



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Far East District

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Sustaining strong partnerships leads to shared success for U.S., South Korea alliance

By Antwaun J. Parrish
FED Public Affairs

For more than ten years, one of the Department of Defense's largest construction projects has been underway, and through a shared partnership between the U.S. and Republic of Korea (ROK) this process been able to succeed.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Far East District (FED) is overseeing the design, construction, and execution of a multi-year, massive relocation effort currently underway in the Republic of Korea (ROK). The move, part of the Yongsan Relocation Plan (YRP), relocates most U.S. Forces and headquarters United Nations Command activities from the Seoul metropolitan area to areas south, most notably to U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Humphreys. USAG Humphreys has grown exponentially over the past 10 years due to projects led by the Far East District.

"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District celebrated its 62th anniversary on the peninsula this year and we remain committed as ever to delivering engineering solutions in the Republic of Korea to further strengthen our alliance," said Col. Teresa Schlosser, USACE, FED commander. "We have executed thousands

of projects for U.S. Forces Korea, as well as host nation projects. None of this could have been done without the steadfast work of the FED team, half of which are Korean national citizens. Our team works closely with the ROK Ministry of Defense and other partners in South Korea ensuring a strong relationship as we continue to go together and build strong here in the ROK."

Throughout this massive project, USACE FED and the Ministry of National Defense U.S. Forces Korea Relocation Office (MURO) have developed and sustained a strong partnership in an effort to see overall success and longevity in the interests of the U.S. and ROK on the Korean peninsula.

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Col. Lee Woo-sik (left), Chief, Program Management Team, Ministry of National Defense U.S. Forces Korea Relocation Office (MURO), and Col. Garrett Cottrell (right), Deputy Commanding Officer - Transformation/ Design and Construction Agent (DCA), United States Army Corps of Engineer, Far East District, sign the Acceptance of Release Memorandum of the Camp Humphreys Golf Course (REC010) Oct. 29, 2018. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District, Central Resident Office engineers are working on numerous projects such as munitions storage area-alpha, a fuel system maintenance dock, and an air freight terminal project. FED continues to provide engineering solutions for projects all throughout the Korean peninsula. (FED file photos)



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Former ROK Soldier, reflects on past three decades with FED

By Antwaun J. Parrish
FED Public Affairs

After 32 years of service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District one employee reflects on his past experience as both a Soldier and a civilian employee.

Chong Hyong-kun, a supply technician, has achieved a great deal throughout his professional career that has contributed to personal achievements, and he owes it all to a solid foundation.

He enlisted into the Republic of Korea Army in 1977 as a driver in the 1st Field of Defense Support Command, 253rd Transportation Battalion, where he completed his service after

three years.

“The skills and courage I gained from serving in the military helped me develop a lifestyle to lead by example and cooperate to help others and always question my actions not to harm others,” said Chong.

After completing his military service he worked in construction in the Middle East and after three years he returned to Korea to continue work in the same field. Eventually he started working with the Far East District as a driver and assistant administrator, which eventually led him to his current position in the logistics management office.

“Over the years working in FED, I was able to send my two girls to college and find a job,” said Chong. “I am proud and content of what I was able to accomplish.”

According to Chong’s supervisor, Gregory Smith, he works well with the members of his team and is a valuable asset to the organization.

“I feel that I have done a good job doing my best in my position which I think is an accomplishment,” said Chong.

Chong stated that he will continue his work with the district and has no plans of retiring anytime soon.



Chong Hyong-kun, an U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District supply technician, and former Republic of Korea soldier, works in the district supply room, Camp Humphreys, South Korea, May 15. Chong has been an employee with the district for the past 32 years. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)

FED personnel make connections through STEM

By Antwaun J. Parrish

FED Public Affairs

Laughter, excitement, and joy filled the air of Humphreys Central Elementary School as students and their parents were transported to an interactive learning lab.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Far East District (FED), along with Humphreys Central Elementary School, hosted a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) event, May 23.

The district often provides volunteers to create and host stands that include various interactive experiments covering subjects within the STEM realm. This event was held in the evening so that parents could be involved in this learning experience with their children.

Rick Taylor, Humphreys Central Elementary School STEM coordinator, has been involved with the program for

over four years.

“For the past four years I have been working with Jennifer Moore [FED Air Force Program & Business Process, and Report Branch chief], and she is great to work with and she always brings in fantastic volunteers,” said Taylor. “They create some stations that are interactive and hands on for the kids; they are just great partners to work with.”

For the past few years, Camp Humphreys has undergone a major transformation, due in part to the Yongsan Relocation Program (YRP). With the ongoing construction on base and students constantly being exposed to construction processes, the STEM program can help them understand how projects are developed.

