



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Far East District

# EAST GATE EDITION

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## Col. Crary receives Korean name at friendship ceremony

By Antwaun J. Parrish  
FED Public Affairs

**T**he Republic of Korea-U.S. Alliance Friendship Association presented a Korean name to Col. Christopher Crary, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District commander, during a ceremony held at the Korea Ministry of National Defense convention center on Nov. 14.

The Korean name selected by the association for Crary is Ko Young-soo, which according to Woo Hyun-cuy, the association's chairwoman, originates from the Pyeongtaek area.

"I think that is fitting, since I am the first FED commander to begin his command at our new home on Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek," said Crary. "Our new home enables us to be closer to some of our biggest projects on the installation, as we provide oversight and construction surveillance for thousands of projects for U.S. Forces Korea, as well as our host nation projects."

Yong-soo is a combination of the Chinese character Young meaning commanding and Soo meaning leader, signifying his leadership as the FED commander overseeing U.S. Forces Korea facilities to defend the peninsula in time of war and maintain peace in the peninsula.

Crary stated that he feels this name is appropriate as he is humbled to lead an organization, with what he think is the most dedicated workforce in all of United States Forces Korea.

The association presented Crary with a plaque bearing his Korean name, Young-soo and its meaning, emphasizing the continued efforts of the U.S. Forces Korea relocation projects and strengthening of the alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States.

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**Col. Christopher Crary (right), United States Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District commander, receives an official plaque describing his Korean name, Ko Young-soo, from The Republic of Korea-U.S. Alliance Friendship Association, during his Korean Naming ceremony held at the Korea Ministry of National Defense convention center, Nov. 14. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)**






*Far East District employees gathered together to celebrate Thanksgiving at Camp Humphreys FED Headquarters Nov. 27. (Photos by O Sang Song)*



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**District Commander**  
Col. Christopher W. Crary

**Public Affairs Officer**  
Stephen Satkowski

**Public Affairs Staff**  
Antwaun J. Parrish  
Kim Chong-yun  
Yi Yong-un

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



# 51st Medical Group hosts ribbon-cutting celebrating expansion, renovation

By Antwaun J. Parrish  
FED Public Affairs

**A**fter five years the fourth and final phase of a construction and renovation project for the 51st Medical Group is now complete.

A ribbon cutting was held to mark the completion of this major expansion and renovation project, Nov. 26. Col. Christopher Crary, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District provided remarks during the event.

“The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District is proud to be a part of this day as we cut the ribbon on this new and improved facility,” said Crary. “We’ve overseen changes that will greatly improve the quality of life for those individuals who will work here and the individuals in their medical care.”

The FED along with USACE, South-West Little Rock, were in charge

of providing government oversight and being the contracting agent for this military construction (MILCON) project.

The facility was originally constructed in 1988, and through four phases has received a new addition and a series of upgrades.

Phase 1, completed in 2016, relocated medical assets closer to the hospital with a warehouse addition. Phase 2, completed in 2017, moved the physical therapy wing in to a new 12,000 sq. ft. space. Phase 4, completed in 2018, realigned the dental department with two oral surgery rooms, and merged the entire department into one area. Phase 4 included the general surgery and orthopedic department receiving a five patient bed clinic. Also, the multi-inpatient wing doubled their inventory from 13 to 23 patient beds.

“This hospital is just the latest example of the many collaborative efforts we have here on the peninsula,” said Crary. “In this case, teaming up with the Air Force in making this hospital one of the most comprehensive medical facilities in the U.S. military overseas.”

As service members and their families continue to relocate to Korea, the FED continues to support operations on the peninsula and provide engineering solutions.

“I have no doubt this world-class facility will provide a truly caring and hospitable environment for service-members who will need care for many years to come,” said Crary.

**Col. Christopher Crary, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Far East District (FED) commander, along with other distinguished guests, participate in the 51st Medical Group Hospital expansion and renovation ribbon cutting ceremony, Osan Air Base, South Korea, Nov. 26. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)**





# FED operations focuses on district readiness

By Antwaun J. Parrish  
FED Public Affairs

**T**he U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District supports the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK), United Nations Command (UNC), and the Combined Forces Command (CFC) by responding to peninsula-wide requirements for construction, engineering and field force engineering capabilities during contingency exercises and operations.

The district is expected to rapidly transition from armistice to wartime operations. Also, the district is to ex-

ecute non-combatant evacuation operation and contingency construction list projects throughout the Korea theater of operations (KTO) to enable reception, staging, on-ward movement, and integration of deploying combat forces and support USFK operations.

Unit readiness is essential to operations within the Far East District, and is a vital aspect of the district's mission.

"Readiness here on the peninsula is preparing for contingency operations,

and engaging with the workforce to get them to understand what would happen," said Lt. Col. Daniel Clevenger, deputy of district operations. "It [readiness] affects the rest of USACE because I believe it's a bit more involved than what other operations look like today, so the rest of USACE tries to help in case that type of mission would come to fruition."

