



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers

Far East District

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EECs and MECs train for emergency situation

In the Corps' Maneuver District, it is part of every emergency essential civilian (EEC) and mission essential civilian (MEC) team members receive training for crisis situations such as a national emergency or the hostilities in the Republic of Korea.

On March 10, the nearly 100 Far East District EECs and MECs spent three hours

practicing putting on gas masks, how to give themselves injections in case of a chemical attack, and how to put on Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) gear.

For their protection, it is important the EECs and MECs have experience in this so they will be prepared and can survive an emergency.



Mr. Sam Adkins(left) and Mr. Glenn Matsuyama practice applying a field dressing so they can apply one in case of injury during a real emergency.



Mr. Dave Honbo(l) models MOPP level 4 gear so the instructor explains to the EECs/MECs the proper way to put on the gear.

Inside

TRO Women's History Month Luncheon
..... see page 5

Courageous Channel 00-1 Exercise and FED
..... see page 6

The trip to Japan that never was!
..... see page 8

The Women of TRO
..... see page 11

Arbor Day at FED
..... see page 15

From the Commander



COL David J. Rehbein

Think Forward!

I had quite an eclectic collection of thoughts as I prepared to write this month's article (For you skeptics out there: that's right, I write all of these myself... no ghost writers for this!). You see, I recently received my assignment instructions. For those of you who may not know yet, when I leave here in July I'm being reassigned to U.S. Strategic Command Headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska. Most of you also know that LTC Cain is leaving us in late-May to take command of the Korean Service Corps Battalion...Hoo-ah!

Anyway, I guess the reality of "change" kind of hit me smack between the eyes. I really love it here and as much as I'm looking forward to my next assignment, it'll be tough to let go. This will be the 17th move for

Leila and me. We've been to some very special places. But this...well, I'm humbled at being associated with such an amazing group of industrious, cheerful, and enthusiastic people. For a while there, I understandably started thinking about the reality of all the "last" things that my family and I are facing: the "last" baseball season, the "last" scout meeting, the "last" organization day, the "last" Korean Union picnic, the "last" motorpool Friday social, etc., etc. Well, that was getting me nowhere fast and then I ran across a quote from one of my heroes:

"A good soldier....is expected to look backward as well as forward; but he must think only forward."

GEN MacArthur

If it's good enough for MacArthur, it's good enough for me. So, I'm going to continue to think forward about the next things coming up. We all should. The truth is, that while the District and I are personally eyeball to eyeball with change, there's no pause...not even a minor slowing down of the District's operations. We launch into RSOI next week, we host

the POD Senior Leader Conference next month, we have an Engineer IG team visiting us the first week of May, and of course, we're working more construction projects than ever from the DMZ to Chinhae! I'm looking forward to all of it. After all, this is the District that won USACE's Installation Support award...and can do it again! This is the District that will grow to over 400 people by the end of summer....an over 40% increase since I arrived in July of 1998. Things have changed a lot in the last couple of years. It's the way of things and here in the Far East District it's been all for the good. The invigoration of change is our ally, not our foe! So, rather than worry about the changes, I say, "Bring 'em on!"

Essayons!
Hoo-ah!
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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Safety

Get in Condition

by Sam Barnes

Health and safety go hand in hand. A sound mind, heart and body enable you to think, concentrate and react safely to protect yourself against injuries and illnesses. Special effort is required to "shape up". It demands only a slight adjustment to your present lifestyle, but the rewards are worth the effort you are willing to contribute. Exercise is one of the important factors in maintaining your health and well-being. This physical conditioning can help improve your performance on the job. It isn't necessary to build the kinds of muscles that body-builders strive for.

Daily exertion improves muscle tone, aides in circulation and strengthens the cardiopulmonary system. But, before you begin any regular exercise program, consult your physician. Any physical activity engaged in regularly not only trims off pounds but also helps you feel better and be more alert, aiding in performance of your job and reducing the chances for illnesses and injuries.

Fifteen minutes of simple exercise each day can be the start that you need to get yourself in shape.

NUMBER OF CALORIES USED BY A 150-POUND PERSON IN ONE HOUR:

Walking or bicycling:	210
Table Tennis:	360
Golf:	250
Ice skating:	400
Bowling:	270
Pushing a lawn mower:	270
Tennis:	420
Swimming:	300
Water skiing:	600
Badminton:	840
Snow skiing:	840
Hand ball:	840
Square dancing:	350
Volleyball:	350
Running:	900
Rowing:	900

The purpose of this type of exercise is to maintain the elasticity in existing muscles in order to keep them functioning.

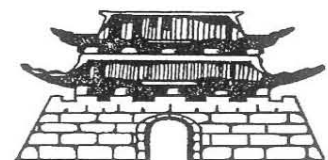
What are some of **these** exercises that you perform? How about neck rolls, running in place, sit-ups, leg lifts and pelvic tilts? Remember to start slowly and perform only as many individual exercises as you feel comfortable

doing. Increase the number as you begin to feel stronger.

