



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Far East District

# EAST GATE EDITION

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## Ribbon cutting marks official opening of Phoenix Territory

By Antwaun J. Parrish  
FED Public Affairs

**H**umphreys Middle School, also known as Phoenix Territory, hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony Sept. 28, to formally mark the opening of the new facility. Students, teachers, faculty members and staff flooded the dimly lit auditorium with noise and excitement as they anticipated the entrance of the official party.

Although the school had been occupied since the beginning of the school year, it's significant as the Far East District marks another milestone in the progress of the Yongsan Relocation Program - a massive construction project that relocates United States Forces Korea personnel from Seoul to Camp Humphreys.

Col. Teresa Schlosser, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District commander, offered words of gratitude to Daelim, Korean Ministry of National Defense United States Forces Korea Relocation Office (MURO), Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), and FED personnel for their dedication and commitment to building the school.

"This school is just the latest example of the many collaborative efforts between our ROK partners and the Far East District in creating innovative quality of life facilities here at U.S Army Garrison Humphreys."

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was a joyous occasion for



**Far East District commander Col. Teresa Schlosser (6th from right) helps cut the ribbon marking the opening of the new Humphreys Middle School Sept. 28 at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys. (Photo by Antwaun Parrish)**

the students as they participated in all facets of the event. The school's choir and band gave honor to both nations with a grand rendition of the U.S. and Republic of Korea (ROK) National Anthems They later serenaded the audience with musical numbers.

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*Maj. Danny Kang, Far East District operations officer, is promoted to the rank of Major by Col. Teresa Schlosser, Far East District commander, at the district's executive conference room Sept. 26. (Photos by Antwaun J. Parrish)*



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# Acceptance Release Letter signed as Humphreys Post Exchange prepares to open

**By Antwaun J. Parrish**  
FED Public Affairs

**T**he Camp Humphreys community is being presented with an early Christmas gift, as they'll be able to shop at the newly built Post Exchange (PX) starting in late November.

Col. Garrett Cottrell, Deputy Military Chief, United States Army Corps of Engineers Far East District and Col. Jeong Se-ok, Director General Korean Ministry of National Defense United States Forces Korea Relocation Office, signed the acceptance release letter (ARL), signifying the completion of the new PX, during a ceremony held at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Sept. 7.

"General Vandal wants it done for the Christmas holidays and we're going to have it done," said Katherine Leschber, Senior Master Planner, Pacific Region Army Air Force Exchange Services.

This facility will be the second largest PX overseas. In an

effort to ensure that the facility is ready to open by the holiday associates and leaders from Army and Air Force Exchange Services (AAFES) locations at Fort Bragg, and installations in Alaska, and Okinawa are helping the local team prepare.

According to the general manager, about 120 containers have been unloaded and there are still about 200 more containers to unload in preparation for the store opening.

Leschber stated that the ARL signing is a great moment signifying all the work that has been put into this project.

"I give credit to the Far East District's Tom McDonald," said Leschber. "When he came in, he did not play around. He was not going to let the contractors say no, or that this was going to take a long time. He stayed on top of it and made sure it got done."

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*Distinguished guests and other attendees take a photo following the signing of the United States Army Garrison Humphreys Armed Forces Exchange Acceptance Release Letter, during a ceremony Sept. 7. (Photo by Antwaun Parrish)*

## **Ribbon cutting marks official opening of Phoenix Territory**

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Many officials from across DoDEA, who were part of the official party, were in attendance and also offered remarks during the ceremony.

Lois Rapp, DoDEA Pacific Director for Student Excellence, was one of the distinguished guests to address the crowd. She began her remarks by thanking the Far East District, MURO, and the ROK for their combined efforts in building the school.

“This is one of the most beautiful middle schools I have ever been in,” said Rapp. “Truly second to none.”

As there were many speakers, she kept her remarks short and direct, but left the students with a motivational message.

“Continue the legacy of excellence that stands at all of our DoDEA schools,” said Rapp.

The ceremony ended with the official cutting of the ribbon and guests were offered an official tour of the state-of-the-art-facility.

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## **Acceptance Release Letter signed as Humphreys Post Exchange prepares to open**

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Tom McDonald works as a construction representative and project engineer for the Far East District. He said the project was set to be finished at a later date but at the general’s request the effort was pushed and it worked.

“It was a tough task to get this done on the General’s timeline and when AAFES wanted,” said McDonald. “But with the help of the contractor and the Department of Public Works it worked.”

As U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan is relocating its assets to Camp Humphreys, this is one of many projects that have been completed in support of the relocation efforts.

