USFK Operations Center construction progress on track

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Leadership in Construction

By Dr. Thomas J. Karnowski
Chief, Korea Program Relocation

Walking the job.

It has happened in the past, we get to the end of a project and what do we find? It’s late, over-budget, and the owner is complaining about the quality….or worse, we are hammering the contractor to go back and fix it. What can we do?

Construction is really just logistics with a fixed-in-place purpose. We buy a bunch of stuff, put it together according to a set of plans and specifications, and then the owner takes possession. Oh if only it were just that simple… I think that it is, but maybe that’s just 46 years of construction experience talking, but it was learned by “walking the job.”

Recently, we all had a chance to review the “Army Leadership Requirements Model.” I found it interesting that for all the talking that we do about adopting key skills like agility, flexibility, anticipation, critical and creative thinking….we are very slow to put these skills into practice on the construction site. Why? Construction is really just logistics with a fixed-in-place purpose. We buy a bunch of stuff, put it together according to a set of plans and specifications, and then the owner takes possession. Oh if only it were just that simple… I think that it is, but maybe that’s just 46 years of construction experience talking, but it was learned by “walking the job.”

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“The importance of constant U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presence on the job site is directly proportional to quality.”

The importance of constant U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presence on the job site is directly proportional to quality. When a seasoned and highly skilled corps representative walks the job, he finds problems, coaches, and provides support. Quality is driven up by the constant surveillance and knowledge that there is little wiggle room for anything less than construction to standard. When our less experienced corps representatives walk the job, with a “want to learn” attitude, they are invariably adopted by good contractors and trained to be better.

Construction is a risky business with multiple failure modes. My experience has been that failure is assured when you don’t walk the job and the opportunity for success is greatly multiplied when we walk away from the computer screen, talk with the contractors, and walk the job.
Far East District prepares for move to Humphreys with container removal

By James Lee
FED Logistics Management

In preparation for the Far East District’s relocation to Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek, the Logistics Management Office turned in six 20-foot containers to the Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services on Dec. 22, 2016.

To prepare disposal of these containers, the supply branch began consolidation of its assets and supplies several years ago. The district began disposing of unnecessary items, issuing supplies we no longer need to other units on the peninsula (i.e. printer cartridges that we do not have printers for), and coordinating with other sections ensuring they maintain 30 days of supplies for their immediate need. The results of these efforts enabled us to empty out all six containers.

The task to get these containers ready for turn-in did not stop there. The supply branch coordinated with Ken Pickler, Far East District transportation branch chief, 25th Transportation Battalion, U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan Directorate of Public Works and the Defense Reutilization Management Services (DRMS) to ensure the entire process was synchronized.

The turn-in date with DRMS must be scheduled prior to scheduling a transportation appointment. Once the turn in date was confirmed and notification sent to 25th Transportation, coordination was made between the local crane and forklift vendor to schedule an execution date to lift and load these containers on the flatbeds. After the execution date was confirmed, the supply branch coordinated with the district’s transportation branch and U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan DPW to disconnect all the power lines and separate all containers that are welded together.

Without the prior synchronization and planning by both the supply and transportation branch chiefs this event would not have been successful. To ensure mission success, Ken Pickler also trained the supply and motor pool personnel on critical lift tasks and safety standards a week in advance.

Finally, because everyone involved took extra measures, this event occurred without a hitch and without any safety incidents and violations.

Outstanding leadership from Ed Minnerly, chief of the district’s Logistics Management Office. I would also like to extend my thanks to all personnel involved from supply and transportation branches. This is an example of what can happen with prior planning and early coordination with outside agencies.

United States Forces Korea and Republic of Korea Air Force leaders wait for Defense Secretary Jim Mattis to deplane on the cargo ramp built by Far East District central resident office engineers at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Feb. 2. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathan Steffen)
Construction on the United States Forces Korea operations center continues to stay on schedule. The center, a 377,000 square-foot, two-level underground facility, will support the United States Forces Korea (USFK) headquarters requirements as part of the relocation of forces to U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys. The project will provide facilities for USFK’s mission during armistice, crisis, and wartime.

Due to the large scope of the project there are multiple contracts involved. Chris Brincefield, project manager since 2016, has been encouraged by the progress so far. “This project has been running very well,” said Brincefield. “Construction Surveillance Resident Office manages the construction contract and the project delivery team has developed a strong working relationship with all stakeholders to include the end user and construction contractor.”

One of the challenging aspects is the immense concrete requirement of 180,000 cubic meters. To meet this requirement the Far East District worked with the contractor and U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys to approve and construct the first and only concrete batch plant on the installation. “The largest single placement has been 2,500 cubic meters which required three concrete pump trucks, 420 concrete truck loads and took approximately 16 hours to place,” said Brincefield.

Construction began on the project in 2016 and is expected to be completed in 2020.
District supports STEM activities

Far East District central resident office engineer Staff Sgt. Roy Tongue participated in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program with 3rd grade students at the Osan Elementary School on Feb. 10. Staff Sgt. Tongue discussed soil types at Osan Air Base, strengths of materials, and foundations required to support buildings and also provided demonstrations on water pressure and frictional forces. (Photos by Daniel Koo)

USFK Operations Center

Construction start: May 2013
Expected Completion Date: Late 2020

USFK Operations Center will serve as the operational hub for United States Forces Korea’s Joint Staff elements and Component Commands. Construction is 19 percent complete.

