



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Far East District

# FAST GATE EDITION

VOL. 26, NO. 08  
SUMMER 2017



**Strong relationships prove key  
as hospital project moves forward**

Story on page 4-5

# Inside **EAST GATE** **EDITION**



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

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## **On the cover**



*Hospital and Ambulatory Care Center/ Dental Clinic at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys is scheduled to be completed in June 2018. (Photo by Antwaun Parrish)*



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# Commander's Corner

**By Col. Stephen H. Bales**  
FED Commander

*Far East District Team,*

As I prepare to hand-over command of this superb organization to Col. Teresa Schlosser, I want to take one last opportunity to say – THANK YOU! Each one of you in your own unique way has made the last two years memorable. I will never forget the fabulous opportunity, privilege, and honor I was blessed to receive to serve with you as the Commander of the Far East District.

These last two years have seen us accomplish great things across Korea: Focused Professionals Delivering Quality through Engineering Excellence and Driven to Exceed Expectations! While doing this we have maintained our standards of treating one another with dignity and respect and sustained our foundation of trust.

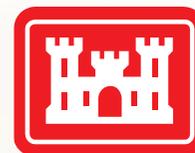
As I stated during our change-of-command ceremony in July 2015, my priorities were and have remained my Faith, my Family, and my Work. I have not always done the best job of maintaining those priorities in that order, but have done my utmost to balance them throughout the last year. As I promised, I have always done my best to lead the district and help each and every one of you meet your personal and professional goals while serving in this great organization and ensuring we meet our mission.

I have learned so much during the last two years that will serve me well in my next assignment and for the rest of my life. I have learned

new levels of patience. My propensity to “get into the weeds” has ebbed and flowed at times, but I always had trust in the leaders and people in this organization to do the right thing all the time. I have learned more about heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), Sensitive, Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) construction, concrete pavement, and architectural engineer and engineer management than I ever expected. I have gained an enhanced understanding of the importance of relationship building and maintenance, especially with our Korean partners. We truly do “Go Together.” I trust each of you have also learned something, “to make yourself and/or the organization better tomorrow.”

Shortly after my change-of-command, I received a note from Maj. Gen. John Peabody congratulating me for taking command of the Far East District. His hand-written note challenged me to, “now leave a positive Legacy.” I have strived every day to do so. I hope I have left a positive legacy with the District that will enable its success well after I am gone. I challenge you to leave your own “positive legacy” on the District now and into the future.

Thank you for the support you have given me and my family over the last two years and I wish you the absolute best both personally and professionally. I hope I have lived up to your expectations as YOUR Commander.



# Strong relationships prove key as hospital project moves forward

By Antwaun J. Parrish  
FED Public Affairs

**A**s a part of the Yongsan Relocation Program to Camp Humphreys, the United States Army Corps of Engineers Far East District, along with other key components, have been actively engaged for the past few years with the development of a new hospital.

The long-term project has proven to be a feat that can finally see the silver lining.

“We have experienced a big turn

around,” said Bruce Kim, resident engineer MRO. “About six months ago the schedule was unclear.”

During a recent Tier II governance meeting held March 29 at the Medical Resident Office (MRO), the meeting provided all organizations involved a chance to sync and discuss all outlined concerns and progress.

Kim explained that developing a hospital is a bit more tedious than most projects because each room is different

based on its function. He went on to explain that although hospitals are a complicated system, having a good working relationship with the contractor, MRO, Health Facility Planning Organization (HFPO), and all the stakeholders, is important and has contributed to the success with this project.

The success of this project was not only headed by Kim but his deputy resident engineer who has a long history with the FED, and is excited about the



Brig. Gen. Kang Dae-nam (left), Ministry of National Defense U.S. Forces Korea Relocation Office (MURO) chief, Col. Stephen Bales, US Army Corps of Engineers Far East District commander, take notes during a recent Tier II governance meeting held March 29 at the Medical Resident Office, Camp Humphreys, South Korea. The meeting provided all organizations involved in the completion of the hospital project a chance to sync and discuss a completion date. (Photo by Antwaun Parrish)

direction the completion of the hospital is headed.

Harvey Robinson, deputy resident engineer MRO, explained in more detail some of the specifics to how hospitals are being built and all the aspects that have been taken into account for this project.