“Our goal is to give quality outstanding projects to the Soldiers and the community as far as the Far East District is concerned,” said McDonald. “It’s been a tough road, but FED is going to keep pushing and try to get Yongsan here and give them quality products.”



**Col. Jeong Se-ok and Col. Garrett Cottrell sign the United States Army Garrison Humphreys Armed Forces Exchange Acceptance Release Letter, during a ceremony Sept. 7. (Photo by Antwaun Parrish)**

# A father proud of son's triumph

By Antwaun J. Parrish  
FED Public Affairs

**S**in Ki-sok, a program analyst at the Far East District Korea Program Relocation Office, was excited to share the news with his colleagues that his son out swam his competitors, taking home the gold medal again.

Sin's 13-year-old son, Shin, Jun-ho, recently took home the gold medal for the 2017 Munhwa Broadcasting Company Cup National Swimming Championship's breaststroke 100-meter race for his age category. Shin's winning time was 1:12.76.

Sin explained that swimming wasn't always his son's forte as he was a bit reluctant at first. However, with proper training he has begun to excel in the sport.

"One day we went camping with cousins and everybody enjoyed swimming in the river except for my son," said Sin. "After arriving home from camping, I went to the sports center with my son and he started learning to swim."

Shin was seven at the time and now six years later he has won the gold medal in five separate competitions.

His first gold medal worthy performance was in April at the Kim-Cheon National Swimming Championship. One month later he would leave with another win at the 46th National Junior Sports Festival, which is coined as the biggest game of the year according to Sin.

When asked if Shin wanted to become a professional swimmer in the future, his father stated that like other children in the sixth grade he has many dreams at this moment.

"I don't know his future plans exactly, but I am sure I will support whatever he wants to be," said Sin. "He is happy about winning, and I am so proud of him."

*Shin Jun-ho, lane four, the son of Sin Ki-sok, a program analyst at the Far East District Korea Program Relocation Office, recently took home the gold medal for the 2017 MBC Cup National Swimming Championship's breaststroke 100m race for his age category. Shin's winning time was 1:12.76. (Photos provided by Sin Ki-sok)*



# End of an era as FED snack bar cook prepares to close up shop

**By Antwaun J. Parrish**  
FED Public Affairs

Since beginning her career 36 years ago with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), Yi Myung-suk, has grown fond of the people she's served and the lifetime of fond memories garnered.

A petite framed woman who greets everyone with a huge smile, Yi has worked as a cook at the Far East District compound's AAFES snack bar for more than 32 years. She initially worked at Camp Coiner for four years prior to coming to the district compound.

Two months ago she received a call that the snack bar would close its doors as part of the district's plans to relocate from Yongsan Garrison to Camp Humphreys, part of the Korea Relocation Program. The district is scheduled to move to its new location later next year. Yi has decided that once the facility closes to not seek future employment and retire.



*Yi Myung-suk, a cook at the Far East District compound's AAFES snack bar, works at the counter Aug. 2017. Yi has worked for AAFES for the past 36 years and now that the district's snack bar is closing, she has decided to retire. (Photo by Antwaun Parrish)*



*Col. Teresa Schlosser, Far East District commander, presents Yi Myung-suk, a cook at the Far East District compound's AAFES snack bar with a Certificate of Appreciation, Sept. 29. (Photo by Antwaun Parrish)*

Originally from the Chungcheong Province, located about two hours south of Seoul, she was given the idea to apply as a cook with AAFES after a friend's suggestion.

"My friend's father recommended this job to me," said Yi. "After being hired, I decided to start working here and never looked back."

Impressively, Yi has never taken a day of vacation since being employed with AAFES. She said that she has always come into work, not allowing illness to stop her from doing what she loves.

During her 36 years she has spent as a cook it's not surprising to learn she has many memories flooding her mind, however, she recalls one as her fondest.

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## End of an era as FED snack bar cook prepares to close up shop

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“There was a past commander who adopted a Korean orphan,” said Yi. “The commander took care of the child like it was his own, and I felt like that was real love. I was so moved.”

After 36 years of work she’ll now have loads of free time. So what’s next for Yi?

“I will exercise more,” said Yi. “Also I have plans to travel and visit Alaska and Croatia.”

During her interview for this story, Yi couldn’t contain her tears, and at moments had to stop talking. Her colleague explained that the thought of no longer working here is often too much for her to handle.

“I love everyone here,” said Yi. I feel like family being a part of the Far East District. I am so sad this facility is closing, but I have good memories all the time.”



