



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Far East District

# EAST GATE EDITION



DECEMBER 2012  
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BUILDING STRONG  
AT  
CAMP MUJUK

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## On the cover



Rear Adm. William McQuilkin, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea, greets U.S. Marines before arriving at the groundbreaking ceremony for a new U.S. Navy barracks at Camp Mujuk Dec. 6. (Photo by Patrick Bray)



Col. Donald E. Degidio, Jr.

## Commander's Corner

*To the Great Team of the Far East District and our entire Team of Teams,*

As we wind down from another great year for the Far East District and make plans to spend time with our families and loved ones over the holidays, I'd like to share some of the great things that you have done this year.

Training and exercises kicked off the first part of the year with the District's participation in the biannual Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) Drill held by Eighth U.S. Army. This drill served to reiterate the Eighth Army mission needs from the Far East District. In March, district Soldiers along with mission and emergency essential civilians and Pacific Ocean Division – Forward personnel participated in Key Resolve 2012.

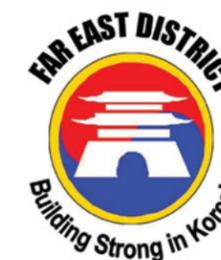
The district was also recertified during the ISO 9001 audit in February, showing that a successful quality management system (QMS) is really about a workforce cultural philosophical shift – QMS is not a program but a way of conducting business every day. In April, Pacific Ocean Division conducted a Command Assistance Visit providing an assessment of the state of the district. Again, you demonstrated that this is an extremely competent unit.

Throughout the year we were able to show the great work being done in the district to many distinguished visitors. In July, Lt. Gen. Bostick, the Chief of Engineers, made his first visit to Korea. While here, he visited project sites, hosted a town hall meeting and was presented a Korean name. In August, Secretary of the Army John McHugh visited project sites at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys and was genuinely impressed with the ongoing execution of the Yongsan Relocation Plan. Just last month, Gen. James Thurman, commander, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, and U.S. Forces Korea, visited project sites, addressed the district's workforce, and participated in the ribbon cutting of the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade's new aircraft hangar.

This has been an amazing year for the district, with nearly \$300 million in contracts, numerous ground-breakings and ribbon cuttings, and an increase in our workforce! We did all of this, and more, because of your hard work and dedication. Thank you.

In closing, I wish you happiness and joy throughout the holidays and remind you to stay safe; you are the District's most important resource.

To our great Alliance – Katchi Kapsida!  
To our great Corps – Essayons!  
One Team Building Strong® in Korea!



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## When is effective enough?

By Shawn Washington  
FED Workforce Management Office

**E**ffective recruitment support and hiring procedures are critical to any organization and can help it in many ways. In fact, efficient hiring processes play a role in project development, customer stakeholder relations, employee management - virtually every facet of an organization's operations. Hiring and retaining qualified employees are the key audience because they often serve as the conduit to other audiences. If hiring procedures and recruitment practices are effective, the qualities of prospective employees are likely to be sufficient as well.

### Clear Recruitment Processes

Effective recruitment processes helps to establish clear expectations for employees and, perhaps surprisingly, for stakeholders/customers as well. For employees, clear expectations will convey how their performance will impact the organization and give them an indication of what they need to do to achieve and receive positive feedback. For stakeholders/customers, clear communication of recruitment processes can help manage their expectations about service issues or even about how best to interact with the organization as a whole.

### Strong Relationships

Effective Recruitment builds strong relationships with stakeholders/customers. Trust and loyalty are key factors in any relationship and both are boosted by communication that is focused on meeting individual needs, conveying important information and providing feedback - positive and constructive. Strong relationships with external audiences also build strong solid communication about products, services and organization culture and values.

### Ideas and Innovation

Open lines of communication can lead to new ideas and innovation in a number of areas. Employees that understand what's important to their organization can focus on making improvements and spotting opportunities for innovation that can help further success. When employees know their ideas will be sought after, that organization leaders will have open minds and be responsive to their feedback, they're more likely to contribute their ideas. Customers also can be a source of great ideas to help improve products and services.



### Customer Ambassadors

The more employees know about the organization, its culture, its products and services, and its response to any negative issues, the better job they can do of serving as ambassadors to the international community, their friends, relatives and other business connections. Employees who feel they have a strong, positive relationship with their employers and trust the information they receive from their employers will be more likely to share that information with others. Employees can be a highly valued and trusted source of information about an organization and its products and services.

### Strong Teamwork

Effective organizational recruitment will lead to strong teamwork and the ability for employees at all levels of the organization to work together to achieve organization goals. In addition, effective organizational hiring processes will provide recruitment employees the sound knowledge, structure and positive work environment they need to feel comfortable dealing with conflict and resolving issues effectively, before they arise.

*If emergency services are needed, 911 is only valid from a DSN phone line. Dialing 119 from your cell will get you local Korean services, but English is not guaranteed, therefore the following phone numbers may be useful in an emergency.*

## Emergency Assistance Information

- Eighth Army Operations DSN 723-6876 / 2118 or commercial: 0503-323-6876/2118
- Command Center Seoul DSN: 723-3030 or commercial: 0503-323-3030
- Joint Police Information Center DSN: 738-8070/6374 or commercial: 0503-3738-9070/6374

-----OR-----

- When you need English assistance or travel information, just dial the number and 1330

**example (Seoul 02-1330, Daegu 053-1330)**

• Area Number	Seoul 02	Gyeonggi 031	Incheon 032	Gangwon 033	Chungnam 041	Daejeon 042	Chungbuk 043	Busan 051
• Area Number	Ulsan 052	Daegu 053	Gyeongbuk 054	Gyeongnam 055	Jeonnam 061	Gwangju 062	Jeonbuk 063	Jeju 064

# New Navy barracks at Camp Mujuk

By Patrick Bray  
FED Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District, along with the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea cut the ribbon on a new barracks at Camp Mujuk Dec. 6.

