The Ulchi Freedom-Guardian (UFG) 2017 military exercise transpired Aug. 21-31 in the Republic of Korea with components of both the US Army and ROK military directly supporting our long-standing alliance. The Far East District took part in this year’s exercise by supporting Forward Engineer Support Teams (FEST) currently deployed here.

Mitchel Glen, the field force engineering program manager and military planner for Pacific Ocean Division (POD), explained in detail the work that the FEST teams have been conducting thus far.

“This year each of the FEST teams have a Republic of Korea-Defense Installation Agency (ROK-DIA) FEST leader working with them,” said Glen. “The FEST leader will alternate which one of his civilians from his office that he brings.”

Glen stated that this situation is good for both parties as it helps them to learn how to work with an engineer that operates differently.

“So they’re exposed to what we do and how our FEST teams work and the type of questions we ask,” said Glen.

Cpt. Wayne Brown, district plans officer, explained in more detail how the district and the FEST team participation contributes to the overall success of the exercise.

“Each exercise grows and the fidelity of it gets a lot clearer because in a contingency or wartime the engineers are responsible for an endless amount of things,” said Brown.

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(above) Maj. Gen. James T. “Jim” Walton, Director of Restationing with U.S. Forces Korea (second from left), Col. Thomas Tickner, Pacific Ocean Division commander (far left), Col. Teresa Schlosser, Far East District commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Yolanda Tate, Pacific Ocean Division command sergeant major (third from left) review construction progress at Camp Humphreys one stop processing center facility Aug. 23. The Far East District is overseeing construction on the facility as well as numerous other projects on U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys. USAG Humphreys is currently home to one of the largest transformation, re-stationing and construction projects in Department of Defense history. (Photos by Stephen Satkowski)
“The Far East District is in a unique role because it’s responsible for a lot of construction on the peninsula. During a contingency that role will completely change to a wartime mission. So it’s like being prepared on two fronts, having two missions at the same time.”

According to Brown, there’s a lot of coordination that takes place prior to the exercise within the district operations. “What makes this district unique is the combination of US Army service members working closely with our civilian counterparts. Each bringing a unique skill-set to the table, thus making our agency that much more effective.”

“It’s a lot of coordination that takes place and we’re such a small staff that we’re always doing something,” said Brown. “We’re always trying to support somebody or asking for support from the various divisions.”

Brown states that the biggest take away is that it takes a lot of people and pieces to make it a successful exercise.

The 62nd FEST-A from Anchorage, Alaska, is one of the FEST teams supporting the district during the exercise. Maj. John Hammett, 62nd FEST-A team officer in charge (OIC), said he is proud of all the Soldiers and their contributions to the mission here.

“I think that right now we are well ahead of where we need to be and as OIC it makes me a little less stressed,” said Hammett. “We had an in progress review with the customer this morning and they are pleased with what we have done so far and now we have to finalize our product and present it to the customer and that will be a wrap.”

Hammett expressed his gratitude to the district and stated that its assistance has been instrumental to his team’s success.

“When we arrived, they welcomed us with open arms,” said Hammett. “Without them we would have had to work a lot harder in order to be successful. I think the Far East District has been great.”
It’s not often that you get to witness the grand opening of a brand new school. As one can imagine, it’s an exciting occasion, for everyone. This was the case with the Daegu Middle High School which celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony that was appropriately held inside the brand new building, August 24. The school is located in Camp Walker, Daegu, Korea.

“Today we continue the rich tradition that has been Taegu American School, Daegu American School, and now Daegu Middle High School,” said Altorn Grade, DMHS principal. “This school has been in many locations and in many configurations. At one time we were the TAS Tigers. We are now the Warriors and we carry the name with pride, from posthumous Medal of Honor recipient, Charles George. We are developing future warriors to be college and career ready, socially responsible, and to flourish in a global community.”

The new school is a split level two story, DoDEA 21st Century Middle/High School that encompasses 142,583 square feet. DMHS’ construction began almost three years ago, September 2014 and was completed June 26, 2017.

“This day has been eagerly anticipated by our entire community,” said Maj. Gen. John P. Sullivan, the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command’s commanding general. “I would submit that, as you look around this tremendous facility, it was well worth the wait. The completion of this project is the result of much vision, planning, and hard work.”

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DMHS will provide adequate academic facilities for 525 students in grades six to 12. The school includes site improvements such as visitor’s and staff parking, bus drop-off with covered walkway, landscaping, bicycle racks, artificial turf playing field, marquee board, flagpoles, exterior lighting, and utility service connections. Additionally, it has common areas with multipurpose gathering spaces, food service dining hall, and a dedicated performance space.

