



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Far East District

EAST GATE EDITION

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Meet your new commander: Colonel Teresa Schlosser

By **Stephen Satkowski**
FED Public Affairs

Becoming an Army engineer officer was not on the list of things Col. Teresa Schlosser, the new Far East District commander, was looking to do while growing up in “Big Sky Country” in Montana. No one in her immediate family had served in the military.

“The last person to serve was my grandfather in World War II and strangely enough he was an engineer Soldier and helped with the rebuilding of Tokyo,” said Schlosser.

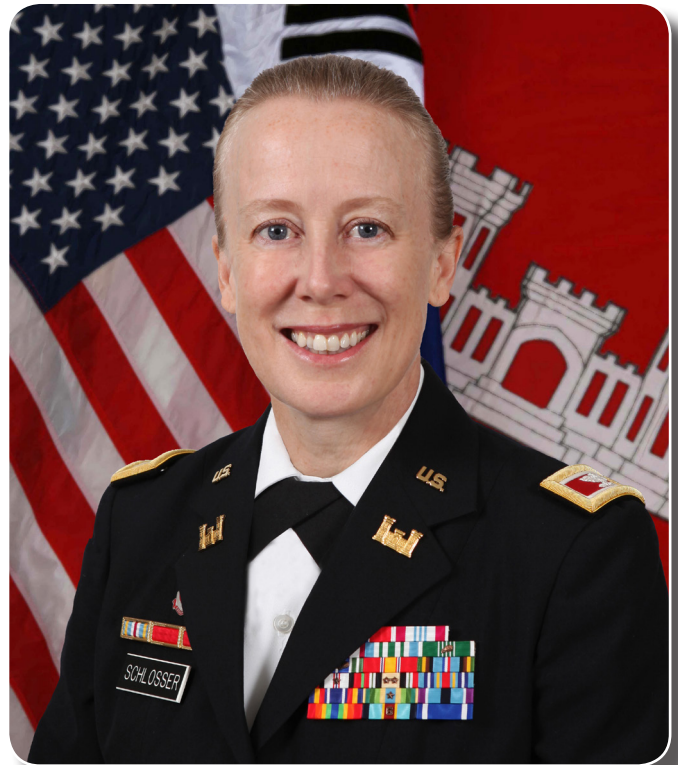
She went to the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) office while attending the University of Montana and joined ROTC just so her college friend wouldn’t sign up alone, but never intended to sign a contract and was thinking law school was in her future. Twenty three years later she has risen to the rank of colonel in the Army and is exhilarated with taking command of her first U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

“It’s an incredible honor to be given the responsibility to command the Far East District,” said Schlosser. “We are the only district that straddles a war mission with a construction mission.”

Thanks to her father’s upbringing she knew how to sheet rock and some of the basics in construction, along with familiarity of the trade nomenclature. Her aptitude led her to be selected as the first woman in the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment in Germany where she was attached to them as the assistant regimental engineer. She also deployed with the 94th Engineer Battalion in one of the first Army units in to Bosnia.

“I had the chance to learn the combat side of the engineers where most females don’t get that chance and it was awesome,” said Schlosser.

Schlosser had her first experience with the Corps as a



Col. Teresa A. Schlosser, 36th Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District. (FED file photo)

Captain and Major in the Alaska District. During her time there she deployed to Afghanistan and helped oversee the construction of the Bagram runway project. She also helped in the construction of all the Stryker brigade infrastructure and took on jobs as project engineer, deputy resident engineer, resident engineer and deputy area office engineer.

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(Above) Far East District logistics management office received three new vehicles to replace its aging fleets on July 21. This fiscal year the supply branch, in conjunction with the transportation branch, have received more than 50 new vehicles and turned in more than 50 vehicles to the Defense Logistics Agency. (Photo by James Lee)



(Left) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District motor pool employees load vehicles onto tractor-trailers for obsolete vehicle turn-in to the Defense Reutilization Management Office, July 13. (Photo by Kenneth Pickler)



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www.pof.usace.army.mil

Meet your new commander: Col. Teresa Schlosser

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“Based on that experience, every junior officer I talk to I tell them to go the Corps,” said Schlosser. “It’s so completely different from what we do in the tactical units for construction.”

Schlosser also aided in the Indian Ocean tsunami and Hurricane Sandy relief efforts as well as deploying to the Philippines as part of a Field Force Engineering Team (FEST). Schlosser said what she learned as a young officer in the Corps - from greater construction and engineering methods to disaster response - was invaluable.

