



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Far East District

EAST GATE EDITION

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District engineer set to retire after career spanning four-decades

By Antwaun J. Parrish
FED Public Affairs

After working as an engineer since the late 1970's, a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District is ready to trade in his business attire for sandals and sun.

Tom Larkin, Central Resident Office Deputy Resident Engineer, will officially retire on Oct. 31. He has been a part of the district since 1999, where his first assignment was at the Northern Resident Office.

During a recent luncheon held at the Osan Officers' Club in his honor, many of his colleagues spoke of his hard work ethic and extensive knowledge of the Osan Air Base airfield.

Larkin addressed the guests who attended his luncheon and thanked them for their generous gifts and kind words. When asked what he will miss most about working, he took a moment to reflect on the lessons he's learned throughout his illustrious career.

"I'll miss the challenges of the airfield and the rush to get something done in a tight time frame," said Larkin. "That goes back to when I worked in the private sector. Walking on a job that's six months behind schedule and being told that you will come in on schedule. The airfield with our mission enforces that line of thinking which what makes it fun because you're fac-



George Ward (left), Far East District Chief of Construction, presents the commander's award for civilian service to Tom Larkin (right), Central Resident Office Deputy Resident Engineer, during his retirement luncheon held at the Osan Officers Club, Oct. 20. Larkin has served with the district for more than 19 years and has plans to retire in the Philippines. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)

ing that challenge day in and day out."

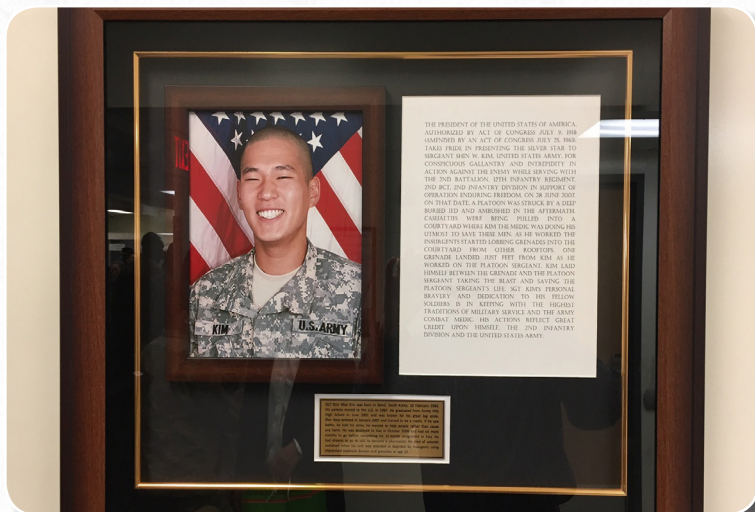
The colleagues who have worked closely with Larkin encouraged him to enjoy retirement and relax, which is something he's not too fond of doing. However his current plan is to return to where he calls home.

"My wife and I are moving back to the Philippines," said Larkin. "That's my home and we built a house in 1988

while I was working there."

Although he will relax in the Philippines, he's already found a project there to keep him busy when he initially arrives.

"I'm going to fix the pool," said Larkin. "I don't think it has had good maintenance. Once that's complete, then I can sit beside it and relax."



Lt. Gen. Thomas Vandal, (left) Commanding General, Eighth Army, leads a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Sgt. Shin Woo Kim Soldier Centered Medical Home and Dental Clinic at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Oct. 19. Engineers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District were instrumental in providing this state-of-the-art facility for the U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys community. (FED file photos)



US Army Corps of Engineers® Far East District

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Lt. Gen. Semonite visits District construction sites

Lt. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, tours Far East District construction sites at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys (Camp Humphreys) and 51st Fighter Wing, Osan Air Base during his visit to the Republic of Korea on Nov. 1. Semonite, the 54th U.S. Army Chief of Engineers, was given an aerial and walking tour of the construction progress. (Photos by Stephen Satkowski)



FED Korean-American family observes both Chuseok and Thanksgiving traditions

By Antwaun J. Parrish
FED Public Affairs

Celebrating holidays with family and friends is a staple in many cultures across the world. Recently the Republic of Korea observed Chuseok, a major harvest festival celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar on the full moon. Americans observe a similar holiday, Thanksgiving, which is set to be observed on Nov. 23.