**Son Chong-yun, Yongsan Area Food Court Manager, presents Yi Myung-suk, a cook at the Far East District compound’s AAFES snack bar with a retirement award, Sept. 29. Yi has worked for AAFES for more than 35 years, and now that the district’s snack bar has closed, she has decided to retire. (Photo by Antwaun Parrish)**



**Lt. Gen. Nadja West, Army Surgeon General and Commanding General, U.S. Army Medical Command, visited the hospital and ambulatory care center project site at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Sept. 22. Once completed the medical campus will be able to support 65,000 beneficiaries and 5,000 annual inpatient admissions. (FED file photos)**



***The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District has completed an upgrade to anti-terrorism measures at the Kunsan Air Base main gate. The completion of this project will provide enhanced security and safety measures around the main gate of the base. The Eighth Fighter Wing is currently reconfiguring the visitor control center and is expected to have the main gate open by the end of the calendar year. (Photos by Christopher Martin)***



***Personnel from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District construction division attend a general construction prospect course held at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, Sept. 11-15. The inspection course teaches students construction inspection techniques and typical deficiencies found on construction sites. (Photo by Jamie Hagio)***



# Special Observances

By Valerie Bradley

FED Equal Employment Opportunities

**A**s a reminder October 1-31 we observe National Disability Awareness month. The theme is “Abilities Vital to Total Force Effectiveness.”

The observation of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is established by Public Law and Presidential Proclamation. National Disability Employment Awareness Month is observed from October 1-31 of each year. The awareness event is observed so that Americans may reaffirm commitment to ensuring equal opportunity for all citizens and so that they may pay tribute to the accomplishments of men and women with disabilities who contributed, continue to contribute, and wish to contribute to making the nation’s economy strong. The theme for this event changes each year.

**F**act Of The Day

The last “Ugly Law” was repealed in Chicago, Illinois in 1974. These laws allowed police to arrest and jail people with “apparent” disabilities for no reason other than being disfigured or demonstrating some type of disability.

Source: [http://harvardcrl.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Schweik\\_Vol46\\_Amicus.pdf](http://harvardcrl.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Schweik_Vol46_Amicus.pdf)

**N**ational American Indian Heritage Month

November 1-30 is National American Indian Heritage Month and the theme is “Standing Together.”

The observation of National American Indian Heritage Month has its roots in Public Law 99-471. Over several years the observation was moved to different months but in 1990 Public Law 101-343 set the month long observance in November. Each year the President issues a Proclamation in recognition of the observance. National American Indian Heritage Month is observed from 1 - 30 November of each year. The observance month recognizes American Indians for their respect for natural resources and the Earth, having served with valor in our nation’s conflicts and for their many distinct and important contributions to the United States.

**F**act Of The Day

On September 28, 1915, Congress of the American Indian Association President Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, issued a proclamation that declared the second Saturday of each May American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as U.S. citizens. In 1924, Indians were given citizenship, and in 1990, President George H. W. Bush designated November as National American Indian Heritage Month.

Source: <http://www.nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/about/>

**E**EO Info Computer and Email Misuse

There seems to be an infinite number of opportunities for misuse of computers. Among the most common problems are use of government computers for storing and viewing sexually explicit materials and computer games, conducting personal business, invading the privacy of others through inappropriate access to various government databases, and even improperly altering personnel records. Although many agencies have adopted “personal use” policies, agencies need to stay on top of whether employees are using agency computers and email primarily for official duties.

**P**ersonal use: ethical standards of conduct

The Office of Government Ethics released a legal advisory on how the standards of conduct rules apply to the personal use of social media. Federal employees must ensure their activity on social media complies with the standards of conduct and any other applicable laws, such as agency supplemental regulations and agency-specific policies. The Standards of Conduct as Applied to Personal Social Media Use, OGE LA-15-03 (04/09/15).

- Employees also must use government property only to perform official functions, unless otherwise authorized. However, employees may use agency resources to access their personal social media accounts if allowed by an agency “limited use” policy. OGE LA-15-03 (04/09/15).

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## Special Observances

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- Supervisors may not coerce, induce, order, or even ask a subordinate to maintain or create content for the supervisors' social media account, even if the subordinate is not involved in uploading the content. OGE LA-15-03 (04/09/15).

- Employees are prohibited from using their titles or positions for private gain or in any manner that creates the appearance that the government condones or sanctions a particular activity. 5 CFR 2635.702. In situations likely to cause confusion or doubt, employees should include a "clear and concise disclaimer" to clarify their social media account reflects only personal views and not that of the government or their agency. OGE LA-15-03 (04/09/15).