“One of the coolest things about working for the Corps is getting to say I built that,” said Schlosser. “Engineers here at the District can say that. The other thing is getting to help people. There is nothing more humbling than to have someone in a disaster situation come up to you and touch the flag of your uniform and say thank you. Also working with Army civilians made me a better leader because I had to be considerate of the best way to use their time. Those aren’t constraints we normally have in the military.”

Schlosser said that during her first week of command while visiting the District’s resident offices she was amazed to find so many employees with decades of experience working for the Far East District.

“You’re not accidentally in the same job for 30, 40 or 50 years,” said Schlosser. “You’re in that job because you love it and that speaks volumes about this District.”

Schlosser also said with the District’s headquarters scheduled to move to Camp Humphreys her aim is to make the transition as easy as possible for those choosing to move.

“Having changed duty stations so many times myself I know it is tough,” said Schlosser. “I’m asking some people who have never moved once in their lives to leave so whatever I can do to alleviate some of that stress is my goal.”

Schlosser, who said she expects to learn from the vast experience of many District employees, did bestow one piece of advice to the Far East District team.

“Do the best job, in every job, and you’ll be successful.”



Col. Teresa A. Schlosser, 36th Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District makes remarks during a change of command ceremony on U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan July 7. (FED file photo)

AMIE interns gain career experience in Korea

By Antwaun Parrish
FED Public Affairs

Two college students were allowed the opportunity to work alongside Far East District engineers this summer, and learn exactly how being a project engineer in the Republic of Korea differs from their university curriculum.

Joyrie Dickerson, a Hampton University senior, and Ryan Davis, a veteran and Colorado State University senior, were selected as the Advancing Minorities' Interest in Engineering interns for the district. The purpose of the program is to provide the interns real world experience.

The District is currently in the midst of a large construction effort, the Korea Relocation Program, and the students are working hard and participating in projects with district employees.

Dickerson, a chemical engineering major, said this opportunity was unique compared to other internships she'd participated in because it's in a foreign country and working for the government is a huge opportunity she can list on her résumé.

"That's one of the things universities and companies ask about are international internships," said Dickerson.

"So I decided that instead of going to another university and doing research that maybe I should step out of my comfort zone and do something with the government."

Dickerson also stated that this opportunity has provided her lifelong memories. She was afforded the chance to experience a different culture and she will definitely try to encourage her friends to apply for international programs as well.

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Joyrie Dickerson, center, a chemical engineering major from Hampton University, looks over a design package during a site visit July 20 at Camp Humphreys. (Photo by Antwaun Parrish)

AMIE interns gain career experience in Korea

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“A lot of people I know are afraid to step out of their comfort zone, especially the people I grew up with, because they didn’t step out of New Jersey,” said Dickerson.

In her university curriculum most of her work has been centered on research, even her past internships. Since being in Korea, Dickerson has learned a new aspect of engineering and worked on a few construction sites.

“This is pushing me to expand my future,” said Dickerson. “This internship has shown me that I like working for the government, and I like how the government treats its employees.”

Davis, an environmental engineering major, has previous experience working with the government. He was enlisted in the Air Force for more than two years. He has also been working

with the U.S. Geological Society for the past two years.

“It’s been a great opportunity to work abroad and for the Corps of Engineers,” said Davis. “It’s the one government agency I was shooting towards to try to get a career with. This is a huge project, which is another thing that drew me to the internship.”

Contracting is an aspect of the internship that Davis had no knowledge of prior to coming here. Now he has learned all about the many aspects of life as an engineer in the District.

“It was interesting to learn how the contract gets initiated and the entire process of working with the contractors,” said Davis. “There are a lot of steps you have to take as an engineer to make sure the project moves along within the desired time table.”

Performing research is a part of Davis’ curriculum as well. He expressed that this opportunity is far different from attending lectures and conducting research.

The AMIE internship is geared to treat the students as employees and have them not only learn but contribute to the overall success of the District’s projects.

“This experience is helping me shift my mood of thinking from being a student to being a professional,” said Davis.

Davis offered a gem to anyone interested in the program or internships that are outside of their comfort zone.

“Take every opportunity to get more exposure and see which field you’re more passionate about,” said Davis.



Lt. Col. Richard Collins, Far East District deputy commander, welcomed interns Joyrie Dickerson (2nd from right) a chemical engineering major from Hampton University and Ryan Davis (3rd from right) an environmental engineering major from Colorado State University as part of the AMIE Program on June 2. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)

Cadets catch a glimpse of future opportunities during summer internship

By Antwaun J. Parrish
FED Public Affairs

Every summer, Reserve Officer Training Cadets (ROTC) participate in Cadet Troop Leader Training Internships (CTLT) across the Army. CTLT internships provide cadets with an opportunity to exercise specialized language, technical or research skills.

