MG Milton Hunter tours flood recovery areas in South Korea

by Gloria Stanley

It was seven months ago that torrential rains inundated the Republic of Korea and flooded several U.S. military installations, but there still remains much restoration work to be done. This is why MG Milton Hunter, Director of Military Programs, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, visited Korea last month.

During his visit February 8-10, 1999, MG Hunter met with several U.S. military officials at a Flood Recovery Program Senior Executive Review Group meeting in Seoul. The meeting was moderated by Mr. Howard Blood, Acting Chief, Programs and Project Management Division. Other participants included LTG Daniel Petrosky, Commanding General, Eighth U.S. Army and Chief of Staff, United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/U.S.

Forces Korea; MG Robert Dees, Commanding General, 2nd Infantry Division; and MG Carl Freeman, Commanding General, 19th Theater Army Area Command.

The recovery effort has more than doubled the typical annual military construction army (MCA) workload of the District for FY99. This year's program includes an additional $118 million in MCA contracts and another $45 million in operations and maintenance projects the District has been asked to do by Eighth Army. All the contracts for this work must be awarded by the end of this fiscal year, September 30, 1999.

MG Hunter toured flood damaged areas and project sites at Camps Casey, Hovey and Red Cloud which were the installations hardest hit by the flooding and landslides. At Camp Red Cloud Mr. Curtis Lypek, Project Engineer, Uijongbu Project Office, briefed Hunter on a new barracks and company operations building project under construction and another barracks project nearly ready to be turned over. At Camps Casey and Hovey, LTC Mark (continued on page 8)
From the Commander

COL David J. Rehbein

The Best Reward!

I recently had an amazingly uplifting experience. As I went TDY a couple of weeks ago, the traffic was lighter than usual so I arrived at Kimpo Airport with extra time to kill before my flight left. I made my way to the upstairs lounge to watch TV or maybe sit and read in a more comfortable environment. Once upstairs, I tried to explain to the lady behind the lounge counter that I wanted an OB Beer, but I had trouble understanding her reply. The single other American in the empty lounge was watching and called out to me that what she was trying to tell me was that all she had left was Carlsburg beer. I readily agreed that Carlsburg was better than nothing, then took my beer and went to join the young man. It was obvious to me that he was a soldier. I was wearing my maroon colored windbreaker that says, "Airborne" down the sleeve. It's a common enough garment in me about a great and unexpected thing happened. He paused and continued to tell me how he'd been living in a Quonset hut before the floods. He then proceeded to enthusiastically tell me about a great and unexpected event shortly after the floods. He and his unit suddenly moved into a brand new barracks. The Best Reward! My jacket had given me away. We talked about the units to which we had been assigned, the Ft. Bragg community, exaggerated jump stories . . . regular soldier talk. I had not yet identified myself as a Colonel or as the Commander of the Far East District. I finally got a chance to ask him where he'd been assigned while in Korea. Camps Hovey and Casey, I discovered. I asked him how the floods of August had affected him. He replied with the common but extraordinary tales of waist deep water, lost possessions, moving and working in the middle of the night, coping with danger and anxiety while cooperating with other soldiers - all those things we've heard time and time again about the exploits of the flood ravaged units.

But then the most remarkable thing happened. He went on for a while about how great it was to get into those barracks and how far superior they were to where he'd been before. I don't think I'll ever be able to fully convey the pride and satisfaction I felt then. This young soldier didn't know who I was. He had no idea I was an Engineer. Yet, he wanted to tell me about his move into new barracks! Those were the barracks we built. Those were one of two barracks we turned over to the Casey DPW early even though they weren't fully ready. Those were the barracks that some thought we shouldn't turn over because of warranty questions and complications with finishing while they were occupied. What petty arguments they seemed while listening to that soldier. What we did was right. Our work isn't always glamorous, but it is important. We made a real difference to this soldier and others like him. That's what the District does here in Korea. Whether we respond in crisis or build under routine circumstances, there is some young American that directly benefits from our construction projects. And that's why I am continually intent on expeditiously completing our flood relief projects. There are still more young men and women waiting for us to get on with the job . . . most won't get to enjoy the new buildings we'll soon see here in Korea . . . but others like them will.