Many of our U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District employees are Korean-American or are a part of blended families. As a result of this, cross-cultural ties allow families to create their own unique traditions.

Ed Minnerly, Far East District logistics management specialist, originally came to South Korea as a Soldier

in 1990 and two years later married his wife Suki, who is Korean-American. After leaving Korea in 2000, he later returned in 2002 to work in Uijeongbu, then began working in Seoul with the district in 2004.

Since his marriage in 1992 they have managed to find ways to celebrate the holidays with their immediate and extended family.

According to Minnerly, in the past they would celebrate Chuseok by going to a temple for a memorial service remembering his wife's family members that have passed away.

"Previously when her father was alive we would go to Busan and we'd do a memorial service in the house for her mother and other relatives who have

passed, but recently that has kind of dwindled down," said Minnerly.

For the Minnerly family, celebrating Thanksgiving has varied throughout their years together. Minnerly stated that some years they would go to the dining facility and enjoy a meal and other times they've hosted dinners at their home.

"The last thanksgiving meal in Uijeongbu we had 70 people at our house," said Minnerly. "My wife and I were cooking for about four days. We prepared two turkeys, a 25-pound roast that we barbequed, pies, salads, and a mix of Korean and American style dishes."

Blending of cultures has been seamless for the Minnerly family as they've managed to interweave the cross cultures of friendships they've built and create great memories.

"When we have Koreans come over we blend the Korean and American food, and they see the relation between Korean-American ways of coming together and celebrating something," said Minnerly.

Ed Minnerly (front right), Far East District logistics management specialist, and his wife Suki Minnerly (front left) recently hosted a barbeque for members of Ms. Minnerly's temple. (Photo courtesy of Ed Minnerly)



Far East District working with POL-MCX engineers and DLA-Energy

(Right) POL-MCX engineers working with Far East District and DLA-Energy to compare design and as-built drawings of fuel piping at Camp Humphreys. Left to right: Bob Gunkelman (POL-MCX civil engineer), Eman Sundquist (FED project manager), Craig Margrave (POL-MCX mechanical engineer), Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Braddock (DLA-Energy), Rob Carter (DLA-Energy), Mike Merwald (POL-MCX electrical engineer).

(Below) Tim Colón (FED, middle) and Nick Dubas (POL-MCX structural engineer, right) review design drawings for fuel storage tanks under construction at Camp Humphreys. (Photos by G. Etter)



(Above) Nick Dubas (POL-MCX structural engineer, left) revealing concrete delamination to contractor (middle) and Tim Colón (FED, right) at Camp Humphreys. (Photo by G. Etter)

Reporting Foreign Travel

By Antwaun J. Parrish
FED Public Affairs

When traveling abroad it's important to know the requirements for your destination and most importantly understand that security and safety are key to a successful trip. Whether for official or unofficial travel, employees of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District have obligations that must be fulfilled prior to their travel.

Aubrey Cook, district security specialist, wants everyone to be informed of the regulation and procedures all employees must adhere to in order to ensure a safe travel experience.

The regulations that cover foreign travel are USPA-COMINST 0536.2 and the Department of Defense (DoD) Foreign Clearance Guide dated Sept. 19, 2017. According to Cook, as of July 1 the use of the web-based travel tracker and anti-terrorism plan program is required for all DoD personnel traveling to foreign countries.

“Although the PACOM website states civilians are only required to complete this action for official travel, the FED commander has directed all employees to submit a travel tracker prior to traveling outside of Korea,” said Cook. “This is for accountability and the ability to communicate with personnel in case of a disaster or emergency situation.”

Cook stated that personnel with a security clearance are required to report all travel regardless of the destination and receive a briefing by the local military intelligence

detachment.

