



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Far East District

# EAST GATE EDITION

JANUARY 2020 VOL. 29, NO. 01

## David Montes finds his purpose within ministry

By Antwaun J. Parrish  
FED Public Affairs

**D**avid Montes, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Far East District (FED) project manager, was commissioned from Master Sgt. to Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve as a chaplain candidate, Nov. 20, 2019

Montes previously supported the district as an operations noncommissioned officer (NCO) from Aug. 2018 - Aug. 2019. He is a reserve Soldier that has served in the Army for more than 20 years. After completing his time at the district, he left Korea and went back to his civilian job as a police officer in Savannah, Ga.

During his time in Korea, Montes and his family made many connections and wanted to return to Korea and find a civilian position within the FED. He applied and was hired as a project manager with the Installation Support Branch.

"I am enjoying the job thus far," said Montes. "It's extremely challenging and it requires another operating language I have to learn now. There are a lot of small details that you have to master in order to keep projects on track."

Prior to working as a Soldier with the FED, Montes was assigned to work in Afghanistan. While working in Afghanistan Montes began speaking with a recruiter who assured him that he could fulfill his desire to become an Army chaplain.

"I have been in ministry since 2008," said Montes. In my own time, I volunteered

at church and I was a governing elder in Chicago. We were involved in mission trips in ministry and small group bible study. My wife and I have been doing that for years."

Montes went on to state that he felt it was a natural transition for him to become a chaplain.

*Continued on Page 4*



**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. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)**






*Far East District employees gather together to celebrate Christmas with family and friends at Camp Humphreys Dec. 20, 2019. (FED file photos)*



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Far East District**

The ***EAST GATE***  is an authorized publication for members of the Far East District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Contents of this publication are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, DoD, DA, or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is published monthly by the Public Affairs Office, Far East District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, APO AP 96205-5546.  
Telephone: DSN 755-6149  
E-mail: [DLL-CEPOF-WEB-PA@usace.army.mil](mailto:DLL-CEPOF-WEB-PA@usace.army.mil)

**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)



# FED leans forward in military spouse employment opportunities

By Antwaun J. Parrish  
FED Public Affairs

**T**he U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Far East District (FED), supports the Far East region's military spouse hiring initiative by ensuring it provides opportunities to personnel and their family relocating to the region.

In 2019, we highlighted the military spouse hiring initiative, which is a program that allows military spouses to meet one-on-one with a local human resources (HR) representative to review their qualifications and receive feedback and career guidance. We decided to follow-up on that article highlighting another military spouse employee who chose to work with the Far East District.

According to Stephanie Nishimori, a civilian personnel advisory center (CPAC) assistant, often times military spouses don't accompany their servicemember to Korea due to concern with finding a new job.

"So what we are trying to do is expedite hiring processes for spouse hiring and for Korea to be the assignment of choice," said Nishimori. "We are working to provide our spouses with enough opportunities to get work that they're qualified for and that they enjoy doing to keep them happy while they're overseas."

Prior to introducing this initiative, the military spouse non-competitive hiring process was and still is a system that allows spouses to be prioritized for jobs based on spousal preference. However, the new initiative streamlines the process and ensures that spouses have the proper qualifications for potential jobs opportunities.

"It's very much the same program,



**Col. Christopher Crary (right), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District (FED) commander, presents Jennifer Christian, a district management assistant, with a five-year civilian service award, at the district headquarters, Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Nov. 15, 2019. (Photo by O Sang-song)**

except now, spouses are able to come in and talk with any of us and get some feedback on their resume," said Nishimori. "We are actually sending the resumes to the HR specialists that have available positions."

Jennifer Christian, a management assistant, who has been a government employee for the past five years, relocated to Korea with her family from Fort Eustis, Va. Christian's husband is an Army warrant officer who has served for more than 16 years.

Christian came to Korea without a new job but was able to secure employment with the Far East District's

logistic management office. She wanted to offer encouragement to spouses who may be hesitant to relocate here due to job uncertainty.

"Being a military spouse provides you a hiring privilege to secure a job," said Christian. "When you don't get a job right away don't be discouraged because there will be a job for you."