“Hospitals are now being designed for patients comfort and warm feeling,” said Robinson. “They (medical profes-

sionals) feel that by giving them a good feeling the patient recovers faster. They also have accommodations for the family. It’s more of an environment thing that is important in newer hospitals, such as this.”

At the conclusion of the Tier II governance meeting, the FED commander congratulated the team on the success and states that the project had come a long way.

Robinson appreciated the commander’s statement. He stated that it was nice to feel that they’re accomplishing something.

Although confident and ready to see the hospital completed, Robinson doesn’t lose sight of what must continue to flourish.

“Most importantly, relationships between all the key players are key to a project like this, said Robinson.

## Ground broken for the ROKAF F-35 bed down facilities



Thomas Cha (fifth from right), Far East District program and project management division Army, Navy, Marine Corps programs branch acting chief, attends the groundbreaking ceremony for the ROKAF F-35 bed down facilities at the Cheong Ju Air Base on April 13. (Photo by Lt. Jae H. You)

# District oversees construction of new flow-through shelters at Kunsan

By Stephen Satkowski  
FED Public Affairs

**F**ar East District engineers at Kunsan Resident Office are overseeing construction of 10 aircraft flow-through shelters. Unlike the old shelters, the newly constructed shelters will have hot pit refueling and munitions loading capabilities. Resident engineer Christopher Martin said progress on the project is going smoothly but the upcoming months will present several tests.

“Safety during concrete placement and construction of two fuel storage tanks will be a big challenge,” said Martin. “Critical to proper construction and safety is equal concrete placement on both sides of the shelter as the concrete is supplied. To ensure an equal and constant supply, we have coordinated with the security forces and the

base civil engineers for alternate gate access. This will minimize the wait and travel time for the concrete trucks and ensure a constant well timed supply of concrete.”

Commissioning of the refueling system will also be another challenge for this project. To alleviate the challenges and hurdles that accompany the specialties of a hydrant fuel system, the district awarded a Title II service contract to review the fuel system submittals and construction. In addition, Kunsan resident office engineers attended a construction after action review for a past hydrant fuel project at Osan Air Base.

“We gained valuable lessons learned and have initiated processes to eliminate similar issues on this hydrant

fuel system,” said Martin.

Kunsan Resident Office has maintained a strong relationship with the user, the contractor and Korea’s Ministry of National Defense Construction Management team. They have constantly kept the base civil engineers informed and have bi-weekly meetings to address all construction/design issues.

“The end user, Defense Logistic Agency, visited the site in March and was very satisfied with the progress and the quality of work,” said Martin.

So far 23 percent of the project has been finished with final completion set for early 2019.



*Construction on flow-through shelters at Kunsan Air Base has begun. Kunsan resident office engineers expect the project to be completed by early 2019. (FED file photo)*

# Green thumb spreads at FED compound

By Antwaun J. Parrish  
FED Public Affairs

As the cherry blossoms bloomed around the Far East District compound, there were a few more flowers and plants that made their debut. Some of which were planted by our very own employees.

Robert Sundberg, District Counsel, and Philip Siu, Project Manager with the Programs and Project Management Division, planted a bit of their own additions to the vegetation springing up around the compound. Sundberg decided to plant tulips to welcome in this year's spring season. He first introduced his green thumb to the FED compound last year, but decided to do something a bit more extensive this year. The tulips vary in vibrant colors and stand out in the foreground of an otherwise dull colored backdrop.

"Tulips are easy to plant. All you do is put the bulbs in the ground in the fall and they take care of themselves," said Sundberg. "They are very pretty, have nice varieties and make a nice spring floral display."

He added that the tulip garden was also a nice way to start the spring after a long hard grey winter.

According to Sundberg, organization is a big component to gardening, as the gardener has to strategically layer the plants to ensure continual bloom throughout the seasons.

Sundberg encourages other members of the district to join in the effort to preserve and improve the appearance of our work area.

"If they [employees] just want to come out sometimes and pick up litter, or some kind of beautification like gardening, I think it helps the whole team grow together," said Sundberg.



Philip Siu waters his herb garden at the Far East District compound, April 29. (Photo by Antwaun Parrish)

He encouraged Siu who was having a bit of an issue with his at home garden due to its unnatural environment.

