

East Gate Edition

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It was a little cool the morning of April 6, 1999, but about 20 third grade students attending Seoul American Elementary School went on a field trip to the construction site of the new Army Community Services Center.

After putting on hard hats and being briefed by Mr. Tim Phillips, NRO Resident Engineer, and Mehdi Mizani,

quality assurance representative, NRO, the students were able to see the construction contractor pour concrete for the foundation of the new building.

The purpose of the tour was to enhance the reading program their teacher was using about how to build an idea from the ground up.

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From the Commander



COL David J. Rehbein

Spring!

Spring is upon us and with it all the symbolism of renewal and fresh starts. As I write this, Easter is only a few days away. For my family and me it is the most important church holiday of the year. Regardless of your own beliefs, the universal message embedded in Easter is that no matter how gloomy and depressed, there is a sure hope of joy and better times ahead.

And so it is with the District; things are looking good. The selection of Mr. Jack Church for promotion to GS-15 and Chief of Construction right here in his own "home District" is happy news indeed. I hope I can report to you soon on the Deputy Engineer for Programs and Project Management and the Chief of Engineering positions. We've

already awarded the first of the Flood MILCON projects and the next month will see a host more ready to award. We've received great assistance from sister Districts with TDY help to address the surge of work we've had and despite frustration with the personnel system our end strength is edging upwards.

Speaking of renewal and new life, I became a grandfather (*again*) on the 26th of March. My second grandson was born in Anchorage, Alaska, and my wife was able to make it there in time to be with my daughter and her husband. Jennifer delivered exactly on the date I told her to (*2 weeks early*) in order not to interfere with the RMB, RSOI, and my trip to ENFORCE. Anyone who can so smoothly bring in a project ahead of schedule has a future as a Project Manager. Hmmm, maybe I should have her talk to the folks doing flood projects.

Doing without my wife for a couple of weeks sure made me realize how important she is to the smooth operations of our family. Once again, I've been reminded that, of the two of us, the one who has the most energy, organization,

patience, and management skills is not the one wearing the uniform. I can do dishes, wash clothes, clean house, change diapers, bring kids to cub scouts, do the shopping, and a myriad number of other domestic chores . . . but do them all? At the same time? Do them well? Wow, this District Commander stuff is easy compared to what my wife does every day. Those of you with families and spouses at home ought to remember to tell them how much you appreciate them.

In a couple of weeks I'll be at Fort Leonard Wood for the ENFORCE conference at the end of the month. This year it will be held in conjunction with the worldwide DPW conference. This yearly gathering always brings new insights to our work as Engineers and keeps us on the right track to serve the Army and the Nation. I'm especially looking forward to it this year because as I mingle with the other District Commanders I'll be able to brag about the great things you all have done and the things we continue to do in support of USFK. Thanks!

Essays!
COL Rehbein

Check out the Far East District web site at [Http://www.pof.usace.army.mil](http://www.pof.usace.army.mil)

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District Commander: COL David J. Rehbein Public Affairs Officer: Gloria Stanley Photographer: Yo, Kyong-il

Safety

by David McCracken

During my visits to project sites, I have seen improper glove selection too often by our Korean contractors. I hope this simple guide will assist our QARs and other employees in providing assistance to our contractors so they may better protect their employees. You may think protecting one's hands or skin is of minor importance. Please note that in 1985 the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor found that out of 125,000 new cases of occupational illnesses among workers, more than 66% involved skin disease or disorders associated with repeated trauma. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has included dermatologic disorder on its list of ten leading occupational health problems. In short, occupational skin disorders are a major cause of injury and disability in the workplace.

I want to stress that this is a very brief discussion on skin related conditions and chemical protective gloves. Please contact me by e-mail or at 721-7046 for more information.

Contact Irritant Dermatitis is localized inflammatory reaction following single or repeated exposure to a chemical. There are three types of reactions that may occur. The first type results from a single exposure to a chemical, causing erythema (skin redness) and edema (increased fluid in the tissue around the affected area). The second type of reaction shows no visible sign on a single exposure, but repeated exposure results in a reversible erythema, chapping, erythema crackles, and hemorrhagic fissures on the skin. This is the most common occupational contact dermatitis. The third type of response occurs on repeated exposure but results in a chronic dermatitis not easily reversible.

Commonly identified irritants include detergents, various organic solvents, and acids and bases.

