Korea sees barracks BOOM

Story begins on page 16
Dear friends of the Far East District,

I want to thank you for taking time to read this first, new, quarterly edition of the East Gate Edition. We have retooled the magazine to highlight some of the great things that make the Far East District what it is today.

These magazines are going to focus mainly on the projects, people and history of our District – what we are doing, and the names and faces behind those projects.

For this first issue, we have focused on a broad set of topics. You will read about our Construction Division, which has resident offices all across the peninsula, as well as a personality sketch about long-serving engineer Pak Sam-kun, who has worked for the District both in Kunsan and in Busan.

We also step off the peninsula to show how the Far East District is far-reaching in its work by highlighting two of our engineers who deployed over the summer for Hurricane Sandy recovery operations. They aren’t the only ones who have supported our national priorities, and we are proud to say we have had at least a few dozen volunteers deploy to such places as Iraq or Afghanistan.

You will also see some of the key events we have had over the past half of the year, including a new medical facility in Kunsan and the new Naval Forces Korea headquarters in Busan.

Our centerpiece for this quarter’s magazine is a wrapup of what we are doing for our four services here. We are the Department of Defense’s design and construction agent on peninsula, and we are “building strong” for all branches of the armed forces here.

Another big area for the District, and the nation as a whole, is to maximize our resources and minimize our impact on the environment. You will be able to read about how we protect our environment and promote our “green” projects.

Lastly, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Building Strong in Korea!

BRYAN S. GREEN
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding
Construction Division

a key building block for success

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

Pride in your work is not uncommon, but not everyone can see a tangible result from their hard work. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District Construction Division employees don’t have to look far to see the fruits of their labor. Take a walk around any U.S. military installation throughout Korea and you will see their projects. “From the family housing complexes in Yongsan to the child development center at Camp Casey to the Chill’s at Osan Air Base we have been part of thousands of projects in my nine years here,” said Sam Adkins, chief of construction division.

Construction Division provides construction management, surveillance and technical support throughout the Far East District footprint. They make sure projects of all types are built correctly - with quality, safety, timeliness and within budget, explained Donny Davidson, construction division’s deputy director. “In the case of U.S. funded contracts, we administer the contract for the federal government. We make sure they get what they pay for when it’s ready to be handed over to the new tenant” he said. “With host nation funded construction, we serve in a construction surveillance (oversight) role, which serves to maintain quality of work.”

The construction division’s office, located at district headquarters in Seoul, is divided into three primary parts: the office of the chief, the construction services branch and the quality assurance branch. They serve as the supporting mechanism and oversight for the various area and resident offices located throughout the peninsula.

The office of the chief is the overall leadership and supervision of the construction division, setting division goals and objectives, developing operating procedures, supporting and establishing deadlines that encompass the entire construction team across the peninsula.

The construction services branch oversees any large changes in contracts and provides expertise in awarding all delivery orders supporting the multiple field offices in Korea. Their other role is to perform budget, accounting and administrative activities for the entire construction division on behalf of its chief.

The quality assurance branch performs routine quality assurance checks on the contractors completed work in the field. Throughout the life of the contract they monitor the contractor’s quality, perform inspections and make sure the right material is used. Mike Kopp, quality assurance branch chief, says their wealth of experience and proficiency is time tested.

“Our range and depth of construction projects spans decades here in Korea” he said. “Our technical knowledge and expertise is used to aid our resident offices, other FED divisions, contractors and architecture and engineering consultants.”

The area and resident offices are the ones that see the fruits take shape and groups of them work together to monitor the projects every step of the way. The area and resident offices are where the day to day contract administration, quality assurance and construction surveillance takes place. This is a monumental task and the largest construction workload in all of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The construction division is currently made up of more than 200 employees in nine different resident offices and one area office. They are located in Yongsan, Osan, Camp Humphreys, Pyeongtaek, Kunsan and Daegu. The workforce includes local nationals and Department of the Army civilians with 71 percent of its employees located outside Seoul.

