Col. Bales takes command of the Far East District
Dear friends of the Far East District,

Far East District Team, as we enter into a new fiscal year and my third month of command, I wanted to take an opportunity to say “Thank You.” Thank you for your hard work. Thank you for your dedicated service. Thank you for your technical expertise. Thank you for your outstanding customer service. Thank you for making my family and I feel part of the FED Team. Thank you for delivering excellence day-to-day in everything you do.

Deliver engineering solutions in the Republic of Korea to secure our nation and the alliance is our mission. We will further advance our vision to be the trusted engineers on the peninsula. We will continue to deliver technical expertise and excellence in all we do. As the USFK Engineer often states, “our expertise is our customers’ insurance policy.” We bring to bear over 200 years of USACE skills, knowledge, and experience to deliver the facilities and services our customers demand.

The next 18 months to two years will prove as challenging and demanding as the last two. We are just over 60 percent through executing the ambitious program of moving United States Forces Korea personnel and units out of Areas I and II and into the enduring hubs around Camp Humphreys and Daegu. Your dedication, hard work, and technical excellence are producing tangible and visible results which showcase your efforts. Keep in mind, your efforts ensure our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, civilians, and family members receive world-class facilities that enable mission accomplishment and provide a high quality of life for years and decades to come in Korea. Delivering quality facilities and services as part of the combined $10.7 billion Yongsan Relocation Plan and Land Partnership Plan programs represent your legacy and that of the Far East District.

Keep in mind the District does not and will not in the future achieve any of this alone. “We Go Together – Katchi Kapsida.” Our customers and partners across United States Forces Korea enable us on a daily basis to achieve what we do. Our partners in the Republic of Korea Ministry of Defense are key to our successes as well. Yes, we will face challenges, but we will overcome them together.

As I have stated on multiple occasions, I am personally and professionally excited about the next two years. As one Building Strong Team, we will continue to deliver excellence and provide world-class, high quality facilities and services across the Republic of Korea to secure our nation and the alliance. I look forward to serving as your commander.

Col. Stephen H. Bales
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding
Col. Bales takes command of the Far East District

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

Col. Stephen H. Bales relieved Col. Bryan S. Green, as commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Far East District (FED), July 24 on U.S Army Garrison Yongsan, Republic of Korea.

The ceremony was presided over by Brig. Gen. Jeffrey L. Milhorn, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pacific Ocean Division.

Milhorn highlighted several achievements during Col. Green’s tenure including the completion of the Osan Air Base second runway, the integration of unmanned assets to the district and the continuing partnership in science, technology, engineering and mathematics in Department of Defense Dependents (DoDDDS) Schools Korea. He also spoke about the strong relationship between the U.S. and the Republic of Korea.

“I want to highlight our unified commitment in building facilities throughout the Korean peninsula to deliver to all of our partners and stakeholders,” said Milhorn. “My sincere appreciation to all of them [partners and stakeholders] represented both by the Ministry of National Defense - Defense Installation Agency (MND-DIA) and the Ministry of National Defense United States Forces Korea (USFK) Base Relocation Office.”

Green, in his farewell remarks, recognized all district employees for supporting him throughout the last two years.

“Best job I ever had,” said Green. “I wouldn’t change a thing. I’ve loved every minute of it and you’ve supported us the whole way. I hope I was able to give as much as you all gave me.”

Green departs for Vicksburg, Mississippi where he will be the commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Engineer Research & Development Center.

Bales arrived in Korea after attending the United States Army War College at Carlisle barracks in Pennsylvania. During his remarks he said he is eager to be able to lead and serve with USACE, FED, USFK and our partners in the Republic of Korea (ROK).

“I am personally and professionally excited about the future of the construction program,” said Bales. “We have a $10.7 billion program at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys to deliver modern and sustainable facilities to our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Department of Defense civilians, ROK counterparts and family members. I’m looking forward to working with our partners to deliver on our promises to both the United States and Republic of Korea to sustain and strengthen our alliance.”