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Capt. Heathra King, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District operations officer, interacts with a student during a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) event held at Humphreys Central Elementary School, Camp Humphreys, South Korea, May 23. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)



FED personnel make connections through STEM

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“Those real world connections are what it’s all about,” said Taylor. “We try to get the kids involved with the elements of STEM with a hands-on approach as much as we can with our projects.”

Taylor went on to say that by having stations developed that are relevant in the real world it allows the kids to make powerful learning connections.

Jaime Narin, a fifth grade teacher, was in attendance with her daughter Jaichelle Narin, a second grade student.

Narin stated that she expected her daughter to come and have lots of fun while participating in various STEM activities, and her expectations were surpassed.

As a teacher, Narin understands the importance of education and is appreciative of the efforts that went behind developing the STEM parent’s night.

“I appreciate everyone that is here this evening and

volunteering their time,” said Narin. “From the teachers and staff to the soldiers and everyone here on base. The school did a great job of putting this event on for our school and our community.”

Community engagement is a vital asset for the district as it helps bridge resources and continued support for our mission here in South Korea.

“I really appreciate the partnership that has developed over the years with the Corps of Engineers,” said Taylor. “I contact them [FED] early in the year and let them know when it’s [STEM event] going to be, and I can count on them coming and putting on some great stations for our kids so they can learn.”

The district is also scheduled to support an all-day STEM event at Humphreys West Elementary School, May 30.



Jaime Narin, a fifth grade teacher, and her daughter Jaichelle Narin, a second grade student, and Capt. Rodolfo Martinez, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District project engineer, participate in an interactive activity during a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) event held at Humphreys Central Elementary School, Camp Humphreys, South Korea, May 23. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)



Our 2019 STEM Day event was held on May 30 at Humphreys West Elementary School to great success and appreciation by the community of students, parents, and teachers. This upholds our goal to Prepare for Tomorrow and inspire and develop young students in the sciences. 37 FED volunteers, employees and their spouses participated this year and it is the first STEM Elementary Event held since FED moved to Camp Humphreys. FED saw over 600 K-5 students and had eight stations ranging from sound and vibrations, geotechnical analysis, chemistry, compression, span strength, mechanical engineering, fluid mechanics, and static electricity. (Photos by Jennifer Moore and Kevin Carver)



Sustaining strong partnerships leads to shared success for U.S., South Korea alliance

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“The bottom line is that it’s critical to be able to develop that personal relationship with my counterpart,” said Col. Garrett Cottrell, Deputy Commanding Officer - Transformation, USACE FED. “It’s only through that cooperation that we can try to find a common ground to achieve the desired end-state.”

Cottrell, along with Col. Lee Woo-sik, Chief, Program Management Team, MURO are currently leading the teams that are in charge of this massive project. Improving quality of life and mission readiness of both militaries is their focus.

“It’s a key task and an underlying factor in the success, to be able to bring on the new facilities to meet and improve the standard of living for the Soldiers and their families,” said Cottrell.

Soldiers often have several missions and tasks to focus on at once, and the clarity of knowing their family is taken care of helps to keep the soldier’s mind at ease.

Cottrell stated that the critical mission here is to defend the Republic of Korea. He went on to state that it’s important to maintain a minimum standard for the Soldiers and their families so they can focus on the required mission, which is to be ready to fight tonight and defend the Republic of Korea if needed.

Ensuring mission success hasn’t come easy as the teams have both faced challenges throughout the development of projects.

According to Cottrell, three factors go into program delivery; quality, cost, and time. Cottrell went on to state that quite often it comes down to time, getting the projects finished sooner rather than later. Also he states that maintaining a standard of quality is key.

“We have to work closely with our ROK counterparts so they can influence the contractor to achieve the completion at a planned time frame and at a certain minimum quality standard,” said Cottrell. “They’re not unique, but those two items are common throughout the delivery system.

Cottrell and Lee are often pictured together, shaking hands and signing a form known as the acceptance release letter (ARL) during ceremonies to mark the completion of a project and acceptance from the ROK government to the U.S. government.

When Cottrell arrived at the district there was no ceremony, but he decided to change that because it seemed like a missed opportunity to recognize the entire team.

“That action of public acknowledgement and the ceremony associated with it is the best part of my job,” said Cottrell. “I thought it was important that we formally recognize the entire team and I think that needed to be recognized with a semi-formal public acknowledgement.”

Cottrell went on to state that, without all the team members, they would not be able to meet the mission, which is critical for developing facilities for the Soldiers and their families.

Many elements have relocated to Camp Humphreys as a part of the YRP program and there are only a few key elements still located in Seoul. Cottrell has his sights set on a group of projects known as “5+1.” The group of projects include the medical Facility, communications center, expanded airfield parking, U.S. Forces Korea operations center, phase III facility, and the USFK commanding general housing.

