



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Far East District

# EAST GATE EDITION

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## More than 60 year history in Seoul comes to a close as FED relocates to Camp Humphreys

By Antwaun J. Parrish  
FED Public Affairs

**A**fter a week of cloudy days and rain, the sun shined bright over the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District (FED) compound as many employees, guests, and friends of the district gathered to commemorate a monumental event in the district's history.

The FED held a colors casing ceremony Aug. 31 to mark the closing of the district's headquarters in Seoul (Dongdaemun) and its relocation 40 miles south to Camp Humphreys.

A casing of the colors is a traditional ceremony when a unit is deactivated or relocates, and is held to commemorate the unit and its history.

After more than 60 years of being nestled in the heart of Seoul, the district has reached its milestone of relocating as a part of the Yongsan Relocation Program which relocates U.S. forces to Camp Humphreys.

Col Teresa Schlosser, FED commander, opened the ceremony by thanking everyone for joining the district for its color casing ceremony.

"The unit's colors represent people, though you can't see all of them today the colors represents all the civilians and Soldiers who have served in the Republic of Korea



*Col. Teresa Schlosser (right), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District commander, and Richard Byrd, FED Deputy District Engineer, rolls the district flag during a colors casing ceremony Aug. 31 to mark the closing of the district's headquarters in Seoul (Dongdaemun) and its relocation 40 miles south to Camp Humphreys. (Photo by Antwaun Parrish)*

(ROK)," said Schlosser. "All volunteers determined, tough, and intelligent.

Schlosser went on to thank the local community for its openness and generosity to FED and the bond they have created throughout its history near the East Gate.

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***U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District Mission Essential Civilians (MEC) and Emergency Essential Civilians (EEC) Nuclear, Biological And Chemical and First-Aid Training held Aug. 21-22, 2018. (Photos by Antwaun Parrish)***



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Check out the Far East District web site at  
[www.pof.usace.army.mil](http://www.pof.usace.army.mil)



## FED relocates to Camp Humphreys

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“We have enjoyed being a part of the Dongdameun community and making kimchi with our neighbors in the fall,” said Schlosser. “Although we are officially moving our headquarters and we are preparing to close our gates in the coming month, Dongdameun and the East Gate will always be a part of our history and we’ll be forever grateful for the friendship and experiences we’ve had here”

The Honorable Seo Yang-ho, Mayor of the Jung-gu district joined the ceremony and also provided remarks. He opened with a light-hearted joke of how all U.S. and ROK military ceremonies are held directly in the sun and how painful it is to sit in the heat.

Seo went on to elaborate on the fellowship of the community alongside the Far East District.

“I would like to express my gratitude to Col. Schlosser. Our relationship between Jung-gu office and FED dates back to 2008 when FED participated in the kimchi making event for those in need in our community,” said Seo. “Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to provide a helping hand.”

The mayor stated his regrets about the relocation but offered encouragement to FED’s future endeavors.

“It’s a shame the FED is relocating to Pyeongteak from Jung-gu, but

I hope that all USFK processes are completed successfully,” said Seo. “I hope that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues strengthening the Korea/U.S. alliance through construction service after relocation and also our relationship will continue.”

Everyone gathered for a reception following the ceremony, and walked together to the East Gate to take a photo in front of this historic landmark that serves as a backdrop to the district’s illustrious history.

An opening ceremony will be held at the district’s new headquarters in autumn.



**Col. Teresa Schlosser (right), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District commander, and the Honorable Seo Yang-ho, Mayor of the Jung-gu district, honor the nation during the playing of the U.S. national anthem during a colors casing ceremony Aug. 31 to mark the closing of the district’s headquarters in Seoul (Dongdaemun) and its relocation 40 miles south to Camp Humphreys. (Photo by Antwaun Parrish)**



# North Atlantic division supports Korea mission during deployment

**By Antwaun J. Parrish**  
FED Public Affairs

A team of personnel collectively from several districts within the North Atlantic Division recently put their technical skills to the test as they worked in various support roles during their deployment to South Korea.