The next area of concern for keeping in good condition is weight control -- eating the proper foods in the right proportions. Proper nutrition is an important part of conditioning the body against injuries and illnesses.

Food is probably one of the favorite topics of conversation among people today, but also one of the most confusing in terms of health concerns. The combination of a balanced diet and regular physical exercise not only helps you look better but also gives you added confidence in yourself.

**If you look better,
you'll feel better.**



April Safety Slogan:

*"The wife of a careless man
is half a widow."*

The 2IC's Corner



*by LTC Mark Cain
Deputy Commander*

The District is forming a working group to update our OPLAN; the OPLAN that implements the Chief of Engineer's Strategic Vision. The OPLAN is the "change engine" that helps guide FED toward realization of the USACE Goals to: Revolutionize Effectiveness, Seek Growth Opportunities, and Invest in People. This is an effort that will eventually touch you all either directly or indirectly. At the joint staff call this Monday, each Division Chief (or their designated representative) briefed the Commander on their new initiatives. We heard some really great, innovative ideas!

SBLM/AMSC graduates will man the working group. The intention is to take advantage of the problem solving/project skills taught in the SBLM curriculum and the outstanding talent of these special folks. The District OPLAN Working Group (DOWG) members are:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
• Mr. Larry Drape	Lead Coordinator
• Ms. Nancy Tullis	Assistant Coordinator
• Mr. Yi, Yong-Ho	Align for Success
• Mr. Lynn Ray	Serve the Nation
• Mr. Lenny Kim	Build the Team
• Mr. Norm Boeman	Serve the Army
• Mr. Bob Kiehm	Enhance Capabilities
• Mr. Doug Bliss	Build Strategic Commitment
• Ms. Hyon, Ok-Kyong	Reshape the Culture

The above individuals are empowered by the Commander (like a PM) to work, coordinate, and develop the steps to accomplish the proposed initiatives within each sub-strategy area of the Strategic Vision. They will serve as the inter-District and extra-District POC for each sub-strategy. These individuals will work with subject matter experts within the District (and maybe outside the District!) to accomplish their tasks. In other words, they will not carry this burden alone! For each sub-strategy area, there will be a POD counterpart and a counterpart at each of POD's Districts. In addition, each District must also provide input to help POD develop the Division's Campaign Plan. Mr. Drape (and soon Ms. Tullis) will consolidate the new initiatives, assemble the DOWG, and start a process that will update the District's OPLAN. The DOWG's initial mission is to complete a "first cut" update of the District OPLAN in time for the Senior Leaders' Conference in May.

I am looking forward to DOWG's first effort. Based on the ideas I heard on Monday, we have a good foundation to work on. These ideas are directly connected to the character of the District...which is clearly execution. And as many of you know, OPLANs, in the end-state, result in execution and a completed mission or product. Therefore, I know our update to the OPLAN will certainly be first-class and, as usual, set the standard for POD in practical terms. So, there you have it...into the breach once again!

See you around the District!

TRO Women's History Month Luncheon

FED's Ms. Monte Howard is guest speaker

On March 31, the Ladies of TRO (Tongduchon Resident Office) hosted a luncheon and project tour in recognition of Women's History Month and the historic contributions and accomplishments of women. Ms. Wilhelmina Pierce, one of the Ladies of TRO, opened the program with the invocation and introduced the guest speaker, Ms. Monte Howard, Organizational Analyst, Resource Management Office, Far East District.

Ms. Howard began her remarks with a brief history of the achievements of famous women throughout history and then highlighted the achievements of some successful women in the Far East District family. She first mentioned Pierce, mechanical engineer, TRO, GS-12.

"Wilhelmina has broken the stereotype mold of - Engineering is only for men," said Howard. "Like many of you, she has found her pilgrimage through life an often rewarding, sometimes enjoyable, challenging adventure filled with peaks and valleys, mis-steps and mis-cues. Through determination and perseverance, she has managed to achieve when it often seemed all hope was lost."



The Ladies of TRO tour a construction site.

Material Command. She worked there until 1994, when she accepted a GS-12 Program Analyst position with the Corps in Dallas, Texas.

"Wanting to experience overseas living, she stepped out of her risk box and took a position in Korea with the Eighth U.S. Army Resource Management Office in January 1999," said Howard.

Williams decided she wanted to get back with the Corps, searched diligently, networking to find there was a GS-11 Program Analyst position in the Engineering Division at the Far East District and is now the Senior Program Analyst, GS-12, in the District's Programs and Project Management Division. She holds a bachelorette Degree in Business Management from Grambling State University.

Ms. Bettie Doss began working for the U.S. Government as a clerk-typist at the VA Hospital in Tuskegee, Alabama, and is now the Accounting Officer, GS-12, in the Far East District's Resource Management Office.

