



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Far East District

Far East District Newsletter

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District sends 3 to assess typhoon damage on Guam

FED team lends disaster assistance

An FED team of two engineers and an emergency management specialist were part of a POD contingent deployed to Guam after the devastating typhoon Yuri slammed the island with 100 mile-per-hour winds and heavy seas in December.

Engineering Division's Choe, Kwang-Kyu of Cost Engineering Branch and Yim, Chang-Su of Military Branch volunteered their expertise and flew to Guam Dec. 9, with only three days advance notice. Simon Rosa of Emergency Management Office joined the team Dec. 17, after an assignment in Honolulu.

Called into action at the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Corps of Engineers' mission was to survey and assess storm damage to public buildings and infrastructure. Information gathered by the Corps was used by FEMA to administer assistance programs.

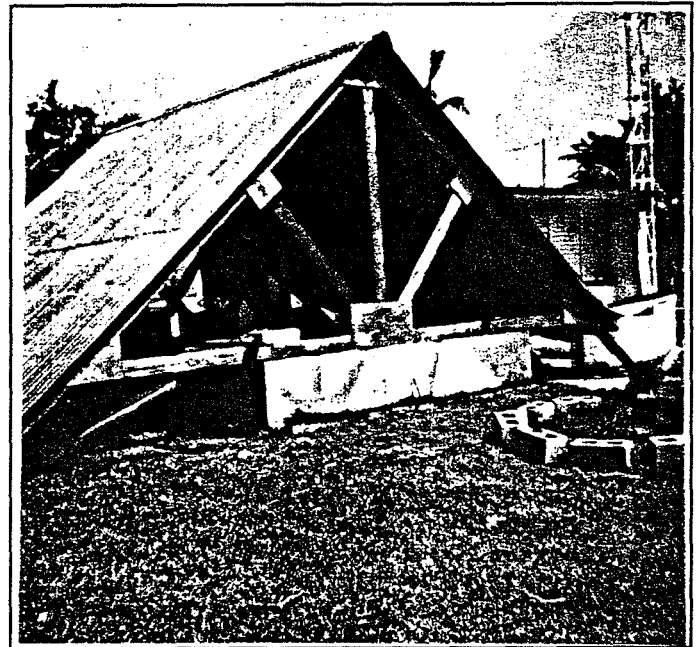
Preliminary damage assessments indicated that storm damages warranted a Presidential declaration of the territory as a federal disaster area. Then it was the POD team's job to inspect facilities and prepare detailed disaster survey reports. These reports determine the amount of federal aid given to replace or repair damaged public structures, according to Rosa.

"This was a good mission - a really positive, learning experience," said Choe. "Everything was unfamiliar - the people, the place, the work, even some of the food; so, it was like an adventure, and we had to be really resourceful."

"It was also interesting to meet so many different people, and rewarding to be able to help people," added Yim.

A typical work day began at 6 a.m. and ended sometime after 6 p.m. It was filled with hands-on inspections of damaged facilities followed by written evaluations of the cause and extent of damage and the estimated replacement or repair costs. Draft reports were staffed and coordinated, then prepared in final form.

Choe and Yim conducted their first inspection almost immediately after arriving in Guam. They reached their hotel at 3 a.m., local time, and



(Photo by Yim, Chang-Su)

Typhoon Yuri separated this A-frame roof from the structure it covered.

couldn't sleep. So, they performed their first, albeit unofficial, reconnaissance on foot at about 4 a.m. on their first day in country.

Each inspection team included a federal (Corps or FEMA) representative, a government of Guam representative, as well as a representative for whichever public agency had applied for federal assistance. Primary applicants for which the FED team conducted inspections were the University of Guam, Guam Community College and Guam Parks and Recreation Department.

On one not-so-typical day, Choe's inspection site was on a tiny island off the coast. After renting a 15-foot boat with outboard motor, Choe and two team members set course for Coco's Island. Half-way there the boat engine quit, leaving the trio at the mercy of the wind and waves. A passing barge

(See Guam disaster page 5)

Comings & goings

Two new members have joined the FED team. **Edisa Dale** joined the district in December as the executive secretary. She is an Army family member, and her last assignment was at Fort Gordon, Georgia. **Captain Thurman Green** joined the

Camp Casey Project Office this month. He comes to the district from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Richard Abe is leaving Design Branch this month for Honolulu and a position with Pacific Ocean Division's Engineering Directorate.

News briefs

District town meeting planned

The new POD commander, **COL (P) Ralph V. Locurcio**, will host a town meeting for all district employees at 2 p.m., Jan. 24, at the East Gate Club.

Locurcio's agenda during his four-day visit to FED includes tours of the Combined Field Army Bunker at Camp Red Cloud and of the Ammunition Holding Area at Camp Stanley. He will also visit people and projects at Camp Casey, Camp Eagle and Osan Air Base.