Check out the Far East District web site at http://www.pof.usace.army.mil

COL Rehbein
Food Safety Tips
(Part II)

1. Simply PRECOOKING the meat briefly in a microwave, marinating it, or keeping it away from high heat, all can help. Even moist cooking such as stewing or boiling, also appears to help the situation.


3. There is NO Radiation residue AFTER microwave production stops.

4. The WHIRRING noise some ovens make after the door is opened is the fan and has nothing to do with radiation.

5. Don't use a microwave oven if the DOOR doesn't close firmly or is damaged. If you own an older model with a soft mesh door gasket, which is deteriorating, the oven needs to be serviced.

6. The FDA has found that the inexpensive home microwave-testing devices are often inaccurate.

7. If there are signs of rusting inside the oven, have it repaired.

8. Except for heavy-duty or designated "safe" PLASTIC WRAP, prevent the wrap from touching food while cooking.

9. OVEN COOKING BAGS are safe for use in the microwave and furthermore, are recommended because they promote even cooking.

10. DO NOT re-use trays and containers provided with microwave convenience products because they are not designed to be used more than once.

11. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture does not recommend eating raw or uncooked EGG yolks, whites or products containing them. SALMONELLA is most frequently found in the yoke and is often the result of leaving eggs out at room temperature, pooling eggs, and incomplete cooking.

12. Eggs should always be refrigerated, kept in their ORIGINAL CARTON, and in the coldest part of the refrigerator (not the door).

13. DO NOT WASH eggs prior to storage because that will remove the protective coating applied at the packaging plant.

14. For OPTIMAL SAFETY, eggs should be thoroughly cooked so that both yolks and whites are FIRM. This is especially important for people most at risk, such as young children, the elderly, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems.

15. If you are unwilling to give up UNDERCOOKED eggs, you can minimize your risk by cooking or microwaving the egg until the white is completely firm and the yolk begins to thicken but is not hard.

16. An important and useful safety check for egg dishes such as casseroles and quiche is to insert a knife into the center and make sure it comes out clean.

17. In an emergency, contact the POISON CONTROL CENTER, 1-800-962-1253.
Welcome to this month’s 2IC’s Corner. Some of you may have noticed my absence over the last week and a half. I spent some leave in Okinawa working with the III Marine Expeditionary Force (MED) Command Chaplain on a three-day retreat and then flew to Honshu for a RSOI workshop and Engineer Tabletop Exercise hosted by JED.

My four days in Okinawa were fantastic! The weather was wonderful... warm... and the company was great. Working a three-day retreat with a group of primarily Marines, a few Air Force folks and a small group of DODDS teachers was rewarding - for those participating in the retreat and for those sponsoring the retreat. We had some light rain on Saturday but that was the only thing that dampened our collective spirits over the weekend. It was a refreshing experience!

FED is very busy and engineers love to work. However, we all need to take time to refresh our spirits. It just makes us more effective and more productive. What’s the old saying? - "All work and no play make Jack a dull boy." Let’s keep ourselves sharp and take a day off, when appropriate, to renew our minds and spirit. Take some short timeouts; you, your family, and the District will benefit.

The first week of March was devoted to warfighting. Certainly, a great contrast from the previous four days in Okinawa. Mitchel Glenn, Pat Crays, and I rendezvoused in Honshu and spent a week at JED planning for the upcoming RSOI exercise. Together with representatives from the Division and other Districts within POD, we have laid out an exercise that should be challenging as well as rewarding for all participants.

We will be working a number of tasks associated with contingency purchasing and contracting, split-based operations, theater of operations design and construction (TCMS), mobilization of personnel and equipment, and regional contingency engineer management. For certain, FED, JED, and POD headquarters will be involved. The official dates for RSOI 99 will be announced shortly. Expect a busy April.

