



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Far East District

EAST GATE EDITION

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FED golf tournament tees off at new facility

By Antwaun J. Parrish
FED Public Affairs

Lush green grass and rolling mounds set the backdrop for a group of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Far East District (FED) employee's workspace for the day.

USACE FED held their bi-annual golf tournament at the River Bend Golf Course, Camp Humphreys, South Korea, June 26. The golf tournament is a team building event in which teams throughout the district compete for the district's coveted trophy.

In the past, the tournament was held in Seoul, causing some employees to travel over an hour to participate. But now district employees only have to drive less than ten minutes to play a round of golf.

Ross Moore, a physical security specialist, led this year's event and has been a participant since being a part of the district, and quite often a part of the winning team. Ross stated that it's convenient to have everyone co-located and the privilege of having a golf course on base is an extra bonus.

"The command endorses and sponsors us for coming out here as they are big advocates for team-building," said Moore. "It [the golf tournament] builds comradery with the team and gets everybody out of the office for a day."

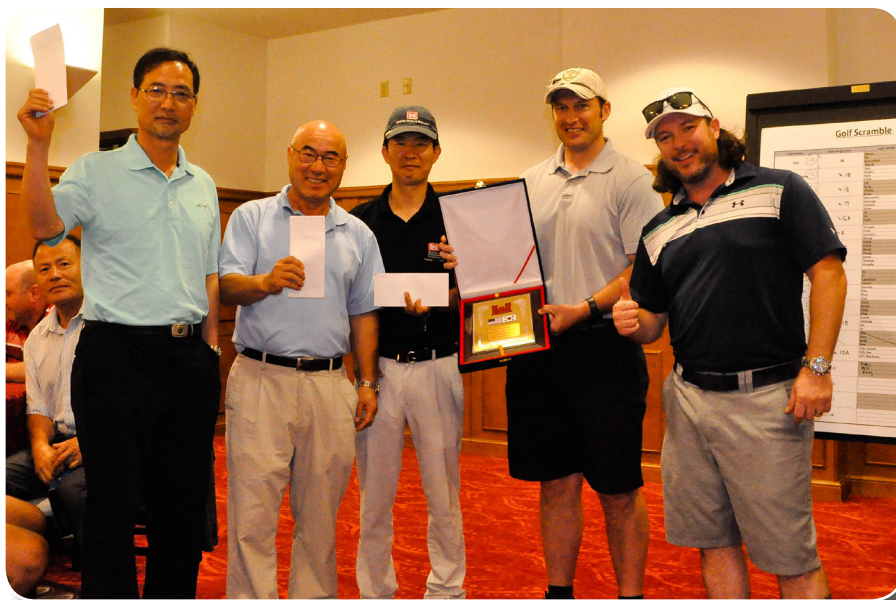
The event lasted throughout the day with a slight overcast, which is unusual for summer days in Korea, but offers a cool environment for the participants.

Moore has been a part of the district since 2013. He stated that being a part of the district allows him the opportunity to do many things outside of his normal duty. He actively participates in many different events and encourages

others to join the district and experience life here.

"This event is in correlation with the organization day, the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) events, two golf tournaments every year, and there's also talk of getting a softball team together," said Moore.

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Ross Moore (right), a physical security specialist, stands along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District, Bi-Annual Golf Tournament winners at the River Bend Golf Course, Camp Humphreys, South Korea, June 26. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District, Castle Club held a breakfast fundraiser at the district headquarters July 2. (FED file photos)



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Internship opens door for FED employee

By Benjamin Ellis
FED Central Resident Office

When I signed up for the Pathways internship program in September of 2014, I expected to expand my horizons and skillset, but as my plane landed in South Korea for a two-year tour, I quickly learned that this wouldn't be an ordinary internship experience. But what I never expected is that I would gain so much more than just experience as a result of working at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Far East District (FED) in Korea.