RMO helps closeout contracts

A tremendous effort by the Resource Management Office was instrumental in helping the district reduce the backlog of construction contracts which were physically but not financially completed last year. FED's October newsletter featured a front page article noting that our contract closeout record showed the greatest improvement of any district in the Corps.

According to **Adham Hemdan**, resource management chief, the accomplishment was a team effort, but a special round of applause should go to **Song, Mi; Han, C.C.; Ma, S.K.; Pak, T.K.; Sin, H.P.; and Yu, K.H.**; all of whom worked many long hours to make it happen. (Construction Division)

National Engineer Week

Each year a week is set aside to focus on the accomplishments of the nation's engineers. The 1992 National Engineer Week observance is set for the week of February 16.

Alcoholic beverage use

A new regulation has been approved and is being printed to assist in the control of alcohol abuse. Restrictions are effective immediately and

apply to all USFK facilities and services. Major policies are:

The sale and use of alcoholic beverages in USFK facilities is limited to a minimum of 18-years-old for active duty military personnel and to a minimum of 20-years-old for all others, including civilians and family members.

All USFK enlisted and officer clubs will establish designated driver programs.

The Army Alcohol Sellers Intervention Program or similar training will be provided MWR and AAFES employees.

Sale, consumption and storage or possession of alcoholic beverages in the work place or in government buildings must be approved by the first general officer in the chain of command.

Employees in facilities selling alcohol are responsible for refusing service to any individual who appears intoxicated or who appears underage and cannot provide proof of age.

Unit commanders will make immediate referral to the local Army Community Counseling Center, or similar facility for other branches of the service, when military personnel are cited, arrested or involved in an alcohol-related incident. (8th Army Message)

Martin Luther King Day

The celebration of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be observed Jan. 20. Theme for this year's observance is "Living the Dream: Let Freedom Ring."

Facility improvement certificate

The Army Communities of Excellence office has announced that facilities, and individuals responsible for making improvements to those facilities, may now be eligible for DA Certificates of Facility Excellence. More information will be forthcoming from Department of the Army. (ARNEWS)

Avoid tax refund delays, check forms for errors

Take a few minutes to check the federal income tax return for errors before mailing it. It takes about eight weeks for a refund check to be issued, said Internal Revenue Service officials, and even a simple mistake can add at least another two weeks.

According to IRS officials, the most common

mistakes made on federal returns for 1990 income were:

- Incorrect Social Security number;
- Wrong entries for estimated tax payments;
- Name incorrectly entered;
- Standard deduction not claimed;
- Wrong tax used or total tax not entered;
- Status boxes incorrectly marked;
- Duplicate return filed when not required; and
- Math errors in computing taxes.

IRS officials stress spending a little extra time when filling out the tax form and double-checking the work will save time in the long run.

Before mailing the completed tax forms, the IRS recommends checking:

- Name and Social Security number on each schedule;
- Name and Social Security number of each dependent on the return;
- Deductions;
- Tax from the tax tables;
- Earned income credit, if qualified;
- Entries on proper lines;
- Form W-2, schedules and other forms attached to the tax return; and
- Form signed and dated.

If everything is correct, make a copy of the tax return and its supporting forms for your files.

Correct IRS forms can make tax filing easier

One of the most frustrating things Americans have to look forward to every year is filing their federal income tax forms.

Internal Revenue Service officials say one way to simplify it is to make sure you have all the forms you need when you do your taxes. Forms or schedules that might be needed include those to claim the earned income credit, child-care expenses and moving expenses or to report interest income and stock dividends.

Frequently required forms include:

- Form 1040X, "Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return"
- Form 2119, "Sale of Your Home"
- Form 2441, "Child and Dependent Care Expenses"
- Form 2848, "Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative"
- Form 4506, "Request for Copy of Tax Return"
- Form 4868, "Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return"
- Form 8815, "Exclusion of Interest from Series EE U.S. Savings Bonds Issued After 1989"
- Form 8818, "Optional Form to Record Redemption of College Savings Bonds"
- Form 8822, "Change of Address"
- Form W-10, "Dependent Care Provider's Information and Certification"
- Schedule A, "Itemized Deductions"
- Schedule Earned Income Credit

These and other forms are available through the IRS. Call toll-free 1-800-829-3676 or write to:

**Internal Revenue Service
Forms Distribution Center
PO Box 25866
Richmond, VA 23289**

Telephone or write to IRS for overseas tax assistance

The Internal Revenue Service provides tax information and assistance to Americans living overseas through several programs.

During the federal tax-filing season, IRS employees travel to about 80 foreign countries to help Americans file their taxes. U.S. embassies and consulates announce dates and locations of outreach classes and tax assistance.

