



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Far East District

EAST GATE EDITION

DECEMBER 2018 VOL. 27, NO. 15

USACE team takes on historic mission

By Antwaun J. Parrish
FED Public Affairs

Since the signing of an armistice between North and South Korea in 1953, which formally ended the Korean War, the two countries have been at odds. In the past few years, a significant amount of effort has been taken in order to bridge the gap between the two Koreas.

Recently, Kirk Baumann and Tom Meeks, a team from the United States Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE),

Engineering and Support Center, traveled from Huntsville, Alabama to South Korea in order to ensure proper removal of mines located at the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) at the Joint Security Area (JSA). The DMZ is located only 35 miles north of Seoul, which is South Korea's capital city.

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Tom Meeks (far right), a United States Army Corps of Engineers, Huntsville District representative, surveys an area near the South Korea Demilitarized Zone along with Republic of Korea Army engineer soldiers during a clearing mines mission, Oct. 19. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)



(Left) Ken Pickler, Far East District Transportation chief, leaves the FED Seoul compound for the last time Nov. 13. The compound has been transferred to U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan Directorate of Public Works now that the district has completed its move to Camp Humphreys. Pickler had worked out of the compound since arriving there as a Soldier in 1989. (FED file photo)

(Below) Mike Stucky, from Far East District Information Management Office, begins to lower the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Flag on the FED Seoul compound Nov. 8. The compound was turned over Nov. 13 to U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan Directorate of Public Works and will then be officially returned to the Korean government. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)



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

USACE team takes on historic mission

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Vincent Lee, United States Forces Korea (USFK) Theater Master Planner, ensured that operations were synchronized with the JSA Battalion, the Republic of Korea (ROK) engineers conducting the mine clearing mission, and the USACE team ensuring proper processing.

Lee acknowledged, along with many others, that being a part of the DMZ during this historic time is rewarding.

“The two Koreas, through agreements from their leaders, have come together to initiate the steps to demilitarize the JSA and potentially other areas which will further peace between the two Koreas,” said Lee. “This is something that many have tried multiple times to achieve for more than 60 years.”

According to Lee, the ROK Engineer Battalion commander has been cooperative and easy to work with, along with the U.S., United Nations

Command (UNC), and ROK to cooperate with the JSA. He also stated that this mission definitely has built stronger bonds in the way that we do things in our lives, and in our partnership.

Prior to the mine clearing mission of the DMZ, the USACE team conducted training with the ROK Soldiers. Lee stated that all sides who have participated in this operation have learned quite a bit from each other.

“The great thing about this collaborative effort is that we are able to teach the ROK engineers some of our U.S. techniques and procedures,” said Lee. “We are also able to observe some of the techniques of the ROK engineers.”

Kirk Baumann, USACE Engineering and Support Center, stated the mission of clearing mines was a good process with the ROK engineers.

“We haven’t found any UXO [unexploded ordnance] or ERW [explosive remnants of war],” said Baumann.

The mine clearing process is

extremely tedious and one must take extreme caution when digging to search for mines. The team has to continually observe and communicate during this process to ensure everyone’s safety.

Baumann stated that although a translator is used between him and the soldiers, he didn’t have any issues that caused a delay in the mission.

The team worked in a few days to complete the mission and is pleased with what they’ve managed to accomplish.

“The ROK soldiers have been disciplined, helpful and professional,” said Baumann. “The soldiers work hard, if we give advice they take it and implement our suggestions.”

The USACE team is proud to have been selected to work on this mission and takes pride in the work they’ve done in an effort to bridge the two Koreas.

“This opportunity is historic and surreal,” said Baumann.

Republic of Korea engineer soldiers train for a mine clearing mission at the South Korea Demilitarized Zone, Oct. 17. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)

Far East District takes on the Project Management Professional Certification

By 1st Lt. Zachary Hawkins
FED Construction Division

Members of the Family Housing Residence Office (FHRO) and the Program and Project Management Division (PPMD) at Camp Humphreys are taking the extra step to further their careers by preparing to earn their Project Management Professional (PMP) certification.

The PMP is an internationally recognized professional designation offered by the Project Management Institute (PMI). As of March 2018, there are 833,025 active PMP certified individuals and 286 chartered chapters across 210 countries and territories worldwide.

There are many reasons why I am striving to earn the certification. I first heard about the PMP when I was in Engineer Basic Officer Leaders Course (EBOLC). Many of the instructors encouraged the students to earn their PMP while they were an officer because you gain substantial project management experience that you can document when applying to take the exam. With the certification, Army officers can earn the additional skill identifier (ASI) of W5, which opens the door for many unique assignments within the engineer branch and sets you apart from your peers. Once you transition out of the military, or if you are already

not in the military, the PMP makes you more marketable to civilian employers. According to the Project Management Salary Survey, PMP holders earn 17 percent more money than non-PMP holders in the project management field. The education gained by taking the exam will also assist when taking on future projects in my career. No matter how large or how small the project is, I will understand all the necessary resources and skills for successful project management and utilize this knowledge efficiently and effectively.

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(Left to right) Myles Emsele, 1st Lt. Zachary Hawkins, and 1st Lt. Joshua Jang discuss Project Integration Management tools and techniques at the PMP study group on Nov. 20, 2018 to prepare for the PMP exam. (Photo by Velvan Webb)

Far East District takes on the Project Management Professional Certification

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In order to earn your PMP certification, you must first prove that you have project management experience. Although there are many resources out there to help you study for the PMP, nothing will prepare you for the exam more than actual project management experience. For candidates that have a high school diploma or an associate's degree, they must have 60 months and 7,500 hours of project management experience. Candidates that possess a bachelor's degree must have 36 months and 4,500 hours of project management experience. In both cases, candidates must also have 35 contact hours of project management education. After your application is accepted, you should schedule an exam date and develop a study plan. The PMP exam is a 200 question multiple choice, computer based exam in which you have four hours to complete.

