BUILDING STRONG IN KOREA!
It has been an honor and a fantastic lifetime opportunity to serve with you all, here in the Republic of Korea. These last 24 months have truly been an experience, being one of the most difficult and yet most rewarding jobs I ever had. Departing is truly bittersweet, as I feel I am leaving a wonderful family and a big job unfinished.

We have faced so many challenges together and overcome so many hurdles that it’s hard to leave now, particularly as we near peak construction. I have complete confidence in everyone and know that you will uphold our excellent standards on quality and continue to be the nation’s trusted engineer.

There is such a bright future for this district with new military construction and host nation projects. Work will shift to support US forces in Area IV, the Air Force mission, and we can see some of the final Yongmun Relocation Plan and Land Partnership Plan work carry on into 2018 or later. Truly, Korea and the Pacific region is the place to work. Over the last two years we reinvigorated our partnerships not only with the Korean Ministry of National Defense-Defense Intelligence Agency, but with the Korea Water Resources Corporation and the World Water Forum, improving our international programs. We sent trainers back into Mongolia and stand poised to partner on other interagency and international support programs in China as well.

We have reached major milestones and finished some massive projects encompassing a wide variety of operational and quality-of-life facilities. These include the high school and elementary school at US Army Garrison Humphreys, new dormitories at Osan Air Base and the Fleet and Family Town Center at Commander, Fleet Activities, Chinhae. We made improvements across all areas, ranging from reorganizing the engineering division and starting to incorporate building information modeling capabilities into design. The district procured a drone for our geotechnical branch, and I hear it will take its first sanctioned flight in September. We also started the acquisition process for new drilling equipment and made upgrades for the laboratories in our future home. Advances in our information systems are also on the horizon as we enter the final preparation for the relocation of the district.

Most importantly we had fun as an organization and a family, with numerous pot lucks, barbecues, the commander’s cup, and shared US and Korean holidays. It is these events that I cherish the most; when we had a meal, a drink, or played together, conversation on travel, Korean food and history, and immersion in the culture with games like baduk, kundo, taekwondo. This year, we celebrated the 58th anniversary of our founding with a great mixture of American and Korean traditions: watermelons, drums, bouncy houses and yut. To me, the greatest joy of leading this district was being able to blend our two cultures together into something stronger.

I can’t say enough about the people of this district. As some of you may be aware, this is my birth year, the year of the ram. The fact that this is the year of the wool sheep is auspicious, as wool is symbolic for engineers, and as the ram, it’s been a year of creativity. This has been a year full of opportunity, prosperity and excitement for all aspects of our personal and professional lives.

Thank you all for the hard work and dedication that has made our many projects successful. I am proud to have been working alongside some of the best professionals in the business and you will all be greatly missed. I would ask that everyone keep the mantra alive, Aja, Aja Fighting, building strong in Korea.

Annyonghee Gyeseyo 안녕히 계세요.
Col. Green takes command of the Far East District
Fleet and Family Town Center opens at Chinhae

(left) 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, 2013. The new building will improve services on the base for visiting Sailors from the fleet and permanently assigned personnel and their families.

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

Wolf Pack breaks ground on a new medical facility building

Rear Adm. William McQuilkin, Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Korea, Vice Adm. Robert L. Thomas, Jr., commander, U.S. 7th Fleet, Vice Adm. Jung Ho-sup, commander, Republic of Korea Navy Fleet; Rear Adm. Lisa Franchetti and other distinguished guests break ground on the future Navy headquarters building on the ROK Navy base in Busan, Aug. 29, 2013. Commander, Naval Forces Korea headquarters is currently based in Seoul and is scheduled to relocate to Busan in 2015. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Joshua Bryce Bruns)