This year, as part of the CTLT's Engineer Internship Program, cadets traveled to the Far East District from service academies, colleges and universities. Caleb Kowalski, who attends the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Tim Gephart, from the United States

Military Academy, are getting a unique experience at the District working on the Korea Relocation Program – one of the largest transformation, re-stationing and construction projects in Department of Defense history.

Kowalski, a mechanical engineering major, said the engineering field has always attracted him and the chance to learn from professionals here at the District was an amazing opportunity.

"I grew up working on cars and motorcycles," said Kowalski. "I also enjoy construction and the big picture in seeing something being developed.

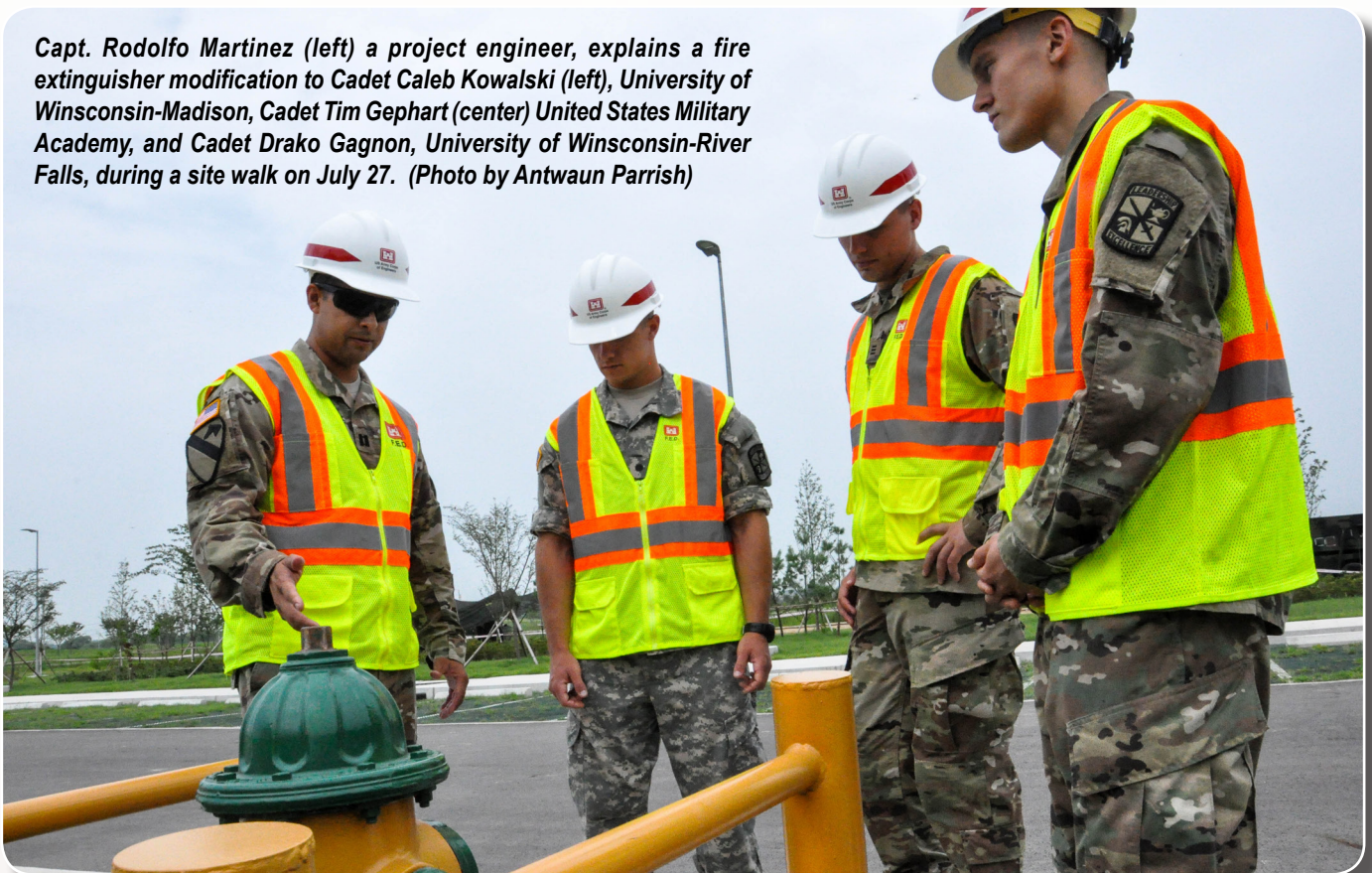
The construction aspect going on here drew me towards this internship."