Christian and her husband went on to thank the federal service for the opportunities they provide and the FED for hiring her at her current position.

## David Montes finds his purpose within ministry

*Continued from Page 1*

“I had the chance to minister to Soldiers in an unofficial capacity when they would come to me with problems,” said Montes. “I would approach their problems with my life experience. With that it gave me the opportunity to talk to people about the Lord, with their permission.”

While working as an operations NCO, Montes began the process to become a chaplain. He stated that it was a long process but definitely worth it for him to complete his goal.

After receiving a direct commission to second lieutenant, Montes still has requirements he must fulfill as a chaplain candidate such as completing his graduate degree studies.

“Once I am done with that I will go ahead and get selected to be in the chaplain corps and be promoted to Captain,” said Montes. “In the meantime I will be shadowing a

chaplain and performing certain type of duties related to the chaplaincy, learning about the job, actually going through practicums and certain types of training like chaplain BOLC [basic officer leader course]. As I understand it that will be the scope of what I will be doing for the next few years. The main focus will be to finish my masters.”

Montes plans to complete his graduate studies by May 2024 and looks forward to learning and growing more within his job as a project manager with the district.

“I am grateful to be here,” said Montes. “We [My family and I] are really grateful to the team for bringing us on board. We are proud to be a part of a great team. There are a lot of great people here and a lot of great leadership.”



**David Montes, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Far East District (FED) project manager, with his family after he 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. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)**



# Far East District headquarters welcomes Jenny's Coffee Shop

By Stephen Satkowski  
FED Public Affairs

**T**here's a new place to get your morning cup of joe as the Far East District officially welcomed Jenny's Coffee with a ribbon cutting ceremony on the second floor of the district headquarters building at Camp Humphreys, Jan. 9.

Jenny's Coffee will serve coffee, tea, smoothies, fresh fruit juice, sandwiches, bagels and muffins and is open to all FED employees and visitors. It's an Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) concession that will service the district headquarters daily. The shop opening is part of the continued effort to make the district headquarters building more work friendly.

"The district's ULDP class created a nice social area here with tables, chairs

and couches so this coffee shop fits right in with that environment where you can feel comfortable talking and exchanging ideas," said Greg Smith, logistics management office chief.

Ann Yi, general manger of the Camp Humphreys exchange said she looks forward to serving FED employees and visitors and welcomes any feedback to improve customer service.

"Give us your feedback," said Yi. "We will change our services based on what we hear. We look forward to serving you!"

Dozens of FED employees lined up for a taste test and the early returns were positive.

"Jenny's coffee is great," said Eden Shin, FED contract specialist. "It's my

first time tasting it and I was curious since I never heard of Jenny's Coffee. We're lucky that we have a coffee shop in-house. I will definitely purchase more coffee from there."

FED project manager Chris Carson, who works near the coffee shop, approved of the new dining and beverage option, saying it will enable better communication and foster a better working environment.

"This is a great asset," said Chris Carson, a project manager at the district. "So much can happen when you're sitting at a table. We can talk about projects and solutions. It's a great environment here."

Jenny's coffee will open Monday to Friday from 7 p.m. to 4 p.m.



*The Distsrict celebrated the grand opening of Jenny's Coffee located within the district headquarters, Camp Humphreys, Jan. 9. Jenny's Coffee is an Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) concession that will service the district headquarters daily. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)*

## UNION SPOTLIGHT

### Winter Migratory Birds and River in Pyeongtaek

By Kwon Yong-chin  
FED Engineering

Moving from the main city Seoul to Pyeongtaek has its advantages. One of them is being able to see the season change and enjoy this experience. With that in mind, I would like to talk about the winter migratory birds in Pyeongtaek.

Humans are affected by the seasonal change, but not as much as plants or animals. It is because their lives are more dependent on it than humans. This is especially so for migratory birds. The reason they travel far distances is because of their survival instinct. Jinwi River and the junction of Tongbuk River and Ansong River, where the sewage treatment plant is located, are the places to spot migrating birds in Pyeongtaek.