Leadership from the Eighth Fighter Wing and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chief of Construction Sam Adkins (4th from left) break ground on a new medical facility building at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea Sept. 24, 2013. The new building is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2015 and provide expanded medical support to the base. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Haas)
Sam Adkins (second from left), Far East District construction division chief and distinguished guests cut a ribbon for the Marine Support Center at Camp Mujuk on Sept. 6, 2013. The Marine Support Center includes a small library; a recreation room; and a multi-purpose room for religious services, mini-theater and group meetings. (FED file photo)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District Chief of Construction Sam Adkins (far right) and leadership from the 8th Fighter Wing cut the ribbon opening the F-16 Fighting Falcon training simulator at Kunsan Air Base, Dec. 12, 2013. The training center provides realistic, cost-effective training scenarios according to Donny Davidson, the district’s deputy chief of construction. This replaces a facility built in 1972 that was not large enough to support the four new simulators. The new facility is about 60 percent larger and provides capacities not available elsewhere on the peninsula. (Photo by Senior Airman Armando A. Schwier-Morales)

Various native plants are part of the rooftop garden at the health and dental clinic at Camp Carroll, part of U.S. Army Garrison Daegu. (Photo by Yi Tong-hyon, FED Southern Resident Office)

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)
District marks history as it breaks ground on new headquarters building

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

Construction on the future United States Army Corps of Engineers Far East District headquarters building began as ground was ceremonially broken June 20, 2014 on land adjacent to U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys.

“The building will offer a central location for district employees to provide the day to day administrative, construction and engineering services in the Republic of Korea.

“I think it’s historic that we have broken ground on a brand new headquarters building that will be completed around the time the district celebrates its 60th birthday,” said Col. Bryan S. Green, district engineer and commander.

Brig. Gen. Kang Chang-koo, Director General of Program Management, Ministry of National Defense United States Forces Korea Relocation Office, said the teamwork between the district and MURO since the Land Partnership and Yongsan Relocation Plan agreements were signed in 2004 has been excellent.

“Many challenges, big and small, lie ahead of us, but I’m not worried because we as a team are strong enough to accomplish the mission,” said Kang. “Thanks to our partnership the Yongsan Relocation Plan is now well underway.”

At the ceremony a three-person shovel, used in construction in the mid- to late-20th century in Korea, symbolized the close partnership between the Far East District and its Korean partners.

“One of the first pictures taken in district history in 1957 was of three Koreans from [contracting firm] Daelim [Industrial] operating a three-person shovel,” said Green. Representatives from Daelim, which will build the new facility, United States Forces Korea Base Relocation Project Management Office, and Korea Land and Housing Corporation joined Green to mark the occasion and help bury a time capsule, which will be opened at the building’s ribbon cutting.

“We used a piece of the past to bury a guest book filled with messages to welcome the future residents of the building,” said Green.

The building is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2016.

A note to the future ... Col. Bryan S. Green wrote this note to the future commander, Col. Stephan Bales, in the groundbreaking ceremony guestbook, which will be unveiled at the new district headquarters ribbon cutting. Right now the book is buried in a time capsule on the site. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)
A new skyline emerges over Camp Henry

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

A new building is changing the Camp Henry skyline at U.S. Army Garrison Daegu. A 10-story barracks for enlisted Soldiers will be the tallest in all of Area IV when it’s completed in the fall.

“The lack of space on Camp Henry made it difficult to build the standard design so it was necessary to make some design modifications to fit the number of required units,” said Benny Apuya, southern resident office quality assurance representative.

Due to changing personnel and difficult terrain on-site the project had its share of challenges.

“The project sits on an old river bed so pile driving was very difficult due to big rocks on the subsoil,” said Apuya.

These initial obstacles put the project behind schedule for a time.

“Thanks to everyone’s efforts we are back on track,” said Apuya. “We are coordinating with our stakeholders and the project is running smoothly.”

Each room will consist of a shared bathroom and kitchen and each Soldier will have an individual bedroom with a spacious closet said Elisa Beck, southern resident office deputy resident engineer.

She also said the close partnership between Apuya and his counterpart with the contracting firm Fine Construction played a key role in accomplishing the projects goals.

“This projects success is in great part due to Benny Apuya and Lim Kyung-wook, quality control representative for Fine Construction, as they both adhered to our safety and quality standards and schedule,” said Beck. “Their teamwork has ensured the highest standards of construction have been followed.”