One of my first introductions to the FED staff was through my sponsor, a fellow intern who helped me with on-boarding and getting an apartment. Our home office during our internships was Osan Air Force Base's Central Resident Office, located just outside a community boasting some excellent Korean food and unique shopping experiences. Throughout the two-year program, I met over 20 employees who first joined USACE through the intern program. I decided within the first few months that I intended to do the same.

The goal of the internship was to learn as much about USACE as possible. The program was successful. I spent my first six months shadowing project engineers and construction representatives at the construction office. By my last three months, I was working as a full-fledged project engineer. The middle fifteen months were my rotation months. The rotations are what gave me a unique view of the entire Corps, and helped shape me into successful member of the team. I was amazed and how much the organization was willing to invest in developing my skillsets.

I spent weeks to months rotating to almost every department within FED. I helped organize the Paperless Contract File at Contracting Division, ran energy-load analyses at Design Branch, corresponded with architectural engineering design firms alongside our design managers, and helped in little ways at Geotech, Environmental, and Tech Review. In addition to rotating through FED, USAG Humphreys Department of Public Work's Master Planning section took me in for three months. My final rotation was also my longest; five months with Programs & Project Management Division. My most memorable experiences while working with FED's Project Managers was participating in a design charrette at Kunsan Air Force Base and sitting in on a negotiation for a contract Termination for Default. During the rotation, I

saw projects at every stage of the project life-cycle.

While the practical experience at each department was helpful, the real value of the rotations was meeting people. At each division, I was briefed on how the division fit into FED's mission; how each branch helps deliver engineering solutions in Korea in order to secure the U.S. and our allies. It quickly

became clear that due to the scale of FED's operations it would take many years to truly understand the internal processes of each division. To work as part of a large organization like FED, I learned it is far better to know who knows what. The rotations gave me those networking opportunities. Knowing who to ask for help made transitioning to a GS-11 project engineer at the end of my internship, smooth.

Outside of work, I was able to explore Korea. I had never been before, but I had heard all about how Korea is a country for the progressive and tech-savvy. Technology is integrated into daily life far more than in the U.S. Korea is also one of the fastest growing economies in the world. It was easy and cheap to travel from Osan Air Force Base to Seoul by either charter bus (\$4 to sit for a 45-minute trip) or train (\$2 to stand for a 1-hour trip). Besides spending time in Korea's famous capital city, I traveled extensively around the peninsula, to include a trip to the northern border – the famous DMZ. I spent weekends at Sokcho beach on the east to learn surfing. I rode Korea's high-speed train to Busan in the south to experience their famous street food.



Benjamin Ellis, Project Engineer, Central Resident Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District (FED file photo)

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Internship opens door for FED employee

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And I took multiple trips to the various mountain ranges scattered around Korea to hike, rock-climb, and camp with friends. Everywhere, even at the top of Korea's tallest mountain on Jeju Island, I maintained a strong 4G connection with my inexpensive, unlimited-data cellular plan.

Looking forward, I intend to stay in Korea as long as I can. Not only did I gain well-rounded work experience, but I met my future Korean wife shortly after arriving in 2015. We married three years later in 2018. If I'm required to return back to the continental United States as a result of the "five-

year rule," which rotates staff back to the U.S., typically five years into an assignment, we intend to come back as soon as possible. But I'll be putting in for a waiver for sure! The country and FED employees make Korea a wonderful place to work. State-side, it's not hard to find scores of people dissatisfied with their job. I honestly don't see that at FED. I feel extremely lucky to be part of an incredible team. The internship has been nothing but positive. It gave me everything I needed to jumpstart my career with USACE. The free housing and meeting my wife were nice too.



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“All of these things combined are more than enough reasons for people to come here.”

After a long-day of golf the participants gathered in the golf course’s ballroom for lunch, raffle prizes, and awards. As mentioned earlier, Ross’ team has been the victors for the past few iterations, however, this time his team handed the trophy over to the construction division.