As I write this article, Theater Construction Management System (TCMS) training is ongoing at FED. Three folks are here from Huntsville to teach two, two-day classes. This same team conducted training at JED last week. TCMS will be one of the centerpieces for the engineer community during RSOI 99. We will use this system to design and manage a few selected projects during the exercise. The USFKE Engineer will use our TCMS products to test the theater's engineer management and logistics systems associated with these projects to gain insight and initiate improvements as necessary. This should be an interesting yet challenging series of tasks for both JED and FED.

In early April, our IMAs will start arriving. IMAs and FED permanent party personnel (military and civilian) involved with the exercise will conduct three to four days of pre-exercise training. Prior to the actual RSOI 99 exercise, you can anticipate a CPX (initiated by a recall exercise) and a NEO drill as well.

With the size of our program this year, I can understand that some may view the RSOI 99 exercise as a distraction and an impediment to execution of the flood restoration efforts as well as our "normal" work. I would direct your attention back to August of last year. We successfully executed three major tasks simultaneously... UFL, Flood Assessments, and the FY end. We are equal to the upcoming tasks. RSOI 99, flood restoration, and our normal program are the three simultaneous efforts at this juncture. Remember the engineer motto... Essayons. It will not be easy, but I know we will succeed. Remember... Think War!!!
USACE Command Sergeant Major and Chaplain visit FED

by Gloria Stanley

February was a month for visiting the Far East District. In addition to MG Milton Hunter, Director of Military Programs, USACE, we hosted USACE Command Sergeant Major Edward Lugo and Corps Chaplain LTC Tim Carlson in February.

Command Sergeant Major Lugo said he tries to visit each District once a year to meet with FED soldiers to let them know he can be an advocate for them. He sits on MACOM Boards and meets with other Command Sergeants Major of the Army and has a vote on issues of concern. He takes information to the Chief of Engineers, LTG Ballard, and brings back from District visits issues of concern to Corps soldiers. He wants the soldiers to let him know how they can help them.

"I'm available to any of the FED soldiers," Lugo said. "If there is anything of concern, please contact me."

He can be reached at DSN 763-0833 or commercial (202) 761-0833. His e-mail address is: edward.h.lugo.CSM@hq02.usace.army.mil.

Lugo said he was impressed by the professionalism of non-coms in dealing with construction contracts.

"They have a common sense approach - getting things done right the first time - and have a constant level of professionalism," Lugo said.

Chaplain Carlson said he was surprised at the number of soldiers he saw during this trip who are soldiers he knows from Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. His previous assignment was as Deputy Post Chaplain there.

He is the first chaplain, as far as he knows, ever assigned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Chaplains are usually assigned to troop units or commands, so for a mostly civilian organization like the Corps to have a chaplain is unusual. He has been stationed at HQUSACE since November.

He plans to serve as a liaison linking members of the Corps serving at disaster sites with helping agencies that can offer spiritual and emotional support to our people.

He said some concerns mentioned by people he as met on this trip are adequate personnel; the importance to NCOs that new people get training on route to Korea; and the threat of North Korea. At

Members of the Far East District staff and active duty military enjoy lunch at a local Korean restaurant during Command Sergeant Major Edward H. Lugo's (3rd from left) visit to the District in February.

Corps Chaplain LTC Tim Carlson was surprised at the number of people he knows from Ft. Leonard Wood who are in Korea. times they have to work very hard to keep their minds off the threat, according to Carlson.

Chaplain Carlson wants everyone to know he can be reached at (202) 761-0772 and his e-mail address is: harold.t.carlson.ltc@hq02.usace.army.mil.

Command Sergeant Major Lugo thanks both Mr. Larry Drape and 2ID Command St. Major Lee for their assistance during their visit.
Engineer Week began with the sound of a starter gun signifying the beginning of the 5-K run organized by CPT Shelley Berry-Hodne, Seoul Project Office, with the assistance of Mr. Michael Bray, Seoul Project Office. Participants included several FEDsters.

