The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District and Department of Defense Dependents (DoDDS) Schools Korea partnered together for the third year in a row to support activities in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) field this April.

Events such as a toothpick bridge design competition and an egg container drop were just a few of the events that put the students’ skills in architectural design, basic physics and structural engineering to the test.

“It’s important to ignite the passion for science, technology, engineering and math in children at a young age,” said Lisa Roberts, STEM coordinator at Seoul American Elementary School. “With technology changing so rapidly, many careers that are available and will be available in the future are STEM careers.”

These STEM initiatives are a part of a renewed emphasis in a career field where the U.S. has been lagging of late. In the 1970’s 40 percent of the world’s scientists and engineers resided in the U.S. Today that number has shrunk to about 15 percent.

“We need a million more STEM graduates by 2018,” said Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Chief of Engineers.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, only five percent of U.S. workers are employed in fields related to science and engineering, yet they are responsible for more than 50 percent of our sustained economic expansion.

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The Far East District participated in STEM activities last week at Humphreys Central Elementary School. Some of the stations set up included balloon rockets, floating orbs and a blow dryer/ping pong ball to demonstrate how air pressure works. “STEM education creates critical thinkers, increases science literacy, and enables the next generation of innovators,” said Amira Ammari, 3rd grade student at Humphreys Central Elementary School. By incorporating STEM in the classroom, my students were able to explore their curiosity and map out their futures.” (Photos by Trish Kobialka)
Engineering is Elementary in DoDDS Korea

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“We need to prepare our 21st century learners to be problem solvers and to collaborate with others,” said Roberts. “Making science, technology, engineering and math interesting and fun will plant the seed for students to continue exploring these areas in their future educational careers.”

The theme at Seoul American Elementary school in April is “Engineering is Elementary.” Each grade level from Kindergarten to 4th grade will participate in engineering projects. Campus wide there will be a display of satellite equipment and helicopters from 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade (Aeronautical Engineering).

On a recent trip to the Far East district, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey L. Milhorn, 31st Commander and Division Engineer for the Pacific Ocean Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, visited DoDDS Korea schools in Seoul to emphasize his support of the partnership.

“Thank you for focusing on something that’s so important and we recognize that,” said Milhorn. “I love to see the smiles on the kid’s faces.”

Students who have been participating in STEM classes said they were excited to have the chance to acquire new tools that will benefit them in the future.

“I have learned a tremendous amount of things,” said Isaac Lichi, a 7th grade student at Seoul American Middle School. “In graphics we are learning about Photoshop and graphic design. I’ve become much better in those areas and I’m thankful for that. My last school didn’t have these classes and when I came here I was very happy to see they had these classes.”

The STEM activities will continue throughout the month of April at DoDDS Korea schools.

Breitbach said this opportunity for the Soldiers puts them in an environment that is a bit unusual for them.

“This is a career broadening opportunity for these troops. They typically work in environments where they are coming in during a natural disaster or in places with no infrastructure,” said Breitbach.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District and Seoul American Middle School teamed up for the third consecutive year to hold a toothpick bridge design competition April 20. District engineers judged the students on best architectural design, strongest bridge, most efficient and the overall best toothpick bridge. The competition is part of a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Week held each year at the school. (FED file photos)
Elevated Water Tank at USAG Humphreys is finished

The second to last water tower at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys is finished. It stands 50 meters high and holds 250,000 gallons of water. As soon as it is put in operation this summer it will provide a safe, steady supply of water for drinking and also fire protection for the Army community for many decades to come. The Far East District Parcel Two Resident Office provided oversight on the construction of the new tower. (Photos by Sung Kwon and Adrian Devillasee)
Far East District southern resident office engineers participated on Daegu High School’s Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) day event April 20. On this day engineers explained about their job and participated as judges for a marshmallow tower competition. (FED file photo)

Republic of Korea Defense Minister Han Min-koo (center) visited U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys May 11. The visit was conducted to ensure safety and quality assurance at construction sites as the Yongsan Relocation Plan and Land Partnership Plan continues to proceed. (Photo by MURO)
The North Koreans have dug at least four invasion tunnels across the Military Demarcation Line separating the two Koreas. Above, An Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter prepares to carry Far East District equipment after a district tunnel neutralization team worked at the site near Yanggu in the summer of 1990. This was the fourth tunnel discovered and is located along one of the most strategic routes in the Eastern Sector. It was dug 145 meters below ground and was two meters high and two meters wide. The tunnel intrudes 1.03 kilometers south of the Military Demarcation Line and is designed to infiltrate a large number of forces into the Sonha-Wontong corridor, the major access route to the Yeongdong (Seoul-Gangneung) Expressway.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Far East District
Building Strong in Korea since 1957
The Far East District held an Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Observance May 8. Jon Iwata (right), deputy District Engineer, was the guest speaker. Stephen Brown, Equal Employment Opportunity Director, presented a plaque for his role as guest speaker. (Photos by Kim Chong-yun)

“MANY CULTURES, ONE VOICE:
PROMOTE EQUALITY AND INCLUSION”
What should employers do following an incident of workplace violence?