Allergic Contact Dermatitis is similar to irritant dermatitis, but the mechanism of the disease is from allergic sensitization. The most common skin sensitizing agent is pentadecylcatechol, the active agent in poison ivy. However, a number of occupational skin sensitizers have been identified, including chromium, cobalt, and nickel.

Let's look at some specifics that may be found on our construction sites or workplaces, types of reaction, and the best type of glove for protection.

CHEMICAL	REACTION	PROTECTION
Epoxy Resins	Primary and Allergic	Nitrile Rubber
Formaldehyde	Allergic	Butyl or Nitrile Rubber
Cement	Allergic	Any impervious material
Acetone	Primary	Butyl Rubber
Benzene, Toluene, and Xylene	Primary	Polyvinyl-Alcohol
Trichlorethylene	Primary	Polyvinyl-Alcohol TM
Turpentine	Primary and Allergic	Viton
Alcohols	Primary and Allergic	Butyl Rubber
Creosote	Allergic	Butyl Rubber
Cutting Oils	Primary	Nitrile Rubber
Gasoline	Primary	Nitrile Rubber or Polyvinyl-Alcohol

It is important to know that all chemicals will eventually penetrate, permeate, or degrade the protective glove. A daily inspection of the gloves must be performed and a change-out schedule established using the manufacturer's guidance. Consult the MSDS for the material and, if need be, the chemical manufacturer for specific guidance.

April Safety Slogan: *Improper protection is worse than no protection.*

The 2IC's Corner



by LTC Mark Cain
Deputy Commander

Change is constant and this District is an excellent example of just that. As many of you have heard, the Chief of Construction Division was identified, Mr. Jack Church. The Deputy for Programs and Project Management and the District's other senior civilian position is still vacant, Chief of Engineering Division. An announcement concerning these positions should be made in the near future.

The District is growing. I saw a chart just this week that projects District end strength to be at approximately 358 by fiscal year end. That is approximately 70 new faces this fiscal year alone and more coming. A lot of folks have contributed to this effort and I do not want to minimize anyone's efforts. However, I would like to publicly thank Ms. Monte Howard for her superb contributions to this recruiting effort. Thanks a million!

We have just finished the mid-year budget review. Again, a team effort involving all Divisions, but the spotlight was on RM. I would like to thank all involved for their hard work, but in particular, Ms. Sin, Hui-pok, is to be commended for efforts well above and beyond the norm. The District will be well prepared for the RMB.

Speaking of recognition, I should mention two programs: the Federal Employee of the Year and our Emerging Leaders. The following personnel were nominated for Federal Employees of the Year for the Far East District:

- ✦ Manager/Supervisor of the Year:
Ms. Peggy Grubbs
- ✦ Federal Employee of the Year (Prof., Administrative & Technical):
Ms. Song Bliss
- ✦ Federal Employee of the Year (Clerical & Assistant):
Ms. Choe, Si-cha
- ✦ Federal Employee of the Year (Trades & Crafts):
Mr. Yim, In-yong
- ✦ Military Officer of the Year:
CPT Steve Walker
- ✦ Enlisted Service Member of the Year:
SFC Steve Turley
- ✦ Exceptional Community Service:
Mr. Kim, Hwa-yong
- ✦ Federal Organization Excellence:
Flood Damage Assessment Team

POD's selection board met last Wednesday. POD winners will travel to Hawaii in late May for an awards dinner.

At the May Senior Leaders Conference, in Alaska, the following individuals will represent the District as our Emerging

Leaders:

- ✦ *Mr. Curtis Lypek,*
Uijongbu Project Office
- ✦ *Ms. Sin, Hui-pok,*
Resource Management Office
- ✦ *Ms. Kim, Yong-son,*
Information Management Office

These individuals have shown outstanding leadership potential and are leading candidates for District leadership positions in the future.

Please take the opportunity to congratulate all the above individuals when you see them. Each has done a wonderful job for the District and deserves recognition from superiors, peers, and subordinates. My personal best to each and every one of you. Thank you for your superb efforts in what you do for the District!

The new EOC, S-81, is virtually complete with subsequent move-in just in time for RSOI!

In a related facilities note, the site orientation for T-109 has occurred. We should start on that renovation in the near future. The goal is to have this multi-purpose facility complete for the Chief of Engineers' visit this summer.

