MEC), and military personnel are in uniform and ready to support the U.S. Forces readiness exercise Key Resolve. (Photo by Yo Kyong-il)

Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Protecting our People...Protects our Mission

By Valerie S. Bradley

FED Equal Employment Opportunity Office

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Denim Day is a call to action for all people to come together by wearing denim as a visible sign of protest against sexual violence. By participating in Denim Day this April, you can play a role in the prevention of sexual violence.

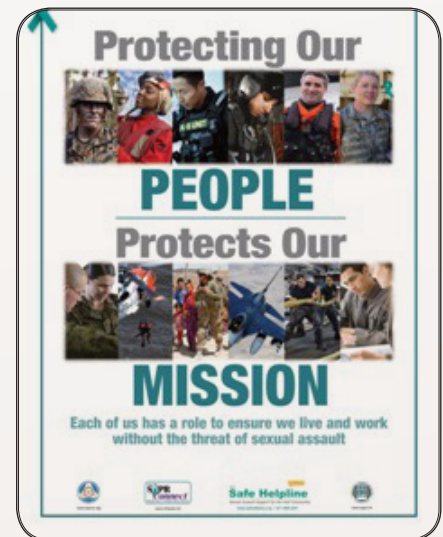
Every year community members, elected officials, businesses and students are asked to make a social statement with their fashion and on April 26th to wear jeans as a visible means of protest against misconceptions that surround sexual assault.

Why denim? Denim Day was originally triggered by a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court where a rape conviction was overturned because the justices felt that since the

victim was wearing tight jeans she must have helped her rapist remove her jeans, thereby implying consent. The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim. Denim Day was developed in response to this case and wearing jeans during this annual event has become a symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes about sexual assault.

Women of the Italian Legislature protested the decision by wearing jeans to work. As news of the decision spread, so did the protest. In April 1999, a social service agency in Los Angeles established the first Denim Day in the United States.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Office carries on this tradition. We



wear denim to dispel harmful myths about sexual violence and survivors.

You are invited to wear jeans for a day on April 26th.



FED motor pool employees load vehicles onto tractor-trailers, of the 25th Transportation Battalion, for obsolete vehicle turn in to the DRMO, April 6. The obsolete vehicles were loaded by forklift, tied down and departed the compound in about an hour. (Photos by Kenneth Pickler)



1st Lt. Jae You of the Far East District Central Resident Office participated in a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) program for students at Osan American Elementary School on March 30. He discussed the principles and fundamentals of the energy conservation and also investigated motion and factors that affect an object in motion. 1st Lt. You provided miniature prototypes of hovercraft and magnetic levitation train as visual training aids for the students. (Photos by Suyoun Kim)



The U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys MEDS 50 Troop Medical and Dental Clinic was transferred and signed as real property to USAG Humphreys Department of Public Works, effective March 24. The project was completed thanks to the efforts of the Medical Resident Office. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)



Far East District's nomination for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Delivery Team of the Year is our U.S. Forces Korea Operations Center Project Delivery Team. The USFK Operations Center project is one of the most important facilities contained within the Korea Relocation Plan. The project delivery team was nominated to represent the district for overcoming numerous obstacles to achieve the great success to date with the award of the final contract in April 2017. (Photos by Yo Kyong-il and Antwaun J. Parrish)



Col. Stephen Bales, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District commander, presents Staff Sgt. Roy Tongue, with an Army Commendation Medal March 15. He has been a significant member of the FED for the past three years, working on challenging projects such as the Osan Hospital Addition/Alteration and airfield paving contract. (Photo by Jamie Hagio)



Far East District project manager Larry Grant was nominated as the District's U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager of the Year. He was recognized for managing approximately \$550 million in Republic of Korea funded construction and military construction projects while consistently displaying excellent leadership and communication skills, as well as providing expert consultation for team members and Corps customers. (Photo by Antwaun Parrish)

This month in FED History

- **April** 1984: Construction of medical facility/dental clinic at Osan Air Base began.

- 1985: Medical clinic at Camp Casey opened.

- 1985: Construction of the unaccompanied enlisted personnel housing at Osan Air Base began.

- 1986: Construction of Yongsan Commissary began.

- 1987: FED received a \$25,000 award for energy conservation from the 501st Support Group.

- 1988: Unaccompanied enlisted personnel housing at Osan Air Base opened.

- 2002: Construction of Family Housing in Yongsan began.

- 2005: Dormitory at Kunsan Air Base opened.

- 2006: Construction of Transient Lodging expansion at Camp Humphreys began.

- 2012: Construction of the new Operations and Aircraft Maintenance Unit Facility at Osan Air Base began.



Kunsan Air Base dormitory opened on April 12, 2005.



The distinguished guests broke ground on the new Operations and Aircraft Maintenance Unit Facility at Osan Air Base, April 10, 2012.



The Army's **SAFETY** and **OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH** Landscape

- ◆ 475,000 Active-Duty Soldiers
- ◆ 342,000 Army National Guard Soldiers
- ◆ 198,000 Army Reserve Soldiers
- ◆ 189,500 Soldiers deployed in 140 countries
- ◆ 250,000 Department of the Army Civilians
- ◆ 154 Permanent Installations
- ◆ 1,100 Community-Based Army National Guard and Army Reserve Centers
- ◆ 223 Brigades
- ◆ 3,844 High-Risk Hazardous Workplaces
- ◆ 61,883 Industrial Workplaces
- ◆ 6,000 Army Safety and Occupational Health Professionals