



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Far East District

EAST GATE EDITION

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Geotechnical branch welcomes first Soldier

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Kyla Stewart, a Soldier formerly working as a technical engineer with the 11th Engineer Battalion in Korea, has come on board with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Far East District.

“I had a conversation with my sergeant major and I said I’d really like to work for USACE and he mentioned that he knew a couple officers who have been on a temporary assignment here,” said Stewart. “So he spoke with Col. Schlosser, Far East District Commander, and set up an interview for me, and as luck would have it, here I am.”

Stewart is the first ever Soldier working in the geotechnical branch and is excited to soak up all the knowledge she can from her new coworkers.

“Everyone who I spoke with has encouraged me to go around, ask questions, learn as much as I can and I really appreciate that.”

Stewart has been forward deployed before to places like Guam and Micronesia assisting in the building of small schools and foundation work for hospitals. She said some of her prior units had a really good partnership program with USACE and this is what peaked her interest in the Corps.

“I don’t think I really understood

what USACE did and what separated them from the branch of engineers in active duty, but I’ve learned a lot in the five weeks I’ve been here,” said Stewart. “I’m learning more about the organization every day.”

Stewart is primarily working

in the construction materials testing laboratory and has already assisted in commercial lab inspections as well. She feels this job provides a great opportunity to learn much more about her profession.

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Staff Sgt. Kyla Stewart, a technical engineer in the Far East District (FED) materials testing laboratory learns the correct testing techniques from FED's material engineer Sung Un-ho, April 11 at the Far East District headquarters, Camp Humphreys, Korea. Staff Sgt. Stewart is the first Soldier to be assigned to the district's geotechnical branch. (Photos by Stephen Satkowski)



The Far East District and Pacific Ocean Division held a high level engagement with Korea Water Resources Development Corporation or K water on April 3. The engagement was designed to enhance understanding of K-water and reinforce the commitment to the US-Republic of Korea partnership. In 2015 at the world water forum in Daejeon, Korea, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and K water signed a memorandum of understanding to work together annually in the area of water resources. (FED file photos)



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New correctional facility breaks ground on Camp Humphreys

By Antwaun J. Parrish
FED Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Far East District (FED) along with United States Army Regional Correctional Facility-Korea (USARCF-K) and the Ministry of National Defense-Defense Installation Agency have partnered together on the latest construction project on Camp Humphreys, South Korea.

Brig. Gen. Duane Miller, U.S. Army Corrections Command (ACC) commanding general and U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command (USACIDC) deputy commanding general, along with other distinguished guests, hosted a groundbreaking ceremony April 30 to begin the development of a new primary correctional facility.

The Eighth Army Confinement

Facility is the name of the current facility and was built in 1973. The new USARCF-K will meet all standard for accreditation and house more prisoners than the current facility. The new facility will include two distinct areas with special construction requirements for each.

The relationship between FED and the hired contractor is key to ensuring that this facility hits every target and continued communication between the

two is paramount.

“We have to keep reminding ourselves of what we’re doing and what’s our desired end state,” said Col. Garrett Cottrell, USACE FED deputy commanding officer- Transformation/ USDCA. “That helps guide us through the decision making process to help get us to where we need to be.”

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From left to right: Col. Lee Byung-seok, chief U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) program division-Ministry of National Defense-Defense Installation Agency, Republic of Korea DCA, Col. Garrett Cottrell, deputy commanding officer, Transformation, U.S. DCA-Far East District, Brig. Gen. Duane Miller, commander U.S. Army Corrections Command (USARCF), Capt. Krista Lewis, U.S. Army Regional Correctional Facility-Korea commander, and Yoo Eun-baek, Wooseok Construction Company Ltd. managing director, participate in a groundbreaking ceremony to signify the construction of the new U.S. Army Correctional Facility-Korea at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, April 30. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)



New correctional facility breaks ground on Camp Humphreys

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Yoo Eun-baek, Wooseok Construction Co., Ltd., managing director, took part in the ceremony and will help manage the construction on this project. Yoo has worked as a contractor on projects for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Far East District (FED) for the past 37 years.

“We are doing a lot of projects from USFK and FED,” said Yoo. “We are especially glad to have an opportunity to build this special facility. We would like to do our best and complete it as an outstanding project for our part.”

The USARCF-K provides theater-level pretrial and short-term post-trial confinement services. It also provides liaison services to Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) prisoners, and maintains standards established by the Department of Defense, the Army, and the American Correctional Association (ACA). The mission also expands confinement operations to accommodate additional prisoners during transition to hostilities and provides quality rehabilitation programs and services, along with transferring prisoners to CONUS facilities.