The District personnel participate in the district’s Bi-Annual Golf Tournament at the River Bend Golf Course, Camp Humphreys, South Korea, June 26. (Photos by Antwaun J. Parrish)



UNION SPOTLIGHT

The District Korean Employees Union Spring Picnic

By Kim Hyon-cha
FED Resource Management

It's been 7 months after we relocated from Seoul to Pyeongtaek, and this is the first Spring picnic after our move.

All of the union members from different offices were excited to get on the bus heading to Seonyudo, one of the islands in Gunsan.

Kimbap, rice cakes, and other snacks were distributed to people on the bus, and soon we arrived at our destination.

With the ocean as scenery we crossed the bridge and walked for a while. We were in awe at the variety

of side dishes and sea food that was prepared for lunch, but that wasn't everything sashimi was served on top of that. I could hear clinking of glass and shouts of cheers as we ate.

After lunch we got on a cruise ship and were entertained.

We danced and sang with others who were on the ship.

As we enjoyed an hour and a half on the ship with beautiful scenery and cool ocean breeze it was soon time to leave.

Returning trip felt shorter than when we headed off to the island. I am

sure all those who joined the picnic wanted the trip to last longer.

This day where KN's and DAC's came together as one team to enjoy themselves had come to an end.

All of us enjoyed the picnic without anyone getting hurt. This was a memorable trip that will remain in our mind for a long time.

I would like to take this opportunity to especially thank our Union President, Secretary, and representatives for their hard work for putting together this event.

미국동 공병분회 봄소풍

서울을 떠나 평택에 자리잡은지 7개월, 평택으로 이전한 FED에서 처음 맞는 FED 봄소풍이다.

각처에서 모인 우리는 한껏 들뜬 마음으로 고군산열도의 하나인 선유도로로 향하는 버스에 몸을 맡긴다.

출발한지 얼마 안되어 나누어진 김밥과 떡으로 아침 시장기를 속이고 주어진 간식으로 입을 즐겁게 하며 가다 서다를 하다 보니 목적지 근방임을 느낀다.

펼쳐진 바다를 배경으로 다리를 건너 짧은 산책으로 이어진 후 벌어진 점심시간, 수많은 반찬과 해물로 가득찬 상차림에 감탄하는 것도 잠깐, 이어진 푸짐한 화회 여기저기서 들리는 건배의 함창..

모두가 즐거운 점심시간.

이어진 유람선 승선과 함께 유흥과 오락의 시간.

낮선 승객들과 한 마당이 되어 어우러진 춤과 노래의 향연.

옆으로 지나가는 수려한 풍광. 시원한 바닷바람... 이렇게 시간만을 즐기다 보니 어느덧 하선 시간과 귀경시간이 되

었다.

갈때 보다 훨씬 짧게 느껴지는 귀가길.. 웬지 더 이어지고 싶은 마음은 누가 다 일까?

한국사람 미국사람 다 함께 어우러져 한마음으로 한바탕 즐긴 하루가 지나가고 있다.

우리FED는 봄소풍을 즐겁게, 조그만 사고도 없이 무사히 마치고 영원히 남을 추억의 한 페이지를 장식했다.

이러한 대 행사를 주관하고 기획하고 또 실행해 주신 분회장님, 총무님, 임원님들에게 깊은 감사를 드리며 그들의 노고에 큰 박수를 보냅니다.



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- REPLACE SALT LOST FROM SWEATING BY DRINKING FRUIT JUICE OR SPORTS DRINKS
- AVOID SPENDING TIME OUTDOORS DURING THE HOTTEST PART OF THE DAY, USUALLY FROM 1100-1500
- WEAR SUNSCREEN; SUNBURN AFFECTS THE BODY'S ABILITY TO COOL ITSELF
- PACE YOURSELF WHEN YOU RUN OR OTHERWISE EXERT YOUR BODY



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