



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

EAST GATE EDITION

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Meet the new Deputy District Commander: Lt. Col. Richard C. Collins

By Eric Hamilton
FED Public Affairs

“I look forward to the next two years,” said Lt. Col. Richard C. Collins, incoming deputy commander of the Far East District. “We have a grand adventure ahead of us as we relocate to Camp Humphreys while we continue to fulfill our commitments to our customers and stakeholders.”

Lt. Col. Collins arrived at the Far East District after serving as the Chief of Facilities and Construction for the U.S. Army Pacific, programming projects in Korea and elsewhere. No stranger to responsibility, his philosophy is based on cooperation and collaboration to succeed.

Regarding the transformation and relocation, he is clear: “A lot of people are counting on us to deliver. It’s going to take the entire team pulling together.”

He’s no stranger to the Corps of Engineers, either. Lt. Col. Collins’ first exposure to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers came when he was assigned to the Republic of Palau in 1999, with the Honolulu Engineer District, and learned the business from a resident engineer from Alaska. He also served as a resident engineer in Japan for three years starting in 2005. More recently,

he served as the deputy commander of the Albuquerque Engineer District from March 2010 to Aug. 2012, until deploying to Afghanistan.

Lt. Col. Collins said, “We have this incredible history in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,” a history that is “integral to the history of our nation and many others.” This includes the Far East District’s enormous contributions here in South Korea, soon to be commemorated during the district’s sixtieth anniversary.

Lt. Col. Collins’ own history seems integral with his career in the Army and as an engineer. “In high school, I had a strong math and science background,” he said. He came across engineering while trying to figure out what to do with that aptitude. “Engineering seemed a good fit.”

Though Lt. Col. Collins was an engineering major all through college, deciding to specialize in Civil Engineering wasn’t an immediately obvious choice, but he was eventually led to it by his advisors. That decision was aided by the fact he was attending school on a four-year ROTC scholarship, and informed by internships he did with the



Arkansas Highway Department. These experiences helped define his preference for hands-on, outdoor engineering where you can see a structure go from a vision to reality.

Lt. Collins recalled his Officer Basic Course, with its emphasis on “how to be a combat engineer.” Having learned construction engineering in college and combat engineering, it is ironic that his first assignment as a lieutenant was with topographic engineering, and

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Humphreys transformation continues



These two photos were taken atop a water tower at Camp Humphreys on July 19 and show many of the Far East District's current projects there. You can see the new golf course, commissary, post exchange, flag level housing, and other facilities taking shape. (Photos by Woo-Sung Chung)



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Summer internships benefit both students and sections

By Eric Hamilton
FED Public Affairs

Summer internships are something like a rite of passage for many young adults looking for guidance, a career or hands-on experience in the working world. For students attending or recently graduated from high school, the Yongsan Civilian Personnel Advisory Office delivered an internship program that offered a little bit of everything.

Working at the Far East District's headquarters compound allowed students Morgen A. Dunleavy, Alexander Bronkar, Jasmine C. Felton, Andrew Clark, Louis Choi Pak and Sumaiya S. Irfan a chance to sample some potential future career options.

The interns were assigned to a variety of duties and locations, from working

as a mail clerk assistant to helping with training and operations, to the security office.

But internship wasn't a free ride. Each intern had to work under the same conditions as their coworkers. On their first day, they were administered the oath of allegiance while being sworn in at the CPAC office—just like any other new civilian hire.

Interns were offered the chance to choose their location, but not necessarily the jobs available. Student interns are required to work eight hours per day for five days a week, and earn \$6 per hour.

Interns brought new perspective into their work spaces; in some cases, they brought new approaches as well. Jasmine Felton worked an earlier rotation in the

security office, and also brought new ideas to the technology used in tracking and processing access requests, completing more than 40 access request responses in about three and a half weeks.

Sumaiya Irfan chose working for the Far East District because her father worked here from 2006 to 2010, but her assignment to the Security Office was random. The nature of the position meant an extra step in applying and waiting for her own security release, but every intern had to complete the cyber security training to be given network access.

Afterward, Irfan had the access afforded by such training and vetting. On her first day, she attended a division chiefs meeting.