With a mission as diverse and complex as the one operated by US-ARCF-K, ensuring that all the building specifications are followed is critical to

the overall success of the facility. Yoo expressed his understanding of ensuring this facility is built to last.



Yoo Eun-baek, Wooseok Construction Company Ltd. managing director (second from left), and Richard Byrd (center), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District, deputy district engineer, participate in a discussion prior to a groundbreaking ceremony to signify the construction of the new U.S. Army Correctional Facility-Korea at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, April 30. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)

Geotechnical branch welcomes first Soldier

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“In this job I have so much flexibility where I can just walk up to another department and ask if they have a moment to show me what you are working on,” said Stewart. “So far I’ve conducted some tests in the field - learning the correct, exact, testing procedures. Being here and learning from the professionals to get the exact

way to get the most accurate data has been great.”

Stewart plans to attain her project management professional (PMP) certification before her tour of duty concludes at the district and also said she would like to carry on working for the Corps after she leaves the Army. For now, she plans on just soaking up

as much knowledge as possible from FED employees.

“From the very first week I’ve been here the staff have been giving me tasks that help the FED mission,” said Stewart. “They are showing me new things and making sure I understand the concepts. It’s been a great experience.”

Safety Office holds CPR training

By Andrea Skilinski
FED Safety Office

The Far East District (FED) safety office held its inaugural American Red Cross Blended Learning Adult first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and automated external defibrillator (AED) course April 23, at the district headquarters. This program trains participants to respond to breathing and cardiac emergencies, injuries and sudden illness until advanced medical personnel take over. The training is ideal for organizations looking to maximize learning and employee work productivity. The blended learning training option provides greater convenience and efficiency for both employers and

participants, and is divided between online learning and hands-on training.

As a safety and occupational health specialist and authorized provider instructor for the American Red Cross I was the instructor for this inaugural session. The ability for the safety office to be an authorized provider instructor is a cost savings to the district. Participants of the course included Lt. Col. Dennis McGee, USACE FED deputy commander, along with other members of the district. Each trainee will receive an American Red Cross Adult First Aid / CPR / AED certification that is good for two years and is occupational safety and health

administration (OSHA) compliant.

Our desired end-state is to train employees to provide first aid assistance if someone is having a breathing or cardiac emergency, injury, or sudden illness until advanced medical personnel can arrive and take over. The district recently purchased ten AEDs, which will be placed throughout the headquarters and motor pool. Additional courses are scheduled to be held in May and June, with a priority to train emergency essential and mission emergency essential personnel. For more information please contact Leroy Clement, chief of safety, at DSN 315-755-6523.



The Far East District Safety office is currently conducting cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training for FED employees. CPR is an emergency procedure that combines chest compressions often with artificial ventilation in an effort to preserve intact brain function until further measures are taken to restore spontaneous blood circulation and breathing in a person in cardiac arrest. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)

USFK personnel kicks Taekwondo training into high gear

By Antwaun J. Parrish

FED Public Affairs

Repetitive punches and high-kicks between two nations were a part of a cultural exchange event honoring South Korea's martial art known as Taekwondo.

The Republic of Korea (ROK), Ministry of National Defense hosted a Taekwondo Camp for U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) personnel and the ROK Army Taekwondo team at Taekwondowon, April 9-11. Taekwondowon is located in Muju, South Korea, and is a state-of-the-art facility for training and the mastery of this martial arts form.

The ROK Army Taekwondo team is comprised of highly skilled and accomplished practitioners, who demonstrated their talents and assisted the

U.S. service members with learning the fundamentals taught during the event.

"These events are important for us to enhance service members' understanding of Korean culture," said Chong Hyonsuk, USFK community relations specialist.

According to Chong, there are about six different cultural exchange events per year, and USFK is looking at adding two more next year.

Taekwondo is more than just a past time here in South Korea. Since its formal inception in 1955, the martial arts form was introduced to the world. Taekwondo is a total concept incorporating physical abilities along with mental resilience.

Chong stated that by mingling with the ROK soldiers, the intent is that U.S. service members will be able to understand how their Korean contemporaries interact and they'll learn more about the culture through the interaction.

This program is offered to all USFK personnel. Amongst the U.S. service member attendees were a New Zealand service member and myself, a Department of the Army civilian. Korea is often referred to as the assignment of choice, and having the ability to learn about the local culture through organized programs, such as this, adds to the appeal.