“I’ve worked in a lot of different districts and as far as I’m concerned the Far East District is the best in all of the United States Corps of Engineers. That’s because of the people who are here. We have a wide range of professional people,” said Adkins. “We are face to face with the customer every day. When a distinguished visitor comes to the job site they are the ones who explain what is going on and show where we are at with the project.”

Adkins said organizing this effort is no easy task. “Recently there was a runway shutdown in Osan so we could do some repairs to the runway, and when you do that you have to coordinate with the people that fly the jets, land the cargo planes from all over the world, work at the gate … it’s just a big group of people you have to communicate with and we do that every day and we do it very well.”
Pak Sam-kun’s dedication to excellence personified in customer response

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

Pak Sam-kun’s commitment to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has spanned his entire adult life. After attaining advanced degrees in civil engineering and urban planning he went to work for the Far East District in 1977, where Pak joined the Kunsan resident office as a quality assurance manager. After nine years, he moved to Busan and began working in the same position in the southern resident office.

“My wife is from Busan so she wanted us to move there. It made her very happy,” he said.

It was in the southern resident office where Pak helped provide quality control on two projects in particular he remembered as quite memorable.

“The pier 11 project was completed about 20 years ago at U.S. Navy Fleet Activities, Chinhae. This is the primary pier where ships from the U.S. Navy and the Republic of Korea berth. The reconstruction of this pier was one of the highlights of my career.”

In addition, Pak helped manage the construction of the U.S. Korean War Memorial at the United Nations (U.N.) Cemetery in Busan. The monument was built to honor the American servicemembers who fought in the Korean conflict and was dedicated on July 27, the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War armistice.

“I was very grateful to be able to help manage the construction of this monument as it is a very special place where we honor the sacrifices of those who fought and died here in Korea.”

Chad McLeod, southern resident office chief, says Pak’s dedication and hard work through the years has not gone unnoticed.

“Sam-kun Pak’s work is outstanding and always leads to positive feedback from our customers,” he said. “The recognition he receives from our customers speaks to his outstanding performance.”

Pak has been recognized numerous times throughout his career, most recently for his work on the Busan storage facility and Fleet and Family Town Center Project in Chinhae.

“He was an integral contributor to the success of the Fleet and Family Town Center project. His daily on site coordination with the contractor and customer have directly attributed to the quality of the project and a satisfied customer” said McLeod.

Pak has seen many electrical, mechanical and architectural breakthroughs in his 36 years. It’s these changes, he says, that make the job so enjoyable.

“I learn something different everyday. I really like to see the new advances. We’ve come a long way in customer care,” he said.

Pak plans to continue working for Far East District as long as he can, but he is leaving that decision up to a higher power.

“That’s God’s decision,” he said.

(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. 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)
District engineers support recovery operations from Hurricane Sandy

By Ryan Clark and Naeem Dogar
FED Engineering Division and Korea Programs Relocation Office

T wo engineers from the Far East District recently returned from a four-month deployment to New York City where they assisted in recovery operations from Hurricane Sandy, which struck the U.S. East Coast in late October 2012.

Civil engineers Ryan Clark and Naeem Dogar deployed for four months in mid–2013, taking part in various phases of operations and maintenance dredging projects with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District.

“We helped [the district’s] operations division team move several projects from planning stage to construction award and project performance and management duties,” said Dogar. “We were involved in routine inspections for ongoing dredging projects, attended pre-construction meetings and coordinated with state agencies for environmental issues and dredged material placement.”

More than 200 projects and studies along the coastline from Florida to Maine and navigation channels inland to Ohio are planned or underway by the corps to restore projects to their design level conditions and reduce the risks of future coastal storm damage.

Sandy was the largest Atlantic hurricane on record, with wind gusts of more than 75 miles per hour and a storm surge that inundated much of the New York and New Jersey coasts with water four to eight feet high.

The storm killed at least 117 people in the United States, caused more than $50 billion in damage, and stranded millions of people for days in their homes without electricity, resulting from crippled public transportation systems and severe fuel shortages.

While the immediate response to the hurricane involved a mobilization of more than 800 USACE personnel worldwide, corps recovery efforts are still ongoing, as evidenced by the deployment of the two from Korea.