"There were a few bugs in the plants and there are no natural predators for these bugs in my apartment so Bob [Sundberg] suggested I bring them [the plants] to the compound," said Siu.

When the plants were in Siu's apartment initially they weren't getting enough sunlight so he purchased a grow light. Although this light helped keep the plants alive, Siu said his garden is flourishing much better since being in the natural light of the compound. His garden mostly consists of herbs, due to his love for cooking and decided in order to have the freshest herbs he should grow them himself.

Although watermelon is typically planted in the ground, Siu decided to

plant his in a pot. Unsure of the outcome, he is excited to see what becomes of his unconventional method of watermelon growing.

"I want to see if I can break through that mentality," said Siu. "If I give it a lot of fertilizer, will it grow just as well as if it was in the ground?"

He added that his garden at the compound has definitely given his coworkers something to talk about.

"They can come out here look at it and enjoy it as long as they don't destroy the plants," he chuckled.

If you're located at the district compound please take a moment to check out the gardening area located next to the Office of Counsel, if not, start a garden of your own and see if the green thumb will spread throughout your community.

# District supports STEM activities



Volunteers from the Far East District's Korea Program Relocation Office (KPRO) and the Construction Surveillance Resident Office held a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) event at Humphreys Central Elementary School April 25. This program partners the Corps of Engineers with the Department of Defense Dependent Schools, or DoDDS, Korea promoting STEM. (Photos by Jennifer Moore)

1st Lt. Jae You of the Far East District Central Resident Office participated in a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math program for students at Osan American Elementary School on March 30. He discussed the principles and fundamentals of the energy conservation and also investigated motion and factors that affect an object in motion. 1st Lt. You provided miniature prototypes of hovercraft and magnetic levitation train as visual training aids for the students. (Photos by Suyoun Kim)



## USFK Operations Center

Construction start: May 2013  
Expected Completion Date: Early 2021

USFK Operations Center will serve as the operational hub for United States Forces Korea's Joint Staff elements and Component Commands. Construction is 23 percent complete.



## Communications Center

Construction start: July 2013  
Expected Completion Date: Early 2019

The communication center is the "primary" Main Communication Node (MCN) and access point into the Global Information Grid (GIG) on USAG Humphreys. Construction is 79 percent complete.



## Medical and Dental Complex

Construction start: November 2012  
Expected Completion Date: TBD

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



## 2nd Infantry Division Headquarters

Construction start: April 2014  
Expected Completion Date: Middle 2018

The 2nd Infantry Division's new headquarters will include an operations center, network operations center, administrative facilities and a parade ground. Construction is 84 percent complete.

# ARMY

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 April. The commissary and the main exchange are also nearing completion with both 85 percent finished. The 2nd Infantry Division headquarters building is 84 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 99 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 22 percent complete and design work is now 15 percent completed on a Soldier support center.