"Through many trials and tribulations, she's made it this far," Howard said. "Along the way she's met many dedicated people and formed wonderful, lifelong, once in a lifetime friendships impossible to forget. In retrospect, her journey has been similar to an endurance race - A MARATHON."

Ms. Charlotte Stockwell is the Financial Manager, GS-14, Chief of Resource Management for the Far East District. She began her career in Germany as a GS-4 postal clerk and is now the highest graded women in the Far East District family.

"We can say Charlotte has overcome many obstacles by working her way up from a GS-4 to her current level of GS-14", said Howard.

Ms. Vencie Williams began her career in 1987 as a GS-7 Management Analyst (Intern) with the Army

(continued on page 10)

Courageous Channel 00-1 NEO Exercise and FED

If its Spring, it must be NEO. In Korea, Courageous Channel, a three-day noncombatant evacuation operation (NEO) military exercise is held twice a year – in the Spring and in the Fall.

During these three days all noncombatants who would be evacuated, if there were an emergency, report to one of the evacuation sites in their area with their NEO packets. The packets are checked for documentation and other items noncombatants would need for a real world evacuation. The purpose of the exercise is to improve the process so an evacuation can be executed in the most effective manner in the event a natural disaster or hostilities require it.

The Far East District, along with the other units stationed in the Republic, has selected NEO Wardens who have the responsibility of making sure the noncombatants in their unit and their families have completed NEO packets and kits. The packets include all the necessary documentation such as passports, household good inventories, powers of attorney, home strip maps, etc. The kits are made up of such personal necessities as toiletries, water, canned goods, etc.

Mr. Mitchel Glenn, Chief, Emergency Management Office, is the Far East District's NEO Officer and organizes the District's implementation and participation in NEO. Major Debbie Mallgren, who is a drilling IMA assigned to



More than 1,500 NEO participants entered the reception station at Hannam Village Center in Seoul during the Courageous Channel 00-1 exercise. A passport or military ID is required in order to process through NEO.



Mr. John Kieffer, his wife Rosella, and their daughter Cassidy, sign in at the Hannam Village reception station.



The next step is the briefing area, where evacuees watch a videotape on the NEO process.

the District, is the NEO Coordinator and throughout the year submits monthly reports to the Area Coordinators where there is Far East District personnel. The District has personnel in all six areas on the peninsula. Each of the NEO wardens in the Far East District submit monthly e-mail updates to Mallgren, who lives in the United

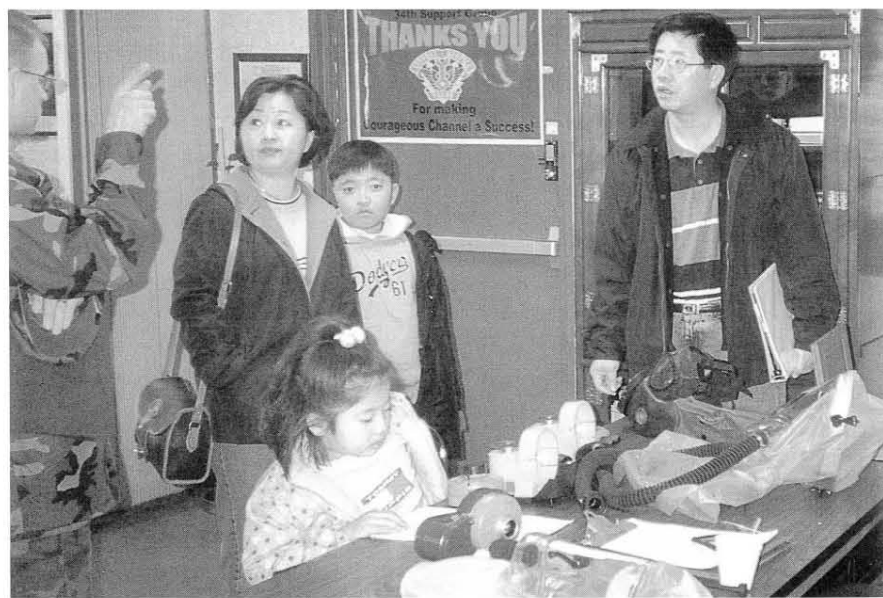


At the registration station, the evacuees' names are entered into the noncombatant tracking system and given a barcode bracelet so they can be tracked throughout the evacuation process.



Major Debbie Mallgren (l) explains the NEO reporting information the neo wardens are responsible for sending to her monthly.

States, so she can consolidate the information into the reports and format necessary for submission to the six Area Coordinators. For her three weeks of Annual Training, active duty this year, MAJ Mallgren came to the District just prior to Courageous Channel 00-1 in March, so she could work with the new NEO wardens to make sure they were aware of the recent changes and the monthly reporting requirements. In addition to maintaining and updating a NEO book, wardens' responsibilities



At the protective mask training station, family members are shown the different types of masks and how to use them properly.

include attending monthly meetings, manning stations at the NEO centers during Courageous Channel exercises, and inspecting noncombatant NEO packets throughout the year. Mallgren also participated in Courageous Channel 00-1 by manning one of the stations at the Hannam Village NEO Center in Seoul, along with the three Emergency Mgt. Personnel on 8 hr shifts and nine of the District's NEO wardens who rotated 2-3/4 hour shifts

(continued on page 13)



The trip to Japan that never was!