Mr. David Wilson, Executive Office, participated in the 5-K run.

as did CPT Donald Payne, Programs and Project Management Division.

Ms. Charlotte Stockwell (left), Resource Management, and Ms. Sheila Bergeron, Programs and Project Management, display the Engineer Week T-shirts all the participants received.

Whether a runner or walker -
Whether a child or an adult -

Everyone was invited to enjoy the crisp morning air and support National Engineer Week at Collier Field House, Yongsan Garrison, on Saturday, February 20th.
LTC Tom Bailey, Deputy for Base Operations, 19th TAACOM, views a display set up at the Dragon Hill Lodge during National Engineers Week.

SGT Steve Turley, Seoul Project Office, checks out a computer program that is part of a National Engineer Week display providing information about the mission of the Foundation and Materials Branch. The displays were at the Dragon Hill Lodge all week to inform the public about our mission.

Mr. Ilmar Tarikas (left), Foundations and Materials Branch, explains to the students visiting from Seoul American High School how the Total Station Theodolite measures distances and angles.

Mr. Ricky Grubbs (seated), Engineering Division, shows students from Seoul American High School the Computer Assisted Design and Drafting (CADD) applications for engineering.

Possible future engineers -
Nine students from Seoul American High School visit FED during National Engineers Week.
New FED Team Members

Mr. Mitchel O. Glenn arrived at FED on February 14, 1999, to assume the position of Chief, Emergency Management Office. He came to the District from Camp Carroll, where he had served as the Director of Public Works since August 1997. He also served as Chief, Buildings and Grounds Division there. Glenn also worked for the Corps at Huntsville and at the New Orleans District. He also served in the Army on active duty, in the National Guard, and the Army Reserve for 20 years and holds the rank of Major. Glenn is a member of the Army Engineer Association. His hobbies include sports, reading, computers, and traveling.

Mr. Kenneth Lee joined FED this month as an environmental engineer in the Environmental Unit, Services Branch, Engineering Division. Before he came here, Lee worked on water resources in civil works, especially water quality control and flood control in the Potomac River and Susquehanna River Basins for 20 years. His work included design of water quality control measures for dams and hydropower plants, reservoir operations, hazardous toxic waste, and water supply and wastewater treatments. While working for the Baltimore District, Lee wrote several papers for professional journals. He received a BS degree from Seoul National University in 1965 and a Master's degree from the University of Illinois in 1977.

Mr. Yi, Kwang-sok joined FED on February 3, 1999, as a quality assurance representative at the Tongduchon Resident Office. He came to FED from Dongbu Corporation where he was a project manager for the Child Development Center Building at Yongsan. Prior to that, Mr. Yi was District quality assurance representative at the Osan Resident Office. He has a BS degree in mechanical engineering from Yonsei University. His hometown is Daejeon City, Choongchung Namdo, Korea.

Mr. An, Kwang-kyun joined FED on February 3, 1999, as a general engineer at the Tongduchon Resident Office. He is a graduate of Seoul National University and has a Bachelors' degree in architecture. He is also a member of the Professional Engineer Association of Korea. He worked for the District from 1985 to 1989 in the southern area and at Camp Casey. Mr. An is a trekking enthusiast.

MG Hunter Visits FED
(continued from page 1)

Abernathy, Director of Public Works, Camp Casey, briefed Hunter during a tour of areas flooded in August 1998.

(Above) Mr. Curtis Lypek (right), Uijongbu Project Office, briefs MG Milton Hunter (2nd from right) on a new barracks and company operations building under construction at Camp Red Cloud. (Below) LTC Mark Abernathy (right), DPW, Camp Casey, briefs MG Hunter (center) and BG Carl Strock, POD Commander, during a tour of areas flooded last August.
New military program to identify "high potential" recruits
by Gary Sheftick (ARNEWS)

After missing this fiscal year's first-quarter recruiting goal by 2,300 soldiers, the Army is taking a look at accepting more recruits with high school equivalency degrees.