He stated that the hospital completion is critical to maintain the individual readiness of Soldiers and their families.

“We are close to achieving construction completion, but we still have some time to work with the medical command so they can do fit out and get all the certifications required for the operation of the hospital,” said Cottrell. “That’s my target right now, I think we are on the right glide path to be able to complete that construction and be able to take care of the individual Soldiers and as importantly their families.”

When Soldiers arrive in Korea with their family, they are in need of temporary accommodations until they secure residence either on or off post. Camp Humphreys lodging wasn’t sufficient enough to provide accommodations for the increase of incoming personnel, who were often directed to find temporary lodging off post.

Recently, construction was completed for the expansion of United States Army Garrison-Humphreys (USAG-H) Lodge. The expansion adds an additional 80 guest rooms to the hotel.

“Starting Jan. 2, 2018, the in-processing mission for Soldiers and families relocated to USAG-H,” said Jay Kim, a district engineer. “Since the relocation of the in-processing center to USAG-H, our occupancy has been at full capacity. Therefore, the Soldiers and families have no choice but to move off post which affects the training and travel fund as well as the morale of incoming personnel.”

Kim stated that the relationships built throughout this process was paramount in completing such an important element of YRP, adding the relationship with the contractor was a crucial part to execute and complete the unique project.

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“Program Management Consortium (PMC) was assigned to manage the project’s application of knowledge, skills, tools, and techniques applied to project activities in order to meet the project requirements for both US DCA and ROK DCA,” said Kim. “PMC’s responsibility is to discuss and report to both DCAs, putting the project plan into action and measuring progress and performance.”

Kim went on to state that MURO’s responsibility is to balance the budget approved for the project including all necessary expenses needed to deliver it to completion.

According to Kim, the next step in the process was for FED to establish a channel of communication with MURO, PMC, and the contractor to make a solid work execution platform to monitor all of the construction activities to improve construction quality.

“With all of the stakeholder’s collaboration and effort, as its goals and objectives are accomplished, now we can say that the project is completed,” said Kim.

Kim stated that some parts of the building itself are old and the facility is in need of a general upgrade.

“For example, the original building was built way before the transformation to support a smaller garrison,” said Kim. “Now that USAG Humphreys is a large garrison, we are looking to improve the facility and provide new and improved amenities so that we are the home away from home.”

There are plans to update the older portion of the building in the coming years in order to provide the best support for incoming personnel.

Once Soldiers have completed their in-processing, they need housing for themselves and their families. Often

time, Soldiers have access to only one vehicle while stationed in Korea, so ensuring that there is enough housing on base can help reduce their stress.

To assist with the population increase, apartment towers have been completed and there are plans to build more. The initial set of towers, which is a set of three, was completed in 2012, and another set of towers were recently completed. Each tower includes 210 units of three to five bedroom units.

“There has been and will continue to be significant population increase at USAG-Humphreys, and completion of additional family housing will provide the most comfortable on post housing to Soldiers with family members,” said SeukHwan Son, FED corporate communications specialist.

Son went on to state that in order to provide quality housing, USACE FED provides general construction surveillance with leveraging the resources of the overall program manager responsible for quality assurance and partnering with the contractors to employ quality control to ensure that all construction meets the standard of the U.S. Army.

According to Son, there are differences in ROK construction practices and U.S. practices, so the district needs to provide proper guidance and ensure the contractor adheres to the recommendations to pass inspections conducted by the U.S.

“Due to special circumstances with YRP and LPP projects, FED is not the contracting agent,” said Son. “MURO and MND (Ministry of National Defense) DIA (Defense Installation Agency) selects the contractor. FED has to work with MURO for contractors to cooperate with FED guidance.”

Son stated that a positive productive working relationship is critical to make the mission successful.

“YRP projects symbolizes and epitomizes the ROK, U.S. alliance,” said Son. “Working together to provide better living for Soldiers, civilians and family members, and defending the nation as brothers in arms.”

Throughout his career, Cottrell has worked alongside international partners in countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Germany and now Korea. He stated that throughout his time abroad, it takes commitment at all levels and working with the tools and within the constraints of the system to be able to achieve success.

“Here in Korea the partners are committed to the alliance and meeting the intent, which is to set the conditions to and protect the alliance,” said Cottrell. “They are great partners, and dedicated professionals, and I can’t say enough about their focus to the mission.”

Lee commented on the relationship between MURO and US-DCA and how it contributes to the overall success for both partners.

“YRP shows and reflects how close we are in the ROK/US relationship in this nation,” said Lee. “Support for the YRP program in essence is the entire support to Soldier’s morale, welfare, and recreation, and makes sure Soldiers have a better quality of living while they are here in Korea.”

