



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Far East District

# EAST GATE EDITION

OCTOBER 2013 VOL. 22, NO. 8

## West receives Chief of Engineers 2011 Military Contingency Responder of the Year award

By Jason Chudy  
FED Public Affairs

**F**ar East District engineer Jacob West was recently awarded the Chief of Engineers 2011 Military Contingency Responder of the Year award for his service in Afghanistan.

West, a civil engineer with the district's Parcel 2 Resident office at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, was presented the award by district commander Col. Bryan S. Green on behalf of Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick during a ceremony at the district headquarters in Seoul Aug. 30. He was also recognized as the employee of the month for June 2013.

West, of Fayetteville, N.C., earned the award for his service in Afghanistan between September 2010 and October 2012. There, he spent 1 ½ years as part of a provincial reconstruction team in Paktika and Ghazni provinces and six months as the deputy district program manager in Kabul.

"Your efforts as lead Provincial Reconstruction Team Engineer and lead Brigade Engineer for your AO [area of operations] was exemplary, as was the tenacity you demonstrated in collaborating to develop and execute infrastructure projects and the constructing/refurbishing of schools, clin-

ics and District Centers," wrote Maj. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, then-acting commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in West's award citation.

"Your technical analysis, quality control direction and supervision of over 50 critical infrastructure projects totaling over \$70 million, resulted in a better quality of life and economic prosperity for the Afghani people," wrote Maj. Gen. Michael R. Eyre, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division, which oversaw the Corps' operations in Afghanistan, in a letter commending West's work in Afghanistan.

He had also previously received the Secretary of Defense Medal for the Defense of Freedom, which was established to acknowledge Department of Defense civilian employees who are killed or wounded in the line of duty.

West was injured by a roadside bomb, called an improvised explosive

device, or IED, by the military, on Oct. 19, 2011. Navy Seabee Chief Petty Officer Raymond Border and Staff Sgt. Jorge Oliveira were killed in the attack.

"You experienced much more than most civilians during your deployment to Afghanistan," wrote Eyre. "Even after the loss of two military comrades, Chief Petty Officer Border and SSG Oliveira in an IED incident, and escaping a near death situation yourself, you persevered and stayed in theater seven months more.

"This level of dedication to duty is unparalleled," Eyre wrote.



Jacob West (right), Construction Division, receives the Chief of Engineers 2011 Military Contingency Responder of the Year award for his service in Afghanistan from Col. Bryan S. Green, Far East District Commander, August 30. (Photo by O Sang-sung)

# A successful fiscal year-end closeout and execution for FY14 and beyond

**By Robert Lau**  
FED Resource Management

**T**ime flies by when you are having fun! What a year it has been: we had the largest workload in the region, a significant increase in staffing, and we are preparing ourselves for the execution of the largest program in the Corps of Engineers!

Our initial Fiscal Year 2013 budget was projected with an end-strength of 569 employees, supported by a workload and income of \$759 million and \$84.2 million respectively!

Our midyear numbers were adjusted based on the shifting of the host nation program, which resulted with a workload and income of \$802.2 million and \$83.9 million respectively.

Our midyear end strength target was adjusted to 555 with a Sept. 30 forecast of 530.

Our FY14 workload is forecasted around \$1.2 billion, or a 50 percent increase from our FY13 midyear, primarily from the Yongsan Relocation Plan workload. We will see significant personnel growth in Construction Division and the Korea Program Relocation Office, and some "right sizing" in the other division offices as the workload shifts from design to construction.

Fiscal Years 15 to 17 will be solid workload/income for Construction Division with completion of the physical aspects of YRP.

Also, let's not forget, it is "that time of the year" again. The fiscal year-end frenzies is upon us, and the financial team's intensity has risen for the challenge.

The team is shifting gears and position for a successful fiscal year-end close-out. The entire team is busy accepting/returning expiring funds, executing contract awards, and processing close out transactions prior to Sept. 30 to ensure our financial statements reflect the

expenditures of the year.