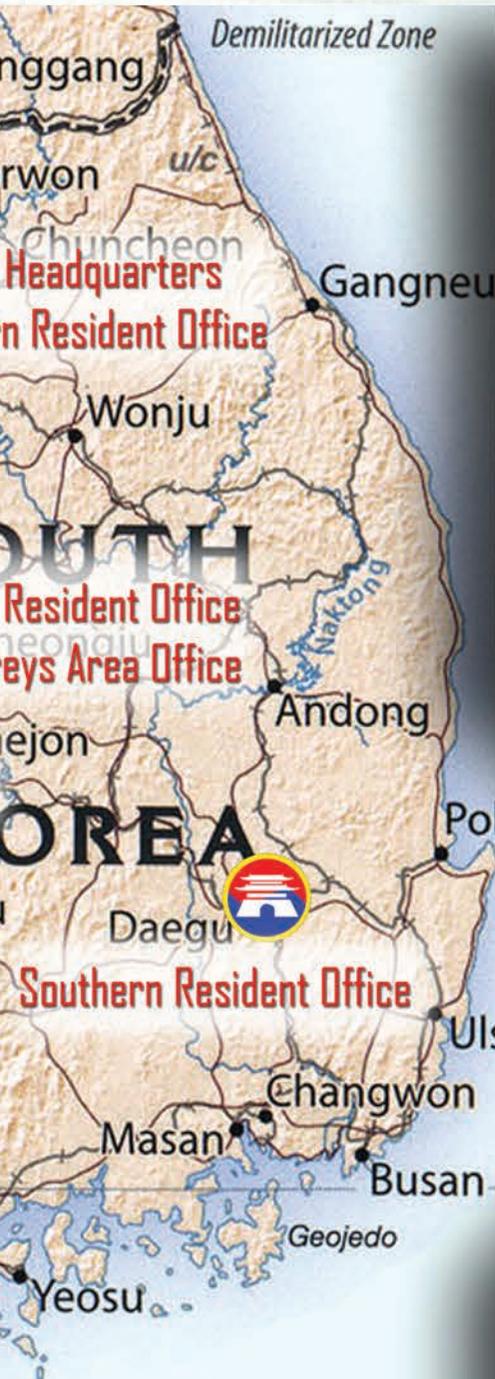
Air Force projects at the Far East District mostly are centered at Osan and Kunsan Air Bases, with operational and quality of life facilities in design and under construction. Work continues on a hospital addition/alteration which is 83 percent completed and construction work on an aircraft corrosion control facility is 99 percent completed. The design work for an air freight terminal facility is 100 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 56 percent completed, while construction on a new commercial gate is 24 percent completed. Design work at the base includes upgrading the fire suppression system which is 90 percent completed.

# AIR FORCE

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District



Project  
Summary



# MARINE CORPS

The Far 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 39 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 100 percent complete. Also at Camp Mujuk construction on the first of three Life Support Area (LSA) barracks is 13 percent completed on pier 11 which is 100 percent complete.



The Far East District is completing an earthquake assessment on the recently completed U.S. Naval Forces Korea headquarters in Busan. The facility, which was completed last February, was affected by a 5.8 magnitude earthquake in the region on last September. The facility is housing U.S. Navy personnel who previously worked at U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan in Seoul. Also at Busan, design work on upgrading the communication system on pier 8 is 95 percent complete. At Fleet Activities Chinhae, construction on a consolidated communications facility is now 100 percent completed. Projects under design at Chinhae include an indoor training pool which is 90 percent completed and upgrading the electrical system on pier 11 which is 100 percent complete.

## Groups of Engineers Far East District

Update  
October 2017



# NAVY

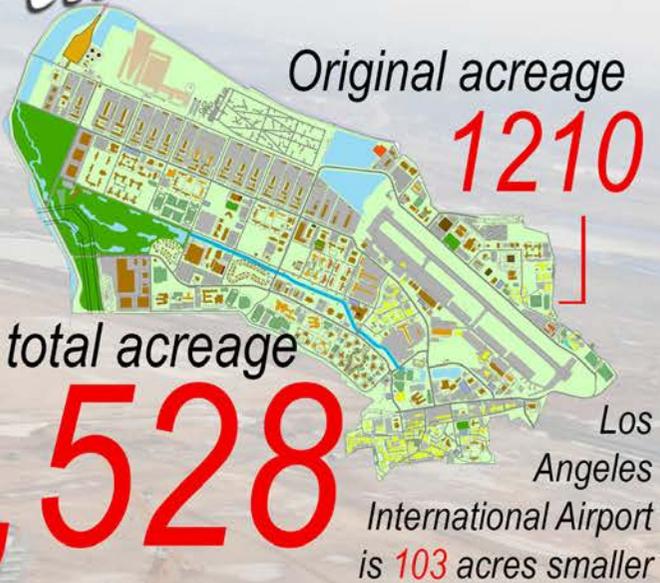
# Korea Relocation Program

U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys

## By the Numbers



**77**  
Percentage of completion  
for the entire program



**655** buildings done, under construction or planned.

The number of buildings being demolished is

**339**

More than **40** miles of water piping has been installed and tested in the new land. Another **40** miles of new roads will be built. Total miles of cabling installed is

**988**



New total acreage

**3,528**

**\$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.

Enough fill is in place to fill the old Yankees baseball stadium about **5** times over

# The Far East District celebrates Engineer Day, June 9



# Camp Humphreys soon to open new learning facility

By Antwaun J. Parrish  
FED Public Affairs

**A** new elementary school will soon open up at Camp Humphreys. The school is part of many projects that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District is building within the area that will serve as the new headquarters for the United States Forces Korea.