- Simply identifying one's official title or position in the biographical section of a social media account is allowed. However, agency ethics officials must look at the totality of circumstances to determine whether a reasonable person

with knowledge of the relevant facts would conclude that the government sanctions or endorses the social media communication, such as whether the employee:

- Stated she is acting on the government's behalf, uses her connection to the government to support her statements, or prominently features the agency's name or identifying item.

- Refers to her government employment, title, or position outside of the biographical information section.

- Holds a highly visible position, such as senior or political position, or is authorized to speak for the government.



*Far East District personnel gather to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at the district's compound Sept. 26. (Photos by Antwaun Parrish)*

## *This month in FED History*

- **October** 1968: FED signed a \$117,000 contract for housing at G-7, north of the Imjin River near the DMZ.

- 1985: Two unaccompanied enlisted personnel housing units at Kunsan Air Base opened.

- 1985: Construction of Osan Air Base third generation aircraft shelters began.

- 1987: New surveillance and accountability control team base in Uijongbu completed.

- 1987: Nancy Tullis, FED Contracting Division employee chosen to carry the 1988 Seoul Olympic Torch.

- 1998: Child development center at Yongsan Garrison opened.

- 2000: Construction of FED motor vehicle maintenance facility began.

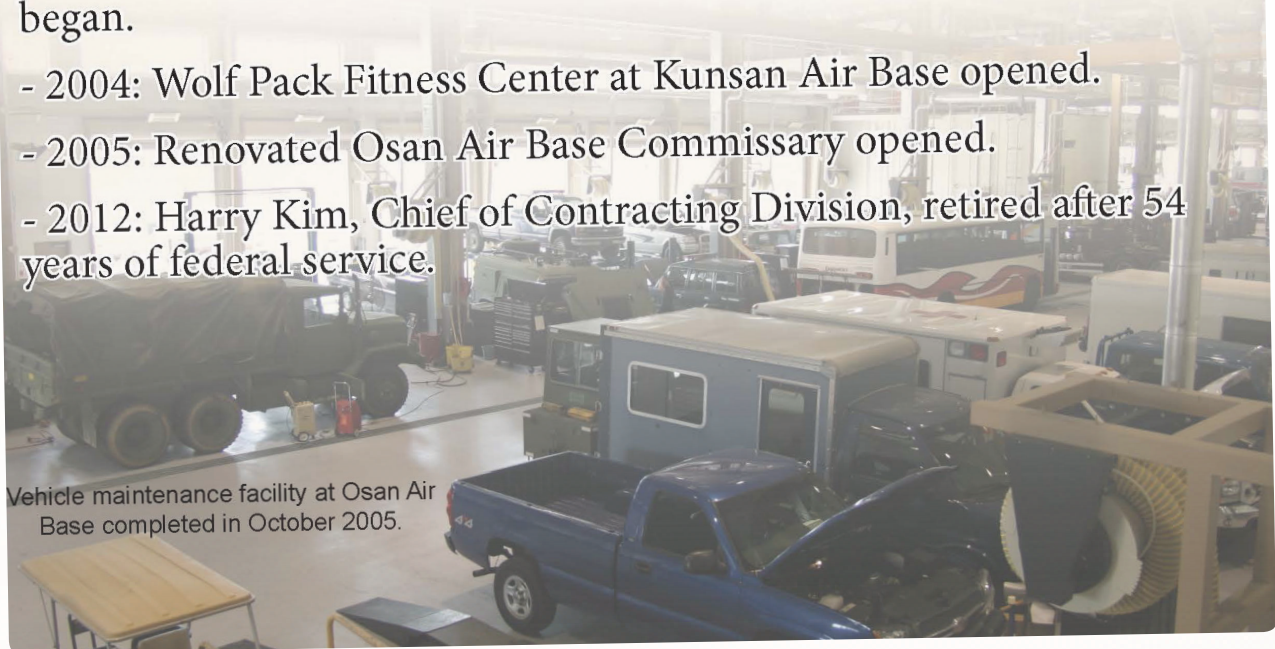
- 2004: Wolf Pack Fitness Center at Kunsan Air Base opened.

- 2005: Renovated Osan Air Base Commissary opened.

- 2012: Harry Kim, Chief of Contracting Division, retired after 54 years of federal service.



Unaccompanied enlisted personnel housing units at Kunsan Air Base opened in October 1985.



Vehicle maintenance facility at Osan Air Base completed in October 2005.

# 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>

