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Far East District

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State-of-the-art Osan American Elementary School opens incorporating 21st century design

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

Osan American Elementary School opened its doors for the first time this August welcoming students for the new school year.

Known as the millennial school construction project, Far East District engineers designed the facility incorporating 21st Century specifications. It's the first one in the Department of Defense Dependent Schools-Pacific region with this design.

"This design takes away traditional classrooms and replaces them with learning studios in learning hubs," said Guy Kuroiwa, a former project engineer at the district's Central Resident Office. "All the studios have a movable glass partition which opens up to the neighborhood and allows for large group learning sessions."

Alan Heck, a civil engineer for DoDDS-Pacific Area, was part of the project from the beginning and said

the working relationship he had with district engineers was crucial to delivering a quality facility on time.

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The Osan American Elementary School opened its doors this summer after the Far East District handed the keys over to Department of Defense Education Activity Pacific in July. The district designed the school and provided quality assurance in the construction of the facility. (FED file photo)





The Republic of Korea and United States Combined Forces Command (CFC) conducted the annual Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG) exercise from Aug. 22 through Sept. 2, 2016. UFG is designed to enhance Alliance readiness, protect the region and maintain stability on the Korean peninsula. The Far East District and Pacific Ocean Division participated in the exercise as a way to improve their planning and readiness to respond to a contingency on the peninsula. "The effective teamwork of the Pacific Ocean Division and Far East District Drilling Individual Mobilization (DIMA) staff achieved a unity of effort to accomplish all of the exercise objectives, including contingency planning, partnering with the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Defense-Defense Installation Agency, and the placement of liaisons with United States Forces Korea and other partnering organizations," said Peter Gitto, Military Planner for Pacific Ocean Division. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)



Maj. Tae I. Ro (Mark) receives the oath of office administered by Col. Thomas S. Lavender, Pacific Ocean Division, EOC Military Chief. Maj. Ro, an Army Reserve Officer and Far East District Security Specialist, was promoted after participating in the Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2016 exercise at the Far East District. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)



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Col. Peter B. Andrysiak, POD Commander visits the Republic of Korea

By Stephen Satkowski
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Pacific Ocean Division Commander and Division Engineer Col. Peter B. Andrysiak visited the Republic of Korea August 16-25 where he met with senior leaders and toured the Far East District. The visit also coincided with the beginning of the Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2016 exercise, a routine and defense-oriented exercise designed to enhance the Combined Forces Command readiness, protect the region and maintain stability on the Korean peninsula.

"I've seen nothing like this (Republic of Korea and United States) alliance," said Andrysiak. "It's strong, vibrant and when you see what they do in these exercises, in a true combined sense, it's one team."

Andrysiak toured and visited construction

sites at the Central Resident Office, Humphreys Area Office, Korea Program and Relocation Office, Medical Resident Office and Southern Resident Office as well as met with leaders from the 2nd Infantry Division, United States Forces Korea, Transformation & Relocation and the Republic of Korea's Defense Intelligence Agency.

Andrysiak's tour of the district gave him a better idea of the challenges the district faces as well as the caliber of people working at FED.

"It's a culturally diverse district and a program unlike any other," said Andrysiak. "They are focused professionals, driven and they want engineering excellence. It's a great team working together to deliver quality projects at a critical time in our history. We are the organization of

choice to do engineering because of our people that wake up every day and want to make a difference."

Andrysiak became the 32nd commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Pacific Ocean Division, serving the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, on July 12. He now leads an organization that employs 1,600 military, Department of Army, host nation civilian engineers, technicians and other professionals in the annual execution of a \$3.2 billion program.

Before leaving he passed along this message to the Far East District.

"I'm honored to be on your team. I've received nothing but positive feedback from all the leadership I met here. I'm proud of you and everything you do every day," said Andrysiak.



Col. Peter B. Andrysiak talks to the employees at the Far East District's Central Resident Office, part of his tour of the Far East District Aug. 16-25. (FED file photo)

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“There were 64 bi-weekly meetings held from the start of construction that were attended by the principal and selected staff members from the school, members of the DoDEA Pacific facility engineering team, the Far East District project delivery team, and contractor representatives,” said Heck.

“Progress was monitored and input was received from all attendees at various stages. We are pleased with the school we received and I am sure students and staff will accomplish great things for years to come. We have

wrapped up our military construction program in Korea for the near future, but we will surely use the Far East District again for future projects.”

Chu Chong-mun, Far East District project engineer at the Central Resident Office said the transparent communication between the two partners provided a smooth and efficient work atmosphere.

“We provided them (DoDDS-Pacific) on numerous occasions the opportunity to walk through and tour the building,” said Chu.

This teamwork was a hallmark and one which brought the project to a successful conclusion

“This project was a big challenge and it felt rewarding to get it across the finish line knowing it would not delay the next school year,” said Kuroiwa.

The facility has a capacity to hold up to 600 students and will support pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade. It took a little bit less than three years to complete and a formal ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for October.



Congratulations to the Far East District's "Construct 2nd Runway Project Delivery Team" at Osan Air Base, Korea on their selection as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2016 Project Delivery Team of the Year! The team was recognized by Pacific Ocean Division Commander and Division Engineer, Col. Peter B. Andrysiak for their efforts in constructing and delivering a world-class runway in support of Air Force mission requirements. This collaborative partnership between the United States and the Republic of Korea integrated both countries materials, equipment and best practices. This effort provided cost savings, customer satisfaction and significantly improved Air Force mission capabilities. This extremely diverse team was led by Far East District working together with Pacific Ocean Division, USACE Transportation Systems Center of Omaha District, United States Forces Korea, 7th Air Force, 51st Civil Engineering Squadron, Defense Installations Agency of the Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense and DIA's construction contractor SK Engineering & Construction. (Photo by Eric Hamilton)



Far East District Commander Col. Stephen H. Bales spoke at the Republic of Korea's Ministry of National Defense convention hall Friday, Sept. 2 giving a presentation on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers methods of construction quality assurance. The presentation was part of a Republic of Korea/United States construction technique development seminar, focusing on the Yongsan Relocation Program. (Photos by Stephen Satkowski)



ROT C Cadets Jessy Green (left) and Alex Meier pose for a picture with Far East District Commander Col. Stephen H. Bales Aug. 26 at the Far East District compound in Seoul. The cadets visited job sites and shadowed project engineers during their month long visit to the district. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)

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