Construction for the school began in June 2013 and was established for design construction agent (DCA) acceptance in Feb. 2017.

Myles Esmele, project engineer from the family housing resident office, worked as the project engineer for the development of the facility. He joined the project midway and felt a sense of accomplishment as the school was ready to be handed over to the Department of Defense Educational Activity.

“I felt immersed in all aspects of it and of course I had a vested interest in the completion of the school,” said Esmele. “There’s no better feeling to see all the work you put into the project come to fruition as you’re handed the signed 1354

from real property.”

The project took a little more than four years to complete and during that time a few challenges arose.

“One of the challenges was getting into the project mid-stride; it’s common in overseas districts that many construction project delivery teams (PDTs) have members that come and go and I was no exception,” said Esmele. “So on top of getting up to speed on the existing challenges, I had to prepare for any issues to come.”

The school completion was delayed due to variances in regulations between the two nations.

“Many of the comments mentioned in the inspection reports were related to several differences between Korean and American construction practices and it’s those small distinctions that can hold up turnover.”

Esmele said state-of-the-art equipment including smart boards, projectors and audio-visual equipment will also serve the student’s educational needs as the population at Camp



*The newly built Humphreys West Elementary School is scheduled to be ready for new students by June 2017, photo taken March 29, 2017. (Photo by Antwaun Parrish)*

Humphreys increases. The school is able to house about 875 students according to Esmele.

“Aside from accommodating a larger amount of students, it’s the capability to enroll in different schools,” said Esmele. “It may or may not happen at the K-6 level, but having friendly competition in sporting events down the line is a welcome notion.”

The turnover of the elementary school wasn’t done by

any single person’s effort said Esmele.

“I’d just like to thank the entire PDT [Project Delivery Team], including former members for their contributions to a fantastic school.”

The school is scheduled to be ready for students by June 2017.

## Humphreys dental clinic opens



*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District commander Col. Stephen Bales (second from left) and Korea Program Relocation Office chief Dr. Thomas Karnowski (far left) attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Carius Dental Clinic at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys May 30. The approximately 40,000 square foot, state of the art clinic is the largest of its kind in the Army. Carius Dental Clinic has 79 dental treatment rooms and is designed to offer a complete range of oral health services to Soldiers, Civilians and other eligible beneficiaries. Building Strong in Korea! (Photo by USAG Humphreys Public Affairs Office)*

# New range complex nears completion

**By Antwaun Parrish**  
FED Public Affairs

**W**arfighters assigned to Osan Air Base will soon have a new facility to improve their marksmanship.

The Far East District Central Resident Office is providing construction surveillance on a 1,710 square meter fully contained small arms range complex. It will utilize conventional design and construction methods that will accommodate the 51st Fighter Wing's mission, operations and activities.

Some of the upgrades to the site are vehicle parking areas, an access road, and sidewalks. Three old facili-

ties are being demolished as a part of the upgrades.

Daniel Koo, Central Resident Office Project Engineer, is currently leading this project and said the range will offer a multitude of ways to help maintain servicemembers weapons qualifications.

"The old one did not have enough target lanes, this one will provide 14 lanes," said Koo.

Besides the 14 lanes the facility will also include a classroom, weapons cleaning area and supporting areas.

This is Koo's first time working on a small arms range and he said he is quite pleased with the progress so far.

"I am pretty happy, because there have been no accidents and the contractors are really doing well," said Koo. "The commander visited last month and he saw the current work and he was pretty happy."

The final inspection date for the small arms range is scheduled for late summer.