The Far East District is one of four districts within the Pacific Ocean Division and one of 45 districts in the United States Army Corps of Engineers. It is headquartered in Seoul, Republic of Korea and is the premier engineering, design, and construction agent for all Department of Defense agencies in the Republic of Korea. With a workforce of more than 500 Soldiers, Department of Defense civilians, and Korean employees the Far East District contributes significantly to the peace and security in the Pacific region through the execution of a multi-billion dollar construction program for U.S. Forces in the Republic of Korea - worldwide, it is the largest construction program managed by the U.S. Army.
UFG 15 validates USACE enterprise-wide competencies

Pacific Ocean Division Public Affairs

SEOUL, South Korea - The Combined Forces Command announced Aug. 28 that it successfully completed exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian. For participants from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the end of the annual Republic of Korea and United States computer-assisted simulation exercise marked the beginning of conducting after-action reviews and developing lessons learned.

“The results of AARs and lessons learned are used to enhance future exercises and improve military contingency plans,” said Pete Gitto, who is the military planner for USACE-Pacific Ocean Division. “The AAR process identifies practices that should be sustained for future operations and areas that require improvement.”

According to Gitto, who deployed to the Republic of Korea to participate in the exercise, “A major “sustain” is the engagement of USACE enablers across the enterprise that directly contributed to the success and training value of UFG 15.”

Prior planning by Robert Brem, USACE liaison officer to U.S. Forces Korea; and Maj. Leecan Browning and Capt. Lex Oren, both of USACE Far East District, ensured that multiple USACE capabilities were integrated into the exercise scenario. Their efforts were supported by POD’s Readiness Contingency Operations Division staff. POD’s emergency management specialist, Darla Hill, coordinated with USACE Field Force Engineering program manager, Maj. Dwayne Hampton, and POD’s resource analysts, Al Hu, for funding to accomplish the mission.

“USACE participants from across the enterprise were enabled that made a good exercise a great exercise,” said Gitto, who described value added by USACE assets.

A mobile training team from the Engineer Research Development Center provided hands-on training to Forward Engineer Support Team members about FFE equipment, and extended training to Soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division stationed in Korea.

“I enjoy seeing the FEST teams successfully fulfill their missions using FFE equipment,” said Angela White, a member of the ERDC team. “It makes me feel as though I have fulfilled my mission as trainer.

The USACE Logistics Activity engaged the exercise with a Logistics Support Team, which augmented Far East District’s logistics support missions.

Southwestern Division’s Military Planner, Jim Fields (front center), is pictured with members of the USACE 273rd Forward Engineer Support Team - Advance, who participated in UFG 15. The FEST-A one of several small, expeditious teams of military and USACE civilian specialists who bring the Corps’ technical engineering capabilities and expertise to the front with minimal footprint. (FED file photo)

“Now I have a grasp of mission requirements and the role LST’s would play in a military contingency mission,” said Warren Quesnell, who is from the Corps’ Los Angeles District. Quesnell worked reception, staging, onward movement and integration and transportation services with Cliff Steele, from the Savannah District.

The USACE Reachback Operations Center provided responsive reachback capability throughout the exercise. Engineering requests for information were managed by the USACE LNO to USFK. The RFIs were received from warfighters throughout the Korean Theater of Operations and linked to the UROC for their technical engineering expertise.

UROC staff members are capable of analyzing diverse infrastructure challenges, such as: load carrying capacities of roads and bridges; field fortifications and force protection; design and repair of airports, port facilities, bridges, dams, railroads and roadways; and evaluation of transportation networks.

In addition, the Southwest Division’s 273rd Forward Engineer Support Team – Advance (FEST-A) deployed to Korea with the detailed planning of Jim Fields, who is a military planner at USACE-Southwestern Division. This planning effort integrated the 273rd FEST-A into the U.S. Army Reserve 412th Theater Engineer Command’s 368th FEST-M to accomplish engineer assessments for USFK, while simultaneously conducting a certification exercise for a future deployment.