Apuya said he accomplishes his goals by following tools he learned while serving the Army.

“Be professional in what you do, know your job and your responsibility, and do your to the best of your ability and respect others,” said Apuya.

Two-hundred-ninety-eight Soldiers from the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command will begin calling the barracks home in November of this year.

The 10-story barracks on Camp Henry in U.S. Army Garrison Daegu will be the tallest structure in all of Area IV when completed in the fall. (Photo courtesy of FINE Construction)
The Far East District took some time out of its busy schedule to celebrate its heritage, Nov. 1, 2013. From Daegu to Dongdaemun, district personnel spent the day doing a variety of events to honor the district and strengthen camaraderie.

Far East District employees and family members celebrated the District’s Organization Day at U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan picnic area June 12, 2015. Special thanks to the Wellness Committee for arranging this event. One Team Building Strong in Korea!
New kiosk on Humphreys keeps community informed on garrison’s construction progress

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

Patrons of the food court on U.S Army Garrison Humphreys are being greeted by a new visitor when they walk through the entryway of the facility. A 55 inch touch-screen television monitor is now on display with the latest information on construction progress at Humphreys.

“We want the Humphreys community to know what is happening with construction there,” said Jason Chudy, district public affairs officer. “The information we place on the kiosk will be updated daily through our social media sites as well as through photos, stories and videos.”

The kiosk will provide an interactive experience for users who can find out just about anything they want to know about the district, its mission and the projects they see every day on or near the installation. And they can do it with just the touch of a button.

“Eventually we hope to add time lapse construction video so people can see the speed of the work that is being done,” said Chudy. “We at the Far East District are proud of the work we are doing at Humphreys and want everyone to know that we’re building the best possible facilities for them.”

The kiosk has already shown benefits as community members survey the latest information at their leisure.

“I think it’s a good idea for the service members and their families to see what’s going on [with the construction]. We see it [everyday] but don’t always know all the changes and this helps,” said Sgt. Robert Lyons, a Soldier at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys.

The information displayed on the kiosk can also be accessed by visiting the district website at http://www.pof.usace.army.mil/.

Soldiers from U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys engage the touch screen kiosk at the Humphreys food court. The kiosk displays the latest information on construction progress at the Garrison. (Photo by Seukhewan Son)
New ‘footprint’ emerging in the Republic of Korea for U.S. military

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

The Yongsan Relocation Plan (YRP) and Land Partnership Plan (LPP) signed in 2004 formally designated a new footprint for the American military in the Republic of Korea.

The YRP will move most U.S. service members out of the Seoul metropolitan area, while the LPP will move most of the U.S. forces stationed north of the Han River (near the Demilitarized zone) to U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, west of the city of Pyeongtaek, about 40 miles south of Seoul.

As the design and construction agent for United States Forces Korea, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District is at the forefront of the move to the two enduring hubs of Humphreys and Daegu, about 150 miles southeast of Seoul.

The scope of the work at Humphreys alone is almost staggering—a medium-sized American town is being built from the ground up. When work at Humphreys is complete in a few years it will be an impressive site, particularly in that two-thirds of the garrison didn’t exist just a decade before.

The original garrison covered 1,210 acres, but once complete will be 3,528 acres. Los Angeles International Airport, by contrast, will be 103 acres smaller than Humphreys.

“When completed, the Army Corps of Engineers will have overseen construction of 655 new and renovated facilities,” Bostick said. “This is the largest single activity in scope and scale that we currently have underway when it comes to military construction.”

What looks impressive on the surface is figuratively just the tip of the iceberg—what was accomplished below the ground is an engineering feat in itself.

In fact, the Corps of Engineers actually brought in a lot of that below-ground “new land.” About 17.6 million cubic meters of engineered fill—the dirt under the buildings—has been placed on the existing land to a depth of about 8 1/2 feet. A levee wall rises an additional few feet above this, high enough to keep the nearby river held back during a “100-year” flood.