That's it for this month. See you around the District . . . and (*I almost forgot*) during RSOI, remember, "Think War!"

EECs and MECs receive contingency training

by Gloria Stanley

As part of contingency training for Far East District Emergency Essential Civilians (EEC) and Mission Essential Civilians (MEC), on April 7, 1999, EEC and MEC personnel attended common task training.

The objectives of the instruction were to ensure basic skill familiarity of all the EEC/MEC trainees with replacing the canister on an M-40 Protective Mask as well as putting on, wearing, removing and storing the mask and hood. They were also trained in administering nerve agent antidote and applying field dressings, and received instruction in how to put on and wear MOPP Gear.

Since the annual Reception, Staging, Oward Movement and Integration (RSOI) is during April, this was an opportune time for training these personnel and enhance FED's readiness.



FED EECs and MECs practice how to drink water from a canteen while wearing a gas mask and hood.



Ms. Kim, Hye-Yong, LMO, learns how to put on and wear NBC/MOPP gear.



(above) LTC Michael Alexander shows EECs and MECs how to administer nerve agent antidote. (below) EECs and MECs learn how to put on gas masks and hoods as part of their contingency training.



Two of FED's emergency essential civilians, Mr. Geoffrey Mueller, Office of Counsel, and Mr. Jack Church, Chief, Construction Division, participated in the training wearing their EEC uniforms.



FED has new emergency operations center

Just in time for the annual April Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration Exercise (RSOI), the Far East District has renovated Building S-81 on the East Gate Compound into an additional emergency operations center (EOC). At this writing, the District is using both the new EOC and the operations center (FEDOC) at Camp Henry in Taegu during RSOI-99. This is the first time the District is using two operation centers during the exercise. The FEDOC provides situational awareness, handles the intelligence and operations side of the mission and feeds information to the EOC. The EOC is handling projects and engineering services requests. The centers are being manned by active duty military, EECs, MECs and IMAs during the exercise.

Mr. Patrick Crays, Emergency Management Office, and Mr. Ken Pickler, Logistics Management Office, designed the \$168,000 renovation. The renovation was done as part of the District's Job Order Contract. CPT Steve Walker, Programs and Project Management Office, handled the job order contract and Mr. Rikki Rice, Seoul Project Office, was the quality assurance representative for the project.

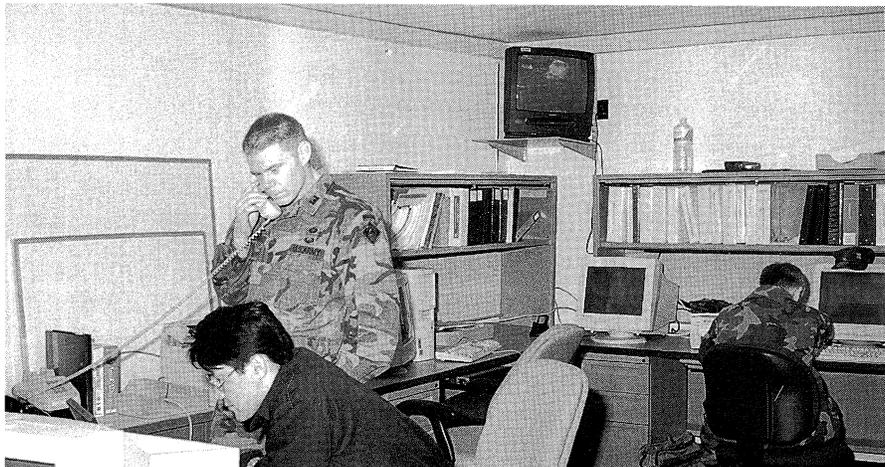
The newly renovated building (S-81) is also the new home for the Emergency Management Office staff.



(Above, l-r) Mr. Mitchel Glen, EMO, Mr. Ken Pickler, LMO, and Mr. Choi, Koo-hoi, Manager, Seong Bo Const. Ind. Co., Ltd. discuss renovation plans.



(Above) Construction worker installs insulation in the ceiling of Building S-81, during the renovation for the new crisis management center. (Below) The new emergency operations center in Seoul is in action during the RSOI exercise.



SAES students tour ACS construction site at Yongsan Garrison

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The students studied a factual article, with illustrations, that dealt with construction and had photos of a construction site. Visiting the ACS construction site brought their classroom learning experience of the planning, building, and construction process to life for them.