What makes a good exercise a great exercise?

According to military planner Pete Gitto, “Dedicated USACE professionals from Pacific Ocean, South Atlantic, Southwestern, and South Pacific divisions; ERDC, Headquarters USACE, and reserve component members working together as one team – that’s what makes a great exercise.” “Within the spirit of the Combined Forces Command’s motto, ‘We go together – Katchi kaphishda.’”
DLA Energy Pacific at Korea celebrates completion of headquarters’ renovation

By Elizabeth Stoeckmann
DLA Energy Public Affairs

D efense Logistics Agency Energy Pacific at Korea Headquarters received a facelift after a major renovation and recently returned to normal operations at Camp Walker, Daegu, Republic of Korea.

To commemorate the occasion, DLA Energy Korea Commander Army Lt. Col. Wheeler Manning hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony with the workforce and senior officials at Camp Walker Sept. 1.

The ceremony recognized the efforts of the DLA Energy Pacific at Korea staff and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District Office - Korea during the year-long renovation project.

“This ceremony is the culmination of a vision initiated several years ago to provide a safe, efficient and fully compliant work environment,” Manning said. “The workforce is more than deserving of this renovated facility.”

Manning said the renovation project included a whole host of modernization projects, to include the replacement of flooring and furniture; heating, ventilation and air conditioning upgrades; fire suppression system installation; asbestos abatement and secure compartmentalized information facility compliance upgrades - all valued in excess of $3 million.

The project at times conflicted with our day-to-day operations, Manning added.

For example, three major exercises, to include the capstone Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise, were in full operation during the renovation, Manny explained. As a result of the extensive work, portions of the workforce were twice required to relocate to temporary work areas during the three phased project before returning to the completed facility Aug. 3.

“Renovating a facility to first-rate standards in the current fiscal environment is a testament to DLA Energy’s commitment to its valued employees,” Manning said. “The Army Corps of Engineers did a fantastic job of balancing the construction milestones against the dynamic operational environment of the Korean Peninsula,” he said. “The foresight and mission flexibility ensured our capability to sustain uninterrupted petroleum operations in support to the warfighters throughout the Pacific area of operations.”
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Humphreys area office and Korea Program Relocation office completed a new fence line and gate on the western part of U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys July 12. The new fence increased the base size by 100 percent, and also brought in 45 new facilities to USAG Humphreys. (Photos by William Billard)

U.S. Senator Tom Cotton from Arkansas visited U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys on Aug. 15 to learn about Transformation and meet some Soldiers. He’s shown here with 3rd MI Soldiers from Arkansas at the airfield and Maj. Gen. James T. Walton, USFK Director of Transformation and Restationing. (FED file photo)

New Humphreys “Downtown”
Construction start: August 2014
Expected Completion Date: Late 2016
The future Humphreys “downtown” area, which includes an exchange, commissary, bowling center and chapel among its 11 buildings and parking structure, is about 35 percent finished. Completion is expected by late 2016.

DoDDS schools and EDIS
Construction start: June 2013
Expected Completion Date: Summer 2016
Department of Defense Dependent Schools Middle and Elementary Schools and Educational and Developmental Intervention Services facility. The middle school will support 1,100 students and elementary school 875 students. Construction is 92 percent complete.

Medical and Dental Complex
Construction start: November 2012
Expected Completion Date: Late 2016
The completed medical campus will be able to support 65,000 eligible beneficiaries and 5,000 annual inpatient admissions. Construction is about 45 percent complete.

2nd Infantry Division Headquarters
Construction start: April 2014
Expected Completion Date: Late 2016
The 2nd Infantry Division’s new headquarters will include an operations center, network operations center, administrative facilities and a parade ground. Construction is 25 percent complete.