The numbers of contractual awards are not as high as in the past but we still have roughly 60-plus potential awards to execute by Sept. 30. The majority of the fiscal year-end funding is coming from our Army and Air Force customers.

In addition to our standard funding documents such as military interdepartmental purchase requests and financial accounting data sheet, this fiscal year, we accepted an irrevocable letter of credit for one of our host nation security projects.

The first contract to be awarded citing the ILOC will be our YRP security projects in Humphreys. The ILOC provides our host nation partners the financial flexibility by having a funds guarantee for the execution of the host nation project.

The approval of the ILOC did required Office of the Secretary of Defense, Treasury, and Defense Finance and Accounting Services agreement to allow the use of the ILOC business processes.

As we close out the fiscal year-end, it is the dedication of our team members that makes our district fiscal year-end a success! As a resource manager, I am proud of the fact that we remain committed in maintaining and strengthening our district-wide funds control processes, and that we have one of the best financial teams in the Corp of Engineers!

As we head into the budgetary uncertainties of the future, our financial teams will continue to maintain our fiscal integrity in delivering an effective, efficient, and accountable product to our customer and the taxpayer of both the United States and Republic of Korea.

Let continue our "One Team Building Strong in Korea" by ensuring a successful fiscal yearend closeout and execution for FY14 and beyond.

Esprit De Corps!



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Far East District**

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[www.pof.usace.army.mil](http://www.pof.usace.army.mil)



# Pickler receives the Bronze Order of the de Fleury award

**By Jason Chudy**  
FED Public Affairs

**K**en Pickler, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District transportation operations officer, was recently presented the Bronze Order of the de Fleury award for nearly 42 years of service to the Engineer Regiment.

The award was presented by district commander Col. Bryan S. Green Aug. 30 on behalf of Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick.

Although not an engineer by trade, Pickler spent nearly his entire military and civilian careers working in the engineering community.

During his active duty time, he made numerous combat and crisis deployments. In November 1978, Pickler deployed to the South American country of Guyana, where he supporting the recovery of remains from what became known as the "Jonestown Massacre," in which more than 900 people died in a mass suicide.

He also took part in Operation Urgent Fury, the October 1983 invasion of Grenada. Then-Staff Sgt. Pickler trained

six heavy equipment operators and provided vehicle and equipment maintenance support for U.S. Army units deployed there.

His last active duty assignment was with the Far East District in Seoul, Republic of Korea, where he retired as a sergeant 1st class in 1991. He remained with the district and served more than two decades as part of the transportation branch.

During his civilian time with the district, he has made humanitarian deployments in support of tropical storm or typhoon recovery operations in Korea and Guam. He was also hand-picked to deploy to the Corps of Engineers Regional Training Center in Mobile, Ala., to train logistics employees supporting emergency responders.



*Ken Pickler (right), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District transportation operations officer, was recently presented the Bronze Order of the de Fleury award for nearly 42 years of service to the Engineer Regiment from Col. Bryan S. Green, Far East District Commander, August 30. (Photo by O Sang-sung)*





# Ground broken on Naval Forces Korea headquarters in Busan

## U.S. Naval Forces Korea

**C**ommander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea broke ground on a new headquarters facility Aug. 29 during a ceremony at the Republic of Korea navy base at Busan.

The ground-breaking marks the beginning of construction on a headquarters facility that will house U.S. Navy personnel currently based in Seoul at U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District will oversee construction of the facility.

The relocation of the U.S. Navy headquarters in Korea from Seoul to Busan, scheduled for completion

in 2015, will be a phased move of personnel and equipment, balancing costs and efficiencies with mission requirements.

The planned move will place naval leaders and headquarters staffs from the U.S. and Republic of Korea in the same location, which will allow closer coordination and enhanced interoperability between the two navies.