Jinwi rivers winter starts when ducks that traveled north return. If appearances of white heron or gray herons traveling from the south tells us spring has come, ducks after breeding fly south in flocks making appearances in Jinwi River and Pyeongtaek Lake letting us know winter is here. Of those ducks, the Spotbill Duck is a representative winter migrating bird, and is also a resident bird of Pyeongtaek.

The silvergrass colonies that surrounds the Jinwi river with a flock of ducks taking off makes a scenic landscape for photography. Also sighting other birds hidden inside the silvergrass colonies such as the reed bunting and the yellow throated bunting also adds pleasure. Although we can't see

tens of thousands of birds in this area, cormorants and mandarin ducks live in Jinwi River which makes it a valuable natural asset of Pyeongtaek.

For those living near the city area of Pyeongtaek the closest place to go see winter birds is the sewage treatment plant closer to the lower Tongbuk River. This is the point where Pyeongtaek Lake and Ansong River meet, and because the water never freezes many ducks fly over and cover up this entire area. This area is a hot spot for birds because even though the weather drops down below zero, the water is at constant temperature due to the water coming from the sewage treatment plant making it suitable for fishes, which is food for many waterfowls.

## 평택의 겨울 철새와 겨울 하천

서울과 같은 도심에서 평택으로 옮기고 나서 좋은 점을 한 가지 얘기해보라면 계절의 변화를 보다 시각적으로 즐길 수 있다는 것이다. 그 중에서도 오늘은 평택의 겨울 철새에 대해서 이야기 해 보고자 한다.

사람도 계절의 변화에 영향을 받기는 하지만 주변 동·식물만큼 예민하지는 않은 것 같다. 그들의 생과 사의 많은 부분이 사람보다 더욱 더 계절에 영향을 받기 때문일 것이다. 그중에서도 특히 먼거리를 오가면서 계절을 이겨내는 철새들의 경우는 그러한 행동이 생존본능에 포함되어 있어 그 어떤 생명체들보다도 계절의 변화에 더 영

향을 받는 것 같다. 평택지역에서 이러한 철새를 목격할 수 있는 곳을 들라고 하면 진위천과 통북하수종말처리장이 있는 통북천/안성천의 합류지점이라고 할 것이다.

북쪽에서 내려오는 오리류들의 귀환으로부터 진위천의 겨울은 본격적으로 시작된다. 봄에는 남쪽에서 올라오는 백로나 왜가리가 숲을 찾아 나타난다면 겨울에는 북쪽에서 번식을 마친 오리류들이 겨울을 나기 위해 하나둘 무리를 지어 진위천과 평택호 전역에 그 모습을 보이게 된다. 그 중에서도 흰뺨검둥오리는 대표적인 겨울철새이기도 하며 또한 일년내내 평택 전역의 습지에서 흔하게 볼 수 있는 텃새

이기도 하다.

진위천 냇가를 품어주는 역새 군락과 무리지어 날아오르는 오리무리는 잘 어우러져 한 장의 풍경 사진을 만들어 내고 역새군락 덩불의 여기저기에서 잘 모습을 보이지는 않지만 쭈새와 노랑턱멧새 또한 보는 이의 즐거움을 더해준다. 비록 수만 혹은 수십만 마리씩 날아다니는 장관을 볼 만큼의 군락은 아니지만 가마우지도 있고 원앙과 오리가 어울려 살아가는 겨울의 진위천은 평택의 소중한 자연임에 틀림 없다.

Continued on Page 7



# UNION SPOTLIGHT

Continued from Page 6

[흰뺨 검둥오리]