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**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District, Emergency Essential Civilian (EEC) personnel and Mission Essential Civilian (MEC) personnel, practice unit chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) defense, during the district's EEC training held at the Vehicle Maintenance Facility, Camp Humphreys, South Korea. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)**



## **FED operations focuses on district readiness**

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The FED has two select groups of personnel, known as emergency essential civilian (EEC) personnel and mission essential civilian (MEC) personnel. The EEC personnel are comprised of Department of the Army civilians (DAC), whereas MEC is comprised of Korean Local-National employees.

“During contingency operations the EEC and MEC will stay here and conduct mission essential functions,” said Clevenger. “We provide basic military tasks and skills training for these personnel twice-a-year.”

The district operations team en-

sures that the EEC and MEC personnel are trained in accordance with Army Regulation (AR) 350-1. They are required to maintain and understand technical tasks such as field first aid, and unit chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) Defense.

Personnel not assigned as EEC or MEC also serve an important role and must ensure they are up to date with their readiness as well. Non-essential emergency personnel must maintain documentation for themselves and their family and be prepared to leave their home and process through non-

emergency essential operations (NEO) at a moment’s notice.

“Neo wardens play an important role during contingency operations and being able to process non-emergency essential personnel to leave the peninsula,” said Clevenger. “It’s important for everyone to know the NEO process.”

Clevenger went on to state that the more familiar personnel are on the district’s mission, they become more involved, and always willing to share input on how things could be better, it will help the organization’s readiness overall.



***U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District, Emergency Essential Civilian (EEC) personnel and Mission Essential Civilian (MEC) personnel, practice first-aid techniques during the district’s EEC training held at the Vehicle Maintenance Facility, Camp Humphreys, South Korea. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)***



## Col. Crary receives Korean name at friendship ceremony

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“While I am humbled to be in a group of distinguished Americans who have received traditional Korean names, I also realize that the entire Far East District family is being recognized for their excellence, commitment and partnership with the Republic of Korea,” said Crary.

Crary and his wife were both present for this honorary

ceremony, and they shared their appreciation of the host nation.

“The Korean culture and people have been extremely generous and gracious to Maria and I and it truly is a privilege to be here helping to support the defense of this great country,” said Crary.



**Col. Christopher Crary (center), United States Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District commander stands among members of The Republic of Korea-U.S. Alliance Friendship Association and other Korean delegates during his Korean Naming ceremony held at the Korea Ministry of National Defense convention center, Nov. 30. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)**



**David Montes, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Far East District (FED) project manager, took the Oath of Office and was sworn in as a U.S. Army Second Lieutenant and Chaplain candidate, at the district headquarters, Camp Humphreys, South Korea. Montes' family and other members of the FED were present at his ceremony. (Photos by Antwaun J. Parrish)**

# Attorneys throughout USACE assist Far East District to fill vital role

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

**T**he U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Far East District (FED) Office of Counsel supports the district not only as legal counselors but as decision makers, which play a critical role in the planning and execution of district projects.

The overall goal of the office of counsel is to practice preventive law and to get out in front of the planning and design phases of a project to facilitate smooth and effective execution.

Due to a high workload and a current staff vacancy, the district has sought the assistance of attorneys from various districts throughout USACE. So far three attorneys have come to the district for temporary duty assignments. Currently, Jacob Stephens, New Orleans District Assistant Counsel, is serving a two month temporary duty with the district.

Attorneys from stateside Corps offices typically work on civil works projects. Working at the FED is a unique opportunity in that it is located in an overseas location and the majority of its projects are affiliated with the military.

Stephens has never been in the military and stated that this is his first time working on a military installation. With all of those factors, Stephens said that he didn't have any expectations prior to arriving in Korea.

"I didn't know what to expect," said Stephens. "In New Orleans we're in a building on a river, so I didn't know what it would be like being on a military base. It's like a whole different world here. I am enjoying my time here so far."

Stephens stated that the work here is quite familiar to him as he has a background with the subject matter.

"I'm working procurements and other related work," said Stephens. "Most of it [work] includes reviewing and advising on contracts."

Although the type of work is familiar, there are a few things Stephens had to learn, which helps him correctly perform his duties.



***Jacob Stephens, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New Orleans District Assistant Counsel, works at the USACE Far East District for two months as temporary duty to assist with the district's Office of Counsel, Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Nov. 13. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)***

"I am familiar with contracts in general, however, Bob [Sundberg], [Far East District Counsel], pointed me to the different provisions of MILCON [military construction] and military funding," said Stephens. "So I just review those provisions as I review the contracts so they're applicable."

Much like New Orleans, Seoul has its own unique history, culture, and food, which draws many tourists each year. Traveling to Asia was an opportunity Stephens couldn't pass over, although he didn't know much about Korea aside from a two-hour training video prior to arriving.

"I went to Seoul and it felt like a different version of New York, so it felt natural," said Stephens.

The Far East District will continue to receive assistance from throughout USACE to assist with the district's workload until the office of counsel fills its vacant position.



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