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The Far East District hosted six college students who interned at the headquarters building during the summer of 2016. The internship program provides students, in engineering as well as other fields, to get a first-hand look at various careers while at the District. (From left to right) Pam Lovasz, Chief, Design Branch, Engineering Division, Interns Alexander Bronkar, Andrew Clark, Louis Choi Pak, Morgen Dunleavy, Jasmine Felton, Joel Odell, District Security Manager and Jun Kang, Information Systems Support Branch Chief (absent from photo Sumaiya S. Irfan). Photo by Eric Hamilton.

Summer internships benefit both students and sections

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Experiences like this provided her with insights into the District's decision-making process, Irfan said. "The most interesting part was being able to sit into a meeting and watch each branch give a summary of the past month. I watched how each branch condensed their work into a PowerPoint presentation and presented their work to the District Commander."

Not every experience was conducted in the office. Sometimes, they had to learn by walking around.

"Because it was Korean vacation season, there wasn't much (office work) to do in the security office," Irfan said. She learned from District Security Manager Joel Odell about how to conduct a perimeter inspection, and why weeds should be removed from around the fence

line (because it obscures signage identifying the installation.)

Irfan used these insights, her own creativity, as well as the time she had on her hands, to develop an innovative way to streamline the pass and ID process using SharePoint.

Morgen Dunleavy used her time to reorganize, digitize and reduce hard-copy plans and operations documents, and turned in excess and inoperable computers from the Emergency Operations Center. She also updated an outdated roster of engineers and created an employee training tracking program which streamlines and reduces the impact of employee training.

For 18 to 22-year-old students, summer internship opportunities are available for two different 4-week sessions at the

high school level and one college-level session.

Applicants for the program provided four-page packets of basic information, Irfan said. A week or two before being assigned, she received an e-mail asking about her job location preferences, but not specific jobs.

Irfan said she'd come back again if circumstances permit, and recommends the program.

"Although the branch I was assigned to has nothing to do with my major (biomedical sciences), I hope that broadening my range of experience will help me once I seriously begin to search for a job," Irfan said. "If you want to get a knowledge of how the government works, you should apply for this program."



West Point Cadets Mario Joseph Lund (second from right) and Dylan Bradley Varrato visited with Col. Stephen Bales, Far East District Commander and Maj. Michael Lohrenz, Deputy Resident Engineer, Pyeongtaek Resident Office on July 8. The cadets, both engineering majors, are here to shadow and learn from district employees until July 23. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)

Meet the new Deputy District Commander: Lt. Col. Collins

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hand-drawing maps which were then mass produced on large printing presses.

This experience instilled in him the versatility that engineer officers must possess--which Lt. Col. Collins called on during multiple deployments where he was responsible for developing engineer training programs for newly established units in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“One of the things I always enjoyed about the military was the chance to get out and experience other cultures and countries,” Lt. Col. Collins said. A self-affirmed “family man,” Lt. Collins said he looks forward to a new aspect of this overseas tour that’s distinctly different from past deployments: sharing this adventure in Korea with his wife and two children.

At a retirement ceremony at the Yongsan Post Theater on July 26, 2016, the Eighth Army honored eight retiring soldiers for their dedication to duty and service. Officers and NCOs and their families were presented with awards, certificates of appreciation and flags flown over Washington D.C. Sgt. Maj. Robert Stanek is honored for more than four decades of service with the U.S. Army. Sgt. Maj. Stanek’s first visit to Korea was at the beginning of his service, in the 1970s. (Photos by Eric Hamilton)



Welcome to FED



Amanda Linscheid
Construction
Came from Albuquerque District



Joe Hahm
Information Management
Came from Seattle District



Ricky Aquino
Construction
Came from Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana



Tin Kyaw
Construction
Came from Los Angeles District



1st Lt. Johannes Olind
Korea Program Relocation
Came from 25th Infantry Division, Hawaii

See You Again...



Hunter Dandridge
Construction
Transferred to Jacksonville District



Jun Kang
Information Management
Transferred to Army Geospatial Center, Virginia

HERE IT COMES

Alcohol is the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents.

Don't drink and boat.

READY ...OR NOT?

Ready ... or Not is a call to action for leaders, Soldiers, Army Civilians and Family members to assess their readiness for what lies ahead - both the known and unknown.

Throughout our professional and personal lives, events happen all around us. We are often able to shape the outcome of those events, but many times we're not. Navigating life's challenges is all about decision-making.

So are **YOU** ready ... or not?



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