Communications Center

Construction start: July 2013
Expected Completion Date: Late 2018

The communication center is the primary/secondary Main Communication Node (MCN) and access point into the Global Information Grid (GIG) on USAG Humphreys. Construction is 70 percent complete.

Medical and Dental Complex

Construction start: November 2012
Expected Completion Date: Early 2020

The completed medical campus will be able to support 65,000 eligible beneficiaries and 5,000 annual inpatient admissions. Construction is about 59 percent complete.

2nd Infantry Division Headquarters

Construction start: April 2014
Expected Completion Date: Late 2017

The 2nd Infantry Division’s new headquarters will include an operations center, network operations center, administrative facilities and a parade ground. Construction is 76 percent complete.
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 USFK headquarters is nearly finished with 95 percent completed as of late March. The commissary and the main exchange are also nearing completion with both 83 percent finished. The 2nd Infantry Division headquarters building is 76 percent finished with a completion date scheduled for the end of 2017. 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 U.S. Army Garrison Daegu’s Camp Walker, ground was broken on the new middle/high school in late 2014 and construction is just about finished with the facility 98 percent completed. The school is scheduled to open to students in the summer of 2017. Construction has also begun on new family housing which is 15 percent complete and design work is now 15 percent completed on a Soldier support center.

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. Work continues on a hospital addition/alteration which is 80 percent completed and construction work on an aircraft corrosion control facility is 99 percent completed. The design work for an air freight terminal facility is 99 percent completed and the design for the Korea Air and Space Operations Center is 15 percent completed. At Kunsan Air Base, on Korea’s southwest coast, construction of a transient aircraft parking area is 23 percent completed, while construction on a new commercial gate is 21 percent completed. Design work at the base includes upgrading the fire suppression system which is 90 percent completed.

The East 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 now 4 percent completed. At Camp Mujuk a new four-story Marine Air Ground Task Force Operations Center for the III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) is in the design phase and is about 95 percent complete. Also at Camp Mujuk construction on the first of three Life Support Area (LSA) barracks is 6 percent completed.
Korea Relocation Program

U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys

By the Numbers

- **75%** Percentage of completion for the entire program
- **655** buildings done, under construction or planned
- **3,528** New total acreage
- **$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.
- **988** ENF™

Original acreage

Los Angeles International Airport is 103 acres smaller

Far East District held a retirement ceremony at the Dragon Hill Lodge Feb. 28 for Jon S. Iwata who served as the Deputy District Engineer since April 2005. As the Deputy District Engineer, Iwata oversaw the planning, design and construction of military, environmental and host nation funded construction programs in Korea. He was responsible for execution of just over $8 billion of projects in design and construction for Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Defense Agency customers. Prior to his assignment as the Deputy for Program Management, Iwata served as the Chief, Army Branch, Programs and Project Management Division at Far East District for five years. He also served four years as Chief, Facilities Planning Division, USFK Assistant Chief of Staff, Engineer and five years as the Chief, Major Construction Division, Eighth United States Army Engineer. Iwata is a 1972 graduate of the University of Hawaii with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. His awards include the Bronze de Fleury Medal from the Engineer Regiment and Federal Executive Board’s Federal Manager of the Year. (Photo by Yo Kyong-il)

Far East District southern resident office engineers gave briefings on the Daegu middle and high school project and the Army Family Housing Tower project at Camp Carroll to Korean cultural advisors and Daegu high school principal Atorn Grade Feb. 8. (FED file photo)
Far East District engineer presented with Modern Day Technology Award

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

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enith Ward, Project Engineer at Kunsan Resident Office, was awarded the Modern Day Technology Award at the 2017 Black Engineer of the Year Awards Conference held in Washington D.C. Feb. 9-11.

Each year the Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA) Conference recognize and honor minorities who have made significant contributions and breakthroughs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

“Being multiracial (African-American/Korean), this award reflects values that both my mother and father instilled in me when I was younger,” Ward said.

“My father being prior military and my mother being Asian, I think both of them teaching respect as a key component of life got me to where I am at now.”

Ward began his Corps career as an intern at the Savannah district in 2009. Before arriving at the Far East District in 2013 he deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan as an office engineer.

“One thing I will never regret is moving around with the Corps,” said Ward. “I was able to learn and work with great people including quality assurance representatives, program analysts, counsel, and various contract administration personnel. It allowed me to fully understand the Corps process and how everything is interconnected.”

Ward praised his past supervisor at the district’s Central Resident Office, Jamie Hagio, as well as his current supervisor at Kunsan Resident Office, Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite, Commanding General and Chief of Engineers (2nd to left) presents the Modern Day Technology Award at the 2017 Black Engineer of the Year Awards Conference held in Washington D.C. Feb. 9-11 to Kenith Ward, Project Engineer at Kunsan Resident Office. (FED file photo)

Chris Martin for helping him attain this recognition.