“As you look around Area IV, you can see a transformation taking place with the ongoing construction of the first two of what will be four housing towers here at Camp Walker,” said Sullivan. “New barracks and headquarters facilities at Camp Carroll, Waegwan, this new Middle/High School, and a new elementary School that is in the planning stages. All these new projects represent vast improvements in our quality of life here in area IV, as well as our strong commitment to the ROK-U.S. alliance.”

“Next week about 300 hundred students will begin walking our halls,” said Grade. “If needed, over 500 students can easily fit into this new 21st Century Facility. Classrooms are now studios and neighborhoods that are places where students take their learning to higher levels. Trust, respect and responsibility are themes that will permeate our focus and vision.”

Both Sullivan and Grade expressed their most sincere gratefulness to all those who were involved in making this project come to fruition. They both also thanked the many distinguished visitors who made the trip to be present during the ceremony.

Among the many present at the ceremony were, DoDEA Pacific West Superintendent Dr. Judith Allen, United States Forces Korea Director for Re-Stationing Maj. Gen. James Walton, Daegu City Vice Mayor Mr. Yoo, Jun-ha, Namgu District Mayor Mr. Yim, Byung-heon and the 19th ESC Cultural Advisors, Dr. Kim, Ik-dong, Mr. Sammy Shin, Mr. Kim, Byung-chan, Mr. Seo, Sang-si, and Dr. Kim, Bum-dae.

After the official ceremony was over, Principal Grade took many of the distinguished visitors for a tour around the new school.
Home is where the heart is: From Helena to Seoul, Montanans never forget their roots

By Antwaun J. Parrish
FED Public Affairs

More than 9,000 miles away from a city with a population of 31,000 people, two United States Army Colonels from the same hometown, working in the same technical field and similar positions, cross paths yet again.

Col. Teresa Schlosser, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District commander, and Col. Andrew “Andy” Liffring, Eighth Army assistant chief of staff engineer, are natives of Helena, Mont., and although they both are senior ranking officers their small town Montana roots keep them grounded.

“Helena is a town where you know everybody, and it’s pretty cool,” said Liffring. “It produces people with high values similar to those in the Army such as honesty, trust, and loyalty.”

After both attending high school in Helena and completing their college educations, they first reunited in the Engineer Officer Basic Course. More than a decade later they would eventually attend the U.S. Army War College together.

“When I saw her at Army War College, I knew exactly who she was,” said Liffring.

Liffring came to Korea this summer and succeeded Schlosser as Eighth Army assistant chief of staff engineer. So how did these two Montanans end up in the same country and same position? Well, it wasn’t by chance. Schlosser called Liffring to take over once she moved to the Far East District.

“She called and told me the challenges here at Eighth Army,” said Liffring. “This has been one of the most intellectually stimulating jobs I’ve ever held and one of the best in the Army.”

Liffring described their working relationship as cooperative. He also emphasized that the culture in Montana is to be thankful for each individual’s career success.

“It’s a hard work culture state which fits in the military,” said Liffring. “Our career achievements are a great example of our school system, culture, values, and community of Montana.”

Recalling the reunion with Liffring at the U.S. Army War College, Schlosser said she initially failed to remember him after so much time had passed since the Basic Course.

“In Carlisle Barracks, Young Hall you have 26 colonel families living in this one building,” said Schlosser. “So Andy was there as a geographical bachelor and he moved in next door to us with another geographical bachelor. We went in to say hello and meet the new neighbors, and as I walk in the door, he says, ‘you’re Teresa Schlosser’. Then he said, we went to the basic course together. To some extent it’s easier for guys to remember the women, because there were only two or three of us at the basic course.”

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Schlosser knew that she would only be at Eighth Army for one year and would take command of the Far East District in her next assignment. She wanted input in who succeeded her and in no time she immediately knew that Andy was the right fit for the position.

“He has the right construction background, engineering background, disposition,” said Schlosser. “This is the job he’s built for.”

Schlosser said whenever she leaves she wants to ensure her subordinates are taken care of and she knew that Liffring would do just that and be a great battle buddy for her while she’s in command at the District.

“Because Eighth Army is one of my biggest customers,” said Schlosser. “It benefits me and the district if I know I have this great guy over there who knows his stuff.”

The Army is the largest branch in the armed services with people stationed in locations all over the globe. The fact that two colonels from the same small hometown end up as close colleagues is extremely rare. Schlosser said the longer you stay in the Army you begin to realize one thing.

“The Army becomes a smaller place.”
Far East District Kunsan resident office engineers inspected concrete placement of a hardened aircraft flow through shelter Aug. 1. Concrete placement for this project requires 110 trucks of concrete which takes around 18-20 hours. A total of 10 shelters will be constructed at Kunsan Air Base. (FED file photos)

In continued support of the district’s relocation efforts supply branch personnel are conducting inventory and affixing bar tags to all FED Compound furniture. The Supply Branch is expected to complete the inventory of all furniture before the motor pool begins the relocation to Camp Humphreys in early 2018. Additionally, in order to reduce the amount of materiel and documents during the relocation to Camp Humphreys, supply and facilities personnel are shredding unneeded documents. This effort is monumental in that there are decade’s worth of documents to be shredded. Every division and office in FED will continue to coordinate with the supply branch to destroy outdated records prior to relocation to Camp Humphreys. (FED file photos)
Women’s Equality Day is a day set aside to mark the anniversary of the constitution’s 19th amendment: “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.”