"This ground breaking event sets the tone for an enduring alliance between the ROK and U.S. navies," said Rear Adm. William McQuilkin, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Korea. "Our new headquarters will

be co-located with the ROK fleet headquarters in Busan, where we can better support both the ROK and U.S. navies and be closer to the maritime environment."

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea is the regional commander for the U.S. Navy in the Republic of Korea and provides expertise on naval matters to area military commanders, including the Commander for the United Nations Command, the Combined Forces Command, and Commander, U.S. Forces Korea.

*Rear Adm. William McQuilkin, Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Korea, Vice Adm. Robert L. Thomas, Jr., commander, U.S. 7th Fleet, Vice Adm. Jung Ho-sup, commander, Republic of Korea Navy Fleet; Rear Adm. Lisa Franchetti and other distinguished guests break ground on the future Navy headquarters building on the ROK Navy base in Busan, Aug. 29. Commander, Naval Forces Korea headquarters is currently based in Seoul and is scheduled to relocate to Busan in 2015. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Joshua Bryce Bruns)*





# Fleet and Family Town Center opens at Chinhae

## U.S. Naval Forces Korea

**T**he Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea/Commander, Navy Region Korea, along with leadership from Commander, Fleet Activities Chinhae and Korean partners, cut the ribbon for the grand opening of the Fleet and Family Town Center at CFAC Chinhae, August 24. The new facility will provide Sailors, DoD civilians, and their families a centralized venue on the base that includes a commissary, exchange, post office,

other Sailor support services.

“This new facility is about three things: supporting the fleet, taking care of our people, and providing quality facilities that we can all be proud of - that enable us to provide the best support possible for our Sailors, our Civilian Teammates, and their Families. We are

eternally grateful to the people of the Republic of Korea for their assistance and support in helping to build this new facility.”



*(above) Rear Adm. William McQuilkin and members of the Commander, Fleet Activities Chinhae team cut the ribbon for the grand opening of the Fleet and Family Town Center, August 24. (U.S. Navy photo)*

*(right) Rear Adm. William McQuilkin presents an award of appreciation to the Quality Assurance Supervisor for the Fleet and Family Town Center building project, Pak Sam-kun, Far East District Southern Resident Office. (U.S. Navy photo)*



*(above) The Fleet and Family Town Center on the day of the Ribbon Cutting ceremony at Commander, Fleet Activities, Chinhae. The new building will improve services on the base for visiting Sailors from the fleet and permanently assigned personnel and their families. (U.S. Navy photo)*







## EEO CORNER

### 2013 National Hispanic Heritage Month: Hispanics – “Serving and Leading Our Nation with Pride and Honor.”

**By Stephen A. Brown**  
FED Equal Employment Opportunity

The Far East District recognizes the achievements and contributions of Hispanic Americans. America’s diversity is a source of strength, and Hispanic Americans have not hesitated to defend and show their allegiance to this nation in many ways, but especially through their military service.

Originally a week-long celebration approved by President Lyndon Johnson, National Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 - Oct. 15, was enacted into law in 1988. The celebration heightens our attention to diversity and the many contributions Hispanics have made to enrich the United States.

The observance commences on Sept. 15 to coincide with the day several Latin American countries celebrate their Independence Day. Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua celebrate their Independence Day on Sept. 15, Mexico on Sept. 16, and Chile on Sept. 18.

