



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Far East District**

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Parachute rigging facility nearing completion in Gimhae

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

Southern resident office engineers continue to make progress as they repair and upgrade a parachute rigging facility at Gimhae Air Base, a Republic of Korea Air Force base adjacent to Gimhae International Airport on the southern tip of the peninsula. The facility will be used for inspection, maintenance, repair, packing and storage of parachutes. The building was demolished after sustaining severe damage from a typhoon in 2003.

In addition to repairing the rigging portion, district engineers will also repair damages in a deteriorating cargo storage area, repair water, electrical and sewage systems, and provide support facilities such as a fire water storage tank.

Project engineer Anthony Hambrick said the close relationship and open communications that has developed between all involved parties is crucial to maintaining progress.

“Transparent communication and cooperation between the Far East District construction team and in-house

design team, Korea’s Ministry of Defense (MND), user representatives and contractor personnel has been key to this project so far,” Hambrick said.

Hambrick said this close cooperation and a positive attitude by all involved has been a hallmark of this project so far.

“I’m impressed with how professionally these meetings are conducted and the amount of detail that is covered to ensure all parties understand the requirements for a particular feature of work. We are all able to communicate and give each other the benefit of the doubt on all matters, with no arguments. Also, I get to learn something new every day

through regular project visits, which is a luxury I didn’t have at my previous job,” Hambrick said.

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Repair work on this parachute rigging facility at Gimhae Air Base is expected to be finished by the end of 2016. Photo is by Tony Hambrick, Southern Resident Office project engineer.





Kelly McBride, wife of Ed McBride, a project engineer in construction division, received the President's Volunteer Service Award June 17 for her commitment in helping military families at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys for the past year. Congratulations on making a difference in your community! (FED file photos)



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Telephone: DSN 721-7301
E-mail: DLL-CEPOF-WEB-PA@usace.army.mil

District Commander
Col. Stephen H. Bales
Public Affairs Officer
Stephen Satkowski
Deputy Public Affairs Officer
Eric M. Hamilton
Public Affairs Staff
Kim Chong-yun
Yi Yong-un

Check out the Far East District web site at
www.pof.usace.army.mil

Training this team testifies to time, talent and tenacity

By Eric Hamilton
FED Public Affairs

The mechanics of the Far East District Motor Pool have many professional certifications and a wide range of experience with various diesel, gas and electric vehicles. That broad skill set has driven some amazing accomplishments.

It's the result of constant effort and planning.

"I grab any training that I possibly can, especially if it's local," said Ken Pickler, chief of the Far East District's Transportation Section. One such training opportunity was at the Hyundai plant in Seoul, where mechanics learned about hybrid gas-electric vehicle technologies used across the board in Hyundai's newest models.

While this approach serves the Far East District well because of the proximity to the manufacturers of much of its fleet, its mechanics have also trained in diverse locations like Taiwan and Sacramento, California. This poses a challenge since the Far East District's mechanics aren't required to be fluent in any language other than Korean. One workaround was an on-site translator provided by the Information Management section; another training administered its certification tests in Korean.

Actual training itself wasn't so complicated, Pickler said. The hands-on training transferred information between the master mechanics in a way that classroom training couldn't; however, hands-on demands some prerequisite experience in and aptitude for mechanical concepts.

"Point and grunt goes a long way, mechanic to mechanic... Kind of like a Chilton's manual," said Pickler. "To use a manual like that, you need at least

a basic understanding of mechanics and the underlying principles. For our mechanics, the hands-on offers the most valuable kind of training."

The value of this on-going training is essential, said Kil Min-su, Automotive Mechanic Foreman, because of the constant upgrades to sensitive mechanisms and systems in new vehicles. Training is necessary in order to use new tools, use new repair techniques and to apply current maintenance methods, he said.

Kil said that getting the training can be a challenge, since not every manufacturer is willing to train groups as small as the motor pool team, while others limit training seats to just one or two people.

The latter situation, Pickler said, demands using a "train-the-trainer" approach; the one or two people trained are then experts on that topic and will lead training for the rest of the team.

At other times, careful negotiation and attentiveness to schedule changes



On May 24, Far East District mechanics in Seoul furthered their professional development with training on the 2017 Hyundai Santa Fe. Ken Pickler, FED's Chief of Transportation, presented Hyundai with a certificate of appreciation for the partnership, which has provided several valuable training opportunities over the past few years. (FED file photos)

have allowed Kil the chance to squeeze in training opportunities where none existed before.

Despite the challenges, Pickler said that he remains committed to providing his team the training needed to keep their skills as master mechanics sharp and up-to-date.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District new headquarters building at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys continues to progress, with construction nearly complete on the building's exterior (below). Compare our new building, juxtaposed with our current compound in Seoul (right). (FED file photos)



Parachute rigging facility nearing completion in Gimhae

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The location of the rigging facility on a Republic of Korea Air Force base poses its own set of challenges as well.