To put that into perspective, 17.6 million cubic meters of land could fill the world’s largest fully-enclosed stadium—the National Stadium in Beijing, which was built for the 2008 Olympics—about six times. Or, for baseball fans, that amount could fill the old Yankee Stadium in New York City about 50 times.

Between 1,500 and 2,500 trucks were bringing in that fill, every day, over a few years, with each vehicle averaging a round trip of 20 to 30 miles. The trucks that hauled that fill to the site traversed a distance equivalent to going around the world at the equator about 2,000 times. At 24,109 miles around the equator, that’s about 49 million miles.

While the amount of fill is impressive, what’s going into that fill is also important. Underneath much of this new ground, as well as under the existing garrison, are about 42 miles of new communications pathways, 988 miles of new cable and 504 miles of conduit. Add to these, 16 miles of sewers and gas lines. Finally, there is about 42 miles of new stormwater piping, including special drainage piping at the base of the new fill dirt that allows drainage of saturated soil.

To ensure that the construction and relocation is completed and all of the district’s missions are finished on time, the Far East District has more than 500 U.S. and Korean civilians, and about 24 uniformed Army personnel, working on the approximately $15 billion worth of projects throughout the peninsula. The new facilities range from headquarters to housing, and encompass a wide variety of operational and quality-of-life facilities in between.
New ‘footprint’ emerging in Korea for U. S. military

Continued from the previous page

The medical and dental complex on Humphreys, for example, has been under construction since November of 2012. Once completed in early 2016 the campus will be able to support 65,000 eligible beneficiaries and 5,000 annual inpatient admissions.

Construction on the Department of Defense Dependent Schools Middle and Elementary Schools and Educational and Developmental Intervention Services facility began in June 2013 and is expected to be completed by mid-2015. The middle school will support 1,100 students while the elementary school will support 875 students.

Construction on the new Humphreys “downtown” began in the fall of 2014 and will include an exchange, commemorating service, bowling center and chapel among its 11 buildings and parking structure. Completion is expected in early 2016.

Another major part of this involves barracks construction to house the relocating troops, 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 [alone],” said Greg Reiff, the Far East District Humphreys Area Office Area Engineer in early 2014.

All told, the district is now building barracks space for nearly 3,500 unaccompanied personnel, most of which is at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys.

The majority of the barracks under construction for the Army are eight-story projects capable of housing 302 military personnel each.

Reiff has worked for the district since 1996 but has never seen this many barracks being built at one time.

“Two to three barracks a year,” he said about the majority of his time in Korea. “Now it’s three or four clusters of three to four barracks at a time.”

Steve Kim, Resident Engineer at the Area Office’s Pyeongtaek Resident Office, has construction surveillance oversight of eight of the new barracks at Camp Humphreys 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.

“When construction surveillance, I ensure these projects are built to standards,” said Kim. “I spend a lot of my time keeping the chain of command informed of their progress.”

Each new building the district constructs is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certifiable. This means the building will have energy efficient features, making a smaller carbon impact on the environment.

“We are determined to both provide the best available facilities to support our national security but also ensure that extra energy resources aren’t wasted once the buildings are operational,” said Col. Bryan S. Green, commander and engineer of the Far East District.

The relocation project conforms to the district’s mission to provide planning, engineering, design and construction management services in direct support of US Forces Korea. The district fulfills this by working closely with the Korean Ministry of National Defense United States Forces Korea Relocation Office (MUKO) as construction on the peninsula increases.

Brig. Gen. Kang Chang-koo, Director General of Program Management, MUKO, said the teamwork between the district and MUKO since the Land Partnership and Yongsan Relocation Plan agreements were signed has never wavered.

“Many challenges, big and small, lie ahead of us, but I’m not worried because we as a team are strong enough to accomplish the mission,” said Kang. “Thanks to our partnership the Yongsan Relocation Plan and Land Partnership Plan is now [well underway].”

To deal with such a large relocation the majority of the district’s construction division employees have already moved to U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, with more following in the coming months. Many of the district’s incoming personnel are being sent directly to Humphreys, rather than Seoul, minimizing the district headquarters complex’s move costs in two years.