U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Project Update as of October 2015
Army projects continue to make up the bulk of the work for the Far East District and are mainly centered on U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys and U.S. Army Garrison Daegu. At Humphreys, construction on the heavy brigade combat team headquarters building and the Eighth Army/IMCOM headquarters building is nearly finished, with the former at 95 percent completion and the latter at 81 percent. The commissary and the main exchange are now more than a third of the way finished at 35 percent completed. The middle and elementary school is on schedule to be finished by the end of the year and is already 92 percent complete. The 2nd Infantry Division headquarters building is 25 percent finished with a completion date scheduled for late 2016. The building will include an operations center, network operations center, administrative facilities and parade grounds. All of these projects are part of the Yongsan Relocation Plan and Land Partnership Plan. At USAG Daegu’s Air Force projects at the Far East District mostly are centered at Osan and Kunsan Air Bases, with operational and quality of life facilities in design and under construction. At Osan, work on the replacement elementary school is rapidly progressing and is now 61 percent complete. Work continues on a hospital addition/alteration which is 39 percent completed and construction work on the precision measurement equipment laboratory facility is almost done at 89 percent complete. The design for an aircraft fuel system maintenance dock is 99 percent complete and the design for the Korea Air Operations Center is 15 percent completed. At Kunsan Air Base, on Korea’s southwest coast, construction of a security forces facility is 63 percent complete, while construction on the munitions storage igloos project is nearing completion at 99 percent. Design work at the base includes a transient aircraft parking facility which is 90 percent complete and a new commercial gate, both of which are now 100 percent designed.

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The district’s Programs and Project Management Division staff is responsible for overseeing work with the Marine Corps on the peninsula. A new bulk fuel transfer pipeline to replace the existing pipeline located at the Pohang Republic of Korea Marine base is at 10 percent design complete. A four hundred open bay billeting facility at Camp Mujuk is in the design phase with it being 75 percent complete. A new four-story forward headquarters building for the III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) is also in the architects and engineers procurement phase for its design and construction.

Work the U.S. Naval Forces Korea headquarters in Busan is nearly finished with the facility being about 99 percent finished. Ground was broken for the facility in late summer 2013 which will house U.S. Navy personnel now working at U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan in Seoul. Also at Busan, work has begun on repairing a joint rigging facility with construction 1 percent complete. At Fleet Activities Chinhae, construction has begun on a consolidated communications facility which is 1 percent complete. Projects under design at Chinhae include an indoor training pool which is 10 percent completed and upgrading the electrical system on pier 11 which is also 10 percent complete.
Construction Division ended the fiscal year on a high note. Construction placement for fiscal year 2015 was at $1.8 billion. This eclipsed last year’s placement of $1 billion. It will be the 3rd year in row with over $1 billion of construction placement.

For the 4th quarter, the Humphreys area office made a concentrated effort to recruit additional personnel to provide enhanced construction surveillance of construction work. This included bringing engineers, construction inspectors, and support staff to U.S Army Garrison Humphreys using a variety of methods such as permanent change of station, temporary duty, temporary change of station, and personnel force innovation.

In July, a pre-final and final inspection was conducted on unaccompanied enlisted housing (UEH) 040. This $105 million dollar project consisted of five 8-story barracks buildings. It will provide housing for more than 1,500 Soldiers. In September, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the precision measurement equipment laboratory at Osan Air Base. The $7 million dollar project provides a state of the art facility for the Air Force to repair, calibrate, and maintain their precision equipment.

During this quarter, we provided support to visitors, mostly at USAG Humphreys. The Honorable Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) for Installations, Energy & Environment; Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, U.S. Forces Korea Commander; Lt. Gen. Bernard Champoux, Eighth Army commanding general; Lt. Gen. Terrence O’Shaughnessy, Deputy Commander United Nations Command and Deputy Commander United States Forces Korea; Maj. Gen. James T. Walton, Director U.S. Forces Korea’s director for Transformation and Restationing, all visited USAG Humphreys during this quarter.