*Pictured is Building 2506 located at Osan Air Base. This facility will be the new fully contained small arms range complex expected to be completed this summer. (FED file photo)*



The U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys MEDS 50 Troop Medical and Dental Clinic was transferred and signed as real property to USAG Humphreys Department of Public Works, effective March 24. The project was completed thanks to the efforts of the Medical Resident Office. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)



Far East District central resident office hosted a tour for 8 students from Osan American Middle School on May 25. Students were provided a presentation on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) by resident engineers Lt. Jae You, Daniel Koo, Yi Chang-hun, and Frank Meleton. They also toured the Pacific House Dining Facility repair and renovation project site. (Photo by Frank Meleton)



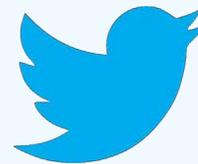
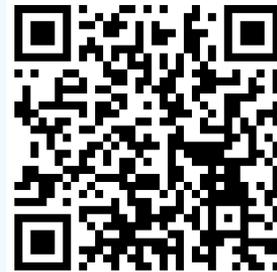
Master Sgt. Kimberly King, Far East District operations non-commissioned officer in charge, works diligently during the Eighth Army Focused Passage 2017 exercise held at Seoul American High School Falcon Gym June 5-9. Focused Passage is a noncombatant evacuation operation (NEO) exercise that the Far East District participates in to validate NEO readiness of its personnel and families. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)

# SOCIAL MEDIA

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US Army Corps of Engineers  
Far East District



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# 사령관 코너

**By Col. Stephen H. Bales**  
FED Commander

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극동공병단같이 우수한 조직을 테레사 솔로서 대령에게 이임할 준비를 하면서 마지막으로 다시 한번 여러분께 감사 인사를 드리겠습니다. 제가 사령관으로 부임한 지난 2년동안 여러분들 모두 저에게 잊지 못할 추억을 만들어주셨습니다. 미 육군 극동공병단 사령관으로 여러분과 함께 근무할 수 있었던 것이 저에게는 멋진 기회였고 특권이었으며 행운이라고 생각합니다.

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2015년 7월 이.취임식때 말씀드린 것처럼 제가 중요하게 생각하는 것은 이전과 변함없이 저의 믿음, 가족 그리고 업무입니다. 말씀드린 순서대로 우선순위가 항상 일치하지는 않았지만 작년 내내 이처럼 실현하려 노력했습니다. 제가 약속드렸듯이 복무하는 동안에 저는 여러분 모두 개인적으로 또는 전문적으로 목표를 달성하는데 도움을 주고 공병단을 이끌기 위해 항상 최선을 다했으며 동시에 우리가 임무를 완수하도록 했습니다.

지난 2년 동안 저는 너무 많은 것을 배웠

고 이 배움은 다음 임무를 수행할 때 뿐만 아니라 앞으로 살아가는데 매우 큰 도움이 될 것이라 생각합니다. 사령관으로 복무하면서 새로운 차원의 인내심을 배웠습니다. "덩쿨에 들어가려는 [문제를 자세히 들여다보는]" 저의 성향이 때론 부족하거나 과했을 때도 있었지만 공병단의 리더들과 직원들이 항상 옳은 결정을 할 것이라 항상 믿었습니다. 난방, 환기 및 냉방(HVAC), 특수정보시설 (SCIF) 건설, 콘크리트 포장, 건축 공학, 그리고 엔지니어 관리에 대해 기대 이상으로 많이 배웠습니다. 또한 대한민국 파트너와의 관계 형성과 유지의 중요성에 대해 더욱 깊이 이해할 수 있었습니다. 우리는 진심으로 "같이 갑시다"를 실현하고 있습니다. 여러분도 "자신과 조직의 보다는 내일을 위해 노력하자"라는 배움을 얻으셨을 것이라 생각합니다.

이.취임식 직후 존 피바디 소장님으로부터 축하 편지를 받았습니다. 편지에 "긍정적인 업적을 남겨 대대로 기억되는 사람이 되라"라는 문장이 저를 도전하게 했습니다. 저는 매일 이런 사람이 되려 노력했습니다. 훗날 공병단의 성공을 이야기할 때 저의 긍정적인 업적이 그 중 하나로 기억되길 바랍니다. 여러분들도 공병단의 현재 그리고 미래 역사의 "긍정적인 업적"을 남긴 사람이 되도록 도전해 보시기를 바랍니다.

2년 동안 저와 제 가족에게 많은 도움 주셔서 감사드리고 여러분 모두 개인적으로나 전문적으로나 성공하시길 바라겠습니다. 여러분의 사령관으로써 여러분의 기대에 부응하였기를 바랍니다.



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**A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE**



**9 June 2017**

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FAR EAST DISTRICT**