“I think this is the best way to focus everyone on the YRP,” said Mike Kopp, Far East District construction division quality assurance branch chief. “We can be more efficient down there. Every dollar and every hour counts.”

As of October 2014, the Korea Relocation Program is more than halfway done, and construction is scheduled to be fully completed in 2017.
Far East District hosts 53rd Chief of Engineers

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Chief of Engineers, paid a visit to the Far East District April 8, 2015 as part of a weeklong stop in the Republic of Korea.

Bostick, the 53rd U.S. Army Chief of Engineers, was given an aerial and walking tour of the construction progress at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys. The base is undergoing an expansion, part of the Yongsan Relocation and Land Partnership Plans, where most U.S. Forces stationed north of the Han River will move to Humphreys and areas south of the Han. The base relocation project is the largest one of its kind in the Department of Defense.

“These new facilities will improve the quality of life for U.S. Forces by providing state-of-the-art facilities in a thoughtful master-planned community,” said Bostick. “We have the brightest and most capable professionals doing extraordinary work here at the Far East District.”

Col. Bryan S. Green, Far East District commander, said Bostick’s last visit to Humphreys was in 2012.

“During his first tour of the new territory at Humphreys back in 2012 it was nothing more than a barren piece of land,” said Green. “Now buildings are sprouting up left and right, and so it’s a chance for him to see everything we’ve poured our blood, sweat, tears, and hearts into for the last three years.”

Later, Bostick viewed the millennial school project at Osan Air Base. The school will be the first one in the Department of Defense Dependents Schools Korea with a 21st century design.

In between his tours he held a town hall with district employees and recognized them for their hard work while being forward deployed.

“I want to thank you for your service, sacrifices and the great successes you have had here,” said Bostick. “We could not be prouder of you and your families for all you are doing.”

Bostick highlighted the state of the Corps where he talked about the fiscal challenges facing the Corps and the Army as a whole. He noted despite these challenges the Corps continues to be known as an esteemed organization worldwide.

“When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shows up we’re the heavy-weights,” said Bostick. “When we show up to these engagements state-side or overseas people expect us to show up with answers. We have this reputation around the world as a beacon of hope and justice as we respond to disasters.”

During his tour Bostick also met with many key leaders in the Korea Ministry of National Defense and U.S. Forces Korea to discuss the role both are playing as they work together to complete the relocation.

“It takes an entire team to work together in order to produce the kind of work that you do,” said Bostick.

His visit to Korea was in conjunction with the World Water Forum in Daegu, an international conference where officials from public and private sectors and academia come together to discuss global collaboration on water challenges.

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, participates in a panel on infrastructure financing for a water-secure world at the 7th annual World Water Forum in Daegu, Korea April 13 and 14, 2015. The forum is an international conference where officials from public and private sectors and academia come together to discuss global collaboration on water challenges. (FED file photo)
Korea Relocation Program
U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys

By the Numbers

- 61%
  Percentage of completion for the entire program
  Up 4 percent in the past quarter

- 655 buildings
  done, under construction or planned.

- 339 buildings
  being demolished

- $10.7 Billion total price tag

- 17.6 million cubic meters of engineered fill already in place, raising the land by about 8 1/2 feet. High enough to keep out water from a 100 year flood.

- 3,528 New total acreage
  is 103 acres smaller

- Los Angeles International Airport
  Original acreage

U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Project Update
as of July 2015
Col. Milhorn, POD Commander visits the Republic of Korea


District engineers help provide facelift to Kunsan Air Base runway

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

The Far East District Kunsan resident office, along with the 8th Civil Engineer Squadron and Yi Bon Construction Company LTD., completed a major repair on the Kunsan Air Base runway and taxiways during September and October of 2014.

Kunsan resident office quality assurance representatives Yi Pyong-pae, Chong Song-ho and project engineer Kim U-kon oversaw spall repairs on cracks and the replacement of 529 concrete slabs on the main runway, 92 slabs on the taxiways and the replacement of the asphalt shoulder for the parallel taxiway.

