Students learn building blocks of engineering at future school

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

Students from Osan American Elementary school got a lesson in the fundamentals of engineering during a presentation and tour of their future school Jan. 20 at Osan Air Base. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers central resident office project engineer James Lee provided three-dimensional modeling and time lapse camera videos depicting the progress and future end state of the building before giving a guided tour of the facility.

“I think it’s amazing,” said Kimberly Grant, Osan American Elementary School teacher. “I’m hoping it might spark some of their interest in where they could go with this profession. Even though they are young hopefully it’s something they’ll remember for a long time.”

The tour generated excitement and anticipation especially among the students who will transition into the facility.

“I think it will help us learn because it will be better organized and bigger than our school is now,” said Adelynn Jensen, third grade student at Osan American Elementary School. “It was also fun to see all the cement and walls that aren’t finished yet.”

The idea for a tour came about during the bi-monthly progress meetings between the central resident office and Department of Defense Dependent Education Activity.

“We worked together, along with the contractor, to make this happen and to make sure this education facility has the specifications for 21st Century learning spaces as well,” said Lee.

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers central resident office project engineer James Lee provides students of Osan American Elementary School a brief video presentation and overview of the construction site of their future school. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District southern resident office engineers and Namwha construction are working on the final commissioning of the aircraft fuel storage and distribution system at Osan Air Base Jan. 26-30. The fuel storage will give the base the capability to refuel multiple aircrafts simultaneously. (FED file photos)
Training proves critical as district employee saves co-worker’s life

By Stephen Satkowski
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Walking into their office on the Far East District compound in Seoul last Dec. 30 Bob Lamoureux, emergency management specialist, and Jerry Giefer, emergency operations specialist, thought it would be just another day. The district was on a holiday schedule so the workload and staffing were at a minimum and they were the only two in the office. Lamoureux took an early lunch at 11:06 a.m. and returned exactly a half-hour later to see his co-worker lying lifeless on the floor, unconscious with a gash on his forehead.

“I rolled him over, cleared the foam from his mouth and gave him some breaths to make sure he had a clear airway,” said Lamoureux. “Then I started Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).” After the 10th compression Giefer coughed and exchanged air, but was still without a pulse, so he notified security guards at the compound’s front gate.

“The first thing they teach you in CPR training is to activate the emergency medical services (EMS).” Lamoureux provided nonstop CPR during the 12 minutes it took for the ambulance to arrive, part of training he received while in the military and a ski patroller. It was a life saving technique that maintained the flow of oxygen into Giefer’s body. Once the medical professionals arrived they used an automatic external defibrillator to get his heart beating again.

“None of the medical technicians can believe he survived,” said Lamoureux, who offered these words of advice.

“Train, practice and be ready. You have to keep up with your skills. You never know when you might need to use them. I trained for 45 years since I was an 11-year-old boy scout for this moment. I never thought it would ever come but I was always prepared for it and it came.”

Giefer spent the next four days in a coma and was in the hospital for two weeks but has made a phenomenal recovery.

“Best of I’ve seen the man look,” said Lamoureux. “He’s lost some weight and hasn’t missed a beat.”

Giefer is now back at work, grateful for his co-worker’s response and a second lease on life.

“He walked in at the nick of time,” said Giefer. “It was a quick reaction on his part. He knew exactly what to do. If I stayed home that day or was walking around somewhere else I’d be dead.”

In recent years there has been a greater emphasis on a healthy work and life balance by the Department of Defense. At the Far East District compound employees can benefit from an on-location fitness center and daily group health conditioning classes. Giefer said all employees at the district should take advantage of these opportunities.

“Get yourself checked out, especially as you get a lot older. Watch what you eat and exercise,” said Giefer.

The Red Cross at U.S. Army Garrison’s across the Republic of Korea also offers adult and pediatric CPR, first aid and automatic external defibrillator classes every month. Training that can one day save a life.
Camp Henry unaccompanied enlisted personnel housing opens

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Other partners providing support include the 51st Communication Squadron and the 51st Civil Engineer Squadron.

“I think it’s wonderful,” said Lt. Col. Jack Wheeldon, 51st Civil Engineering Squadron Commander. “Buildings don’t just appear. It takes time and effort and a lot of skilled hands to make something like this come together. This shows them that there is a process to putting everything together and how science, technology, engineering and mathematics play a part in all of this.”

The Far East District central resident office hope to continue these tours as the building progresses so both teachers and students can stay apprised of the development. The facility is set to open in 2016.