By Carol Spratley

(Ms. Spratley is a Quality Assurance Representative, Tongduchon Resident Office, Camp Casey, Far East District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and this is her account of her experience during Courageous Channel 00-1.)

The e-mail message read:
“Free Trip to Japan – Volunteers Needed!”

I learned the trip wasn’t exactly “FREE”. As Noncombatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) participants during Courageous Channel Exercise 00-1, in Korea, we had to prepare our NEO books correctly and spend two Thursday evenings attending mandatory meetings at Moyer Recreation Center on Yongsan Garrison in Seoul.

More than 200 people attended the first meeting and role was taken. Military personnel needed an accurate head count of who was there and who would go on the trip. They told us although this was a “FREE TRIP TO JAPAN” there were certain things expected of us. Also we would not receive first class accommodations and we would have to sleep in the gym or the community center. We would have to bring our own towels, toiletries, etc. Wait! Wait! And wait! Then they finally checked our NEO books. A lot of the people waiting decided that this trip was NOT for them. I almost missed the last bus back to Camp Casey that Thursday night and was beginning to think that maybe this trip wasn’t for me either even though I was number 18 and they had assured me, IF we went to Japan I would have a good chance of going.



Ms. Dawn Johnson, one of the volunteers for the trip to Japan sits on the pavement at Kimhae ROK Army Base in Pusan, Korea, while waiting to be processed for the flight to Japan. Because of high winds, the plane didn't stop to pick them up and they had to return to Seoul.

At the second meeting fewer people showed up and again the roll was called. I was moved up to number 9. We were advised to go to Collier Gym at Yongsan Garrison on March 23 to have our NEO books checked and to get our I.D. bracelets which would be used to track our movements during the exercise. It was a shorter meeting and I had no problem making it back to Camp Casey that night.

On March 23 I received a call to report to Collier Gym at 0545 the following morning and to bring a copy of my NEO book. Prior to March 23, I went through NEO at Camp Casey, had my NEO book checked and also fulfilled my obligation to

USAG at Camp Casey.

On the afternoon of March 23 I took the bus from Camp Casey to Yongsan Garrison. I went to the Dragon Hill Lodge on Yongsan for Space Available Call to see if I could get a room for the night, since there was no way I could get to Yongsan from Camp Casey by 0545 the next morning unless I spent the previous night in Seoul. Well, no room at the inn. Dragon Hill gave us a list of hotels but it was the same at all of them – No room. So I went to Collier Gym and checked in, had my NEO book checked again, and was issued a bracelet.

After that I walked to the shopette on Yongsan and tried to catch a taxi. Finally I started walking toward the main post. In my mind I had decided that I really

didn't need to go to Japan that bad. I'd just go back home and forget it! I called a friend in Seoul and said, "I'm homeless, do you know where I can stay?" My friend said, "Come on over." But, not wanting to impose, I caught a taxi and asked to be taken to the bus terminal. After I got there I changed my mind and decided to go to my friend's home. The taxi driver was visibly upset, but took me to my destination. My friend welcomed me even though it meant getting up at 0400 so I could get to the gym and process in.

So the next morning, March 24, at 0545 I arrived at Collier Gym, processed in and was offered cookies, donuts, coffee and juice.

The tour guide lady "Julie", who told us to call her Julie even though that wasn't her name, was collecting money for the tours in Japan. Some of us signed up for the Tokyo Tower tour and others signed up for the Fuji Lakes tour. They had called everyone the night before and told them to bring money for the tours, but since I wasn't home and didn't know, I had to borrow \$2.00 from someone to pay for my tour.

At 0600 everyone boarded the bus and was given a sack lunch (cold chicken, ham sandwich, fruit, vegetables, drinks, hardboiled egg, cake). We arrived at Seoul train station at 0630, where we were given a ticket and boarded train car #6 which had been reserved for you ride to Pusan departing at 0700. A family of four was using my seat for one of their children. I didn't want to have to make them move, so I tried to find out where their original seats were only to find



CPT Ulloa briefed the volunteers during the train ride from Seoul to Pusan.

another family using that seat. Everyone said, "Oh, just sit anywhere"—which I did. At the first stop more people got on the train and guess what, "You are in my seat,"—a Korean told me through sign language. No problem, I moved to another seat. Next stop, "You are in my seat," I was told again. I played musical chairs on the 4.5 hour train ride. It got to be a joke, everyone knew whenever a passengers got on, one was going to say to me, "You are in my seat."