“Overall, our experience was both great and rewarding,” said Clark. “Although we composed only a small part of the recovery effort, it felt satisfying to know that we were directly assisting some of the millions of lives affected by Superstorm Sandy that were so much damaged, destruction, and despair.”

In a national commitment to help recover from the second-most costly hurricane in the nation’s history, Congress passed the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 in January.

This act appropriated more than $5 billion to the Army Corps for the restoration and construction of federal projects in the impacted area.

The majority of the corps’ recovery program is undertaken in the North Atlantic Division, which includes the New York District where Dogar and Clark were deployed, with more than 150 projects and studies in the works totaling more than $4 billion.

The Great Lakes and Ohio River Division and South Atlantic Division also were allocated funding to restore coastal storm risk reduction projects and navigation channels in their regions.

To mitigate future natural disasters of this type, the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act further allocated $20 million for the corps to collaborate with federal, state, local and tribal partners in academia, government, non-governmental and private industry sectors to complete a comprehensive study to address the flood risks of vulnerable coastal population along 31,000 miles of coastline in the North Atlantic Division’s territory. The report will be delivered to Congress in January 2015.

The corps also contributed to the Sea Level Rise Tool for Sandy Recovery to create a set of map services to help communities, residents, and other stakeholders consider risks from future sea level rise in planning for reconstruction following Hurricane Sandy.

The Corps also collaborated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to develop infrastructure systems rebuilding principles to promote a unified strategy for each agency’s approach to activities associated with rebuilding and restoration efforts in the wake of Sandy.
Ground broken on Naval Forces Korea headquarters in Busan

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea

Commander, 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.

Commander, Naval Forces Korea headquarters is currently based in Seoul and is scheduled to relocate to Busan in 2015.

Building Strong in Korea!
Army projects are numerous across the peninsula this year, mainly centered around the enduring hubs at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys and U.S. Army Garrison Daegu. Both the elementary and high school at Humphreys are open this school year. Humphreys Central Elementary School and Humphreys High School will replace Humphreys American School. About 170 projects are progress, ranging from those in design to those actually under construction, worth about $6.6 billion out of the $10.7 billion worth of projects at the base as part of the Korea Relocation Program. The majority of the facilities being built as part of the Korea Relocation Program have either been completed, are in the construction phase, or have had contracts awarded for construction to begin. Upcoming construction starts at Humphreys in the new year include the U.S. Korea Command headquarters and 2nd Infantry Division headquarters. At U.S. Army Garrison Daegu’s Camp Carroll, the health and dental clinic was recently opened, complete with its green roof, made up of plants native to the area.

Air Force projects on the peninsula are centered at Osan and Kunsan Air Bases. Our Central Resident Office takes care of Osan and the many projects at the base, about 30 miles south of Seoul. The Far East District is overseeing the construction of a second runway at the base, and next year is expected to award a contract for replacing the main runway. On Nov. 13, ground was broken on the new Osan Elementary School, which is expected to replace the current elementary school. The school will be energy efficient, as it is LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver Certifiable. The design is based on the new concept for 21st century schools and will be the first of its kind in Korea. Also under construction on Osan are senior non-commissioned officer dorms. Projects under the Kunsan Resident Office’s purview include the new base medical and dental facility, which is scheduled to open in Fall 2015. The ribbon was recently cut on a new 1,349 square meter distributed mission training flight simulator, replacing a facility that was built in 1972.

Although the United States Marine Corps has a relatively small footprint on the peninsula, the Far East District is doing significant work for them. In August 2013, the district’s Southern Resident Office completed the Marine Support Center at Camp Mujak. The Marine Support Center included a small library; a recreation room; and a multi-purpose room for religious services, mini-theater and group meetings. In the past year the resident office completed a security forces building. More recently, the district finished renovating a support facility on the camp. Other Marine projects in the works are aircraft revetments at Yecheon and Pohang, and a 110-person barracks at Camp Mujak, which will be used for Navy helicopter crews.