“The deficiencies created foreign object debris hazards and it required increasing runway inspections and sweeping,” said Andy Rajala, Kunsan resident office engineer.

The Kunsan runway was originally built in the 1920’s by the occupying Japanese. After the Korean War the U.S. military began a more permanent presence and in 1962 an unbounded eight-inch overlay was constructed on top of the original runway. Kim said the last major repair work on the runway was more than 10 years ago and many of the concrete slabs were beginning to show their age.

“Although the overall condition of the runway is good, there were significant linear cracks, failed patches, spalling, corner breaks, scaling, and joint sealant damage,” said Kim. “The number and severity of deficiencies had increased beyond what could be repaired between flying operations. The deficiencies produce foreign object damage hazards that can affect the U.S. Air Force, Republic of Korea Air Force and commercial aircraft that use the runway.”

Replacing the damaged concrete required the runway to be shutdown. Since Kunsan only has one runway it had a major impact on the mission. During the repair work the 8th Fighter Wing had to send two F-16 Fighter Squadrons (35th and 80th) to Osan Air Base and Alaska’s Eielson Air Force Base. The base also had to coordinate with the Republic of Korea Air Force’s 38th Fighter Squadron and the Kunsan City Airport who both use the runway.

The 45 day closure, from Sept. 15 to Oct. 31, ensured the newly laid concrete was strong enough to support the aircraft and the mission.

“...To complete the runway repair within 6 weeks the contractor worked two shifts for the first three weeks to remove the damaged concrete slabs, place the new concrete and finished placing concrete by Oct. 4,” said Ho. The last 3 weeks we oversaw the completion of crack repairs, grooving and other finishing work while the concrete cured and developed the strength to support the weight of the airplanes.”

Now that the repair work is finished it will also mean an easier job for those who maintain the runway on a daily basis.

“This will benefit the 8th Fighter Wing by reducing the cleaning, repairs and hazards on the runway and taxiways,” said Rajala.
Osan senior non-commissioned officer dormitory opens

American Forces Network Pacific interviewed Col. Bryan S. Green, district engineer and commander, Oct. 1, 2014 at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys. AFN is showcasing the enormous construction as part of a series of stories on the Yongsan Relocation Plan, highlighting the move of most U.S. forces out of Seoul and north of the Han river to USAG Humphreys, located about 40 miles south of Seoul. (Photo by Seukhwan Son)
District volunteers donate time to help those in need

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

Volunteers from the Far East District joined members of the Seoul Jung-gu Saemaul Women’s Club, Jungbu policeman and other local participants to make kimchi for the area’s needy and elderly families Nov. 19, 2014.

For the last 6 years district employees have participated in the event, part of the Good Neighbor Program that serves to strengthen the Republic of Korea-United States alliance and shows we are good neighbors with the local community. The annual event, held at the Jung-gu district office just outside the district’s compound, helps feed kimchi to more than 550 needy and elderly families in the Jung-gu area.

The volunteers, including deputy commander Julie A. D’annunzio, joined Jung-gu District Mayor Choi Chang-sik during the event. Choi was delighted to see members of the district help prepare the traditional Korean side dish to the needy in his community.

“I want to thank the Far East District for volunteering every year for this event,” said Choi. “Because of you the less fortunate and needy will be well prepared for this winter. They will feel the warmth of your giving.”

“It was a very hard and labor intensive operation but at the same time also heartwarming to think that someone out there will appreciate when a box of kimchi we made is given to them,” said Phoenix.

Far East District deputy commander Lt. Col. Julie D’Annunzio (2nd from right) and plans officer Capt. Lex Oren (2nd from left) join Jung-gu District Mayor Choi Chang-sik (center) and other volunteers at a kimchi making event Nov. 19, 2014 outside the Jung-gu district office. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)

Basil Meyer, construction representative at the northern resident office, has participated in the community event for the last several years and feels the few hours of his time was the least he could do to help those who are without.