In addition, prior to arriving at Pusan, we were told there would be demonstrations at the train station and AIRBORNE military would meet us. Twenty-five protestors were anticipated. When we arrived at 1130 and got off the train, they called the roll and tried to keep us in one area. There were only three protestors and six U.S. military personnel and three Katusas (Korean Augmentees to the U.S. Army). We were put on a bus headed for Kimhae Air Base. During the ride to Kimhae we were briefed about where to go and not to go, etc., and were advised our plane

had been delayed approximately two hours due to high winds and the Air Force couldn't land at Kimhae. When we departed the bus at Kimhae we were escorted to a hangar where we were processed in, our bracelets were scanned and we were given another sack lunch (Frozen this time—sandwiches, chips, cookies. No drinks, they were for sale.) There was a line for the microwave. They also had tables arranged with information, bibles, a TV and VCR playing movies.

Next, we all had to step on scales and get weighed with our luggage. We then went through immigration and our passports were stamped for departure, only to find out at 1445 the plane had left us and they were working on an alternate plan. We then had to have our passports voided as far as departing. People were angry and wanted to go to LOTTE World. The Army said no to LOTTE World but they would take everyone back to the Pusan train station/USO. It was back on the bus at 1700 headed for Pusan USO and we were given another frozen sack lunch.

(continued on page 13)

TRO Women's History Month Luncheon

(continued from page 5)

Ms. Elaine "Lane" Coward, mechanical engineer, GS-12, in Programs and Project Management Division shared some interesting points about her professional life with Howard. It seems that in 1972 Coward was hired by private industry as a mathematician. During in-processing, personnel told her she would have to take a typing test – despite the fact the job didn't involve typing – because "all women have to take the typing test". Coward was thoroughly peeved and refused to take the test – not that she couldn't type – she could. But she was afraid that she would be placed in a typing position, a situation that suited neither her education nor her temperament.

After a month on the job Coward asked her supervisor for position description. Much to her surprise he suggested she would have to write one. Later, she found out there was really no position there but he had been told to "hire a female". Well, the job worked out, glowing appraisals, and then at the end of her second year she got a new supervisor and he denied her a promotion because "women can't handle responsibility". Coward left that job and moved up in the company well beyond the level denied her by her previous supervisor. That supervisor, however, is now a vice president of that company. Industry rewards his actions. During her employment with the U.S. Government Coward moved from an entry level 11 engineer to a level 12 in just two years and with one single exception, she found only encouragement and support.

In the ups and downs of her profession, Coward has concluded:

1. Your credentials must be excellent. Lack of promotion is not always discrimination.
2. Your work record must be impeccable. You can't slide through on Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO).
3. If you feel you are in a potentially discriminatory situation – keep book, document it.
4. The government is the workplace most free of discrimination.
5. The work done by the women before us deserves our recognition and praise. Without them we would still be at the starting line.
6. Our daughters have opportunities of which we only dreamed. We must preserve them. Freedom isn't free. Without attention it will vanish.
7. Women can be their own worst enemies. Women who have broken the glass ceiling need to make time to create and maintain an "old girl network" to increase our numbers at that level.

Howard's closing point was all of the women she mentioned took risks, stepped out of that box that sometimes holds us back from obtaining our goals in life. How many women have gone through life with unfulfilled dreams. Goals are not always easy to achieve, but you can't give up. Howard's goal that day was to help inspire her audience to go out and make their desired goals.

Following Howard's remarks, Ms. Carol Spratley closed the luncheon by recognizing her and the ladies of TRO individually for what they do and presented each of them with a carnation. Mr. Don Wood of the Tongduchon Resident Office then escorted the luncheon guests on a tour of a nearby construction site which may have been a first for some of the Ladies of TRO.



Ms. Kim, Kyong-sun



Ms. Kim, Yun-hyo



Ms. Choe, Mi-suk



Carol Spratley(l) and Wilhelmina Pierce

The Women of TRO

(Helping maintain freedom's frontier)

by Wilhelmina Pierce and Katie Shore

The Far East District's Tongduchon Resident Office (TRO) at Camp Casey, South Korea, is closest to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and is breaking through the gender barriers on "Freedom's Frontier" in the Corps' Maneuver District. With its newest team member, Ms. Kim, Kyong-sun, makes six – yes count them – six women in the TRO family. For you engineer types that's a little more than 20% of TRO's permanent workforce.

"I am proud to support equal employment opportunities for the team and hire team members based on their abilities and credentials," said Mr. Woody Barger, TRO Resident Engineer.

This is abundantly evident with the anticipated arrival of the newest female team member, Ms. Janet Rigoni, an electrical engineer who is joining TRO in April. Additionally, this glimpse at the "Women of TRO" shows what outstanding professionals these women are and how they contribute to the accomplishment of the District's mission.