The majority of the Navy on peninsula is located in the area covered by our Southern Resident Office in Daegu, and it has been an eventful year for them. In August, Far East District personnel participated in the ribbon cutting of the new Fleet and Family Town Center at Fleet Activities Chinhae, on the country’s southern coast. The facility’s commissary and base exchange opened for business that Labor Day Weekend. Also in August, ground was broken on the new Commander, Naval Forces Korea headquarters in Busan. In the coming months, the 110-person barracks at Camp Mijak, which will be used by Navy helicopter crews, is expected to open. Also in 2014, the district expects to award a contract for a Navy communications facility in Chinhae, and our Korea Programs Relocation Office is expected to start two Navy projects at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys.
MONMOUTH, Republic of Korea -- Remembering those who fought in defense of Korea is something the Korean corporate members of the Association of the United States Army say they take very seriously, which is why they felt the need to build a monument to honor the Soldiers of the U.S. Army Engineer units who fought here.

“Some of our members worked for the American Soldiers during the Korean War and we want their sacrifices remembered forever,” said retired Col. Jeong Kwang-choon, Association Vice President.

The monument was erected in an area nicknamed the Grand Canyon of Korea, outside the Hantan River Spa Hotel on Oct. 31 in Cheorwon, 50 miles northeast of Seoul and less than a dozen miles from the Demilitarized Zone.

“This region here is very mountainous, with many cliffs. It is a great example of our Korean terrain. Several of our members worked here with the U.S. Army Engineers during the Korean War and many visitors and tourists visit here as well,” said Jeong.

This is where some of the fiercest fighting of the Korean War took place and where the U.S. Army Engineer units were tasked with opening movement and supply routes, as well as staving off enemy attacks. A road dubbed “Route 33” runs south across the 38th parallel near the Hantan River, passes through Uijeongbu and eventually arrives at Seoul, an ancient invasion route. Jeong hoped the monument will be a symbol to the next generation.

“By erecting this monument our children will be reminded of the sacrifices [of the U.S. Army Engineers]. They will better understand the importance of the alliance.”

Ninety-five U.S. engineering battalions participated in the Korean War. Jeong said the bridges built by the engineers were very important for refugees coming from the north to freedom in the south. It is this legacy he hopes is never forgotten and that the friendship between the two countries continues to prosper.

“Maintaining our strong relationship is very important because the Republic of Korea and the United States Forces Korea alliance is most important for our defense now and in the future” he said.

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

CHEORWON, Republic of Korea -- Remembering those who fought in defense of Korea is something the Korean corporate members of the Association of the United States Army say they take very seriously, which is why they felt the need to build a monument to honor the Soldiers of the U.S. Army Engineer units who fought here.

“Some of our members worked for the American Soldiers during the Korean War and we want their sacrifices remembered forever,” said retired Col. Jeong Kwang-choon, Association Vice President.

The monument was erected in an area nicknamed the Grand Canyon of Korea, outside the Hantan River Spa Hotel on Oct. 31 in Cheorwon, 50 miles northeast of Seoul and less than a dozen miles from the Demilitarized Zone.

“This region here is very mountainous, with many cliffs. It is a great example of our Korean terrain. Several of our members worked here with the U.S. Army Engineers during the Korean War and many visitors and tourists visit here as well,” said Jeong.

This is where some of the fiercest fighting of the Korean War took place and where the U.S. Army Engineer units were tasked with opening movement and supply routes, as well as staving off enemy attacks. A road dubbed “Route 33” runs south across the 38th parallel near the Hantan River, passes through Uijeongbu and eventually arrives at Seoul, an ancient invasion route. Jeong hoped the monument will be a symbol to the next generation.

“By erecting this monument our children will be reminded of the sacrifices [of the U.S. Army Engineers]. They will better understand the importance of the alliance.”

Ninety-five U.S. engineering battalions participated in the Korean War. Jeong said the bridges built by the engineers were very important for refugees coming from the north to freedom in the south. It is this legacy he hopes is never forgotten and that the friendship between the two countries continues to prosper.

“Maintaining our strong relationship is very important because the Republic of Korea and the United States Forces Korea alliance is most important for our defense now and in the future” he said.
Korea sees barracks BOOM

By Jason Chudy
FED Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District is making a name for itself in the Republic of Korea, spearheading the multi-billion dollar Korea Relocation Program, in which U.S. forces are moving from Seoul and north of Seoul to two enduring hubs around the city of Pyeongtaek, about 40 miles south of Seoul, and around Daegu, about 150 miles southeast of Seoul.