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Antwaun Parrish, an U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District public affairs specialist, conducts Taekwondo training during a cultural exchange event hosted by The Republic of Korea (ROK), Ministry of National Defense at Taekwondowon, Muju, South Korea, April 9-11. (Photo by Jang Hyung-kwon)



USFK personnel kicks Taekwondo training into high gear

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I've had some experience with martial arts in the past, however nothing really in depth. Although this program was an accelerated crash course into the basics, I felt as though I'd trained all week.

The stiffness of my back and tightness felt through my hamstrings after the first day was a bit debilitating, however, after lots of stretching and another intense warm-up round, I was ready for the second day.

Although Taekwondo is challenging, there's always a portion of training incorporated to calm your mind and affords you the opportunity to recharge.

Midway through the second day of training, we gathered and trekked up the side of a small mountain to Taekwondowon's observatory tower. The observatory offers breathtaking views of lush green mountains circling the vast training campus. The crisp air fed into the tranquil feeling of mindfulness.

Throughout the two-day training the ROK Army team and other Taekwondo teams displayed their techniques during well-choreographed routines. The shows were full of high-flying kicks with the intention of kicking through wooden boards, and once they were struck by powerful thrusts,

tiny pieces of wood exploded off the stage.

Overall the experience was a great way to see firsthand how important these cultural events are to the continued partnership of USFK and South Korea. It provides a deeper understanding and context to the local society and their traditions.

"Every time I do these events I want the participants to leave here and go out there to spread the word, so that other service members will participate and we can help them learn more about the culture during their time here, said Chong.



The Republic of Korea (ROK), Ministry of National Defense hosted a Taekwondo Camp for U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) personnel and the ROK Army Taekwondo team at Taekwondowon, Muju, South Korea, April 9-11. (Photo by Jang Hyung-kwon)



Col. Teresa Schlosser, Far East District commander and Col. Christopher Crary, incoming Far East District Commander visit district employees at the Seoul project office on Yongsan Garrison, April 26. The visit by Col. Crary was part of a weeklong immersion trip to the Far East District. Col. Crary will take command this summer . (FED file photo)



Far East District engineers continue to work toward improving the quality of life for service members and their families with state of the art facilities at installations across the Republic of Korea. Pictured are our latest housing projects at Camp Walker, Camp Carroll and Camp Mujuk. (Photos by Yo Kyong-il)



Col. Teresa Schlosser (right), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District commander, along with Pamela Lovasz (left), engineering division chief, presents Dr. Jay Park (center), geotechnical and environmental engineering branch chief, with a commander's award for his hard work and dedication to the district during his almost four-year tenure, April 18. Pak will soon relocate to Davis, Calif., at the Hydraulic Engineering Center as a research hydraulic engineer. (FED file photo)



Col. Teresa Schlosser (2nd from left), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Far East District (FED) commander, and Richard Byrd (far right), deputy district engineer, and other district employees stand in front of an Army Family Housing Tower located at Daegu, South Korea following a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the project's completion, April 16. This is the first of four 90 Unit Family Housing Towers for service members and their families with a three-level parking garage and playground on the roof of the garage. (FED file photo)

EEO CORNER

Equality is OK!

By Valerie Bradley

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Understanding Diversity



Our differences are something to be celebrated

Diversity is easy to understand – we share similarities and differences. Inclusion is the real challenge. The story goes this way. A tractor trailer driver stood outside his vehicle on a rural road wondering how he would get his vehicle and cargo under a low clearance bridge. He blasted himself for not reading road signage that forewarned of the low clearance. While the truck Police and firemen responded to the traffic backup. Onlookers and the police offered the driver ideas from turning around to transferring the cargo to a shorter trailer. The driver, already inconvenienced and late on his delivery, entertained the idea of turning around for 25 miles to access another road. A mother driving her children home from school stopped to satisfy the children's curiosity. The mother guessed the issue and

explained the situation to the children. The youngest child, a precocious 8 year old, lowers her window and comments to the crowd, "Why don't you let air out of the tires to get the trailer through?"

Amazingly, her elders listened, took the suggestion, and the driver drove under the bridge unscathed, aired his tires on the far side, and continued on his way. Ponder and Consider. Ah! The power of diversified thought. More importantly, the power of inclusion to that youngster's thought. And, personal thought, or opinion, is but one characteristic of diversity.