Camp Mujuk is located in the southeast coastal town of Pohang, Republic of Korea. Pohang is an industrial city; home to steel and shipbuilding industries. It is also the location of the Republic of Korea Navy's Pohang Airbase. The U.S. Navy's Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 14's Detachment One operates from the airbase and is quartered on an attached ROK Marine Corps base. HM-14 is the only U.S. Naval Aviation unit in the Republic of Korea.



Rear Adm. William McQuilkin, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea, greets U.S. Marines before arriving at the groundbreaking ceremony for a new U.S. Navy barracks at Camp Mujuk Dec. 6. (Photo by Patrick Bray)

Because HM-14 is 7,000 miles away from its home in Norfolk, Va. it has nicknamed Pohang Airbase the "Loneliest Post." Now, under the Land Partnership Plan between the U.S. and the Republic of Korea, the U.S. Navy will vacate the ROK Marine Corps base and move to a new home at Camp Mujuk.

The Far East District has worked over the years to make improvements to Camp Mujuk. The relocation and the new barracks will provide the sailors of HM-14 all the comforts of home.

"Today marks a beginning of another phase of improvements, and another change to the skyline at Camp Mujuk," said Sam Adkins, chief of FED Engineering Division. "More importantly, this project represents the unique relationship between the United States and our host country."

The barracks is funded by the Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense – Defense Installations Agency with construction oversight provided by FED. It will be built by Daelim Construction Corp.

The two-story structure will provide approximately 12,000 square feet for 110 Sailors. The U.S. Marines have been very supportive; the additional occupants at Camp Mujuk will more than double the current base population and bring liveliness and additional revenue to the base according to Camp Mujuk's officer in charge, Lt. Col. Vincent R. Bryan.

Rear Adm. William McQuilkin, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea, was the senior leader at the ceremony and he was accompanied by Capt. Ryu Kyu-sok, Chief of U.S. Forces Korea Construction Management Team, ROK MND.



Sam Adkins (right), chief of FED Construction Division, shakes hands with Lt. Col. Vincent R. Bryan, officer in charge of Camp Mujuk, after the groundbreaking for a new U.S. Navy barracks at Camp Mujuk Dec. 6. (Photo by Patrick Bray)

McQuilkin emphasized the close partnership between Sailors and Marines who have fought side-by-side in every American conflict and will now live and work together at Camp Mujuk.

Another first for the U.S. Navy in Korea, which the Far East District will provide, is the geothermal heating system. Geothermal heating is the direct use of geothermal energy for cost efficient heating purposes.

Distinguished guests shovel dirt to break ground on a new U.S. Navy barracks at Camp Mujuk Dec. 6. (Photo by Patrick Bray)



# FED completes construction of environmentally-friendly contaminated soil treatment facilities

By Mark White

FED Geotechnical and Environmental Branch  
Contributions by Dr. Craig Hunter

In September 2011, the Far East District's Geotechnical and Environmental Engineering Branch, Environmental Section, awarded an environmental services contract to Beautiful Environmental Construction Co., Ltd. to construct permanent two-celled biopile systems at both K-16 Air Base and U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan.

A biopile system uses naturally occurring, living organisms such as plants, bacteria, or fungi to break down hazardous substances. The basic biopile system includes a treatment bed, an aeration system, an irrigation/nutrient system and a leachate collection system.

Within one year, construction of both biopile systems was complete. To kick off the post-construction operations phase, FED Environmental conducted an Operations Instruction and Demonstration event at the K-16 Airfield Nov. 29.

The instruction and demonstration event fulfilled a portion of the requirements of the inter-governmental agency contract between the Yongsan Department of Public Works Environmental Division and the FED Environmental Section to "Provide on-site instruction and monitoring and operations manuals."

Though biopile systems were constructed at both USAG Yongsan and K-16, the on-site instruction and demonstration was conducted only at K-16 since it was the only site with a significant quantity of contaminated soil awaiting treatment at the completion of construction of both biopile systems.

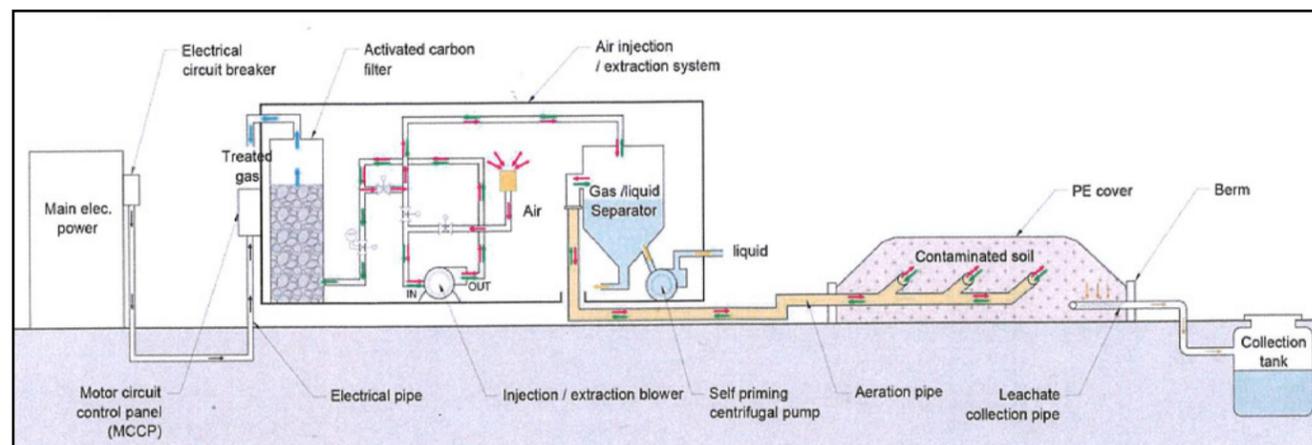
FED staff who participated in the event was Sarah Woo, supervisory oversight; Mark White, project manager and contracting officer's representative; Dr. Chon, Song U, Technical Lead; and Dr. Craig Hunter, Technical Support.