"This notion that quality is defined by being a high school diploma graduate has put us in a box that is really hurting our ability to recruit," Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera said. The army has many fine soldiers now with GEDs, Caldera said, explaining that young people with GEDs shouldn't be barred from military service if they can demonstrate the "desire and the ability to be successful."

Caldera has directed Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Patrick Henry to develop a pilot program to look at recruits with GEDs. Henry said the program will study ways "high potential" GED holders might be identified.

The pilot program will not be a "quick fix" for recruiting shortfalls, officials said, but is instead designed to provide benefits for the Army years into the future.

"The Army is committed to recruiting and maintaining a quality force," Henry said.

"Earning a GED should not preclude otherwise qualified and motivated young men and women from serving our nation in uniform," Henry said. "They have taken the initiative to earn a recognized high school equivalency, and that initiative can translate into success in the Army."

A small task force under Henry is trying to isolate attributes, qualifications and skills that will identify those potential recruits with GEDs who are most likely to be successful in the Army, an official said. Life experience such as jobs, scouting, and volunteer work may be taken into account, he said, to see if these play a significant factor in demonstrating one's potential for retention.

The task force may also look at other research, he said, such as a study being conducted now by the Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences.

ARI developed a test to measure motivation among recruits. Called the Assessment of Individual Motivation, or AIM, the test has been administered to about 20,000 recruits so far. About 2,000 of these recruits have GEDs, researchers said.

Some researchers envision the AIM eventually being used to help screen potential recruits. The test results might be combined with other criteria and experience, officials said, to help identify those candidates who are highly motivated and likely to succeed in the Army. Under a current Department of Defense policy, no more than 10 percent of recruits can be GED holders. Officials said if the Army wants to accept more than 10 percent, Caldera would request relief from DoD regulatory restrictions.

Recruiting more GED holders was a topic of discussion at the Army's first Hispanic Leadership Summit held Jan. 13 in San Antonio, Texas.

Participants at the summit included Congressmen Ciro Rodriguez and Charlie Gonzales, both of Texas; and Gil Coronado, Director of the Selective Service System.

Coronado dropped out of school at age 15 and joined the military. He later went on to receive a GED and retired from the service as a colonel.

"The military opened more doors in my life than I ever thought existed," Coronado said.

Coronado explained that the military "provides a level playing field in which you meet people from walks of life that you might never have been able to meet were it not for the military. It's truly one of the best experiences a young person can have for laying a successful foundation to his or her life," he said.

Rodriguez, who represents the San Antonio district, said that research has identified seven reasons why students drop out of high school. "One of those is academic," Rodriguez said.

"The other six are not."

Rodriguez said that many Hispanic students drop out of

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New military program
(continued from page 9)

high school to help support their families. He said that these young people deserve an opportunity to enlist in the Army.

"I think that the Army is an institution that should not write off people in America who need a second chance," Caldera said.

A number of the Army's top NCOs have been GED holders, according to Army personnel officials, saying those ranks include two former sergeants major of the Army.

One example of a GED holder who achieved success in the Army was Medal of Honor recipient Louis Rocco. He dropped out of high school, later earned a GED, and went on to earn an associate's degree from the University of Baylor while in the Army. He also was commissioned a warrant officer before leaving the Army. He now works as a counseling therapist at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in San Antonio.

As a sergeant first class, Rocco earned a Medal of Honor in Vietnam in 1970 for carrying eight injured soldiers across 20 meters of exposed terrain under fire. He did this despite having a broken wrist, fractured hip and severely burned hands suffered moments earlier when his helicopter was shot down on the way to pick up the wounded.

"You don't have to have a diploma to serve your country and perform an act of valor above and beyond, Rocco said.