Ms. Choe, Mi-suk, paved the way when she came to TRO in

May of 1984 at what was then the Casey Project Office. Ms. Choe was the only woman at TRO for 12 years. She provides stability and support to an office that has hosted five Resident Engineers since she arrived. Today she assists Barger in management of \$100 million of construction contracts at Camp Casey and surrounding installations. She prepares and coordinates interoffice correspondence with a variety of organizations including the Far East District headquarters in Seoul, the Camp Casey Director of Public Works (DPW), the Garrison Commander, CPAC, and 13 different construction contractors. She prepares and reviews about 30 pay estimates every month for financial and administrative accuracy, ensuring that modification amounts have been included. Choe also prepares project close-out files and final payment documentation. Thanks to her hard work, TRO's pay estimates, construction contractor quarterly evaluations, and contract close-out files are submitted to the District headquarters in a timely manner. For the TRO staff she prepares TDY travel orders, travel vouchers, and maintains our personnel files. Choe also assists with the in-processing of new employees by collecting personnel data and forwarding it to the Resource Management Office. She even provides assistance to the civilian employees by coordinating Korean telephone service, arranging housing lease agreements, making hotel reserva-

tions, and anything that requires her bilingual conversation skills.

Ms. Wilhelmina Pierce is a mechanical engineer with the TRO Quality Assurance Branch. She reviews mechanical equipment submittals and shop drawings and conducts progress and pre-final quality assurance inspections for mechanical systems for new barracks, company operations buildings, and other military facilities. Pierce came to TRO in 1997 and worked in the Contract Administration Branch for two years negotiating contract changes and preparing modifications among other contract administration functions. She relocated to Korea from the Corps' Wilmington District in North Carolina. There she worked in the Operations Division where she wrote and administered shipyard contracts for overhauls of the Wilmington District's dredge vessels and survey boats. Before joining the Corps, Pierce worked with the North Carolina Office of State Construction, performing design reviews, inspections, and small in-house design. She attended North Carolina State University and received a BS in Mechanical Engineering. Her accomplishments are many including: Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) past treasurer and sergeant-at-arms; Wilmington Engineers Club past president, vice president and treasurer; Region O Council for the Advancement of Minorities in Engineering board member; and volunteer teacher for English as a second language. TRO is proud to work with such an accomplished individual.

(continued on page 12)

The Women of TRO *(continued from page 11)*

Ms. Kim, Yun-hyo, joined the TRO staff in 1998. She always has a cheerful disposition and truly keeps our morale lifted during our "hardship tour". Kim stays extremely busy logging the contractor's submittals for our Quality Assurance Branch. Among her many other duties are inputting and verifying employees time, CEFMS, miscellaneous correspondence and filing. She is quite fluent in English which she perfected during her time in the United States. We would truly miss her if she ever left TRO. This was especially evident when she took time off for her new addition to the family, her son Myung-yu. Kim is truly part of the Army family – her father and her husband both work for the Camp Casey DPW.

In the spring of 1999 Ms. Katie Shore joined TRO as the first female Quality Assurance Representative for the Far East District. Last fall she moved to Contract Administration Branch as an Office Engineer and is glad to have the opportunity to learn the multi-faceted aspects of negotiations. Shore came to the District from the Corps' Huntington District in West Virginia. There she was a specification writer in the Cost Estimating Branch. She is a success story of the "upward mobility" program in Huntington District, where her career began 20 years ago as a clerk-typist. Shore attributes her selection to TRO to Ms. Marsha Smith, Northern Resident Office, Far East District, who paved the way for Shore from Huntington to

TRO. Smith and Shore were co-workers and share the same success story of their beginnings in the typing pool in Huntington District. Shore looks forward to the challenges facing the Far East District and has extended for an additional year at TRO.

Ms. Carol Spratley joined TRO in the summer of 1999. Since arriving she has been assigned to two 48-person bachelor officers quarters (BOQ), an \$8 million dollar project at Camps Casey and Hovey, Korea. Spratley also has the FY98 DeCA, Replace Refrigeration System, Commissary Building S-3003 at Camp Casey which is a \$408,000 project. She also has several Job Order Contract (JOC) projects for various repair and maintenance projects. Spratley serves as a Quality Assurance Representative performing inspections of the more unusual, difficult and complex projects including pre-engineered buildings. She came to Korea from the Los Angeles District, Los Angeles Rivers and Harbors Office where she was a construction inspector on Pier 400 at the Los Angeles Harbor. Los Angeles Harbor is to be the largest seaport in the world by the year 2020. Spratley participated in the construction of a container island for debarkation of freight ships in the Pacific to store seagoing cargo containers. As one of three construction representatives, she worked aboard the Dredge Florida, the largest electrical powered dredge in North America, as well as the Mansion, Haakon and Viking

which are clam shell dredges. She oversaw the placement of materials and observed the material that was being dredged. Spratley was also responsible for gauging barges, checking and assuring hours of operation and manhours and safety. Another project she worked on was the Seven Oaks Dam which is the 12th largest dam in the United States. Spratley went from being a GS-02 Engineering Aid at Misawa Air Base, Japan, to a GS-07 Procurement Assistant at Engineering Liaison Branch on Okinawa to being a GS-09 Quality Assurance Representative at TRO. She went to college at night to complete a Construction Technology course at Riverside Community College while working on the Santa Ana River Project and commuting four hours a day. Spratley is an Air Force spouse, with over 21 years of government service, and has traveled the world in support of her husband, Oscar, and two sons, Michael and Christopher. Her husband is now retired from the Air Force and is supporting her career goals.