A major part of this relocation involves barracks construction, and the district is building them on an almost unprecedented scale.

Nearly 20 barracks are either completed, nearing completion, in construction or planned for on four different installations across the peninsula. Dozens have been built over the past decade or so.

“We have 13 well under construction or nearly complete, and three just started, for a total of 16 just here at Humphreys,” said Greg Reiff, the Far East District Humphreys Resident Engineer.

The majority of the barracks under construction for the Army are eight-story projects capable of housing 302 military personnel apiece. “The fact that they’re eight stories is unusual,” said Reiff.

For the Army projects at Humphreys, “we’re going with the standard Army one-plus-one standard plan,” he said. “From the inside they all look the same [as barracks on other Army installations worldwide].”

The standard sets a two-person apartment-style room setup that gives each resident separate 157 square-foot living/sleeping room and a 33 square-foot closet. Each shares a bathroom, kitchen and common area with one other resident.

The kitchens are equipped with a government-furnished and installed oven/range, microwave and refrigerator.

The one-plus-one standard for single enlisted housing was implemented by then-Secretary of Defense William J. Perry in 1995. Reiff’s worked for the district since 1996 and has seen many barracks being built. “Two to three barracks a year,” he said about the majority of his time in Korea. “Now it’s four to five clusters of three to four barracks at a time.”

Many of these projects are tied together as part of larger packages, most of which include dining facilities, and some include work spaces such as vehicle maintenance facilities.

Steve Kim, resident engineer at the district’s Pyeongtaek Resident Office, has construction surveillance oversight of eight of the new barracks at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys near Pyeongtaek under three different contracts.

These contracts aren’t U.S. military construction-funded projects. They fall under what is called Republic of Korea Funded Construction – In Kind. With this, the Korean Ministry of National Defense, Defense Installation Agency contracts out the projects and provides project management of the actual construction.

The Far East District, however, still plays a key role in ensuring they are built to U.S. specifications. “With construction surveillance, I ensure these projects are built to standards,” said Kim. “I spend a lot of my time keeping the chain of command and the installation DPW (Department of Public Works at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys) informed of their progress.”

The new 302-person barracks are also being built with new heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, better known as HVAC systems, that are computer controlled. Temperatures throughout the buildings can be monitored through this state-of-the-art system, said Kim.

The scope of the work at Humphreys alone is almost staggering – a medium-sized American city is being built under a $10.7 billion project. The garrison itself is growing from 1,210 acres to 3,528 acres. In the next two years, 655 new buildings will have been constructed, and 339 older buildings demolished.

And the barracks at Humphreys are at the forefront of this new work.

“When you drive around the existing Camp Humphreys perimeter road, you see the ‘new land’ and the first thing you notice are these barracks,” said Kim. “Most of the barracks on these three different projects are pretty much complete. They stand out,” he continued. “You’re seeing the beginning of a new city out there.”
Building strong and protecting our environment

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

Protecting the environment is something Far East District engineers take very seriously.

“When we begin designing a project we are always thinking how we can minimize the negative effect on the environment. It’s a win-win situation in that we are saving the government money when we use less energy and we are also helping protect the earth,” said Son Ha, engineering division design branch chief.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certified and certifiable buildings conserve energy, water and electricity. However, it is before the buildings are even constructed when engineers are planning on how they can be good stewards of our environment.

“When we began construction at a site we remove soil from an area and it creates rain run-off that can be discharged to local rivers and streams. It can be harmful because it can include oils and other harmful chemicals. We try to capture this run-off,” said Ha.

This is done by conducting a construction waste management plan where environmental engineers will build silk fences to prevent erosion and capture the top soil that might erode. Engineers also create locations at the site to absorb rainwater and keep it from leaving.

“We have containers that keep the liquid at the site. We also can filter it to make sure we can separate the harmful chemicals,” said Ha.