The biopile systems designed for this project each consist of: 1) an impermeable base to reduce the potential migration of leachate (a liquid containing soluble material removed from the contaminated soil through which water has passed) from the pile; 2) perforated, flexible, drainage piping installed above the base and connected to a blower/vacuum to induce air flow through a soil pile constructed over the piping; 3) a cover to prevent the effects of uncontrolled hydration (by precipitation) and wind erosion; 4) in-pile monitoring equipment; 5) an off-gas treatment system; and 6) a separate leachate collection sump.

A drainage pipeline was added to the USAG Yongsan system so that excess storm water run-off flows from the biopile structure can be carried to a pre-existing, on-site oil and water separator.

Continued on page 17

Example of a biopile cell  
(Provided by Dr. Craig Hunter)



Clockwise from top

1) **In-briefing:** Prior to the on-site operations instruction and demonstration, FED Environmental Branch briefed the project delivery team members on construction completion and long-term operations in the K-16 Airfield conference room. Participants were (clockwise from left) Yi Yong-hun, USAG Yongsan DPW, Dr. Craig Hunter, Dr. Chon Song-u, Sarah Woo, and Mark White from FED Environmental Branch, Lee Gyo-taek and Yoon Sang-dae, from Beautiful Environmental and Construction, Cho Song-sam from K-16 Airfield DPW, and Han Sun-hyang from Hankook University of Foreign Studies.

2) **Demonstration commences:** After the in-brief after the in-brief, the PDT met at the K-16 Biopile construction site to examine construction features and discuss operations.

3) **Placement and buildup of contaminated soil in cell number one of the K-16 Biopile system:** Note that the adjacent cell number two remains empty and available for additional contaminated soil that may be produced from Area II DPW construction activities.

4) **Nearly complete Biopile build-up:** After several hours of dumping and shaping of the contaminated soil, contract workers cover the pile with a tarp that establishes a climate controllable environment within which biological processes are enhanced to reduce the presence of petroleum hydrocarbons.  
(Photos provided by Mark White)

# Far East District helps make kimchi for local citizens

By Yi Yong-un  
FED Public Affairs

Members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District volunteered to help make kimchi for local charities Nov. 22 as part of the District's Good Neighbor Program.

Seoul Jung-gu District Office made "Winter Kimchi of Love" for elderly and needy citizens at a small courtyard in front of Jung-gu District Office located near FED. Volunteers from FED participated in order to promote friendship between the Republic of Korea and the U.S.

"I appreciate FED's support for kimchi making for the elderly and needy in Jung-gu," said District Mayor Choi Chang-sik. "I'm impressed that you've been volunteering for this for five years."

Choi came by with his wife and made kimchi at the table with Sam Adkins, Chief of FED Construction Division, and other volunteers from FED.

"As part of the Good Neighbor Program, we at FED have been involved in the event over the years," said Adkins. "We are a part of this community and we want to give back a little to the folks that live here."

About 2,000 heads of cabbage was made into kimchi this year by all of the volunteers combined. They filled 500 boxes totaling about five tons of kimchi.

Over 150 volunteers including members of the Jung-gu Saemaul Women's Club were willing to help make kimchi to be delivered to the elderly and needy.

"This event was a great effort to build relationships with the host nation and key city leaders," said Christopher Shane, Logistic Specialist from the FED Logistic Management Office. "This is an excellent way to develop a stronger

bond between FED employees, as well as between FED and South Korea. I am glad I could be able to volunteer for this event."

Many of the volunteers from FED had participated in this event in previous years and knew what to expect. Basil Meyer, from Construction Division, Northern Resident Office, is a veteran kimchi maker. He has been volunteering to make kimchi for several years, but this is his first time to help the Jung-gu District.

"Kimchi making is always fun and tasty, but my wife and I find it rewarding to give back to the community when we volunteer for this kind of event," said Meyer. "It's becoming a tradition for us to do this every year, and another good reason to help is because we also get free samples to take home."

Kim Tok-kyong, one of the Korean national Contract Specialist from FED Contracting Division said, "Everyone who participated in this event has dedicated their precious time to provide for the elderly and needy. The time I spent to help is very valuable, and would like to do this every year."

Although the event was scheduled on a Thanksgiving Day holiday, FED volunteers were more than happy to support this good neighbor program. FED volunteers have come out to support this local effort every year since 2008 and have had an enjoyable experience working with the local citizens.

## Can one truly have a Korean meal without kimchi?

By Jason Chudy  
FED Public Affairs

It seems that the fermented vegetable side dish – usually made from cabbage – is pretty much everywhere.

But it hasn't always been that way.

Kimchi, according to the Korea Tourism Organization, was first mentioned in the Goryeo Dynasty period between about 920 and 1392 a.d. The name kimchi is believed to have originated from shimchae, meaning the "salting of vegetables," evolving to "dimchae," "kimchae" and then kimchi.