Ms. Kim, Kyong-sun, a native resident of Tongduchon, came to TRO in December 1999 to help when Ms. Kim, Yun-hyo, was on maternity leave. She came to TRO from a part-time position with MWR, Indianhead Golf Course, Camp Casey. Ms. Kim now works full time in TRO's Quality Assurance Branch, assisting in the submittal review process. She prepares correspondence, answers contractors'

(continued on page 13)

The Women of TRO

(continued from page 12)

questions about the status of reviews, and receives all the Form 4288 Transmittals coming into the office. Most of her time is spent logging the transmittals into RMS and into the Form 4025 Transmittal Log. She also receives Form JK75 from the contractors and verifies TRO's approval for construction material that the contractors plan to order. With the increased workload, Quality Assurance Branch was glad to have her valuable assistance logging and tracking contractors' submittals.

It is easy to see that the women of TRO are valuable assets in accomplishing the mission of the Far East District. They are making a difference, accepting the challenges, and are proud to be women maintaining "freedom's frontier".

Courageous Channel 00-1

(continued from page 7)

during the exercise. More than 1,500 noncombatants and their families processed through the Hannam Village NEO center alone.

In the event of a real world NEO, the 28 District's NEO wardens and 3 NEO Representatives, who are all emergency essential civilians (EEC), would be temporarily assigned full-time to support the NEO. This is 31 out of 96 total EEC personnel at the District are dedicated to the NEO operations until the NEO Wardens and Representatives are released back to their units.

The trip to Japan that never was!

(continued from page 9)

At the USO we were given train tickets to Seoul. This time families got tickets first and everyone was advised to sit in the assigned seats.



Volunteers enjoy the scenery while riding the bus. Ms. Nicole Gibson (right) takes advantage of an opportunity to nap during the train ride.



At 2330 we arrived at Seoul station and were then bussed back to Collier Field House. Some spouses were still trying to find husbands to come and get them. The military provided rides for the Embassy staff. Since there was no transportation to Camp Casey that time of night, I was told to wait for transportation and an escort and I would be put up (at government expense) at the Capitol Hotel a short distance from one of the Yongsan Garrison gates.

After spending the night at the Capitol Hotel I got up the next morning, walked to the Yongsan Garrison gate, caught a shuttle to the Yongsan bus terminal, bought my ticket and went back to Camp Casey. Home again!

The free trip to Japan that never was — was over! Although this trip didn't go as expected it was a memorable experience and I learned a lot about the noncombatant evacuation process should an emergency occur.

Editorial Page

Open Letter to: Col. David Rehbein
District Engineer
Far East District
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

Sir, some of the readers may look upon this letter as a quest for brownie points but it goes much deeper than that.

When I arrived in Korea at the first of February, I was delighted (since I am an engineer) to learn that I had arrived in time to attend the Second Annual Peninsula Engineer's Ball. However, I was somewhat puzzled when I started seeing e-mails requesting aid in composing the Engineer's Song. I would have thought that these words were set in concrete by now.

At the ball, I was thoroughly enjoying the various activities and comradeship until it came time for the song competition. I whipped out my copy of the published wording and joined right in with the melodious throng. But something was wrong. There seemed to some disharmony. The words I was trying to sing just would not fit in with those coming from some other members of the group. Turns out there were some rowdies, bullies if you will that were singing something that goes like:

"We don't give a damn for anyone
Who doesn't give a damn for us."

Now Sir, anybody that says something like that just doesn't know what engineers are all about. They don't seem to realize that engineers are caring and helpful; dedicated to improving the lot of mankind in general. The whole thing reminds me of the old story about the engineer who died and through an administrative error, was routed to Hell instead of Heaven. Of course, when the engineer got there and realized that the place was in dire need of some creature comforts, he immediately started letting contracts to have water coolers, air conditioners, and even elevators installed. When the Lord found out about the error, he had to threaten Satan with litigation in order to get His engineer back to the rightful place in Heaven.

Well Sir, I'm telling you all of this just to point out that true engineers would never take the attitude fostered in the lyrics that the bullies were singing. Therefore, I want you to know that I applaud your efforts to get the theme of the Engineers Song corrected. Even though neither you nor I will be here next year to enjoy it, maybe they will get the song right.