“I always enjoy this event because I am able to converse with the locals and share experiences with them,” said Meyer. “When I relocate to Humphreys I plan on taking time off just to drive up here so I can do this next year and the following year. The kimchi tastes good too!”

District volunteers have come out to support the kimchi making every year since 2008.

Young Phoenix (left), from the district’s resource management office and Richard Cruikshank, district safety and occupational health specialist, help make kimchi during an annual event to help the needy at the local Jung-gu district office, Nov. 19, 2014. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)

“I want to thank the Far East District for volunteering every year for this event. Because of you the less fortunate and needy will be well prepared for this winter.”

- Jung-gu District Mayor Choi Chang-sik -
District breaks ground on new school at Camp Walker

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

The Far East District, along with U.S. Army Garrison Daegu and Department of Defense Education Activity Korea broke ground on a new high school and middle school at Camp Walker Nov. 19, 2014.

“This is a new 21st century school design with interior rooms to include 21st century neighborhood spaces with learning studios, group learning hubs and individual instruction,” said Jared McCormick, project engineer at the southern resident office.

The design consists of a 142,000 square feet, a split level 2 story facility and will provide adequate and modern academic facilities for 525 students in grades 6 to 12. Construction is expected to be completed in October 2016. Students in U.S. Army Garrison Daegu can expect to make use of the flexible and individualized learning environment,” said Alan Heck, Department of Defense Dependent Schools Pacific Area Project Manager.

“Another big step towards developing Area IV was taken as ground was broken for the new Middle/High School on Camp Walker. Far East District construction division chief Samuel Adkins (third from right) is joined by other dignitaries at the groundbreaking ceremony Nov. 19, 2014. (Photo by Park Yesin, USAG Daegu Public Affairs Intern from Daegu University).

The new school will offer students and educators in Daegu a more

District teams up with Seoul American Middle School for earthquake tower challenge

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District and Seoul American Middle School teamed up once again and held the second annual earthquake tower challenge competition Jan. 9, 2015.

Students were tasked to build structures out of straw, paper clips and straight pins and district engineers tested their ability to withstand an earthquake on a specially designed shaker table.

“It gave us a way to see how buildings work”, said Nina Furner, eighth grade student at Seoul American Middle School. “Instead of just hearing a lecture in class this gave us a fun way to learn.”

Doug Bliss (left), geotechnical and environmental engineering branch chief at the Far East District, helps Tristan Henley (center) and Jack Donohoe, eighth grade students at Seoul American Middle School, during the earthquake tower challenge Jan. 3, 2015. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)

The tower challenge, along with the toothpick bridge competition, is part of two flagship activities by the district promoting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, better known as STEM, to Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS) Korea.

“We have the practical expertise and the teachers instruct on the engineering disciplines,” said Doug Bliss, geotechnical and environmental engineering branch chief. “We join together to help the students learn more in this field of study.”

Last year’s earthquake tower challenge stimulated a lot of discussion and interest in the field of engineering prompting this year’s towers to be more structurally sound.

“Last year nobody made it past the first sandbag (sandbags are placed on the structures to test their design),” said Jack Donohoe, eighth grade student at Seoul American Middle School. “This year quite a few did, so we are definitely learning and building more sound structures.”

The District promotes STEM activities throughout all DoDDS schools in the Republic of Korea. The next activity at Seoul American Middle School will be the toothpick bridge completion in April.
Camp Henry unaccompanied enlisted personnel housing opens

Sam Adkins (second to right), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District construction division chief and Elisa Beck (right), southern resident office resident engineer, watch as Brig. Gen. Stephen Farmen, 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command commander (center) and 19th ESC Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Castillo (center right) cut the ribbon of the unaccompanied enlisted personnel housing building on Jan. 24, 2015 at Camp Henry. (Photo by Ron Mariera)

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, 2015. The fuel storage will give the base the capability to refuel multiple aircrafts simultaneously. (FED file photos)

New barracks at Camp Carroll

Here are some recent construction photos of the new barracks at Camp Carroll. The cold weather can’t stop southern resident office engineers working hard to complete this project on time! Building strong in Waegwan! (Photos by Sgt. Maj. David Breibach)