Army announces new fraternization policy
by Sgt. lst Class Connie E. Dickey (ARNEWS)

A new Army policy on fraternization took effect March 2, 1999, giving officers and enlisted soldiers who are now dating one year to marry or end their relationship.

The new "good order and discipline" policy revises Army Regulation 600-20. Besides restricting personal relationships between soldiers of different ranks, it also limits private business deals between officers and enlisted soldiers. While the policy does not prohibit transactions such as selling a car or renting a house, it does restrict the lending of money or entering into long-term business partnerships. Business relationships, which were allowed under the old policy, are exempt until March 1, 2000.

Secretary of Defense William Cohen directed in July 1998 that all services align their fraternization policies. The Army's "Good Order and Discipline Policy" is a direct result of that directive, officials said, and not only applies to relationships between soldiers, but also relations of Army personnel with service members in other branches.

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Patrick T. Henry said the new policy reflects the need for the military services to have standard policies because of the increasingly joint character of modern military missions.

The policy immediately prohibits officers and enlisted soldiers from beginning any new romantic relationship. However, if the relationship existed prior to March 1, officials said the soldiers have until March 1, 2000 to get married, break up or face the consequences.

The policy also prohibits relationships between permanent-party soldiers and initial-entry trainees, whether stationed on the same post or not. It prohibits romantic relationships between recruiters and potential recruits, without regard to where the applicants live or where the service member is stationed.

In fact, the new policy prohibits any relationship between soldiers of different ranks if the relationship appears to compromise supervisory authority, or could result in impartial treatment. Relationships are prohibited if they appear to involve the improper use of rank or position for personal gain. Relationships are also forbidden if they will have an adverse impact on unit morale or the ability of a command to accomplish its mission.

Officials said the new policy is not intended to preclude normal team building such as community organizations, family gatherings, unit-based social functions or in any way limit athletic competition. Unit-based social functions include picnics, hails and farewells, right arm night and bring your boss night.

"I want to stress that the Army has always emphasized the importance of sound professional interpersonal relationships to the
Army announces new fraternization policy
(continued from page 10)

success of the Army missions," Henry said. "The nature and structure of our Army demands that officers and enlisted work together in teams and units under trying circumstances. Unit cohesion is essential to build the confidence and trust necessary for units to fight and win on the battlefield. Good, professional leadership and common sense will make these new policies work for the good of the Army," he said.

Relationships between Reserve Component members are exempt from the new policy if the relationships are primarily based on civilian acquaintanceships. Personal relations between Regular Army and Reserve component soldiers are also allowed, with the same stipulation. However, officers and enlisted soldiers cannot date if either are on active-duty tours or serving in full-time Guard or Reserve positions.

The new policy gives commanders at company-level the authority to prohibit relationships that compromise or appear to compromise the integrity of authority or the chain of command.

FED conducts seventh Contractor Construction Certification Course

The Far East District held its first Contractor Construction Safety Certification Course of 1999, during 23-25 February. This was the seventh class given since the inception of this initiative and the sixth class given to Korean Construction Contractors. The District continues to revolutionize effectiveness, seek growth opportunities, and invest in people by providing this quarterly training. Messrs. Sam Barnes, Chief, Safety & Occupational Health Office, and David McCracken, Industrial Hygienist of the District's Safety Office, provided instruction.

Thirty-five students, representing 19 different Korean construction firms and three students from Seoul National University of Technology, attended this class. The Korean Military Contractors Association (KMCA) provided translated student manuals, however all classes were taught in English. Students were tested at the completion of the training and Barnes presented certificates of completion to all 38 graduates. Special recognition was provided to Messrs. Chung, Won-seok of Seoul National University of Technology, and Na, Jae-sim of Samsung Corporation, for being the only students in the class to receive 100% on the exam. Barnes presented them with Safety Coins #18 and #19 respectively.

The District has taught 206 Korean construction and government representatives and university students, and 24 U.S. government employees.
March is
Income Tax Time

Don't forget to file your tax return by April 15th!

March 17

Income Tax Time