The original two types of kimchi, according to the organization, was jangajji, sliced radish preserved in soy sauce, and sunmu sogeumjeori, salted radish. During the Goryeo time, kimchi was becoming more popular, and through preservation could be used.

Cabbage kimchi, the one most foreigners are familiar with, wasn't available until after non-native vegetables were introduced, particularly cabbage, during the Joseon Dynasty, which began in 1392. The tourism organization, on their pages dedicated to kimchi, say that hot red pepper was imported to Korea from Japan in the early 17th century, but that it took 200 years until it became actively used as an ingredient in kimchi.

Now kimchi has become so ubiquitous that there is even a museum dedicated to it in Seoul. The Pulmuone Kimchi Museum at the COEX mall in Gangnam was opened in 1986 to study and promote kimchi.

The museum houses historic relics related to kimchi. And, for those who like a little snacking during their cultural experience, there are kimchi-tasting rooms, which feature two different types of kimchi each month.

More than 100,000 people visit the museum each year.

It seems the museum has lived up to its goal. Kimchi is now eaten worldwide, and is exported or made abroad by Korean immigrants.

It is also a "health food." Having high fiber and low fat, kimchi has good bacteria that helps with digestion and has lots of vitamins A, B and C.

Kimchi is receiving a lot of press in the United States, partially because of organizations like the Gwangju World Kimchi Culture Festival, which hosted a tent as part of the 10th annual Korus Festival in late September 2012, organized by the Korean American Association of the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Area.

Even the heartland of America is falling to kimchi. The Chicago Tribune ran a story this Thanksgiving entitled "Kimchee comes with that turkey?" Author Andrew Trees recounts his first thanksgiving with his Korean-American wife's family, at which along with the traditional holiday dishes, were japchae, bulgogi and, yes, kimchi.

The Far East District helped to fill over 500 boxes with kimchi during a kimchi making event for charity Nov. 22. (Photo by Patrick Bray)



Basil Meyer, FED Construction Division, takes a large bite of kimchi during winter kimchi making. FED employees volunteered to help at the charity event Nov. 22. (Photo by Patrick Bray)

# Building on a foundation of service

By Patrick Bray  
FED Public Affairs

Michael Neaverth, Jr. and David Neaverth achieved their Eagle Scout Oct. 30. Both are sons of Michael Neaverth from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District Programs and Project Management Division, and both have devoted themselves to service to their community, church, and school.

Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America and the road to Eagle Scout can sometimes take four years or more. For the past seven years, Neaverth's sons have been active Boys Scouts and have performed most of their service here in Korea.



Boy Scouts work on an Eagle Scout project, a community bench, at Seoul American Elementary School. (Photo provided by Mike Neaverth)

New Eagles Scouts cut the cake during their celebration at the Dragon Hill Lodge Oct. 30. (Photo provided by Mike Neaverth)



Michael and David became Cub Scouts when they were eight years old. Since then they have aimed at being the best scouts they can be and have embraced the value of service.

"I set a goal early on to get my Eagle Scout and after achieving this goal I have a sense of accomplishment. Scouting has benefited me and allowed me to develop quality characteristics for later in life," said Michael Neaverth, Jr.

To get their Eagle Scout both boys had to be active in the troop after achieving Life Scout, live the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in daily life, earn a total of 21 merit badges from various areas, serve actively for a period of six months in one or more of the various Scouting positions, and plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to an organization other than the Boy Scouts.

According to their father, Michael Neaverth, both of his sons have followed this path to Eagle Scout to the tee.

Some of the projects that the brothers were involved in was gathering Christmas trees during the Holiday season and serving as members of the Order of the Arrow.

The Order of the Arrow is an extension of Boy Scouts of America that further develops youth leaders. As members of the order, the boys participate in Native

David Neaverth plays the violin at a social event. David is active at the Neaverth's church where he has played violin for about four years. (Photo provided by Mike Neaverth)



American and Alaska Native parades and ceremonial events.

Michael's Eagle Scout project was a park bench at Seoul American Elementary School at U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan.

David, who is an avid soccer fan, has also helped out with charity soccer events such as "Kicking4Hunger." Admission for those who wished to participate in the event was a canned food donation. In all, the volunteers raised about 700 cans.

The Order of the Arrow is an extension of Boy Scouts of America that further develops youth leaders. As members of the order, the boys participate in Native American and Alaska Native parades and ceremonial events. (Photo provided by Mike Neaverth)



# Construction representative plans to give back to the community after retiring

By Joe Campbell  
FED Public Affairs

**E**lena Pelias, a construction representative with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District's Pyeongtaek Resident Office will retire after just over 30 years of federal service Dec. 31.

Pelias, who emigrated from the Philippines in 1974, started her federal service career as a shipping clerk with the U.S. Navy at Sigonella, Italy, in 1982.

"When I first started working, it was to provide additional support for my immediate family and to help my family back home, especially with college tuition for my nieces and nephews," said Pelias.

In June 2006 Pelias began her tour with the Far East District as a construction representative at the Humphreys Resident Office, now known as the Pyeongtaek Resident Office. Throughout her more than six years of service to the district, Pelias has gained the trust, respect and admiration of her supervisors and coworkers alike especially for her personal integrity and strong sense of values.

"I highly respect Elena's work ethics and her ability to take on challenges," said Hunter Dandridge, Pyeongtaek deputy resident engineer. "She is highly dedicated to duty and ensures all work is completed in accordance with plans and specifications."