Kunsan dormitory renovated

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kunsan resident office and Time Engineering & Construction Co. finished renovation on a dormitory at Kunsan Air Base on Dec. 12, 2014. Work includes roof replacement, interior finishes and upgrade of electrical power system which will now meet the current Air Force standards. (Photos by Andrew Rajala and Yu Chang-il)

Dr. Pak Chun-pom, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District’s data management section chief, test flies a new drone in the drill rig shelter at FED headquarters on Feb. 23, 2015. The drone will assist in taking valuable videos and photographs of construction projects for the district. (FED file photo)
The last concrete was placed on the Osan second runway project June 4, 2015. Although it was very difficult to pave the 9,000 foot runway due to the thickness and strict tolerance for smoothness, Far East District central resident office accomplished their mission with their partners from SK Construction company and the Ministry of National Defense-Defense Installation Agency (MND-DIA). (FED file photos)

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

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

“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.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey L. Milhorn, 31st Commander and Division Engineer for the Pacific Ocean Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is presented with a coin and a certificate of appreciation by Lisa Roberts (left), STEM coordinator and Dr. Catherine Yunica, principal of Seoul American Elementary School, April 17, 2015. Brig. Gen. Milhorn was presented the certificate for his support of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics program at Seoul American Elementary School. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)
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)

Gen. Scaparrotti aerial-tours construction sites at Humphreys

Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, commander of United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea and USFK senior leaders took an aerial tour construction sites at Camp Humphreys Tuesday, June 2, 2015. Col. Bryan S. Green (second to the right from center), Far East District commander and Greg Reiff (far right), Far East District resident briefed Gen. Scaparrotti on the construction progress made as most U.S. forces will relocate out of Seoul, to areas south in the next few years. (FED file photo)

Far East District commander Col. Bryan S. Green visited Kunsan resident office May 6, 2015. He visited the Tower Dormitory, Communications Squadron Facility, Construct Security Forces Facility and other ongoing construction sites at Kunsan Air Base. (Photo by Kim Tong-yun)
한국에서 여러분과 함께 근무하게 되어 영광스럽고 인생 일대의 기회였습니다. 지난 24개월동안의 경험은 자에게 있어 가장 어렵기도 했지만 가장 보람있었습니다. 멋진 가족들과 친근히 못한 말들을 두고 머니라고 생각하시나 생각해봅시다.

함께 수많은 어려움을 이겨내고 장애물을 극복해 왔는데 특히 건설이 최고조에 달하는 시점에 따라 나아가는 사이는 인연입니다. 저는 여러분들을 전적으로 신뢰하고 있으며 우리 공병단이 우수한 품질을 유지하고 계속해서 국가의 신임받는 공병단이 되길 바랍니다.

새로운 군 거설과 주둔국 건설 공사가 있어 공병단의 미래는 밝습니다. 앞으로는 대구 지역에 주한미군과 공군의 임무를 더 많이 지원하게 될 것이고 용산기지이전계획과 연합토지관리계획은 2018년 또는 이후에 마무리 단계에 접어들 것입니다. 한국과 태평양 지역은 정말 근무하기 좋은 곳입니다. 지난 2년간 국방시설본부 뿐만 아니라 한국수자원공사, 세계물포럼과 우리가 맺은 협력관계에 활기를 불어넣고 공병단의 미래는 밝습니다. 완공한 시설들은 평택 험프리즈 기지 초중고등학교, 오산 공군기지 선임장교 막사, 그리고 진해 함대 대원과 가족 문화센터입니다.

엔지니어링 부서 재편성 그리고 건물정보모델링(BIM) 설계 도입과 같은 조직 내 변화를 함께 근무하게 되어 자랑스럽고 여러분 모두 그리울 것입니다. 마지막으로 주문처럼 외쳤던 ‘자아자 파이팅, 한반도에 강한 건설을 수행한다’를 잊지 마시기 바랍니다.

안녕히 계세요.