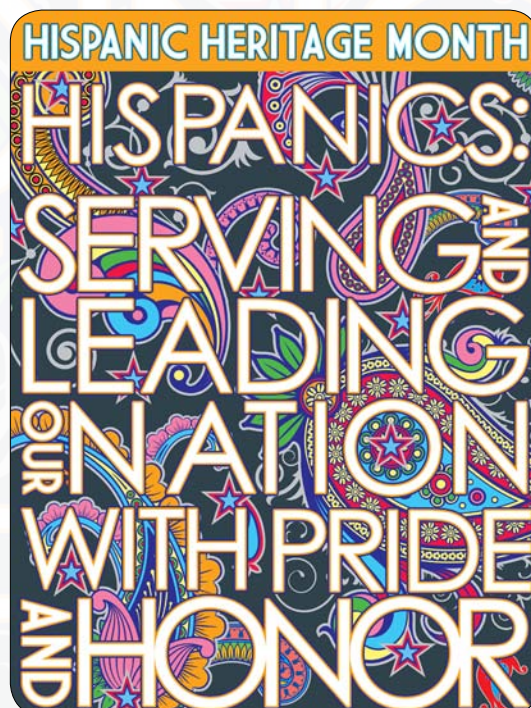
Hispanics have played a vital role in the moments that have shaped our country, and during Hispanic American Heritage Month we recognize the achievements and contributions of these individuals. America’s diversity is a source of strength, and Hispanic Americans have not hesitated to defend and show their allegiance to this nation in many ways, but especially through military service.

For years, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers has forged relationships with Hispanic organizations and will continue to support and sponsor professional development forums to continue to develop relationships to create a positive change of perception about opportunities available in the Army.

An example of the commitment to fostering com-

munication with the Hispanic community is through the Corps’ relationship with the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Conference. Through these relationships the Corps has increased awareness among key Hispanic audiences of the educational and career opportunities in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics)-related fields.

The Far East District will be observing National Hispanic Heritage Month on Oct. 3 at the old East Gate Club. The guest speaker will be Lt. Col. Yolanda Nieto, Eighth Army equal opportunity director.





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



## ***Take Care of Your PPE***

Choosing the right personal protective equipment is the first step toward ensuring your safety. However, once you've assembled the right combination for your individual needs and the jobs you are required to perform, you are only halfway there. The next step is one that is often overlooked - looking after your PPE. Caring for your PPE is just as essential as choosing the right PPE. Let's start from the top.

### **Head Protection**

Hardhats, helmets and bump caps are designed to protect your head. Inspecting and caring for your head protection is vital. Promptly replace a damaged or defective hardhat.

- Are the inside straps working properly? Are they properly adjusted? If the inside straps no longer fit, then you are drastically reducing its protective value.
- Is the outer shell cracked or weakened with dents?
- Are the chin straps frayed or split compromising their ability to hold the hardhat on your head?
- Is your hardhat clean? Use a damp rag with mild soap and water to clean your hardhat every couple of days. Mold and mildew can grow on any surface damp with your sweat and can cause allergy problems that can affect your eyesight and ability to breathe freely.

### **Eye Protection**

Wearing safety glasses, goggles or shields to protect your eyesight isn't very effective if they are always slipping down your nose.

- Do they fit? If not, talk to your supervisor and get a pair that fit properly.
- Are they clean? Again, using a solution of warm soapy water should do the trick. Clean them as many times a day as necessary.
- Are they cracked, scratched or broken? Duct tape

is not a safe repair. If your glasses are broken, cracked or scratched, get a new pair.

### **Hearing Protection**

- Do not use one-use ear plugs more than once.
- Re-usable earplugs, canal caps and ear muffs must be cleaned on a regular basis. Dirt and oil will reduce their fit and lessen their protective qualities. Clean with mild soap and water on a regular basis.

### **Hand Protection**

- There are as many different types of gloves as there are jobs in the workplace. Use the right kind of glove that fits properly for the job you are performing.
- Always make sure your gloves are in good repair and do not have any rips or tears.

### **Foot Protection**

Caring for your foot protection is a daily requirement.

- Check the soles, laces and eyelets for wear. Also check the inside soles of your footwear. Any excess wear or damage will compromise their protective properties.
- Make sure your footwear is free of contaminants such as oil or grease which will eliminate their ability to provide traction.

***Keeping your PPE in good shape will not only improve its life and possibly save you money; it will also ensure you are getting all the protection your equipment was designed for.***



## UNION SPOTLIGHT

### Far East District Korean National Employees Union meeting with Col. Bryan Green

**O**n August 29 the Far East District Korean National Employees Union representatives met with Col. Bryan S. Green.

Jon Iwata and Allen Chin joined us in the meeting which made it more meaningful.