Valued as a mission-oriented construction representative with a no-nonsense approach to getting the quality assurance job done right, Pelias has completed numerous projects to include barracks complexes, vehicle maintenance facilities and the transient lodging facility at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys.

Following her retirement, Pelias will return to her home in the Philippines, where she plans to become a farmer and help others.

"In and around the fishing village where I was born and raised, education has not been an important part of the culture," said Pelias. "Feeding your family and carrying on with the family trade is what's important. I've been blessed to have a college education and a successful career in engineering, so now I want to give something back to the community."

Pelias has remained mindful of the hardships she saw as a young child growing up in the Philippines and those that today's youth are facing. Throughout her career with

the U.S. government she has provided financial support to the local community, donating books and school supplies for the village elementary school. Now, she wants to take it a step further.

"I am going to conduct free educational and learning seminars for the children and young adults in and around where I'll be living," said Pelias. "I want to show that there are countless possibilities for their futures."

She went on to say that her aim or what she really wants to do is open the eyes of those who see no future beyond where they are at now.

"I plan to help break the cycle of poverty repeated generation after generation," she said. "Through education and social awareness I know that there is a future for those kids and I will help make it happen."

One of her greatest ambitions is to provide fellow villagers with jobs on the pineapple farm she plans to start early next year.

"In my village, government subsidized housing is under construction and many of the future residents are unemployed or have family members who can't find work," said Pelias. "I want to offer as many jobs as possible to my



Elena Pelias stands at the top of one of her projects at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys. Pelias will be retiring after 30 years of federal service. (Photo provided by Elena Pelias)

neighbors so that they can get an education and find success.

Pelias also spoke of the need to educate and warn young women of the dangers of human trafficking.

"I hope that I can convey to many of the young, uneducated women in the local communities that even though an opportunity to become a domestic servant or office worker abroad may look like a ticket out of poverty, it has high risks and many tragic endings," said Pelias. "The human traffickers have for so long taken advantage of Philippine women with false promises of high pay and the wonderful families that they'll be working for. It is time to do something to help these women; I can do that by providing them with knowledge and the courage to make their lives better."

While wishing her the best in her retirement, Dandridge was quick to add that she will be sorely missed by her colleagues, customers, contractors and the entire Humphreys Area Office team.



Elena Pelias enjoys lunch with Korean students during an FED Good Neighbor event in October 2011. Pelias will be retiring after 30 years of federal service. (Photo by Patrick Bray)

Elena Pelias escorts visitors around one of her projects at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys. Pelias will be retiring after 30 years of federal service. (Photo provided by Elena Pelias)



# District family member awarded \$5,000 scholarship

By Joe Campbell  
FED Public Affairs

Sarah Kim, a senior at Seoul American High School was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship by the Lambda Xi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity during a ceremony at the Dragon Hill Lodge Nov. 17.

Sarah, the daughter of Stephen Kim, project manager in the Programs and Project Management Division, won the top prize from among 18 applicants.

“This came as a total surprise to me,” said Stephen Kim. “I received a call from the chairman of the scholarship committee asking that my wife and I attend the ceremony. We didn’t know until we got there that Sarah had won the top prize.”

Annually, the men of Lambda Xi Chapter award \$12,000 in scholarships to seniors attending Department of Defense Schools on the Korean Peninsula.

“This year all of the applicants were well-deserving of scholarships, so it was especially difficult to choose the winners,” said Tracy George, this year’s Unsung Hero Lambda Xi Chapter award recipient. “We could only award three scholarships. Sarah’s outstanding academic record, commitment to the community, and heartfelt essay all contributed to her winning the highest honor.”

Like her father, Sarah, too, was very surprised after hearing that she had won.

“I was really excited when news came about that I was selected as one of the finalists,” said Sarah. “My parents and I went to the banquet not knowing what to expect; we were kept in the dark until the official announcement after the formal dinner. So I kept my expectations low, and it was definitely a nice surprise when I was announced as the winner.”

The two other seniors who received awards were Michelle Quizon from Daegu American High School, \$4,000, and Kimberly Tadlock from Osan American High School, \$3,000.

“I’m truly grateful that Omega Psi Phi Fraternity provided this opportunity,” said Sarah. “I’m also glad that I took it, and honestly, I think I got lucky. It’s really humbling, and it makes me happy that my dad’s still excited about this when it’s already been some weeks since the banquet. It’s as if I took off some weight off his shoulders, and becoming the recipient of the scholarship really did make me rethink the value I place on college education.”

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is the first international fraternal organization to be founded on the campus of a historically black college. Omega Psi Phi was founded on Nov. 17, 1911, at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

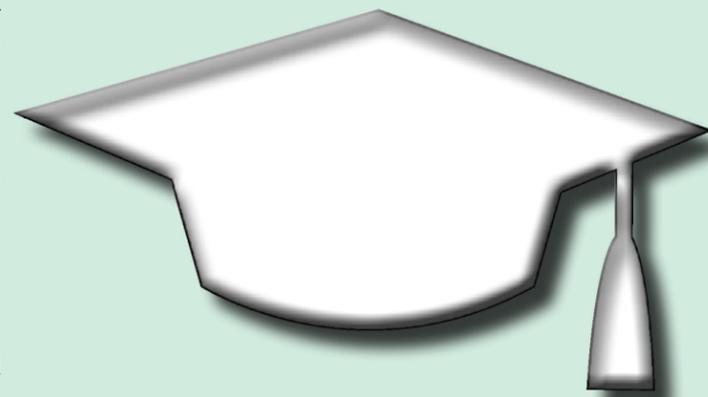
The founders were three Howard University undergraduates; Edgar Amos Love, Oscar James Cooper and Frank Coleman. Joining them was their faculty adviser, Dr. Ernest Everett Just.