He said that he's followed some of the Korea Program Relocation Office (KPRO) personnel around the project sites and is learning from the way the engineers are working to complete the projects.

"We learned their method of problem solving," said Kowalski. "A lot of engineering is problem solving and identifying a problem, then finding the most effective ways to solve it."

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Capt. Rodolfo Martinez (left) a project engineer, explains a fire extinguisher modification to Cadet Caleb Kowalski (left), University of Wisconsin-Madison, Cadet Tim Gephart (center) United States Military Academy, and Cadet Drako Gagnon, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, during a site walk on July 27. (Photo by Antwaun Parrish)



Cadets catch a glimpse of future opportunities during summer internship

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Kowalski said he didn't have many expectations prior to visiting except learning what the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District does here and getting hands on training.

Gephart, a civil engineering major, always knew he wanted to be an engineer, but he wasn't sure exactly what field until high school.

"I chose civil engineering because I was taking a drafting class and I loved the design aspect," said Gephart. "I felt that this program was a good way of seeing what the Corps of Engineers actually do."

He said that he had already some

knowledge of the large build up on Camp Humphreys and the fact that the base will be the size of a city. So far, during his experience he mentioned that it was great to see the projects that are at the beginning and ending stage of completion.

"It's great to see what the Corps is doing and how it operates outside of the U.S.," said Gephart.

In recent years the idea of broadening assignments has become more prevalent in the Army. Broadening assignments offer a method of retaining the best performers and placing them in positions most advantageous

to the Army.

Having a diverse career in the Army as an officer is important for longevity and promotion. As an engineering officer Gephart understands this and he appreciates the exposure this internship provides him.

"This definitely shows one of the routes I can take as an engineering officer," said Gephart. "It's a broadening field and there are a lot of directions you can take. "So seeing specifically one of the routes I could eventually work in is a great opportunity."



Capt. Rodolfo Martinez (far left) a project engineer, inspects a wall locker and explains deficiencies to Cadet Drako Gagnon (left) University of Wisconsin-River Falls, Cadet Tim Gephart (center) United States Military Academy, and Cadet Caleb Kowalski University of Wisconsin-Madison, during a site walk on July 27, 2017. (Photo by Antwaun Parrish)



Kim Nak-in, Far East District construction control representative, received his 35 year service certificate at the Pyeongtaek resident office July 14. Thank you for the work you do every day. (Photo by Dallas Carlisle)



Far East District commander Col. Teresa Schlosser presents a certificate of achievement to Far East District construction representative Staff Sgt. John Williams for scoring 299 out of 300 on the Army Physical Fitness Test July 11. (Photo by Yue Zhang)



Far East District commander Col. Teresa Schlosser presents the administrator of the year award to Christine Kastl, an engineering support assistant, at the Korea Program Relocation Office July 11. Sgt. Brian Kastl, Christine's husband, joined her as she accepted the award. (Photo by Robert Zhang)



Far East District commander Col. Teresa Schlosser presents the construction division employee of the year award to Far East District construction representative Thomas McDonald for his efforts overseeing the Main Exchange project at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys July 11. (Photo by Yue Zhang)

This month in FED History

- **August** 1968: FED signed a \$411,990 contract with Pan Asia Ind. Co. Ltd. for the Osan Air Base power upgrade.

- 1978: Busan cold storage warehouse completed.

- 1985: US Naval Forces Korea building in Yongsan renovated into a two-story building.

- 2000: Eighth Army Headquarters which was built by the Japanese forces in 1920s renovated.

- 2000: FED invited first four AMIE interns.

- 2003: Multipurpose Training Facility in Yongsan completed.

- 2009: Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) facility at AP'o completed.

- 2011: Distributed Mission Training Flight Simulator in Kunsan completed.

- 2012: Vehicle maintenance facility at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex in Yongpyong completed.

- 2012: The first occupants arrived in the Build-to-Lease, Senior Leaders Quarters Complex in Humphreys.



Engineer troop project, ASA hangar, Humphreys, in August 1975



Adrian Devillase(right), an AMIE intern, and Yi Won-son, Construction Division, discuss some contract submittals.

HERE IT COMES



Take a Hike!

- Always plan and prepare for your hike
- Select the activity that matches your skill level
- Check the latest weather forecast when you arrive at your hiking destination
- Use sound judgement while on the trail—common sense goes a long way
- Plan ahead—know your terrain
- Learn first aid and carry supplies for unexpected overnight stays
- Know how to use your maps and GPS receivers

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. #Armysafety

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

<https://safety.army.mil>

