

# EAST GATE EDITION

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District*

## **Tunnel discovery at the DMZ, a monumental achievement by the Far East District**

Between the 1960s-1980s, North Korea dug tunnels under the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in an attempt to conduct a surprise invasion of South Korea from underground.

The first tunnel was discovered in 1974 by a South Korean Army patrol that witnessed steam rising from the ground and heard underground explosions. Based on intelligence reports, Republic of Korea forces searched for more suspected tunnels in the area around Cholwon, near the center of the DMZ, hiring a Korean mineral firm to conduct the drilling. However, after sixty-nine boreholes, no additional tunnels were found. [READ MORE](#)



## **Kickstart your morning zen with FED**

SoCheung Lee, an assistant district counsel for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District, has led biweekly morning yoga sessions at the Far East District building, since March 2021. Lee has personally practiced yoga for over 15 years and has been imparting her knowledge of yoga to fellow FED employees. [READ MORE](#)



## **David Montes Jr.: Soldier, Project Manager, and now, Chaplain candidate**

David Montes Jr. has answered a panoply of calls from Soldiers throughout his 22-year Army career. Two years ago, Montes decided to answer another, much higher call: to become a Chaplain. His decision to answer this particular call has placed him on a new path as a Chaplain candidate in the U.S. Army Reserves. [READ MORE](#)



## **Tim Sepkoski: transitioning from boots to business shoes**

Former Army Staff Sergeant Timothy Sepkoski recently received an end-of-service award from the Far East District for his military service as a Quality Assurance Representative within the Southern Resident Office. His dedication and hard work throughout his time as a Soldier with SRO showcased how much of an asset he was to the team, which helped in securing a job during Sepkoski's transition from Soldier to Civilian. [READ MORE](#)



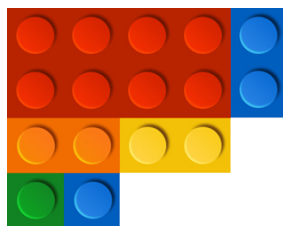
[Click here to see FED Safety Gram.](#)



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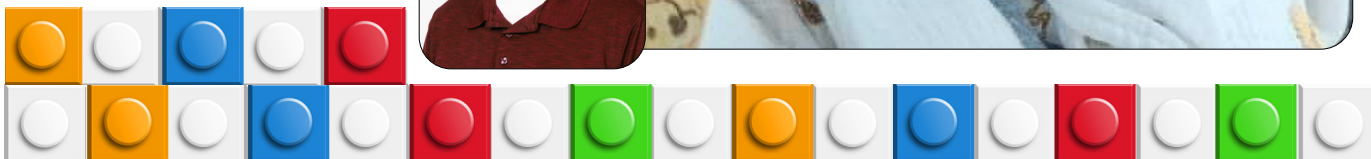
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# Welcome FED's Youngest Addition!

We're excited to welcome the newest (and youngest) member of the FED family! Aaron Schuff, FED Resident Engineer, and his wife, Anita, welcomed their son, Jacob, into the world on June 22, 2021. After spending a week in the NICU, Jacob was released to join his parents at home. Congrats, Schuff family!



## FED Farewells



FED hosted a farewell luncheon for outgoing Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Dennis McGee and his family. McGee served the district from August 2018 to July 2021. His next duty assignment is in Washington D.C. Thank you, Sir, for all of your hard work and dedication to the District and the US-ROK alliance throughout your 7 years of combined service on the peninsula. You will be greatly missed!



FED Programs Support Branch Chief, Nik Fernandez, has accepted a promotion as the new Deputy for Programs and Project Management (DPM) of Albuquerque District. Nik has been with FED from March 2019 to July 2021. His leadership has helped shape his Branch into a highly effective enabler for the District to execute design and construction across the Korean Peninsula. We wish you continued success!

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# U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS IM/IT CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

**HE DID IT!**



Dennis "Denny" Headrick was selected as the USACE IM/IT Champion of the Year among the USACE National Award Winners for the Information Management and Information Technology community of practice!

Denny has done tremendous work for the District in his primary duties, stepped in to temporarily cover down on duties as the District's training coordinator, and volunteered to support a number of District and community activities.

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PHOTO PROVIDED BY: BG HELMLINGER, NWD COMMANDER

**FED SEOUL , 2000**

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

***Sergeant First Class (SFC) Lindsey:*** a former Quality Assurance Representative (QAR) at Humphreys, retired from the Army and now works for USACE as the **Senior Quality Assurance Representative (SQAR)** for the Louisville District (top left)

***MAJ (now Brigadier General) Helmlinger:*** a former Project Engineer for Area I/II, is currently the **NWD Commander** (middle top row)

***CPT Byrd,*** a former Project Engineer at Osan AB and retired Army, is currently **FED Deputy District Engineer (DPM)** (top row, 2nd from the right)

***LTC Markham,*** former FED Deputy Commander and retired Army, is currently the **Director of DPW at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA** (top right)

***COL Kuhr,*** former FED Commander and retired Army, is currently an **SES with IMCOM** (bottom middle)

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***The District Employee of the Year 2021***

Maj. Heathra H. King



***The Project Delivery Team of the Year 2021***

III Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) Forward Headquarters  
(MAGTF Operations Center), Camp Mujuk



***The Support Staff Employee of the Year 2021***

Dennis R. Headrick



***The Administrative Employee of the Year 2021***

Sim Min-chong



***The Contracting Division  
Employee of the Year 2021***

Kim Chae-sop



***The Programs and Project Management Division  
Employee of the Year 2021***

So Y. Lee



***The Construction Division Employee of the Year 2021***

Pak Ki-hong



***The Engineering Division Employee of the Year 2021***

Shin Hyun-jun

# UPDATED MASK WEAR GUIDANCE AS OF JULY 28

- *In areas of substantial or high community transmission, DoD requires ALL Service members, Federal employees, onsite contractor employees, and visitors, **REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS,** to wear a mask in an indoor setting in installations and other facilities owned, leased or otherwise controlled by DoD.*
- *Service members, Federal employees, onsite contractor employees, and visitors who are not fully vaccinated also need to continue to physically distance consistent with applicable CDC and DoD Force Health Protection guidance.*
- *DoD installations, other facilities, and worksites shall, as soon as possible, post signs and post information on their websites clarifying what masking requirements apply in each installation, other facility, and worksite.*
- *Organizations should consult with their servicing Labor Relations Office for guidance regarding implementation for bargaining unit employees.*



**FAR EAST DISTRICT**