From the initials of the Greek phrase meaning, “friendship is essential to the soul,” the name Omega Psi Phi was derived. That phrase was selected as the motto. Manhood, scholarship, perseverance and uplift were adopted as cardinal principles. Omega Psi Phi was incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia on Oct. 28, 1914.

Two of the mandated programs are the annual achievement week and scholarship.

Achievement week is observed each November and is designed to recognize those individuals at the local and international levels who have contributed to community uplift. A high school essay contest is to be held in conjunction with achievement week.

Scholarship promotes academic excellence among the undergraduate members. Graduate chapters provide financial assistance to student members and non-members.



(Top left) Sarah Kim, a senior at Seoul American High School was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship by the Lambda Xi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity during a ceremony at the Dragon Hill Lodge Nov. 17. (Photo provided by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity)



(Top right) Tracy George, Far East District Executive Assistant, receives the Unsung Hero Award by the Lambda Xi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity during a ceremony at the Dragon Hill Lodge Nov. 17. (Photo provided by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity)

## Continued from page 8

The primary purpose of the demonstration was to ensure that the customer, USAG Yongsan DPW Environmental, received sufficient instruction to properly and efficiently operate the biopile systems after final transfer of the treatment structures into their possession.

Additional members of the project delivery team that were present for the instruction and demonstration were Yi Yong Hun, USAG Yongsan DPW Project Manager, Chon Song Sam, K-16 Air Base DPW Program Manager; Han Sun Hyang, researcher (Hankook University of Foreign Studies); Yoon Sang Dae, BEC Project Manager; Lee Gyo Taek, BEC Technical Support; and supporting sub-contract laborers. Han was brought on board the project by USAG Yongsan DPW to perform treatment monitoring and to study biopile system performance for the purpose of discovering contamination-specific methods of enhancing treatment.

By the close of business Nov. 29, the first biopile had been built and covered atop one of the two cells for the commencement of treatment for the removal of elevated total petroleum hydrocarbon-diesel range organics. Some natural biological treatment processes will begin right away, however, optimized treatment of various types of contaminated soil will commence in April 2013; the start time preferred by USAG Yongsan DPW Environmental. Among the project deliverables, FED provided the customer with a user’s manual for guidance on how best to control biopile system features from the accompanying electronic control room, and an operations manual for instruction to users on how to best manage biopile treatment and monitoring processes for various types of contamination.

FED congratulates the Environmental Division of USAG Yongsan DPW on becoming U.S. Government stewards of two of the most advanced biopile systems in the Republic of Korea.

## Save energy this winter

By Yi Yong-un  
FED Public Affairs

The Korean Ministry of Knowledge Economy announced plans Nov. 27 to cope with possible power shortages this winter as Korea's power reserves are expected to fall below the safe level of four million kilowatts, because with closures of nuclear plants for safety checks.

The long-term plan to resolve the power shortage is to fully mobilize publicly and privately-owned generators. Also, government offices and commercial buildings with high electricity demand will be required to keep indoor temperature at or below 65 and 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

U.S. Forces Korea is also working to ensure military readiness, safeguard the health and wellness of the force, and prevent a blackout on the Korean Peninsula, with establishment of a theater-wide policy regarding winter energy conservation, similar to that of the summer campaign. The summer campaign to conserve energy included maintaining appropriate temperature in the office, adjusting street light timing, and turning off electronic displays in the middle of the night.

Individuals can also contribute to the campaign by making small changes. Things someone can do to save energy while in the office is to check the settings of computers to power down when not in use, unplug laptop power cords when not in use, and by using a power strip to make it easier to shut down devices that are not in use. Turning off lights during lunch if everyone is out of the office and maintaining appropriate temperature in the office can also help save energy.

As good stewards to conserve energy, people should not only try to conserve energy in the office, but also at home. Ways to conserve energy at home is to empty the dust inside the vacuum cleaner before vacuuming, do laundry in cold water, and only when your laundry basket is full, unplug adapters when you are done using them, and wait for the dishwasher to be filled with dishes before using it.

It is never too late to start saving. Little sacrifices may add up to make a huge difference.

### Here is a simple checklist from the U.S. Department of Energy of energy conservation and efficiency measures to use at work:

- Always use Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) in desk lamps as opposed to incandescent lights.
- Switch off all unnecessary lights.
- Use natural lighting when possible.
- When working late, use task lighting to directly illuminate work areas.
- Unplug equipment that drains energy even when not in use (i.e. cell phone chargers, fans, coffeemakers, desktop printers, radios, etc.)
- If possible, turn off your office equipment and computer monitors at the end of the work day.
- Use efficient ENERGY STAR® products.
- Close or tilt window blinds to block direct sunlight to reduce cooling needs during warm months.
- Photocopy only what you need.
- Always use the second side of paper, either by printing on both sides or using the bland side as scrap paper.
- Carpool, bike, or use mass transit when commuting to work.
- To save gas: drive the speed limit, accelerate and decelerate slower, and make sure tires are pumped up.
- Use durable coffee mugs instead of disposable cups.

## Far East District holiday party Dec. 6

Happy Holidays!