During the meeting, Green shared his thoughts as district commander, thanked the union for their hard work, and also talked about his mission, task, and how he feels great responsibility at this very important point as the district get closer to relocating to Pyeongtaek. He asked us that we make efforts to work together as a team to bring good results.

According to the current construction schedule, the district headquarters building will be completed in late 2015 and we should be able to move in 2016.

Next in topic was the construction of the back gate. It will be installed as soon as the material arrives, and he

expects the project to be completed before this winter. As for employee welfare, he will make the volleyball and basketball courts accessible anytime to improve our health and physical strength. Also Green will look into whether the health and fitness program that has been initiated for the past six months could be continued.

Like our former commander, Green has a positive view of the Korean National Employees Union and mentioned that his door is always open. If there are any problems or things that we would like to discuss, talk to the union representative and he will deliver the issue to the commander to find solutions to it.

During dinner after the meeting, the union representatives introduced themselves and their roles. It was a good time to promote labor management relationship with Green, promising to approach differences in opinion through discussion and negotiation.

### 그린 대령과 함께 한 FED 한국인 노조 대의원 간담회

**2**013년 8월 29일 신임 사령관이신 그린 대령과 FED 한국인 노조 대의원들과 간담회를 가졌습니다.

신임 사령관과 처음 같이하는 자리에 Jon Iwata씨와 Allen Chin씨도 같이 참석해 주셔서 좋은 시간이 되었습니다.

FED의 새 사령관으로서의 소감과 한국인 직원들의 노고에 대한 격려 인사에 이어서 용산기지의 평택 이전을 앞두고 있는 중요한 시점에 사령관의 막중한 임무와 소임에 많은 책임을 느끼고 있으며 모두에게 좋은 결과를 가지고 올 수 있도록 다들 힘을 모아줄 것



*Far East District Korean National Employees Union representatives and board members pose for a group picture with Col. Bryan S. Green, FED Commander after the union meeting, August 29. (Photo by Song Un-ho)*



을 부탁하였습니다.

지금 현재 진행되고 있는 FED 건물은 스케줄 대로 된다면 2015년 11월경에 완공 예정이고, 2016년경에는 FED의 이동이 가능하리라고 말씀 하셨습니다.

다음으로, 한국인 직원들이 궁금해하고 있는 휴문 일방통행 문제에 대해서는 FED project로 진행되고 있으며 현재 자재를 기다리고 있는 중이니 자재가 오는대로 설치하여 겨울이 오기 전에 사용할 수 있지 않을까 예상된다고 합니다. 그리고 직원들의 복지차원에서 배구장과 농구장 등을 늘 사용할 수 있게 하여 건강과 체력에 도움이 될 수 있었으면 좋겠다고 하셨습니다. 또한 현재 6 개월 한시적

으로 실시 중인 체력 증진 프로그램을 계속 실시할 수 있는지에 대해서는 검토 후 알려주시겠다고 하셨습니다.

전임 사령관과 마찬가지로 신임 사령관도 한인 노조에 대해 매우 긍정적인 생각을 가지고 계시며 언제나 대화의 문이 열려 있으니 어려운 일이나 문제 발생시에는 분회장을 통해 사령관께 전달될 수 있도록 하여 좋은 해결책을 찾도록 하시겠습니다.

이어진 저녁 식사와 좌담에서 각자의 인사와 노조에서의 역할을 소개하였으며, 상호간 이견은 대화와 협의를 통해 앞으로의 돈독한 노사 관계를 다짐하는 좋은 시간이 되었습니다.