- Encourage employees to report and log all incidents and threats of workplace violence.
- Provide prompt medical evaluation and treatment after the incident.
- Report violent incidents to the local police promptly.
- Inform victims of their legal right to prosecute perpetrators.
- Discuss the circumstances of the incident with staff members. Encourage employees to share information about ways to avoid similar situations in the future.
- Offer stress debriefing sessions and posttraumatic counseling services to help workers recover from a violent incident.
- Investigate all violent incidents and threats, monitor trends in violent incidents by type or circumstance, and institute corrective actions.
- Discuss changes in the program during regular employee meetings.

Who is at risk of workplace violence?

Some 2 million American workers are victims of workplace violence each year. Workplace violence can strike anywhere, and no one is immune. Some workers, however, are at increased risk. Among them are workers who exchange money with the public; deliver passengers, goods, or services; or work alone or in small groups, during late night or early morning hours, in high-crime areas, or in community settings and homes where they have extensive contact with the public. This group includes health-care and social service workers such as visiting nurses, psychiatric evaluators, and probation officers; community workers such as gas and water utility employees, phone and cable TV installers, and letter carriers; retail workers; and taxi drivers.

How can workplace violence hazards be reduced?

The best protection employers can offer is to establish a zero-tolerance policy toward workplace violence against or by their employees.

- Provide safety education for employees so they know what conduct is not acceptable, what to do if they witness or are subjected to workplace violence, and how to protect themselves.
- Secure the workplace. Where appropriate to the business, install video surveillance, extra lighting, and alarm systems and minimize access by outsiders through identification badges, electronic keys, and guards.
  Provide drop safes to limit the amount of cash on hand. Keep a minimal amount of cash in registers during evenings and late night hours.
- Equip field staff with cellular phones and hand-held alarms or noise devices, and require them to prepare a daily work plan and keep a contact person informed of their location throughout the day. Keep employer provided vehicles properly maintained.
- Instruct employees not to enter any location where they feel unsafe. Introduce a “buddy system” or provide an escort service or police assistance in potentially dangerous situations or at night.
- Develop policies and procedures covering visits by home health-care providers. Address the conduct of home visits, the presence of others in the home during visits, and the worker’s right to refuse to provide services in a clearly hazardous situation.

How can the employees protect themselves?

Nothing can guarantee that an employee will not become a victim of workplace violence. These steps, however, can help reduce the odds:

- Learn how to recognize, avoid, or diffuse potentially violent situations by attending personal safety training programs.
- Alert supervisors to any concerns about safety or security and report all incidents immediately in writing.
- Avoid traveling alone into unfamiliar locations or situations whenever possible.
- Carry only minimal money and required identification into community settings.

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Brig. Gen. Jeffrey L. Milhorn, 31st Commander and Division Engineer for the Pacific Ocean Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presents Maj. Leeann Browning with an Army Achievement Medal April 17 for rendering first responder emergency care to a local Korean civilian who collapsed earlier this year. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)
Charles Johnson
Construction
Transferred to Washington HQ Service

Eugene Min
Engineering
Transferred to Naval Facilities Command

Patrick Beard
Korea Program Relocation
Transferred to Oklahoma

Robert Lau
Resource Management
Transferred to Honolulu District

Ronnie Lee
Korea Program Relocation
Transferred to IMCOM HQ, Tex.

Tae Kwon
Korea Program Relocation
Transferred to Alaska District

Thomas Kwiat
Korea Program Relocation
Transferred to Navy in Bangor Wa.

**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?

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When riding on an Army installation:
- During hours of darkness or reduced visibility, bicycles must be equipped with an operable headlight or taillight.
- Riders must wear a reflective upper garment.
- Riders must wear a Consumer Product Safety Commission-approved helmet.
- Wearing headphones, earphones or other listening devices is prohibited.
- Yield to traffic when appropriate.
- Go with the traffic flow.
- Obey all traffic laws.
- Look before turning.