L. Hugh Lowe P.E.

Hugh,

I'm glad to see that you are as proud of our profession as I am. We engineers...both uniformed and civilian...share a magnificent heritage. The bonds of mission and history are important elements in all of us as we build upon our own pride and self-worth. I think the Annual Engineer Ball is a magnificent opportunity for all of us, as the Engineer family, to share comradeship and build a sense of attachment to our calling.

The singing of the "Engineer Song" is a tradition that started with the first ball last year. In the Army, if you do something twice it's officially a tradition!! What a great way to have fun! Anyone who's been in Korea for a while can tell you how important singing is at social events. We tried to pick a song that was easy for everyone to sing...there are many "Engineer" songs! (Did I really want to sing the one with "...like every honest soldier he took his whiskey clear?") Anyway, to make it fun, every year we write new lyrics for each of the major engineer elements represented at the ball. They are meant to combine humor, pride in organization, and highlight our talents as Engineers.

As you point out, the refrain of this particular engineer song has some original lyrics that predate our Peninsula Engineer Ball by many years. Those lyrics reflect a different kind of pride and camaraderie than what they first appear to represent. Combat engineers often feel like an afterthought in some military operations. But we always do our job. The lyrics of the older, somewhat more raucous, version of the Engineer song convey a sense of bonding to each other even when others don't fully appreciate or acknowledge us. The defiant tone of the original lyrics, while not the kind of language I personally use, are meant to evoke feelings of loyalty to each other in the face of rejection, hardship, even persecution by others. Each branch of the Army: Infantry, Armor, Field Artillery, and all the rest are justifiably proud of their heritage and contributions to the whole Army...and each branch has similar songs promoting their own uniqueness and sense of pride. There's also a deep "warfighter" pride that runs through troop units. Each one KNOWS he's better than any other and good units stick together in even the worst of circumstances. I don't think I'd have it any other way. Self confidence and pride are essential to outfits that may have to endure the horrors of combat and then die to accomplish their mission.

So, there we are. I too think the original lyrics lack class. They're certainly not the kind of language I use nor teach to my children. We've tried to spruce up the refrain to be more applicable to a mixed, joint, and combined audience in a formal ballroom...and I think the reworked refrain is a great statement of our real nature. But, long time tradition is hard to beat. While I would have said it differently, I still enthusiastically share our heritage with the Engineers that sing them. I think I understand the genesis and pride that gave birth to the original song. I'm sure that year after year the voices will be competing with each other to see whose version wins out. That's okay. We're all Engineers.

Hoo-ah! Essayons!
COL Rehbein

Far East District celebrates Arbor Day - April 5



It was a cool ,but sunny spring afternoon for recognition of Arbor Day at the East Gate Compound. Following a few remarks by COL David Rehbein, District Commander, several FED team members participated in planting Maple, Juniper, Gingko, and White Magnolia trees throughout the compound.



New Team Members

Mr. L. Hugh Lowe joined FED on February 1, 2000, to serve as Project Manager on a six month TDY assignment from the Nashville



District. He has a B.S. in electrical engineering from Tennessee Technological University. His professional affiliations include the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), Society of American Military Engineers, and Federal Managers Association. He has more than 30 years of government experience and has participated in several FEMA missions including Hurricane Andrew in Homestead, Florida, and Loma Prieta Earthquake in San Jose, California. Lowe enjoys photography, amateur radio, flying, skiing, choir and teaching Sunday school.

CPT Paul Baker joined FED on January 27, 2000, as a Project Manager. He holds both a B.S. and M.S.E. in civil engineering.



Baker's hometown is Canton, Illinois, and his interests include golf and basketball. He has served 9.5 years active duty, including 3 years in Germany, 2 years at Ft. Jackson, and 2 years in New Cumberland, Penn.

Ms. Yi, Hwa-chong joined FED on March 15, to serve as a supply technician. She is a graduate of Dong-duck Women's



University. She previously worked for 2-1/2 years at 8th PERSCOM as a supply technician. Her interests include mountain climbing and movies.



Volunteers Needed

Interested in visiting Korean public schools and meeting young Korean students? Here's a wonderful opportunity to show a little gratitude to our Korean hosts and promote better relations between Koreans and Americans, while having lots of fun in the process. Become a volunteer in the Cross-Cultural Awareness Program sponsored by the Korean National Commission for UNESCO.

Anybody can become a volunteer. All you have to do is visit a Korean public school once or twice a month. For an hour or two, you talk about or conduct activities on any interesting aspect of American daily life, culture, society, or your personal experience.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact Mr. Kerwin Donato at 738-4386 (DSN) or 019-376-7823 (cellular).

Congratulations



COL David Rebein presents both Mr. Charlie Reeves (*above*) and Mr. Dave Newcomer (*below*) certificates for 30 years of federal service.



Farewell - we'll miss you!



Mr. Walt Petersen receives the Commanders Award for Civilian Service from COL David Rehbein and a traditional Korean drum signed by FED team members at his farewell luncheon. Mr. Petersen is going to join the Nashville District as Chief, Logistics Management Office.