## Wolf Pack breaks ground on a new medical facility building



*Leadership from the Eighth Fighter Wing and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chief of Construction Sam Adkins (4th from left) break ground on a new medical facility building at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea Sept. 24. The new building is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2015 and provide expanded medical support to the base. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Haas)*

# **From the Commander** ***Thank you for doing GREAT things:***

*Congratulations to these employees who are recognized for their hard work and dedication!*



Kang Nae-hwa  
Resource Management  
Employee of the month for July



Jacob West  
Construction  
Employee of the month for June



Sin Won-kyun  
Construction  
Employee of the month for May



Staff Sgt. Karen Blackshere  
Executive/Workforce Management  
Army Achievement Medal & Army  
Commendation Medal



Choe Chong-hun  
Engineering  
Achievement Medal



Yeong Chai  
Engineering  
Commander's Award



Cho Chong-chu  
Resource Management  
Certified Defense Financial Manager



Choe Kyong-mi  
Resource Management  
Certified Defense Financial Manager



Leonardo Licon  
Construction  
5 Years of Service Award





Flor Vega  
Construction  
5 Years of Service Award



Chu Chong-mun  
Construction  
10 Years of Service Award



Choe Chun-ho  
Engineering  
10 Years of Service Award



Cho Son-a  
Information Management  
10 Years of Service Award



Ki Faass  
Construction  
10 Years of Service Award



Pak Ki-hong  
Engineering  
10 Years of Service Award



Won Mi Baker  
Korea Program Relocation  
15 Years of Service Award



Jamie Hagio  
Construction  
15 Years of Service Award



Song Un-ho  
Engineering  
20 Years of Service Award



Jason Castro  
Construction  
25 Years of Service Award



Chon Kyong-ho  
Engineering  
25 Years of Service Award



Michael Neaverth  
Programs and Project Management  
25 Years of Service Award





**Ted Song**  
Programs and Project Management  
25 Years of Service Award



**John Alston**  
Construction  
30 Years of Service Award



**Chang U-ik**  
Safety and Occupational Health  
30 Years of Service Award



**Jason Choi**  
Logistics Management  
30 Years of Service Award



**Cho Chong-chu**  
Resource Management  
30 Years of Service Award



**Wayne Joh**  
Programs and Project Management  
30 Years of Service Award



**Ronnie Lee**  
Korea Program Relocation  
30 Years of Service Award



**So Su-ok**  
Programs and Project Management  
30 Years of Service Award



**Yi Hon-kyu**  
Engineering  
30 Years of Service Award



**Douglas Bliss**  
Engineering  
35 Years of Service Award



**Yi Chong-tae**  
Engineering  
35 Years of Service Award



**Michael Feighny**  
Counsel  
45 Years of Service Award





*Heather McBride  
Construction  
Came from Northern Alaska Area Office*



*Roger St. Louis  
Construction  
Came from Medical & Dental Activity*



*Stephen Brown  
Equal Employment Opportunity  
Came from Yongsan*



*Stephen Satkowski  
Public Affairs  
Came from Fort Myer*



*William Yang  
Construction  
Came from USAED, South*



*Lt. Col. Julie D'Annunzio  
Deputy Commander  
Came from Fort Stewart*



*Maj. Aaron Eklund  
Korea Program Relocation  
Came from Eugene, Ore.*



*Staff Sgt. Ramon Thompson  
Construction  
Came from Fort Leonard Wood*



*Erin Fairbank  
Safety and Occupational Health  
Moved to China Lake, Calif.*



*Frank Doyle  
Construction  
Retired*



*Kurtis Kikkawa  
Contracting  
Moved to Pacific Ocean Division*



*Pak Si-song  
Logistics Management  
Moved to Area I*



# The signs are all around.

It's up to **YOU** to recognize  
and act on them.

## Training, Discipline and Standards

Training, discipline and standards are the bedrock of our Army, and as Soldiers, you've been taught what right looks like. As leaders, you have a duty and a responsibility to maintain standards in your formation. You also have an obligation to your Soldiers and their families to manage risk and take action to correct problems. In our fight against accidental fatalities, knowledge is the weapon of choice.



ARMY STRONG:



U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS/SAFETY CENTER  
<https://safety.army.mil>