The Forward Engineer Support Team (FEST) deployed this summer for three weeks in support of 8th Army and 19th Engineering Support Company.

Preston Jacka, a structural engineer for the Baltimore district, served as the team leader for the mission due to his technical background,

Jacka explained that he has a background in bridge reconnaissance (recon) which made him an obvious leader for the team since they'd be

conducting work in that technical field.

The team was broken down into two components during their deployment. One site assessment team was responsible for looking at areas around Dageu and Busan area. The other team was assigned to recon area around Camp Humphreys in support of 8th Army.

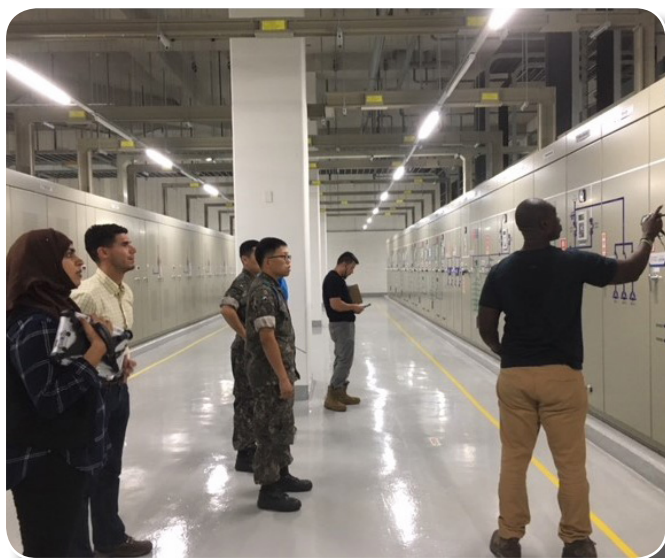
Being that the FEST team is comprised of members from different districts there were a few hurdles to cross but the team managed to successfully work together.

For example, although Jacka has a bridge recon background, many of his teammates do not. Which means that he had to speed them up on all the technical aspects of the mission.

"It's always a little bit of a challenge but several of the team members have been together on past deployments and they have interfaced with each other several times at their own district," said Jacka. "So I'll say that all the team is familiar with each other even if we haven't worked directly together."

Jacka feels that the team's hard work and efforts have contributed to a solid outcome that he and his customers will be pleased to accept.

"We have been hitting our requirements and overcoming a few of the challenges but overall we're getting a good product and we should deliver something that 8th Army can use."



*Several members of the North Atlantic district pose in front of the new port of Busan during their three-week deployment as a Forward Engineer Support Team in support of Eighth Army and 19th Engineering Support Command, Busan, South Korea, Aug. 16, 2018. (Photo by Maj. Christopher George)*



*Several members of the North Atlantic district along with Republic of Korea Soldiers gather data on stadium electrical capacity at the Korean Baseball Champion Samsung Lions' stadium during their three-week deployment as a Forward Engineer Support Team in support of Eighth Army and 19th Engineering Support Command, Dageu, Aug. 18, 2018. (Photo by Maj. Christopher George)*



# **(Body) Building Strong in Korea: FED Soldier captures body building title in U.S. competition**

**By Stephen Satkowski**  
FED Public Affairs

**M**aj. Danny Kang, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District Plans and Operations Officer, took home the overall championship in the Men's Classic Physique at the 2018 Washington State Open Bodybuilding Championships – National Physique Committee (NPC) National Qualifier on Aug. 4, 2018 in Auburn, Washington.

Kang competed in eight different divisions and also took home two 1st place, four 2nd place, one 5th place and one 7th place awards.

During his childhood, Kang was competitive in martial arts and also won many championships, but they didn't mean much to him. He always preferred weight training and started lifting weights in junior high school, and was a huge fan of the top bodybuilders.