In July and September, we conducted a resident engineers meeting at the district and USAG Humphreys. We discussed pertinent construction issues such as the commander’s critical information requirements, Army Audit Agency Audit of host-nation funded projects, and planned fiscal year 2016 training.

The 4th quarter is always busy for construction division, with end-of-year project awards. This year, construction division had over 30 projects valued at over $13 million awarded in September, prior to the end of the fiscal year. All projects that were funded were awarded. No money was left on the table.

Construction division looks to continue the large construction work at USAG Humphreys in fiscal year 2016. The majority of Yongsan Relocation Plan and Land Partnership Plan projects will be in their “red zone” (final stages of a project before turnover). It will take considerable effort to complete and turnover 100+ facilities to the installation.
District offers college students a distinct engineering and cultural experience

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

The Far East District is hosting interns for the 15th year as the partner of the Advancing Minorities interest in Engineering (AMIE) Program continues. Three students from historically black colleges are getting hands on experience in all aspects of engineering.

“It is very exciting to be a part of the largest U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project in history and I hope to see it when it has been completed,” said Joey Reid, one of the three interns interning at Humphreys area offices.

Reid, a student at Hampton University in Virginia studying architecture, said he loves seeing the world and environment.

“I absolutely love traveling so being able to come overseas as an intern is an amazing experience,” said Reid. “Being able to experience different cultures and ways of life is something I’ve always loved doing. My time in Korea has been awesome so far, from the food to the people to the experiences.”

Reid said he hasn’t decided whether he wants to work for the corps or a private architectural design firm, but his goal is to improve the lives of others.

“I hope to be able to make communities better by creating buildings and spaces for interaction and ultimately rebuild and reconnect broken areas of the world,” said Reid.

After a brief respite, the AMIE program began again at the district in 2009 thanks to Adrian Devillasee, who himself was a FED AMIE intern in 2000 and 2002.

“The things I learned about the USACE and the Far East District helped me to determine which path I wanted to take when I graduated,” said Devillasee. “The corps missions and the people that I worked with made it an easy choice to come back to Korea in 2009. Once I came back to FED one of my personal goals was to get the AMIE program up and running again to have AMIE interns here during the summer getting as great an experience as I did when I was here as an intern.”

David Lee, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana seized the opportunity to come work for FED believing it would help distinguish him in his future job search.

“Being able to put this on my resume sets me apart in a big way and will open doors for me,” said Lee. “I believe companies will see this and want to know how was it over here and I could share all of my wonderful experiences.”

Lee is keeping his options open but hopes to work for the Army Corps of Engineers someday soon.

“I don’t know where because there are possibilities all over the world but I have enjoyed this organization and I hope to be a part of it one day,” said Lee.

For Brenae Martin, a recent graduate of Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland majoring in civil engineering, engineering was last on her mind entering high school.

“I was excited to learn as much as I could while applying the principles I learned in college to real everyday work and being in Korea was an added benefit. There is so much to see from exploring the different cities, food, and culture. It has been great to see another country that is so different from the U.S. and what I am accustomed to.”

Martin also hopes to work for the corps, another government agency or a private engineering firm and obtain her masters of business administration.

“I would like to thank the FED for this awesome opportunity,” said Martin. “Everyone has been so helpful and welcoming. I have learned a great deal in my time here. This is my third internship experience and it is by far the best one!”

Advancing Minorities interest in Engineering (AMIE) intern David Lee observes work at a construction site at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys. (FED file photo)
Far East District In-house drilling and materials testing capabilities

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

The Far East District (FED) is recognized as one of only nine in-house drilling & subsurface exploration production centers (drilling production centers) and one of only eight in-house materials testing laboratories for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) providing professional services during design and construction. The exploration unit and materials testing laboratory (MTL) is part of the geotechnical and environmental engineering branch in the engineering division of the district.