Every Far East District project has environmental and sustainability requirements depending on its funding source. U.S. funded projects need to be LEED Silver certified, while Republic of Korea funded projects only need to be LEED Silver certifiable.

“The difference between the two is that LEED Silver certified is reviewed by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). For LEED Silver certifiable, the government prepares all the designs and documents for certification (to satisfy the LEED standards), but the USGBC does not review and provide certification,” said Ha.

The next LEED Silver certified project designed by Far East District engineers is a battalion headquarters complex set to be constructed at United Army Garrison Humphreys and completed in 2016.

The Far East District Central Resident Office’s Quality Assurance Branch meet with their contractors at Osan Air Base to ensure three Far East District projects are Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certifiable. The branch visits the project sites quarterly to ensure the contractor is properly implementing and documenting the LEED requirements. A LEED Silver certifiable building has energy efficient features, making a smaller carbon impact on the environment. (Photos provided by Hyundai Engineering & Construction, Ltd)

FED engineers take the lead in promoting green projects

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

The recently completed projects showcase how Far East District engineers are promoting an earth-friendly landscape and a healthy environment on U.S. Forces Korea military installations.

The Far East District created a rooftop garden at the health and dental clinic at Camp Carroll, part of U.S. Army Garrison Daegu.

The roof has about 40,000 plants which help reduce the impact of rainwater flowing from the roof to the ground. The plants are also native to the area so they do not require separate watering, reducing water intake.

The roof will help reduce energy in the summer by blocking some of the sunlight and in the winter it will help insulate the building keeping it warm.

“As a result of the green roof, we have increased the insulation factor by 25 percent at the Health and Dental Clinic. Other benefits include reducing storm water runoff, reducing the heat island effect, and increasing the lifespan of the roof in the green roof area,” said Chad McLeod, southern resident office district engineer.

In addition to green buildings, Far East District environmental engineers also took part in a wetland restoration project at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys.

“Wetlands are nature’s natural filtration system. They occur around waterways that empty into the ocean. The plants in these riverbeds naturally filter water and protect our environment,” said Son Ha, engineering division design branch chief.

A construction waste berm made up of about 800 cubic meters of concrete debris, rebar and soil at the southern part of the wetland was removed. Wetland-compatible plants, grass, shrubs and trees were planted throughout the area. A walking path, a pedestrian bridge, benches, and informational sign boards were also installed.

“It’s always at the forefront of our minds as design engineers, said Ha. “How can we create great facilities, and at the same time protect our planet and be good stewards of our environment.”
Building Strong in Korea!

The next generation of engineers

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

A team of military and civilian engineers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District set upon Seoul American High School Nov. 21 and 22 to tell Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) cadets all about what life is like as an engineer.

Armed with stories, engineer games and a slideshow, deputy commander Lt. Col. Julie D’Annunzio, executive officer Maj. Sarah A. Solli, civil engineer CJ Lee, and Department of the Army intern Will Sheehan explained how engineers affect our lives and what they have done and are doing to impact our world.

“The students were enthusiastic to learn about engineering, and they were surprised to see that examples of engineering constantly surround them. After the presentation, some students told me that they are considering engineering as a major and wanted to learn more from engineers,” said Sheehan.

Ronald Midomaru, a JROTC cadet and 12th-grade student, thought the way the presentation was conducted was a learning tool for the cadets.

“This presentation was perfect for JROTC because it taught teamwork, time management skills, planning and integrity,” said Midomaru.

Retired Lt. Col. Robert F. Mateer, III, Seoul American High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Course senior army instructor, said the presentation sparked their interests in engineering fields.

“It gave them something to think about in a positive and fun way. Had I heard a presentation like this I would have seriously considered looking into becoming some kind of engineer. Several students talked to afterward said it was fun and eye opening,” said Mateer.

This is just one of several presentations to elementary and high school students that the Far East District schedules each year.

FED engineers spent the morning of Nov. 21 and 22 explaining how engineers affect our lives and what they have done and are doing to impact our world. The presentation’s aim was to broaden the students’ perspectives and spark their interests in engineering fields,” said Solli.

Celeste Calderon, a JROTC cadet and ninth-grade student, was impressed with the way the Far East District engineers grabbed the students’ attention.