Kang describes his lifestyle as spartan or as ground hog day, every day. He wakes up at 4:15 a.m. and begins his training by 5:10 a.m. with his training partner David Jones aka 'Big Oklahoma.' He describes his training sessions as, "a spiritual connection between me and the weights and individual." Kang trains 365 days a year and doesn't adjust for anything or anyone.

"No one misses you at 5 a.m. and training at that time allows me to focus with no distractions," Kang stated.

Kang is coached by professional bodybuilder Derek Aparis out of Federal Way, WA., and checks in with him daily.

Kang stays on a particular diet all year but four months prior to the competition, he put himself on an 18 week prep diet consisting of only lean beef, chicken breast, white fish or pink salmon, broccoli, asparagus and red potato.

"It's easy to get in shape to go to the beach or fit into that nice shirt," said Kang. "However, if you're competing with the best Washington state has to offer, a strict diet and training plan is must. Once you go on stage under those bright lights, people can tell if you truly stuck to your diet and trained hard."



*Maj. Danny Kang, Far East District plans and operations officer, poses during the 2018 Washington State Open Bodybuilding Championships – National Physique Committee National Qualifier on Aug. 4, 2018 in Auburn, Washington. (Photo provided by Maj. Kang)*

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## **(Body) Building Strong in Korea**

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He is now qualified to compete at the national level and plans to do so next year, if it doesn't conflict with his commitments to the Army.

**\*\*Maj. Kang (right)** would like to thank the Far East District Commander Col. Theresa Schlosser (left), for supporting him and allowing him to travel from Korea to compete. He would also like to thank his coach and mentor IFBB Pro Bodybuilder Derek Aparis, his brothers Jonathan and Joey Gallardo, Team Aparis, his wife and son; Alyssa and Jayden and his training partner David Jones aka Big Oklahoma for helping him train.



**Col. Teresa Schlosser (far left), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District (FED) commander, Lt. Col. Dennis McGee (2nd from left), FED deputy commander, and members of the officer professional development group pose in front of the district's headquarters, Seoul, South Korea, Aug. 17. (Photo by O Sang-sung)**



# Work-Life balance: FED Soldier keeping busy during year-long attachment to FED

**By Antwaun J. Parrish**  
FED Public Affairs

**S**taff Sergeant Kyle R. Ashley, a quality assurance representative (QAR) at the southern resident office (SRO), has been attached to the Far East District since the spring of 2018. The job at SRO has kept him quite busy as he ensures the projects he is assigned to comply with quality standards set by the industry.

"I am currently assigned nine projects and the secondary QAR on one project at three different locations (Camp Walker, Camp Henry and Camp Carroll)," said Ashley.

Ashley said this has been one of his best and most rewarding assignments throughout the 13 years he has spent with the Army.

"The one thing I really enjoy about the job aspect is that I am learning a new skill set that I can use when I retire from the Army," said Ashley. "Not only is the job great but I feel that this is a good way to broaden my scope of work and create a stable network by working with an accomplished group of individuals that are more than willing to show me how to complete my job to the best of my ability."

Ashley said the job scope at FED is a lot different than what he is used to being a carpenter. He added that the broadening of his duties and the network of people he has met will only help him down the road in his career.

"I enjoy my job here and maybe someday after I retire come back to work with the Corps of Engineers as a QAR," said Ashley.

Aside from excelling at his job at the Far East District, Ashley also is a bit of an athlete. After arriving in Korea, Ashley made contact with the Area IV softball team and asked to try out.

"I went to the practice and I guess they like what they saw," said Ashley. "I ended up making the team as a utility player but mainly play left or left center."

The regular season consisted of 30 games, five weekends of six games played every other weekend starting in June and ending the second week of August. Ashley said he and a few other teammates typically practice around four times a week concentrating on hitting drills and situational hitting.