As previously stated, Lee and Cottrell work closely together to strengthen the partnership. Lee shared his feelings for his colleague and the work they’ve been able to accomplish thus far.

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“Col. Cottrell is an engineer and he is putting his best efficiencies on this project, as am I, in order to ensure that the well-being of U.S. Soldiers is being met,” said Lee. “As much as he cares for U.S. Soldiers, he cares for our nation as well.”

Katchi Kapshida, is a Korean phrase that translates to, “Let’s Go Together.” This phrase guides all operations on the peninsula, and is often used as a motivational chant amongst service members within the U.S. and ROK partnership.

Along with this phrase, Ready to Fight Tonight, is often heard as there are service members always on guard and ready to defend the nation. Lee stated that building facilities to enhance the preparedness of Soldiers makes for

a better fighting force.

“We understand that in order to be ready to fight tonight, all the Soldiers must be prepared and get ready in the best possible safe and wellness position, to execute their mission,” said Lee. “I understand that this takes all of our leadership, and both U.S. and ROK’s intent to make sure U.S. Soldiers and ROK Soldiers are in the best posture.”

Lee said that when it comes to the alliance it means the two nations working together in concert, but at the same time there are many separate entities.

“As the DCA for MURO, I’d like to say that we are working together as partners to ensure we have a successful future.”

According to Cottrell, the program is unique, as it is the largest construc-

tion project in DOD history, and it’s only made possible through cooperation and commitment.

“It’s only through the common interest and common goals that we have been able to achieve what we have to date,” said Cottrell. “We are almost complete but we still have some challenges, but through the cooperation, we can complete the critical projects and move on to new opportunities.

Construction continues all in an effort to complete the YRP. As Soldiers, civilians and family members continue to relocate to Camp Humphreys, many are greeted with new living, working, and entertainment facilities that will continue to improve their quality of life.



Col. Garret Cottrell, Deputy Commanding Officer - Transformation, FED, Col. Lee Woo-sik, Chief, Program Management Team, MURO, Col. Park Dae-joon, Deputy principle of ROK Air Force Academy, and team members of USDCA, ROKDCA, and KCPMC visit ROK Air Force Academy in CheongNamDae April 19, building team cohesion and enhancing cultural awareness. (Photo by Lee Mee-ra)

Far East District celebrates 2019 Engineer Corps Day



(FED file photos)

EEO CORNER

Equality is OK!

By Valerie Bradley

Unite Our Vision by Engaging Each Other

The theme for the Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month was “Unite Our Vision by Engaging Each Other.” And that is exactly what USACE FED did.



FAR EAST DISTRICT **Asian American Pacific Islander** **Heritage Month Observance**



Please come and celebrate a wonderful event with
Far East District Employees and Family and Friends

Friday, 24 May 2019 11:30 to 13:30

Front of the Far East District HQ Bldg 12600

USACE FED celebrated on Friday May 24, Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, recognizing the challenges and contributions faced by Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians and their vital contributions to the American story.

America's shift toward foods with global flavors is influenced, in part, by a diverse influx of cultures. Asian foods from different regions offer different taste perceptions—each has a distinctive cooking style. To celebrate our Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage observance the Special Emphasis Program team offered a combination of a large sample selection of Asian cuisine. Korean, Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Thai, Filipino, and Hawaiian was on the menu to appeal to our palates. The menu's flavors from the East unlocked the taste perceptions of some of us who seek variety in our menu.

The event featured dancers, singers, and hosted a contest wearing a national costume representing an Asian country showcasing culture through your costumes.

Toa O Samoa
USAG Humphreys

Invites you to join us to celebrate
Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Thu., 23MAY19 | 1330-1430
Four Chaplains Chapel

Fri., 24MAY19 | 1130-1330
Front of Far East District
HQ BLDG 12600

POC: SSG Phillips, Rachel. 010-3181-1184
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Special thanks to BJ Mata, IMO, Penny Ferguson, LMO; Jessie Lindor, LMO; Mal Passmore, EXO; Greg Smith, Chief, LMO, and all dancers representing Hawaii, Guam, Belau (Palau), Samoa, the participants, volunteers, and those who donated to help make this event successful.



Photos: Antwaun J. Parrish

THE SEVEN DEADLY SWIMS

- ☠ Swimming outside a designated swimming area
- ☠ Swimming without a life jacket
- ☠ Jumping into unknown waters
- ☠ Swimming under the influence of alcohol/drugs
- ☠ Holding your breath too long while swimming
- ☠ Challenging someone to swim across a cove, lake, or pond or to an object such as a buoy
- ☠ Swimming to rescue a person, boat, beach ball, or some other object



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