



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Far East District

EAST GATE EDITION

FEBRUARY 2021 VOL. 30, NO. 01

Black Engineer of the Year Award Selects Keyon Austin as 2021 Modern Day Technology Award Recipient

FED is thrilled that one of our own, Keyon Austin, Quality Assurance Representative for FED Security Operations Resident Office, was selected to receive a Modern Day Technology Award at the 2021 Black Engineer of the Year Award (BEYA) Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Conference.

Keyon brings 15+ years of military and civilian construction experience to the FED. Currently, he is overseeing construction inspection and control of the new USFK Operations Center worth approximately \$285 million. This project will provide facilities for the USFK/CFC missions. Keyon has also been a part of numerous volunteer events that range from preparing care package donations to families in quarantine to assisting with the Sigma Scholarship Giveaway, which awarded three graduating seniors from local high schools in the area.

Congratulations, Keyon. We're glad to have such a stellar member in the FED family!




Keyon Austin (center), Quality Assurance Representative for FED Security Operations Resident Office volunteers for a back to school give away located at Humphreys Middle School. (Photo provided by Keyon Austin)



On Jan. 13, 2021, Col. Christopher Crary, Far East District Commander, and Col. Ward, Camp Mujuk Commander, and members for the project delivery team from the FED, Camp Mujuk, ROK Ministry of National Defense – Defense Installation Agency, and the construction contractor conducted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the USMC Life Support Area #3 Barracks project at Camp Mujuk. (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

District Commander
Col. Christopher W. Crary
Public Affairs Officer
Susan Y. Lee
Public Affairs Staff
Kim Chong-yun
Sameria Zavala
Yi Yong-un

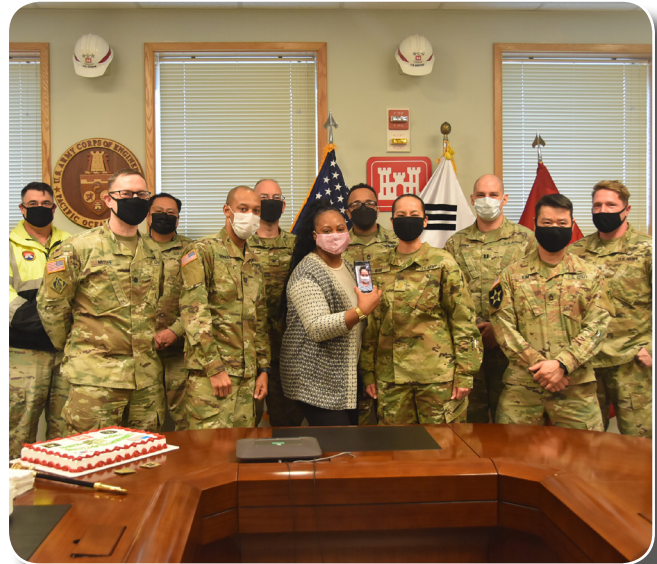
Check out the Far East District web site at
www.pof.usace.army.mil

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Maj. Heathra King, Deputy Chief of Security, Plans, and Operations at FED, on her promotion to the rank of U.S. Army Major.

Maj. King is a 12A, Combat Engineer Officer, who joined FED on Jan. 14, 2019 as the Plans Officer for the Security, Plans, and Operations Office. In August 2020, she became the Deputy Chief of Security, Plans, and Operations, where she has made significant progress in the refining and development of FED's contingency plans. Maj. King was the primary planner and



exercise designer for four Theater-level Command Combined Post Training Events, which enabled the District's participation in these events.

In addition, Maj. King is a member of the 2021 USACE leadership Development Program. In her off-time, she is a Salsa Dance instructor and loves outdoor activities.

Congratulations on your promotion, Maj. King! (Photos by Yo Kyong-il)



FED salutes Choe Mi-suk, who will retire from USACE next month after 40 years of service (March 1981 – March 2021).