Currently there is no requirement for Department of the Army civilians to report travel to the continental United States or its outlying areas and territories. However, it is highly encouraged that Korean National employees traveling to the U.S. receive a foreign travel briefing from Cook at least one week prior to traveling.

“I can provide employees with the latest force protection, criminal and threat levels for all areas within the U.S.,” said Cook.

Cook emphasized that reporting foreign travel is highly important and should be taken serious.

“This policy is enforced to ensure travelers are aware of, and remain alert to, possible dangers and/or emerging threats to their personal safety while traveling, as well as being accountable to the command.” said Cook. “Reporting foreign travel through the proper channels grant quasi diplomatic status to individuals and/or their family members if the need arises.”

If employees have any questions in regards to travel reporting procedures, Cook encourages them to contact him for more guidance or clarification.

Bohol, Philippines (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)

Far East District Foreign Travel Checklist

By FED Security Management

Civilian (Official) Foreign Travel

- Review the personnel entry and country clearance requirements for your proposed destinations in the Department of Defense Foreign Clearance Guide (<https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg.cfm>)
- Review the PACOM Travel Requirements and liberty pass information (www.pacom.mil)
- Complete Antiterrorism Level 1 online training (<http://jko.jten.mil/>) – valid for 12 months
- Complete SERE 100.2 online training (<http://jko.jten.mil/>) – valid for 36 months
- Complete ISOPREP (<https://214.4.17.236/prmsconv/profile/survey/survey.aspx>) Unit UIC is W2SNAA = dropdown will show all units assigned to POD. Select Far East District.
- Personnel with a security clearance and are traveling to a country on the Designated Countries List must contact your local Military Intelligence Office to schedule a foreign travel briefing.
- Submit an Individual Antiterrorism Plan (IATP) on <https://iatp.pacom.mil/> at least 35 days in advance of travel (or sooner depending on the country clearance requirements listed in the DoD Foreign Clearance Guide). Unit UIC is W2SN01 =0 is zero
- Submit an APACS Country Clearance Request to the LMO Transportation Office at least 30 days in advance of travel (or sooner depending on the country clearance requirements listed in the DoD Foreign Clearance Guide)
- Report your pending foreign travel to the Security Management Office via email (include traveler's name, division/branch or office, destinations, and proposed travel dates). Send updates if information changes.

Civilian (Unofficial) Foreign Travel

- Review the personnel entry and country clearance requirements for your proposed destinations in the DoD Foreign Clearance Guide (<https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg.cfm>)
- Review the PACOM Travel Requirements and liberty pass information (www.pacom.mil)
- Complete SERE 100.2 online training (<http://jko.jten.mil/>) – valid for 36 months
- Complete ISOPREP (<https://214.4.17.236/prmsconv/profile/survey/survey.aspx>) within 7 days of travel. Unit UIC is W2SNAA = dropdown will show all units assigned to POD. Select Far East District.
- Cleared personnel with a security clearance and are traveling to a country on the Designated Countries List, MUST contact your local Military Intelligence Office to schedule a foreign travel briefing.
- Review Country Specific Information listed on <https://travel.state.gov/>
- Submit your Individual Antiterrorism Plan (IATP)/ Travel Tracker . The Unit UIC is W2SN01 =0 is zero <https://iatp.pacom.mil/>.
- Contact the Logistics Management Office Transportation office to submit an APACS Country Clearance request within 14 days of travel
- Report your pending foreign travel to the Security Management Office via email (include traveler's name, division/branch or office, destinations, and proposed travel dates). Send updates if information changes.