“I thought it was really interactive compared to the other recruiters. This group especially took in to the audience interaction definitely got me more invigorated to learn more about engineering,” said Calderon.

Far East District civil engineer CJ Lee (right) and Department of the Army intern Will Sheehan instruct Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps cadets at Seoul American High School.

This fall in FED History

- October 1968: FED signed a $117,000 contract for housing at G-7, north of the Imjin River near the DMZ.
- 1987: Nancy Tullis, FED Contracting Division employee chosen to carry the 1988 Seoul Olympic Torch.
- 2012: Harry Kim, Chief of Contracting Division, retired after 54 years of federal service.

- 1999: Community activities center called “Mitchell’s” at Camp Red Cloud completed.
- 2001: Construction of 121 General Hospital in Yongsan began.
- 2002: FED won Pacific Air Force Construction Agent of the Year Award.

- December 1983: Kunsan Air Base dormitory opened.
- 1986: Motor Pool Facility and Trailer Transfer Point at Camp Humphreys opened.
- 1987: The 2nd Infantry Division unaccompanied enlisted personnel housing completed at Camp Casey.
- 2001: The 6th Calvary Brigade barracks at Camp Humphreys opened.
- 2005: Construction of build-to-lease unaccompanied officers’ quarters at K-16 Air Base began.

Be part of the big picture

The Internet has changed the way the world communicates. People are increasingly looking to the Web as their primary sources of news and information. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District has connected with the community through social media. Check out our sites below to stay informed with the latest and greatest from the Far East District.

Scan me to connect with the Far East District’s social media sites!

Social Media

facebook  YouTube  twitter  flickr

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 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.

사령관 코너

Col. Bryan S. Green

친애하는 극동공병단 관계자 여러분,
먼저 시간 내어 새롭게 분기별로 발간되는 East Gate Edition을 읽어 주셔 감사합니다. East Gate Edition은 오늘날 극동공병단이 수행하고 있는 훌륭한 일들을 더 집중적으로 다루도록 개편되었습니다.
East Gate Edition은 공병단이 수행하는 프로젝트, 직원들, 공병단 역할, 업무 그리고 프로젝트를 수행하는 직원들에 대한 내용으로 구성될 것입니다.

개편 후 첫 번째로 발간되는 이번 호에는 다양한 주제를 담았습니다. 한반도 전역에 지역 사무소를 운영하고 있는 공병단 건축부서에 대한 내용과 군산 그리고 부산에서 근무하시던 박삼근 직원분에 대한 소개를 담았습니다.
한국에서뿐만 아니라 미국에서도 업무를 수행하는 공병단은 올해 여름 허리케인 샌디 복원 작업에 투입된 공병단 엔지니어 2명에 대한 내용도 실었습니다. 물론 2명의 엔지니어들만 국가적 우선순위를 지원한 것이 아니라 면도 및 십 명의 인원이 이라크 및 아프가니스탄과 같은 지역에 자원하여 파견나간 것을 자랑스럽게 이야기할 수 있습니다.

새로운 군산 군 의료 시설 및 부산 주한 미 해군 사령부를 포함해 지난 6개월 동안 일어난 주요 행사에 대한 내용도 실었습니다.

이번 호의 핵심 내용으로 공병단이 한국에 주둔하는 육군, 해군, 공군 그리고 해병대를 위해 어떤 업무를 수행하는지를 정리하였습니다. 공병단은 한반도에 미 국방부가 지정한 건설 및 설계 엔지니어로서 모든 주한미군을 위해 “강한 건설”을 시행하고 있습니다.
공병단이 한반도에서 중요한 역할을 하고 있는 부분으로 자원을 최대화하고 환경에 영향을 최소화하는 것이 있습니다. 공병단이 어떻게 환경을 보호하고 친환경적인 프로젝트를 촉진하는지 읽어보실 수 있습니다.

마지막으로 즐거운 성탄절 보내시고 새해 복 많이 받으시기 바랍니다.

한반도에 강한 건설을 수행하는 공병단

브라이언 그린
미 육군 대령
사령관