This year marks the 97th anniversary of the 19th amendment. To mark the occasion Eighth Army and U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys hosted a Women’s Equality Day Panel Discussion. The panel consisted of nine women, both service members and civilians from an array of various backgrounds. Four of the panelists represented the Far East District (FED), including FED commander Col. Teresa Schlosser, as well as FED employees Jisun Kang, Mia Dukuly and Eman Sundquist.

The panel was asked a series of questions about their careers including what challenges they faced along the way.

Dukuly, who has been a project engineer with the Corps of Engineers for the past 15 years, answered several questions and was praised by one of her colleagues in her ability to balance work and her five children. Dukuly said there aren’t many women who work in the construction field and often times she’s felt the need go above and beyond the call of duty.

“In society there has always been this idea of what a woman should be doing,” said Dukuly. “As a woman I often feel that that pressure and I feel that I have to prove myself to my colleagues through training, education, and experience.”

Dukuly’s colleague, Eman Sundquist, shared with the group her admiration of Dukuly as she recently completed her master’s degree while raising her five children. Dukuly emphasized to the audience the amount of time and effort it took her to complete this feat.

“When I married my husband in 2010 he was in the military at the time,” said Dukuly. “Learning how to juggle our lives together and raise a family taught me the keys necessary to handle both my professional and personal life.”

The panel aimed to empower those assembled and listening in the audience as the women highlighted how they work through hardships and faced adversity head on.

“The panel allowed me the chance to get a better idea of the Army side and the challenges women face in the military,” said Dukuly. “There are many similarities between civilians and military women.”

Dukuly said Women’s Equality Day was a way to thank women of the past for their contributions.

“Women’s Equality Day means celebrating the struggles and being grateful for the sacrifice women before me made in standing up for others,” said Dukuly. “Because of their sacrifice I am able to participate in the workforce.”
Special Observances
National Hispanic Heritage Month

By Valerie Bradley
FED Equal Employment Opportunities

The observance recognizing National Hispanic Heritage Month was established by Title 36, U.S. Code, Section 126 and Public Law 100-402. Hispanic Heritage

Each year, Americans observe Hispanic Heritage Month 15 September – 15 October by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. The observance began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 31-day period starting on September 15th and ending on October 15th. The observance is celebrated during this timeframe due to many significant events for various Hispanic communities which fall within the observance period.

Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service. They have enhanced and shaped our national character with centuries-old traditions that reflect the multiethnic and multicultural costumes of their community. The theme for this event changes each year.

The term Hispanic originates from the Latin word Hispania. It was first used by ancient Romans to describe the region of Spain they conquered in the second century B.C. (Leon, 2003). Today the term Hispanic or Latino, refers to a person of Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. On the 2010 Census, people of Spanish, Hispanic, and/or Latino origin could identify themselves as Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or “another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin.”

There are 16 states with at least a half-million Hispanic residents—Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Washington.

The Hispanic population of the United States is projected to grow to 119 million in 2060. According to this projection, the Hispanic population will constitute 28.6 percent of the nation’s population by that date. In 2014, there were 55 million U.S. Hispanics, accounting for 17 percent of the American population (Census.gov, 2015)

Sources:
http://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/about/

Far East District (FED) commander Col. Teresa Schlosser was presented a wooden name plaque from the FED Korean nationals employees union representatives Aug. 4. FED’s total workforce numbers about 500, and over 250 are Korean nationals. Together we are building strong in Korea. (Photo by Richard Byrd)
This month in FED History

- **September** 1983: Three meeting and office buildings in Panmunjom completed.


- 1985: Construction of health and dental clinic at Camp Humphreys began.


- 1987: Yongsan South Post Chapel opened.

- 1997: The Loring Club at Kunsan Air Base completed.

- 1998: FED performed emergency repair of 80 groundwater-drinking wells.

- 2011: Daegu High School at Camp Walker and Camp Casey Elementary School opened.

*(above left) FED’s Foundation and Materials Branch well maintenance team flushes water from well 24 at Camp Hovey and cleans the pipes from the well. (above right) Doug Bliss, Chief, Foundation and Materials Branch, is interviewed by AFKN television about the well maintenance and repairs.*
May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, and now is a great time to evaluate your personal risk for the year ahead.

The U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center has the tools to keep you and your Soldiers safe, both on and off duty. Visit us online at https://safety.army.mil.

So are you ready ... or not?

https://safety.army.mil