"Situation hitting would pertain to a few different things; placement of the defense, do we have any players on the bases and what is the balls and strike count," said Ashley. "We try to have a couple of plans when we come up to the plate instead of just going up there and swinging at a pitch."

Ashley said his goal is to improve his skills as a player in the field and hitting and to get to know other soft-



**Staff Sergeant Kyle R. Ashley, southern resident office quality control representative, poses for a photo before a post softball game at Camp Henry. (FED file photo)**

ball players to expand his network of Soldiers and softball players.

"The one nice thing about playing for a post team as opposed to an intramural team is the level of competition," said Ashley. "Post teams are made up of the best intermural players. I have seen a higher level of skills and have learned more from it."

The post season playoffs are scheduled for later this fall.



# EEO CORNER

**By Valerie Bradley**

FED Equal Employment Opportunities Officer

## **Using Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) To Facilitate Resolution of Workplace Conflict**

Conflict is a constant in the workplace, and if handled in a constructive manner, often has the potential for enhancing work processes and improving working relationships. When conflict becomes disruptive, however, it may be time to seek assistance. Help is available through your Equal Employment Opportunity Office (EEO) and the **Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) program**.

The goal of **ADR** is to resolve disputes and conflicts at the earliest stage feasible, by the fastest and least expensive method possible, and at the lowest achievable organizational level prior to litigation.

**ADR**, commonly referred to as mediation, offers a voluntary and confidential process for facilitating resolution of workplace disputes. In the EEO process, the employee normally initiates the request for mediation. However, management or the employee may initiate a request for mediation for any type of workplace disputes.

Still not sure if it's right for you? Let's take a look at the "Top 5 reasons" mediation is catching on in the workplace: **1)** people are generally more satisfied with resolutions that they develop themselves; **2)** mediation expedites the process, allowing management and employees to resolve issues quickly and reduce production losses; **3)** mediation assists parties to restore or maintain positive working relationships; **4)** mediation is less adversarial than traditional third party resolution and encourages parties to focus on



individual and common interests to reach agreements that meet both parties' needs; and **5)** mediation is a means of significantly reducing the financial liability associated with processing complaints/disputes.

A mediation session involves discussion of the dispute by an employee and his/her management/supervisory official, as opposed to the formal presentation of witnesses and evidence occurring in a trial or other traditional third party process. The session is normally attended by the mediator, the employee and the management/supervisory official, and their representatives.

For more information on the process, **call your servicing EEO office.**

## **Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment (ADAA)**



The Americans with Disability Act (**ADA**) of 1990 offers protection from disability discrimination for American workers. On 25 September 2008 the ADA was amended. The amendment became effective on January 1, 2009. Listed below are the major revisions to the ADAA:

◇ It directs the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to revise that portion of its regulations defining the term "substantially limits";

◇ It expands the definition of "major life activities" by including two non-exhaustive lists: (1) the first list includes many activities that the EEOC has recognized (e.g., walking) as well as activities that EEOC has not specifically recognized (e.g., reading, bending, and communicating); and (2) the second list includes major bodily functions (e.g., "functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions");

◇ It states that mitigating measures (other than "ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses") shall not be considered in assessing whether an individual has a disability;

◇ It clarifies that an impairment that is episodic or in remission is a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active;

◇ It provides that an individual subjected to an action prohibited by the ADA (e.g., failure to hire) because of an actual or perceived impairment will meet the "regarded as" definition of disability, unless the impairment is transitory and minor;

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## EEO Corner

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◇ It provides that individuals covered only under the “regarded as” provision are not entitled to reasonable accommodation; and;

◇ It emphasizes that the definition of “disability” should be interpreted broadly.

For more information on the changes to the Americans with Disability Act, please contact your servicing EEO office.

### **IDENTIFYING AND ELIMINATING WORKPLACE HARASSMENT**

Harassment is unwelcome conduct that is based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, and/or age.