Once you pass the exam and receive your PMP certification, you must

earn 60 professional development units (PDUs) every three years, to maintain the certification. There are two types of PDUs that you can earn – Education and Giving Back. Education PDUs are earned through courses or training organization meetings, online or digital media, reading, and informal learning. Giving Back PDUs are attained by working as a practitioner, creating content, giving a presentation, sharing knowledge, or volunteering. You must earn a minimum of 35 Education PDUs and are only allowed to earn a maximum of 25 Giving Back PDUs.

Candidates without the requisite experience for the PMP can consider the Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM), also from PMI. To apply for the PMP, visit www.pmi.org and create an account. The application for the exam and verification of education and experience can be completed online at the PMI website for free.

The FED PMP study group meets

every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in room G221 on the second floor of the district headquarters building. I encourage anyone that is interested in taking the exam to join the study group. Facilitating group discussions regarding project management experiences, study techniques, and practical exercises can hold you accountable and help you prepare for the exam. For more information on the PMP, go to www.pmi.org/certifications/types/project-management-pmp.

Sources:

www.pmi.org

www.pmitoday-digital.com/pmitoday/march_2018

PMBOK Guide 6th Edition

Rita Mulcahy's PMP Exam Prep, Ninth Edition

Project Management Salary Survey



Brig. Gen. Thomas Tickner (right), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Pacific Ocean Division commanding general, and Col. Teresa Schlosser, USACE, Far East District commander, presents Col. Garrett Cottrell (center), USACE FED deputy commanding officer-Transformation/USDCA, with a meritorious service medal at the district's headquarters, Nov. 15. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)



Contractors work hard to safely complete the AFH100 Family Housing project located at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Nov. 20. First Lt. Zachary Hawkins, a FED project engineer, works alongside the contractors to ensure that they stay as close to schedule as possible and adhere to all necessary protocols. This family housing project consists of three family towers, with three, four, and five bedroom apartments, which will be equipped to handle the influx of Soldiers and their families at Camp Humphreys. This project is expected to be completed sometime in 2021. (Photos by Antwaun J. Parrish)



EEO CORNER

By Valerie Bradley

FED Equal Employment Opportunities Officer

Dear colleagues!

It's that time again. Out with the old, in with the new. New Year 2019 is approaching.

2018 was fantastic; this New Year 2019 will be too. What a great office the USACE FED team has. We all shine so bright. Always working to meet deadlines and keeping our work ethic tight.

I wish that all your dreams may be fulfilled and your days be rich with happiness. May you all be blessed!!!

Happy New Year, 새해 복 많이 받으세요, Bonne Année Feliz Año Nuevo

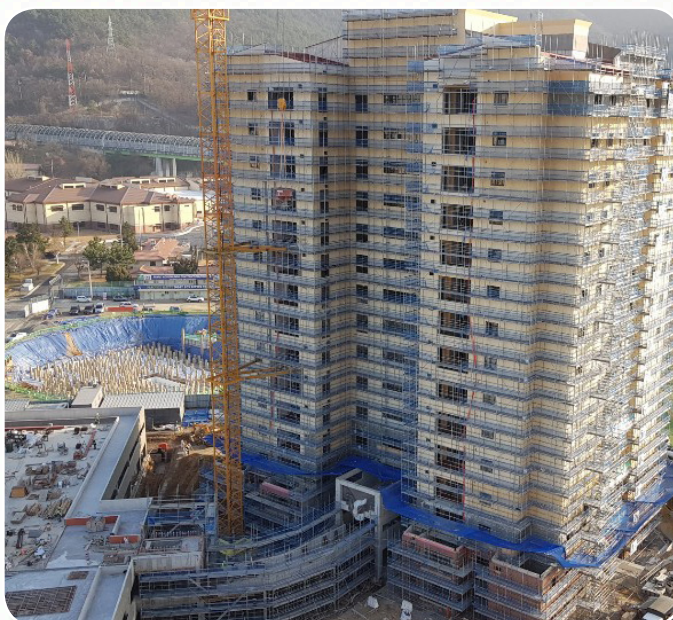


Happy New Year!



(Left) Far East District southern resident office engineers are up to speed to complete one of the family housing towers at Camp Walker. The tower is set to be completed by January 2019 and will enhance quality of life for Soldiers and their families.

(Below) Far East District southern resident office engineers are working to complete another family housing tower at Camp Walker. Our team of engineers, working diligently with our stakeholders, are dedicated to giving U.S. Army Garrison Daegu the best possible facility with which to support the defense of the Republic of Korea. The second tower is set to be completed by April 2019. (Photos by Fernando Miranda)



A COMBAT MEDIC'S RULES TO STAYING SAFE IN THE COLD

SGT. 1ST CLASS MARC KERRIGAN, a combat medic with the Massachusetts Army National Guard, gives these recommendations for playing safe while enjoying the outdoors this winter:



LIMIT EXPOSURE

If you feel cold, head indoors and warm up to prevent cold weather injuries.

LAYER UP

Stay warm and dry. Wearing more layers can help prevent hypothermia and frostbite.

STAY HYDRATED

Even though it's cold outside, your body still needs water to function properly.

<https://safety.army.mil>