(Left) "DJ" Bruce Park entertains the crowd with a rare mix of holiday beats and maybe a top-40 hit or two. (Photo by Yo Kyong-il)



(Above) Department of the Army intern, Charles Johnson, passes out raffle tickets. (Photo by Yo Kyong-il)



Jolly ole' Saint Nick and master of ceremonies, Maj. Vincent Lee, enjoys the stump of a his corn-cob pipe held tight in his teeth. (Photo by Yo kyong-il)



Col. Donald E. Degidio, Jr., commander of the Far East District, compliments Col. Craig Johnson and Lt. Col. Gregg Baisch on their Hawaiian-themed, "mele kalikimaka" wardrobe. (Photo by Yo Kyong-il)

See more photos of the FED Holiday Party at [www.flickr.com/photos/fedpao/sets](http://www.flickr.com/photos/fedpao/sets)





# Building **Safety** Strong ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG



## *Holiday safety*

### **Holiday Trees**

- Ensure artificial trees are labeled, certified or identified as fire retardant.
- Choose fresh trees with green needles that do not fall off when touched, and trim one to two inches from the base of the trunk before placing the tree in a stand.
- Place trees at least three feet from heat sources like radiators, heating vents or lights.
- Keep lighters, matches, candles and other sources of open flame far away from trees.
- Add water to tree stands daily. When a tree begins shedding needles, it is time to dispose of it. Dried-out trees are a fire hazard and should not be left inside.

### **Holiday Lights**

- Before use, inspect holiday lights for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in insulation, broken or cracked sockets and excessive kinking or wear. All lights should be marked as safe by an approved testing laboratory.
- Never connect more than three light strands together unless the directions indicate doing so is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into an outlet. Periodically check wires to ensure they are not warm to the touch.
- Never leave holiday lights unattended while on. Keep your electric bill under control.
- Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent excessive wear.

### **Holiday Decorations**

- All decorations should be nonflammable or flame retardant and placed away from heat and open flame sources.
- Ensure trees and other holiday decorations do not block exits. In the event of a fire, time is of the essence. A blocked entry or exit puts you and your family at risk.
- Avoid using lit candles. If you do burn them, make sure they are in stable holders and placed out of easy reach to prevent them from being accidentally knocked down. Never leave candles burning unattended.

**Have a Safe & Happy Holiday Season!**



## **EEO CORNER**

### **Farewell from outgoing EEO chief**

**By Kim Chong-yun**  
FED Public Affairs

**T**he chief of Equal Employment Opportunity Office, Tamara R. Watts-Stephens, bid farewell to the Far East District. Watts-Stephens joined the district November 2008 and has worked with the FED family for over four years.

“During the past year that I have been working for her, Mrs. Watts-Stephens has taught me much as a growing professional in both her words and actions,” says Erica Hogle, who worked with Watts-Stephens as an administrative support assistant.

Hogle continued, “Mrs. Watts-Stephens also contributed her knowledge by mentoring me and other young people. I gained a lot of experience that many at my age would not receive until much later in life because of her guidance. I believe she has been a positive influence on both the district and growing professionals during her stay here at the Far East District.”

During her stay at FED, Watts-Stephens worked as a principal advisor and consultant to the commander and senior management officials on matters pertaining to the EEO program throughout Korea. She also mediated disputes and performed counseling and various other EEO duties including coordination of ethnic observances.

“It was an honor to work with and be mentored by Mrs. Watts-Stephens. She is a true professional; mission execution was her primary focus but once the task was complete, behind closed doors, she would let her hair down and tell a joke that would leave you in tears. Best of all, her sincere concern and positive demeanor was comforting even in the most trying of times. She will be missed,” said Keysha Cutts-Washington, one of FED Special Emphasis Program managers.

Watts-Stephens deployed to Afghanistan Engineer District and served as the EEO manager during her stay at FED.

Watts-Stephens says she has learned a lot of great things in FED.

“My time here at FED has been really great and I have had a happy opportunity to work with a lot of great people,” she said. “I will take all the things that I’ve learned and continue my service in the Department of the Army.”



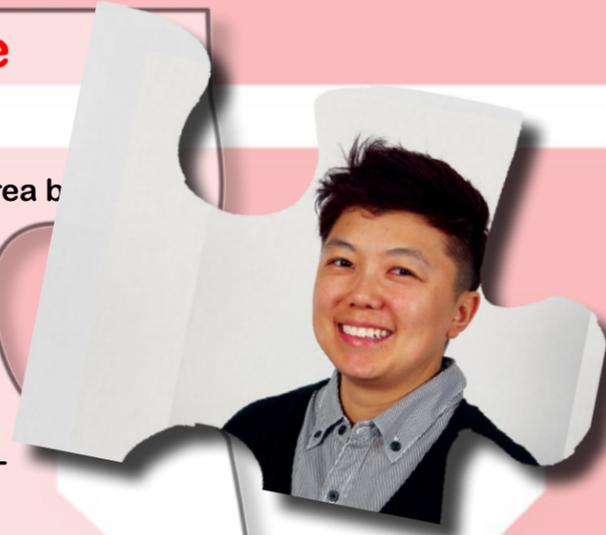
## Tok Im

### Executive Office

#### My Plan

I help the Corps Build Strong in Korea by

- Giving superb administrative support representing the Commander and FED
- Ensuring smooth operations of the Executive Office
- Providing a positive working environment and camaraderie



## Maj. Rolf Achauer

### Executive Officer

I help the Corps Build Strong in Korea by...

- Supporting the district by improving synchronization internally and externally
- Improve our staffing systems to better enable the commander to relay his intent
- Being efficient, knowledgeable, and thorough at work
- Loyal to USACE and the U.S. Army



# My Plan, My Face

#### My Plan

I help the corps build strong in Korea by (What piece of the puzzle do I provide to ensure the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers goes from good to great?)...