POC: Security Management Office DSN: 721-6034

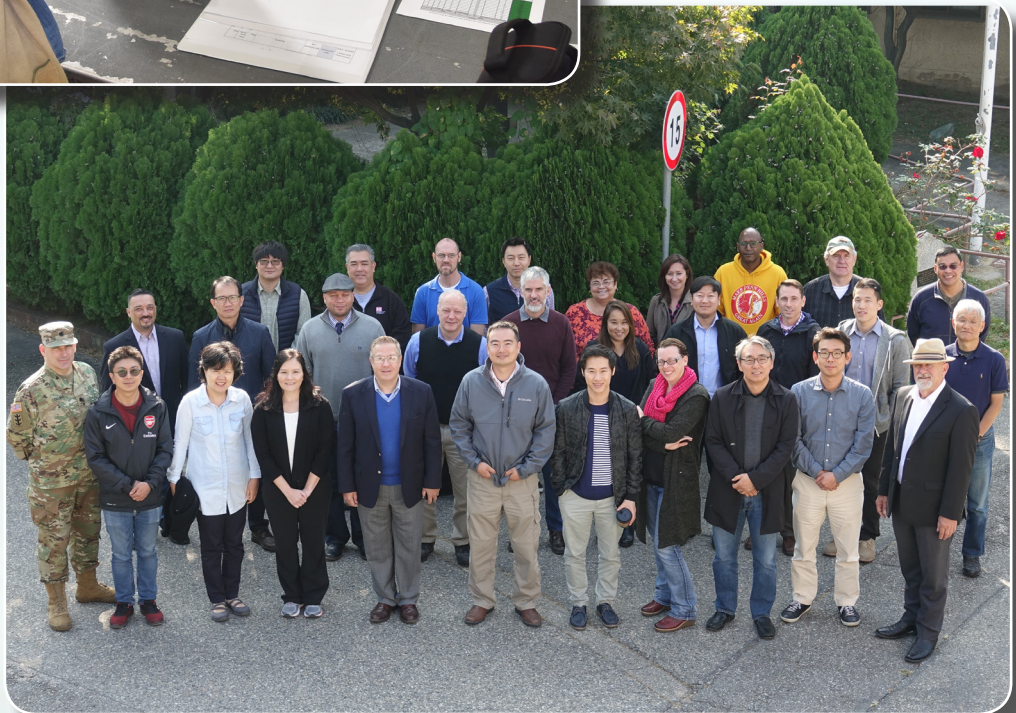
Bohol, Philippines (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)

Maj. Paul Brownhill, a Far East District Programs and Project Management Division project manager, is promoted to the rank of Major by Col. Teresa Schlosser (right), U.S. Army Far East District commander, while his family looks on, at the district headquarters, Oct. 30. (Photo by Antwaun Parrish)



Kye Yong, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District, Chief of Technical Review Section, verifies a district employee's paperwork during the Courageous Channel 2018 Noncombatant Evacuation Operation exercise currently being held at Collier Field House, Yongsan, South Korea, Oct. 23. (Photo by Antwaun Parrish)

Far East District hosted an architect-engineer (A-E) contracting course for district personnel Oct. 23-27 at the district headquarters in Seoul. The course will provide engineers better understanding of the laws and regulations affecting the A-E acquisition process. Congratulations to all participants shown in the photo on completing the course! (Photo by Yo Kyong-il)



This month in FED History

- **November** 1985: The 595th Combined Maintenance Facility at K-16 completed.

- 1988: Central Resident Office renovation completed, turning two storage rooms into office space.

- 1997: Construction of unaccompanied officer personnel housing at Osan Air Base began.

- 1998: Taxiway Alpha at Osan Air Base completed.

- 1999: Community activities center called "Mitchell's" at Camp Red Cloud completed.

- 2001: Construction of 121 General Hospital in Yongsan began.

- 2002: FED won Pacific Air Force Construction Agent of the Year Award.

- 2006: Whole barracks-dining facilities complex at Camp Humphreys opened.

- 2011: New maintenance complex at Kunsan Air Base opened.

- 2012: New aircraft hangar for the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade opened at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys.



Groundbreaking ceremony of unaccompanied officer personnel housing at Osan Air Base, 1997



Ribbon cutting ceremony of the taxiway alpha at Osan Air Base, 1998

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>