“Mainly on project components that will affect the installation such as the tie in of the sewer line,” said Hambrick. “These issues are resolved through understanding of the requirements from both sides and above all the support and resolution expertise provided by our MND counterparts and

the user representatives for the facility.”

Construction on the facility began in June 2015. The Far East District did all the design work and construction is about halfway completed. The facility is expected to be completed by the end of 2016.

The Far East District celebrates Engineer Corps Day, June 27





Building *Safety* Strong

ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG



Hot Tips to Stay Safe This Summer

The warm and sunny weather that comes with summer means that most of us will be doing more outdoor activities. Whether heading outside as part of your activities or just to have fun, it is important to remember that summer also brings seasonal hazards that we must be aware of. Consider the following when planning to work or play outdoors:

Protecting yourself from the heat and the *summer sun*

- ♦ **Stay Cool.** Drink water frequently, even if you don't feel thirsty. Avoid drinks which cause dehydration - beverages containing alcohol or caffeine. Eat foods that are light and easily digested; fruits, salads and vegetables are examples. Don't over-exert yourself when the weather is hot even if you are having a great time. It's easy to push your limits when you are having fun or want to squeeze every minute you can out of your summer fun.
- ♦ **Eyes.** Protect your eyes from exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays by wearing sunglasses. Check the label to make sure they will absorb most of the UV rays. The glare from water, sand and concrete increase the risk to your eyes.
- ♦ **Skin.** Protect your skin from sun exposure with clothing and sunscreen with a sun protection factor of at least 15. Sun exposure can lead to skin cancer. Try to stay out of the direct sunlight between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.



Water safety

- ♦ **Swimming.** Learning to swim is the number one thing you can do to ensure your safety around water. Never swim alone. Do not eat or chew gum while swimming because of the possibility of choking. Keep in mind that it is more difficult to judge distance in the water. Do not swim beyond your abilities or your strength. Most important, wear a personal flotation device.
- ♦ **Boating.** Watch the weather. Write down a detailed plan of your boating route and leave it with a responsible person ashore in case you don't return when expected. Wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD). Over 80 per cent of boating deaths involve persons who were not wearing PFDs. Don't overload boats. This is a common cause of capsizing, especially in small boats or canoes. Do not drink alcohol when boating.

Other summer safety concerns

- ♦ **Pests.** Carry your insect sting kit if you are allergic to insect bites. Wear insect repellent to avoid bites and stings, unless you are allergic to these substances. If you find a tick on you, pull it off by grasping it firmly with tweezers near your skin and pulling slowly and steadily. Wash the area and apply an antibiotic or antiseptic product. Call your doctor if you see signs of a rash in the area of the bite, a possible sign of Lyme disease.
- ♦ **Grilling Safety.** Always read the use and care manual before operating your grill. Never leave grill unattended when in use. To avoid flare-ups you should drain off excess marinade or oil before putting food on grill, trim excess fat to 1/4-inch on steaks and chops, and remove skin and excess fat from chicken pieces. Avoiding high heat will also help to avoid flare-ups. If flare-ups do occur, move food to a cooler spot on the grill or temporarily cut off the air supply by closing lid or shutting the air vents.



***Remember to make safety awareness part of your summer planning.
Be prepared by being aware of potential summer dangers.***

From the commander:
Thank you for doing GREAT things:

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



Ko Min-sok
Logistics Management
20 Years of Service Award



Pak Un-yong
Engineering
25 Years of Service Award



Yi Won-son
Construction
30 Years Service Award



Ed Minnerly
Logistics Management
35 Years of Service Award



Pak Chil-yong
Program and Projects Management
PPMD Employee of the Year 2016



Kim U-kon
Construction
Construction Employee of the Year 2016



Kwon Yong-chin
Engineering
Engineering Employee of the Year 2016



Ernest Williams
Construction
Came from National Institutes of Health,
Maryland



Susan Ungos
Construction
Came from Medical Command,
Hawaii



(From upper right , counter-clockwise) Jason Kim, Deputy Chief for Engineering Division, receives the Commander's Award for Civilian Service from Col. Stephen H. Bales, Far East District commander, on June 16. Kim left for Savannah District in July. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)

Lt. Col. Timika Wilson, deputy commander of the Far East District, is presented with a model of a traditional Korean house by Col. Stephen H. Bales, Far East District commander, at her farewell luncheon June 30. Lt. Col. Wilson is going to Jacksonville District to serve as their deputy commander. (Photo by Yo Kyong-il)

Mark Lumen, Assistant District Counsel, received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service from Col. Stephen H. Bales, Far East District commander, on June 16. Lumen left the Far East District for Galveston District in July. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)

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