A return on Investment: Diversity Pays Off

Years ago, pre 9-11, when we enjoyed tremendous returns on our financial investments, the financial advisor's pitch was, "diversify your investment portfolio in order to maximize your investment dollars!" Diversification of your financial investments guaranteed returns even in lean/adverse times. Perhaps we did not understand 100% of the advisor's vocabulary of high growth companies, risk tolerance, return expectation, and market fluctuations, but we understood that a diversified portfolio of 25-30 stocks yielded on average higher gains and posed a lower risk than any individual investment found within the portfolio. Alas! The whole is greater than sum of its parts! I get it! Yes, synergy! If we understand this, then we can understand that organizational diversity, comprised of individuals with different generational perspectives, personalities, working styles, experiences, cultural backgrounds, races, languages, disabilities, ages, gender, etc., and yes, opinions, will leverage every employee's unique concept of self to maximize returns.

We are more than a workforce comprised of Noah's Ark type understanding—meaning, inclusion of at least two of every kind. Here, again, we provide additional flavor to diversity so that we, as a workforce, may better understand, and work side by side with, those individuals distinctly different from, and similar to us. ~Bradley & Saucedo

Diversity Working Together (Inclusion)

"The most important stuff for people to learn in organizations is not the explicit stuff of rules, procedures, and so on, but the messy stuff of tacit

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learning” (Beyond Workplace 2000, 1995). Do we understand that an introvert’s silence is his/her strength? That they are analytical types who work best alone? Do we know to be concise, be quick, and be gone when addressing a supervisor or coworker with a driver working style? Does the Baby Boomer prefer the handshake to a text? We have been talking seriously about diversity for over a quarter century. For years experts touted four generations in the workforce, not because it was a novelty, but because of the rich, diverse abundance of experiences, ideas, beliefs, perspectives, etc. that each generation brought to the arena. It meant productivity in harmonious organizations. Then, in 2010, Ms. Jeanne C. Meister and Ms. Karie Willyerd wrote *The 2020 Workplace* positing five generations in the workplace by 2020. If managing talent, expectations, differences, and similarities with four generations was an awesome task, consider how much more acute that task will be with a 5th generation anxiously impatient to make their workplace debut. We barely know the Millennials, yet they have already surpassed the Baby Boomers as the largest generation in the workforce.

Generation X held the lead only briefly. The Millennials, and to an extent, their parents, saw to that. As a society, we saw the arrival of the numerically superior millennial generation and with it vast technological advances that now characterize the generation. We, their parents, are amazed at their growth and assimilation into society giving credence to that old proverb that “People resemble their times more than they resemble their parents.”

Howard J. Ross in *Reinventing Diversity* says that our conversations should be about how good people are rather than focus on the oppressive mod-ern mentality. Emphasis should be to get people to understand their own view of the world and to look outside their own view to see and understand others’ experiences and viewpoints. Eliminate the “bias equals badness” paradigm to better understand this perspective.

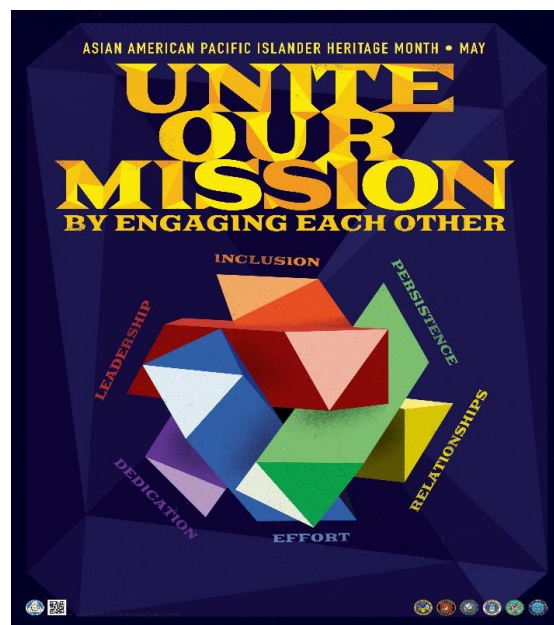
Finally, referencing *The Loudest Duck* by Laura Liswood, we have assembled Noah’s Ark, but we have more than two of everything in the organization.

There are far more diversity categories that go well beyond the traditionally defined race, color religion, sex, national origin and religion. We need to look at who is on the ark, recognize their dignity and know them from the inside out. ~Bradley & Saucedo

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Each year, celebrated in May, Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month recognizes the challenges and contributions faced by Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians and their vital contributions to the American story.

The Federal Asian Pacific American Council has theme this year is: “Unite Our Vision by Engaging Each Other,” encouraging AAPI civic engagement and leadership.



The artwork was inspired by traditional puzzle designs of Asian and Pacific Island cultures, such as the Edakoodam, Tangram, and Lu Ban Lock. The vibrant colors in the design embody the diversity of the Asian American Pacific Islander community,

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which represents nearly 50 countries and ethnic groups, each with distinct cultures, traditions, and histories. The words surrounding the puzzle emphasize the skills and characteristics necessary to "Unite Our Mission By Engaging One Another."