Harassment becomes unlawful whenever:

- 1) Enduring the offensive conduct becomes a condition of continued employment, or
- 2) The conduct is severe or per-

vasive enough to create a work environment that a reasonable person would consider intimidating, hostile, or abusive.

Anti-discrimination laws also prohibit harassment against individuals in retaliation for filing a discrimination charge, testifying, or participating in any way in an investigation, proceeding, or lawsuit under these laws; or opposing employment practices that they reasonably believe discriminate against individuals, in violation of these laws.

Offensive conduct may include, but is not limited to, offensive jokes, slurs, epithets or name calling, physical assaults or threats, intimidation, ridicule or mockery, insults or put-downs, offensive objects or pictures, and interference with work performance.

**Prevention** is the best tool to eliminate harassment in the workplace. Employees are encouraged to inform the harasser directly that the conduct is unwelcome and must stop. However, employees may also discuss

the concerns with their supervisor or the appropriate EEO Office at an early stage to prevent its escalation.

**Harassment can include assaults or threats, intimidation, ridicule or mockery, insults or put-downs, offensive objects or pictures, and interference with work performance.**

Employees may also contact their servicing EEO Office to report **harassing behavior** and/or to seek assistance on resolving **potentially harassing incidents**.



**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division Command Sgt. Maj. Patrickson Touissant (fourth to the left), and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division Public Affairs Officer Ana Allen (far left) meet with members of the Far East District team during their visit to Korea on Aug. 28. They were provided with an overview of the FED program and also visited construction sites during their stay. (Photo by Seukhwan Son)**

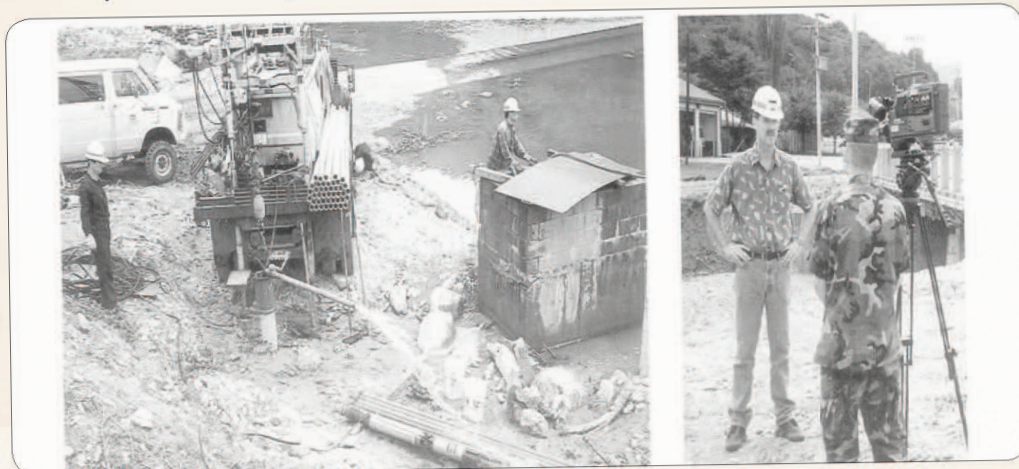


## *This month in FED History*

- **September** 1983: Three meeting and office buildings in Panmunjom completed.
- 1985: Construction of Rodriguez Range in Yongpyong began.
- 1985: Construction of health and dental clinic at Camp Humphreys began.
- 1987: US Navy Chief Petty Officers' Club named as "Turtle Cove" opened at Chinhae Naval Base.
- 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.



US Navy Chief Petty Officers' Club at Chinhae Naval Base



(above left) FED's Foundation and Material Branch well maintenance team flushes water from well 24 at Camp Hovey and cleans the pipes from the well. (above right) Doug Bliss, Chief, Foundations and Materials Branch, is interviewed by AFKN television about the well maintenance and repairs.

**SUICIDE  
PREVENTION  
MONTH**  
SEPTEMBER 2018

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