"Safety is the first rule," said Megan Stockhousen, one of the students, when asked what she had learned during the tour.

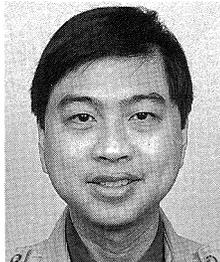
She had learned one of the Corps' most important messages.



Mr. Medhi Mizani, Northern Resident Office, describes the work being done at the ACS construction site to about 20 Seoul American Elementary School (SAES) third grade students visiting the project.

New Team Members

Mr. Kerwin Donato arrived at FED on April 7,



1999, to serve as an environmental engineer at Northern Resident Office. His previous

position was as an environmental engineer with the New York District's Planning Division. His interests include reading, travel, and environmental activism. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in Chemical Engineering and a Master's degree from Columbia University.

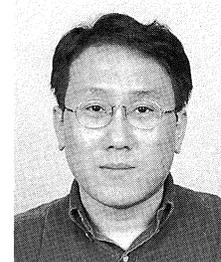
Ms. No, Yong-hye, began



working as an engineer reports assistant in the Engineering Division on April 1, 1999. She has

returned to FED after leaving 10 years ago, when she worked in Contracting Division. She has been working at the Army Community Service Center and studying during her off duty hours. She will graduate from the University of Maryland on May 23, 1999 with a Business degree, with minors in Education and Asian Studies. Her hobbies include listening to classical music. She also enjoys eating fresh vegetables and dining in good restaurants.

Mr. Choe, Chong-hun, joined



FED on April 1, 1999, as a structural engineer in Design Branch, Engineering Division. After graduation from

Yonsei University with a BS degree in Architectural Engineering in 1989, he worked in Saudi Arabia as a construction engineer for Hyundai Construction & Engineering Company for 2 years. He received a MS degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 1997. He also served as a structural engineer at Junglim Architecture Company prior to coming to FED.

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New Team Members

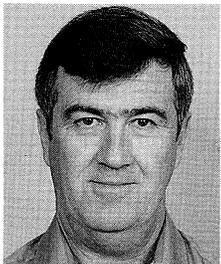
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Mr. Ki Kim arrived at FED on December 8, 1999, to serve as a negotiator and office engineer at the Central Resident



Office, Osan Air Base. He has been a member of the Corps Family for 12 years and comes here from the Los Angeles District. His position was civil engineer in the Engineering and Construction Division. He managed the Specification Unit, served as the District's senior design specification engineer, performed a variety of specialized duties in support of the design and construction program and was responsible for finalizing construction specifications including preparation of Electronic Bid Sets Solicitation packages and amendments for many types of military and civil works projects. He has an architectural engineering degree from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo University. Ki enjoys traveling, hiking, reading basketball and tennis.

Mr. Larry Shockley arrived at FED on March 3, 1999, to serve as a construction representative at Seoul



FED plants trees for Arbor Day



On Arbor Day, April 5, 1999, members of the Far East District gathered for a ceremonial planting of 6 trees.. Ceremonial tree planters included COL David Rehbein, District Commander, LTC Mark Cain, Deputy Commander, Mr. Howard Blood, Acting Deputy District Engineer, Programs and Project Management, Mr. Jack Church, Chief, Construction Division, Mr. Glenn Matsuyama, Chief, Engineering Division, and Mr. Yi, Yong Ho (above 2nd from right), President of the Korean Labor Union.

Project Office. He retired from the Army in 1993, after 24 years of service and his last duty station was with FED at CRO. Following his retirement, he worked for Brown & Root Services in Somalia in Operation Continue Hope from December 1993 to March 1994. He then worked for Vennill, Brown & Root on their Base Maintenance Contract for the U.S. Air Force in eastern Turkey as Chief, Construction Management. After returning from Turkey, he worked for Brown & Root at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona, as a construction manager on the JOC contract.



Congratulations

to **COL and Ms. David Rehbein** on the birth of their grandson, Caleb Ennis Witcher. He was born March 26, 1999, and weighed in at 7lbs. 4oz.



Condolences

to **Ms. Charlotte Stockwell**, Resource Management Office, on the death of her mother.



Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go to **Mr. Chong, Myong-yong**, Cost Engineering Branch, who remains in critical condition.