- Which Far East District operations plan actions and tasks do I support?
- Which Pacific Ocean Division implementation plan action do I support?
- Which Corps of Engineers command plan goals and objectives do I support?
- What unique contributions do I make to FED, POD, USACE, and our nation?

#### My Face

I am Building Strong in Korea by...

- Fun things I do
- People and family
- Hobbies
- What else?

#### Would you like to share your "My Plan, My Face?"

If you are a Far East District civilian or Soldier, simply send yours into the Public Affairs Office and you could be featured in the next East Gate Edition!

#### My Face

I am a key person in the Corps by...

- Enjoying Korea and all it has to offer
- Loving and caring for my family
- Trying new and different things
- Love to cook!



#### My Face

I am a key person in the Corps by...

- Working out and hiking
- I enjoy spending time with my friends and family.
- During my down time I am either traveling the world or writing on my blog.

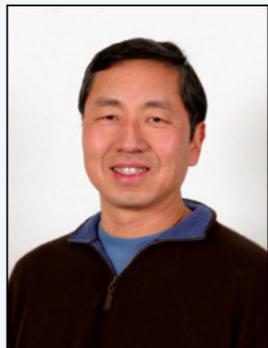




*Kimberly Stone*  
Construction Division



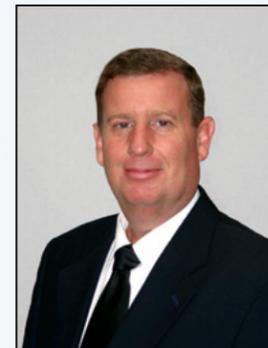
*Elisa Beck*  
Construction Division



*Steve Lee*  
Construction Division



*Tamara Watts-Stephens*  
EEO



*Ricky Bashor*  
Information Management



*Doshin Park*  
Construction Division



*Flor Vega*  
Construction Division



*Antonio Castro*  
Construction Division



*Eun-kyu Thomas Cha*  
Engineering Division



*Nagy Habachiy*  
Engineering Division



*Mohamed Shahin*  
Construction Division



*Boon Lim*  
Construction Division



*Rogelio Preciado*  
KPRO

# From the Commander Thank you for doing GREAT things:

Congratulations to our FED over-33 basketball team who won the preseason tournament Dec. 2 to 4! We're looking forward to another win in February!



## 사령관 코너



Col. Donald E. Degidio, Jr.

최고의 극동 공병단 팀과 모든 팀들에게,

공병단은 다시 한번 성공적인 한해를 마무리 하였습니다. 가족과 사랑하는 이들과 함께 연휴 계획을 세우시길 바라며 한해 동안 여러분이 훌륭히 수행한 업무에 대해 말씀드리겠습니다.

공병단은 연 2회 미 8군에서 시행하는 ROC 훈련에 참여하여 한해를 시작하였습니다. 훈련은 미 8군 임무 수행에 필요한 공병단 지원을 재강조하는 자리였습니다. 3월에는 MEC, EEC, 군인, 그리고 태평양사단에 속한 직원들이 2012년 키리졸브 훈련에 참여했습니다.

또한 2월에 공병단은 ISO 9001을 재승인 받아 성공적인 품질관리시스템(QMS)은 모든 직원의 문화적 신념의 변화라는 것을 증명하였습니다 - QMS는 단순한 프로그램이 아닌 매일매일 업무를 처리하는 방식에 대한 것입니다. 4월에는 태평양사단에서 공병단을 방문해 공병단의 현 상태를 평가했습니다. 다시 한번 여러분은 우리가 굉장히 역량있는 공병단이라는 것을 증명하였습니다.

한해 동안 많은 귀빈들께 우리 공병단이 시행하는 업무를 보여줄 수 있었습니다. 7월에는 보스틱 공병감님께서 한국을 처음 방문하였습니다. 한국에 머무는 동안 건설현장을 방문하였고 전체직원 회의를 가졌으며 한국 이름도 수여받았습니다. 8월에는 존 맥휴 미육군성 장관께서 평택 미군기지 건설 현장을 방문하여 지속적으로 시행되고 있는 용산기지 이전사업을 인상깊게 보셨습니다. 지난 달에는 제임스 서먼 주한미군 사령관님께서 건설 현장을 방문하였고 공병단 직원들과의 시간을 가졌으며 신축된 제 2 전투비행여단의 항공기 격납고 개관식에 참석하셨습니다.

올 한해 극동 공병단은 총 3억 달러에 달하는 계약을 맺었고, 셀 수 없이 많은 착공식 및 개관식을 가졌으며, 인력 또한 늘어 멋진 한해를 보냈습니다. 이 모든 것은 여러분의 노력과 헌신이 있어 가능했습니다. 감사합니다.

끝으로 연말 연시를 행복하게 보내시기 바라며 항상 안전에 유의하시기 바랍니다. 여러분은 공병단의 가장 중요한 자산입니다.

우리의 최고의 동맹에게 - 같이 갑시다!

우리의 최고의 공병단에게 - 에세이온!

한반도에 강한 건설을 수행하는 하나의 팀!



Have a question?  
Have some feedback?  
Want to share your ideas?

Please visit our Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) website at [www.pof.usace.army.mil/home/ice](http://www.pof.usace.army.mil/home/ice) and share your thoughts with us.

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District, wants to hear from you.
- We value our customers and employees so we are always looking for more innovative ways to improve our business processes and services.
- As a customer you can provide feedback or ask a question to any of our divisions and offices.
- We will follow-up on your comments within five business days or sooner.

# Don't take a holiday plunge.

Be smart when using a ladder!



The signs are all around.  
It's up to YOU to recognize  
and act on them.