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month honors Americans with a proud heritage that encompasses all of the Asian continent and Pacific islands of Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia. Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month was introduced in the House of Representatives in June 1978. This joint resolution was passed by the House and Senate, and was later signed by the President on October 5, 1978. That law directed the President to declare a seven-day period, beginning May 4, 1979, as 'Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week.' The Congress in 1992 extend the observance to a month designating the month of May as 'Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.'

May was selected to commemorate the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869 and immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843. Chinese workers formed the majority of workers who laid the transcontinental railroad.

USACE FED EEO

MISSION

Manage the civilian Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) program, ensuring a workplace environment that is free of illegal discrimination and fosters equality and opportunity for everyone.

VISION STATEMENT

The installation leadership is committed to respect, fairness, and equality for all civilian employees by ensuring a professional work environment free from unlawful discrimination. Equal Employment Opportunity is provided to all qualified persons. Discrimination based on an individual's race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age (40 and above), mental and physical disabilities, reprisal for participating in a protected activity and genetic information is unlawful.

Hours of Operation Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Far East District engineers are receiving formal source selection training from April 30 - May 3 at headquarters, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys. The training covers the evaluation, documentation and selection of contract awards by individuals other than the contracting officer. (Photo by Yi Yong-un)



Building *Safety* Strong

ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG



Spring-Cleaning Safety

Ah, spring! It's time to shed the heavy winter coat and boots, breath in the fresh, warm air. For many, it is time to begin those outdoor chores that have been waiting since the end of summer. Before you tackle these chores, take a few minutes to review these simple spring-cleaning safety tips.

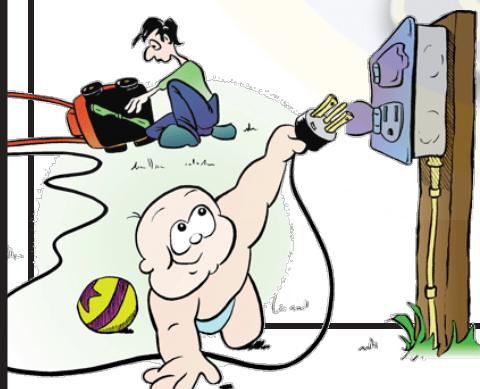
A special note about ladder safety:

- ◆ Indoors and out, ladders play a major role in any spring cleaning job. Make sure yours is up to the task.
- ◆ Before using your ladder, inspect it for any loose or damaged hinges, steps or braces.
- ◆ Select the proper ladder for the job. Make sure it's long enough and sturdy enough for its intended purpose. Be aware of power lines when using metal ladders.
- ◆ Place the ladder on a solid, level surface. If using outdoors on soft ground, spread planks under the ladder's legs.
- ◆ Face the ladder and use both hands when climbing or descending. Try not to lean too far to either. If you need tools for the job, either wear them in a tool belt or use a bucket and rope to haul them up. Use a spotter when possible to help steady the ladder.



Spring-cleaning safety tips:

- ◆ Power equipment can make outdoor chores easier, but also more risky. Each year mishaps involving lawn mowers send thousands of people to emergency rooms.
- ◆ Whether you're using a riding lawn mower or a walk-behind mower, always read the operating instructions before starting. Never disable any of the machine's safety features.
- ◆ Know how to stop the machine quickly. Make sure that the blade-stopping feature is working properly. Never leave a running mower unattended.
- ◆ Clear the area you're going to mow before you begin. Walk around the area and pick up any toys, branches or rocks. Children should be kept away from the area when you're mowing.
- ◆ Never allow children to operate a mower, whether it is a walk-behind or riding mower.
- ◆ Wear the appropriate clothing when mowing or trimming grass. Always wear sturdy footwear. Long trousers should be worn even in summer weather. Eye and ear protection are recommended.
- ◆ Brush cutters and chainsaws are also increasing in popularity. Only mature adults should operate these tools. As with any power tool, read and follow all operating instructions.
- ◆ Electric saws are becoming more popular for household use. Be sure that the power source is grounded and adequate to power the saw.
- ◆ If using a fuel powered saw make sure that the proper fuel mixture is used. Never re-fuel while the engine is running or the machine is hot. Never rest or attempt to re-start a saw on your leg or knee.
- ◆ Keep your saw in proper working order. Make sure the chain is sharpened and the tension is properly adjusted.



Follow these spring-cleaning safety tips to have a safe and productive spring-cleaning!