FED exploration unit drilling teams collect soil and rock samples with the use of in-house drill rigs. These samples are then tested in the MTL which has the USACE validation (“corps-validated”) for testing from the material testing center (MTC) at Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Mississippi. The testing helps engineers and geologists to expertly characterize the subsurface soil and rock for a future construction site. Material testing includes, but is not limited to, engineering classification of soil such as sieve analyses and density, soil consolidation and direct shear, tri-axial, and testing for aggregate, concrete and asphalt quality.

“Based on testing we can determine the engineering characteristic of the soil and how it will perform when built upon,” said Pam Lovasz, geotechnical section chief. “Things like what type of soil it is, how much it will settle, compaction characteristics and bearing capacity.”

The information will then get written up in a foundation design and recommendation report by a geotechnical engineer which is a critical part of the design process. Within this report, the engineer will recommend what type of foundation should be used in the project such as a shallow footing or deep foundation supported on piles. The MTL also provides quality assurance support during pile driving using a pile driving analyzer (PDA).

“If we didn’t perform a geotechnical investigation it’s possible that a foundation will settle and all types of foundation problems will occur - cracks in buildings - and things of that nature,” said Lovasz. “Engineers also need to know what is in the ground because you don’t want to be surprised [when you are in the construction phase]. Getting an accurate view of what’s underneath the ground will in the long run save time, money and reduce risk on projects. We’re recognized as having this in-house ability throughout the Corps which also gives us better controls over the quality,” “I am proud of the work our team does and ability to perform this work in-house.”

Building Strong in Korea!
www.pof.usace.army.mil
A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for precision measurement equipment laboratory (PMEL) facility at Osan Air Base Sept. 9. The facility was finished thanks to the efforts of Far East District central resident office engineers and the Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense-Defense Installation Agency. (Photo by Frank Meloten)

This FALL in FED History

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Far East District, US Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for the design and construction of the project, ANBOR, Inc./SAC International, Ltd. Joint Venture, with specialized training from starting firm, Eolus Engineering Inc. of Austin, Texas, and the CDG Joint Venture, a Korean firm. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2015.

SFC Jornal Miller POD Soldier of the Year

SFC Jornal Miller from the Far East District, Far East Division, was recently awarded the Soldier of the Year award at the Pacific Division Soldier of the Year awards ceremony held on September 9. Miller has been in the Army for 9 years and is a 26-year-old native of Brazil.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for precision measurement equipment laboratory (PMBL) facility at Osan Air Base Sept. 9. The facility was finished thanks to the efforts of Far East District central resident office engineers and the Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense-Defense Installation Agency. (Photo by Frank Meloten)
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!

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Far East District

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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.

Be part of the big picture

Social Media

Building Strong in Korea!

Col. Stephen H. Bales

극동공병단 관계자 여러분,
미 육군 극동공병단 직원 여러분, 새로운 회계연도가 시작되었고 제가 부임한지 3개월이 되어 가고 있는 지금, 이 자리에서 감사의사를 드리고 싶습니다. 여러분의 노고에 감사드립니다. 현실적인 근무태도도 감사합니다. 기하학적인 전문지식도 감사합니다. 뛰어난 고객 서비스도 감사합니다. 저와 제 가족은 물론, 모든 근무자들이 훌륭하게 수행해 주신 점 감사드립니다.

국가와 한미동맹의 안전을 위해 대한민국에 공학기술 관련 해법을 제시하는 것이 우리의 임무입니다. 한반도에서 믿음을 주는 연지나어지가 되어 공병단 비전을 더욱 발전시킬 것입니다. 우리는 계속해서 기술적인 전문지식의 우수한 업무 수행능력을 보일 것입니다. 주한미군 연지나어지들이 종종 ‘우리의 전문지식은 고객의 보험증서이다’라고 할 정도로 했습니다. 우리는 900년 이상의 역사를 갖고 있는 미 육군 공병단의 기술, 지식 그리고 경헤풍부한 고객이 요구하는 시설과 서비스를 제공합니다.

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