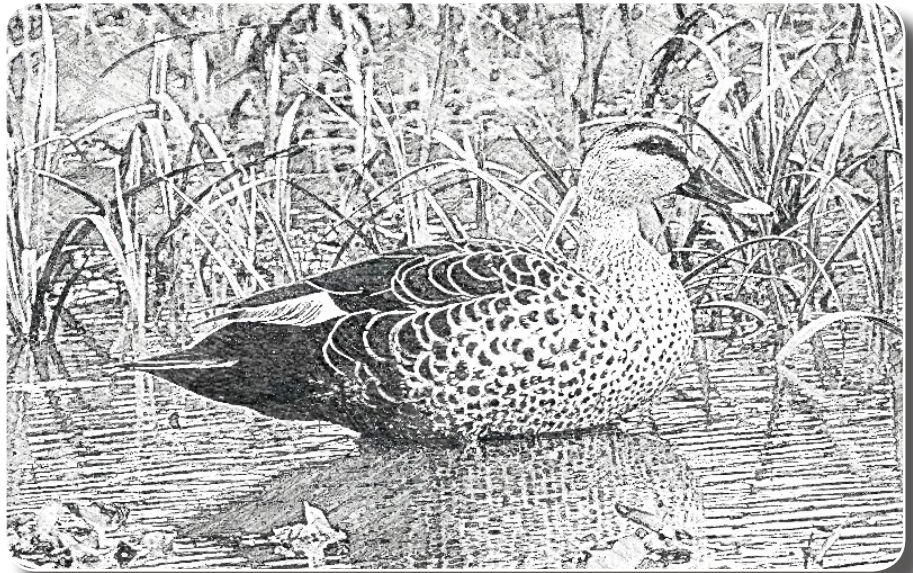
또한 시내권에서 생활하는 주민들이 겨울새를 보기에 제일 가까운 곳이 있다면 통북천 하류에 있는 통북하수종말처리장 방류구 주변일 것이다. 이곳은 평택호 물줄기의 대표적인 안성천과 합류되는 지점이면서 동시에 한겨울에도 하천이 얼지 않아 해마다 겨울철이면 수면을 덮을 정도의 오리류가 찾아들고 특히 이곳은 혹 영하 한참 밑으로 날씨가 추워져도 하수처리장에서 쏟아져 나오는 방류수의 온도가 일정한 온도를 유지해 물고기도 많고 이들을 먹이로 하는 물새들 또한 끊임없이 모여드는 곳이 되었다.

겨울이 깊어갈수록 물새들은 먹이 문제로 큰 시련을 받게 된다. 특히 예년과 같이 지구온난화에 따른 이상기온으로 연일 기록적인 한파가 몰아치면 사람들은 수도와 전기등의 자원으로 조금 고충을 받게 되지만 철새들의 조금류들은 먹이를 구하지 못하면 살아 갈 수 없기 때문에 얼어붙지 않은 물가를 찾는 것이 절대적이고 영하 10℃를 넘나드는 상황에서 부동하천

인 통북하수처리장만한 곳을 찾기란 사실상 불가능하다.

이렇듯 생명보전을 위해 평택을 찾아드는 철새들 그러한 철새들을 맞아 주는 평택의 자연과 환경을 경외하는

마음으로 바라보고 인간 역시 그 자연의 일부분으로 살아갈 수 밖에 없음을 마음에 새기고 겸허하게 살아야 할 것이다.



흰뺨 검둥오리 *Spotbill duck*

## EEO Corner

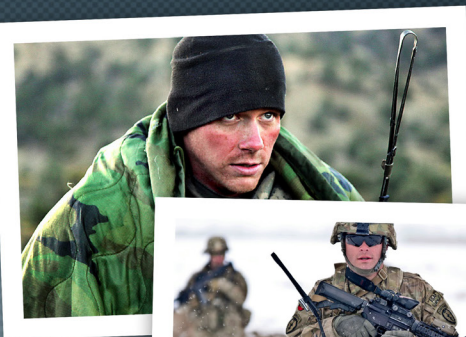
By Valerie Bradley

As the calendar rolls over into a new year 2020, may your happiness be double folded each passing day. I wish that you will achieve all your personal and professional goals. Have a happy new year ahead.



# THINK **COLD** TO STAY WARM!

AS COOLER WEATHER APPROACHES, IT'S CRUCIAL THAT SOLDIERS UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING THEMSELVES TO AVOID BECOMING A COLD WEATHER INJURY STATISTIC.



THIS WINTER,  
THINK C-O-L-D TO STAY WARM

- KEEP IT **C**LEAN
- AVOID **O**VERHEATING
- WEAR CLOTHING **L**OOSE AND IN **L**AYERS
- STAY **D**RY



<https://safety.army.mil>