Individuals living abroad, who have specific questions or problems, may call the IRS at 202-287-4301 or write to:

**Internal Revenue Service
Assistant Commissioner
(International)
ATTN: IN:C:TPS
950 L'Enfant Plaza South, SW
Washington, DC 20024**

(Articles from American Forces Information Service)

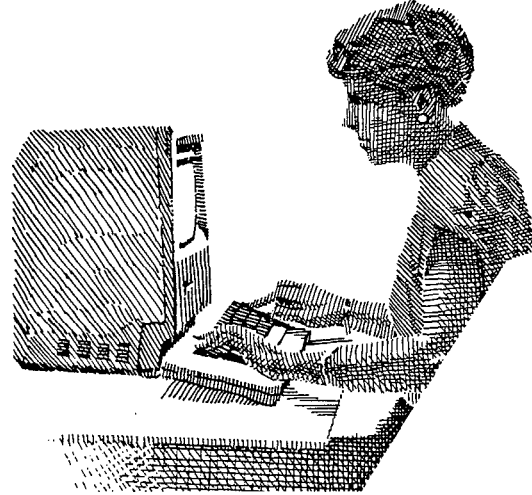
CEAP - Corps' automation plan to enhance communication

by Mike Gaboury
chief, information management

The U.S. Army is an organization that must remain ready and able to respond to any engineering challenge in war and peace. Effective and efficient communication of up-to-date information is a mandate to meet this challenge. In support of the effort to respond adequately to the needs of this country, now and into the next century, the Corps has embarked on the Corps of Engineers Automation Plan (CEAP).

CEAP was initiated to deliver an improved information processing and telecommunications environment. The design is flexible and will support current systems as well as provide for changing missions and new technology implementation. The plan is a four step process of restructuring and upgrading the Corps' antiquated Information Processing Equipment to a faster, more efficient Information Technology Platform. CEAP was started in 1979 and is currently in the final stages of completing Phase 1a. Under the CEAP strategy, the Corps is replacing all Harris minicomputers located at each division/district and the Honeywell mainframes located at 12 division offices. Under CEAP there are three large computer facilities, the Western Processing Center at North Pacific Division in Portland, the Central Processing Center at Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, and the Eastern Processing Center at Rockville, Md. Many division/district offices are also purchasing smaller mini computers for local unique automation development and to augment the larger processing centers. POD has purchased two such systems for use by all offices within the division.

CEAP applications currently used by POD consist of CorpsMail, COEMIS and AMPRS. Several new systems are being developed to encompass Life Cycle Project Management, Financial Management, Database Management, Water Control, Computer Aided



Drafting and Design, scientific and engineering graphics and a host of other systems. The single most important feature of CEAP locally is the new communications backbone which allows FED to communicate with other host computers several times faster than previously capable.

Prior to CEAP the Corps had a proliferation of information systems, inconsistent applications, incompatible computer system environments, limited and fragmented communication capabilities, and poor end user support tools. In other words: myriad incompatible systems that were unable to communicate with each other. To achieve its full potential, a computer system must be integrated with people and procedures to provide information useful in decision making. CEAP is the vehicle to do just that. Its purpose is to bring together all of the decision making variables into an integrated and consistent order.

CEAP will provide the Corps with its first totally compatible computer infrastructure and its first Corps-wide integrated communication backbone. The plan will provide a long term, stable environment which will continue to be updated with evolving technologies. Finally, CEAP will dramatically reduce the cost of automation support.

Guam disaster

mistook their frantic gestures and shouts as friendly waves of greeting and passed them by with a smile. He later realized their predicament, turned around and towed the little boat back to Guam. Undaunted, Choe and his team rented a second boat and completed their mission.

Most of the damage wreaked by Yuri was the result of strong waves, rather than from the wind, said Choe. He noted that while shoreline piers, pavilions and picnic shelters were completely washed away, there were still coconuts on the palm trees.

While no injuries and deaths were reported, the typhoon sent 2,500 people to temporary shelters and knocked out power island-wide. Guam's nearly 135,000 residents were without water for several days.

This was the first disaster response mission for Choe, Yim and Rosa, but they had received emergency operations training previously from POD. While classroom training was helpful, the three agreed that nothing is as good as December's on-the-job training. They also learned a lot from the other division team members.

"All thirteen of us on the POD team worked well together," said Yim, "and everybody worked long and hard." The team wrote a total of 250 damage survey reports, he said. A sense of accomplishment is obvious in the way all three describe their experience.

Though unaccustomed to it, Choe and Yim joined the rest of the group for three large meals a day, and consumed large quantities of coffee with their counterparts during their 15-day mission. "Here we eat more vegetables and rice and lighter meals - not all the meat and greasy-type foods we did in Guam," Choe said. Neither plans on converting to a Guamanian diet.

"The FED folks were really a welcome part of the whole team," said Jimmy Lee, POD's director of emergency management. "They were ready to go to work the minute they arrived; they learned fast; and they contributed a lot to this mission."

Despite the challenges and inconveniences of their disaster assistance adventure, all three would do it again.

"If we have the chance to help someone, we would gladly go," Yim said.