Osan American Elementary student Bianca Torelli and her classmates visit the future site of their new school Jan. 20 as part of a tour given by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District central resident office. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)
FED holds Safety Training

Thirty-five U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District construction division and safety office employees attended an occupational safety and health administration course at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Jan. 20 to 23. The course improved district employees’ ability to recognize hazards and allowed them to better work with contractors to ensure a safer construction site. (Photo by Jamie Hagio)

Capobianco promoted to Staff Sgt.

Sgt. Maria Capobianco (right) was promoted to the rank of Staff Sgt. by Lt. Col. Julie D’Annunzio (left), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District deputy commander, Jan. 20 at FED headquarters. Staff Sgt. Capobianco is a unit armer and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear noncommissioned officer for the Far East District. (Photo by Yi Yong-un)
The 802nd Engineer Battalion lent the Far East District a continuous mix asphalt-concrete batch plant to Osan Air Base in August 1968 for use on the base runway’s shoulder stabilization and binder courses. The project also consisted of improving and strengthening the taxiways and aprons with concrete pavement. The 1968 capture of USS Pueblo and attack by North Korean special forces on the Republic of Korea presidential palace, known as the Blue House, brought about an increase in projects meant to increase the defense capabilities of U.S. forces on the peninsula. For the Air Force alone, 1968 saw the Far East District doing construction work at all five U.S. air bases in-country: Osan, Kunsan, Suwon, Taegu, and Kwangju.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Far East District
Building Strong in Korea since 1957
Black History Month, or National African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role they have played in U.S. history. The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the 13th Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. Few could have imagined African Americans’ future contributions to music, art, and literature that would be recognized by the global community. Credit for the evolving awareness of the true place of African Americans in history can, in large part, be attributed to one man: Carter G. Woodson. In 1915, he established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Carter G. Woodson wanted to change the world’s perception of African Americans and recognize their contributions to American society and culture. Woodson said, “We should emphasize not Negro History, but the Negro in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate, and religious prejudice.” It was his efforts and those of other champions who broke down daunting barriers, finally allowing African Americans to participate as American citizens and have their stories told. Subsequently, innumerable African Americans have seized previously unavailable opportunities to contribute to American culture and heroically defend their country during wartime. A century later, the valuable contributions of African Americans cannot be denied. Their profound impact on America continues in a myriad of areas, including history, education, entertainment, literature, science, sports, politics, culture, and the military. Come join us as we in the Far East District celebrate Black History Month on Feb. 17 in the Drill Rig Shelter at 1:30 p.m.

“Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us.”

—Wilma Rudolph, U.S. track and field athlete—
From the commander:

Thank you for doing GREAT things:

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

Robert Lamoureux
Security, Plans and Operations
Commander’s Award for Civilian Service

Ed Minnerly
Logistics Management
USACE Leadership Development Program Level 3

Daryl R. Woodfield was presented the Commander’s Award for Civilian Service on Jan. 22 by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District deputy commander Lt. Col. Julie A. D’Annunzio. He was recognized for his service and accomplishments for the Far East District Logistic Management Office as a Logistics Management Specialist from Aug. 12, 2012 to Jan. 10, 2015. Woodfield departed and began working for the Pacific Ocean Division Jan. 25. (Photo by Kim Myong-son)
Ambroisse Larochelle
Construction
Came from Savannah District

David Hartshorn
Information Management
Came from North West Division

Yong S. Kim
Construction
Came from Malmstrom Air Base

Arnold Lee
Construction
Retired

CheonJoo Lee
Engineering
Transferred to Lackland, Texas

Daejin Yoon
Workforce Management
Transferred to LA District

Daryl Woodfield
Logistics Management
Transferred to Pacific Ocean Division

Maria Lee
Executive
Resigned

Tracy George
Executive
Transferred to Department of Treasury
HERE IT COMES

- Accelerate and decelerate slowly
- Increase your following distance eight to 10 seconds to provide more room to stop
- Know your brakes
- Don’t power up hills and don’t stop while going uphill unless necessary
- Take a fully charged cellphone, food, water and warm clothing
- Don’t go out unless absolutely necessary

Ready ... or Not is a call to action for leaders, Soldiers, Army Civilians and Family members to assess their “readiness” for what lies ahead—the known as well as the unknown.

Throughout our professional and personal lives, events happen all around us. We are often able to shape the outcome of those events, but many times we’re not. Navigating life’s challenges is all about decision-making.

So are YOU ready ... or not?