“They allowed me to learn under more experienced personnel,” explained Ward. “I may not know everything about construction, but I am willing to learn and work in a team environment. This includes working as a team with other district branches, the user, and the contractor.”

BEYA’s first event was held in Feb. 1987 at Morgan State University in Baltimore Maryland. The BEYA STEM Conference is a talent-rich environment for recruitment, networking and professional development. In attendance are college representatives and thousands of elite professionals and students from across the country that represent the upper echelon of science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines and careers. More than 100 companies and organizations support the rise of new graduates into technical careers such as; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lockheed Martin, Boeing Company, Northrop Grumman Cooperation., U.S. Army and U.S., Navy.

“...willing to learn and work in a team environment. This includes working as a team with other district branches, the user, and the contractor.”

– Kenith Ward, Project Engineer –
Building Strong in Korea!

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District hosts a ground breaking ceremony to signify the building of a new family housing tower located at Camp Walker, Daegu, Feb. 27. (Photo by Richard Byrd)

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asked faced onlookers peeped through their blacked out protective viewers, as sparks flew across a table and the smell of burning metal filled the room. The onlookers were a part of a week-long welding course watching their instructor demonstrate proper welding techniques at the Far East District welding quality verification course March 13-17.

The course teaches the participant how to interpret the various methods and techniques employed in weldments and assuring the quality of welds and is available for engineers and of course welders.

Christopher Manley, a structural engineer and a course instructor from the Portland District, describes the course as a key component to quality control.

“It provides the class a method of how to provide QAQC [quality assurance quality control], understand welding processes, the welding quality verification, how welding is done, and what they need to look for in vertical construction,” said Manley.

Although the course is focused on welding, Manley feels that the course is necessary for engineers to attend.

“It’s [welding] abstract to the engineers, said Manley. “It [the course] allows the engineers to come into the classroom setting, learn about how it’s done, how it’s fabricated, what to look for and a good understanding of what the contractors are going to be doing.”

Manley does make it a point to mention that welders should attend the course, even though it’s their trade.

He stated that a lot of the welders know the trade but don’t understand why there are so many rules. He also stated that the course gives them an understanding of why we have all of these strict rules, and why we must assume QAQC roles.

John Pariseau, a welding and metallurgy training center of expertise quality assurance team lead, was also instructing the course. Pariseau has worked as an instructor for the corps since 2012. He believes that this course sheds light on detailed issues that can be prevented if the QAQC is more knowledgeable and knows what faults can occur.

“Steel is unlike other welding materials, once it fractures it can cause catastrophic failures,” said Pariseau.

“We’re hoping to give them [the participants] enough knowledge so if they happen to see something wrong they have enough resources in the welding and metal center of expertise, said Pariseau. “It’s very easy to take a photo of something and email us to ask our opinion. We’re here to serve the corps as a whole, so it helps everybody else get the project done safely and securely.”

A class participant welds a piece of metal during the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District quality verification course March 13-17. The course teaches the participant how to interpret the various methods and techniques employed in weldments and assuring the quality of welds. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)
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.

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Social Media

Scan me to connect with the Far East District’s social media sites!

Facebook

YouTube

Twitter

flickr

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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.poe.usace.army.mil/home/ice and share your thoughts with us.

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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.

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Building Strong in Korea!

Social Media

By Dr. Thomas J. Karnowski
Chief, Korea Program Relocation

현장 업무

건설공사의 리더십

By Dr. Thomas J. Karnowski
Chief, Korea Program Relocation

현장 업무

과학기술에 앞서는 일이다. 공사가 끝나갈 무렵 우리는 무엇을 알게 되는가? 공사 기간 중에, 예산 초과, 그리고 공사의 공사 물품에 붙어 있게 되는 것입니다. 더욱이, 공사 현장에 가는 것이 필요하다. 이것은 과연 그렇게 어려운 일일까. 아니면 업무일에 따라 평생에 걸쳐 앞으로 있는 기회를 보지 못하는 것일까? 대부분의 야외는 새로운 것이 아니다. 사항들이 아이디어를 생성할 수 있는 것이 그것일까. 아니면, 이것이 현장에 나가서 업무 처리하는 것과 무엇의 관계가 있는가?

현장 업무를 통해 희열을 느끼게 되는 경우는 품질 높은 공사가 이루어졌을 때 또는 공학적 해법을 통해 실패를 정정할 때이다. 이런 경우는 아이디어를 실행하여 품질을 높이고 그로 인해 기존의 문제를 해결하는 것이 중요한 것이다. 아이디어는 지식이 될 수 있다. 적절히 사용하지 않으면 아무런 의미가 없기 때문이다. 고령의 사망에가는 인생의 공간을 관장하고 적절한 해결책을 제시해 공사 현장으로 끌어들일 수 있다. 공사의 품질을 지속적인 감독과 기준에 따라 공사의 품질을 유지하고, 실패를 방지할 수 있다. 그것이 현장의 업무를 처리하는 것과 무엇의 관계가 있는가?

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