Choe began her career in 1981 with the Directorate of Public Works, where she worked as an Administrative Assistant for four years. In 1985, she moved to FED's Construction Division at Camp Casey, Camp Red Cloud, and Seoul, as an Engineering Support Assistant, where she served for 24 years. In 2009, Choe moved into the District's Safety Office as an Administrative Support Assistant, where she spent the last 12 years of her tenure. Choe has demonstrated her commitment and dedication to the District through four decades of selfless service, providing organizational support to numerous division chiefs, engineers, and safety professionals, while supporting the entire workforce through her volunteer activities. Choe's retirement signifies a benchmark in a citizen's life of unselfish service to a grateful nation. Choe will retire next month and move to her new home in Las Vegas – FED will miss her! (Photo by O Sang-song)

Thank you for your service!

The District recognized Ku Pon-chun for 20 years of federal service.

Ku brings a total of 24 years of experience to the federal government. He began as an Engineering Technician with DPW, then began his tenure with the FED Design Branch, where he worked for six years. This was followed by a 5-year period with the FED Korea Programs Relocation Office as a Senior Technical Adviser. He has served within the Technical Services Branch for the past eight years, where he's been a Design Manager, Government Negotiator, and a Civil Engineer reviewing projects across the Peninsula on behalf of the Technical Review Section. During his career with FED, Ku deployed to the Alaska District twice, and participated in FEMA recovery efforts for hurricane Wilma (FL) and Katrina (MS).

Ku brings a vast perspective to our district, cultivated by the diversity of the positions he has held, his professional experiences across all phases of the project life-cycle, and the great variety of skills and credentials he has developed along the way.

Ku a critical team resource, not just within the domain of his



discipline, but holistically and for all FED-related policies and procedures. We thank Ku for his service, and for delivering great value to his team, the Engineering Division, Far East District, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

When asked about a memory that he will never forget, Ku responded, "In 2007, several FED employees including myself were deployed to Florida and Mississippi to support FEMA's restoration project after Hurricane Wilma and Katrina. It was challenging because we had to work 12 hours every day for two months, but looking back, it's one memory that I will never forget." (Photo by Yi Yong-un)



FED recognized Cho Kum-son for 20 years of federal service.

Cho began her federal career in November 2000 as a clerk for the 38th Medical Detachment, Preventive Medicine office.

She came to USACE Far East District's Engineering Division in December 2005 and has worked as an Engineering

Support Assistant in the Cost Engineering Branch and the A-E Contracting Support Section, as well as an Engineering Technician in the Design Management and A-E Services Sections.

Cho's broad experience in engineering, construction, and contracting, as well as her meticulous work ethic contribute to why she is such a great asset to the Engineering Division, Far East District, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. We are lucky to have you. FED thanks you for your commitment!

When asked about her fondest memory of FED, Cho said, "My fondest memory was being a part of our big transition which marked a milestone in USFK history, leaving our cozy and homey FED compound in Seoul and moving to Pyeongtaek." (Photo by Yi Yong-un)



The Far East District bid farewell to a powerhouse couple, Ross and Jennifer Moore, on Jan. 21, 2021.

Jennifer Moore has served the District since April 2013 when she began as a Project Manager for Yongsan Relocation Plan projects and MILCON projects. She was later selected as the Air Force Branch Chief, Programs and Project Management Division (PPMD), and oversaw the program management of design and construction projects for all Air Force customers on the Korean peninsula. Jennifer's commitment to her customers and FED was acknowledged at the headquarters level when she was awarded USACE Program Manager of the Year (2019). Not only did she excel at her job, but she also played an integral role in managing our USACE Leadership Development Program

by mentoring and developing new FED leaders. During the last five years, Jennifer selflessly led volunteer efforts with the STEM program on USAG Humphreys working with both the elementary and middle schools and touching the lives of thousands of students.

Ross Moore has served the District since January 2016 as a Physical Security Specialist in the Security Operations Branch. He will continue to serve the District from his new post in Hawaii.

We wish Ross and Jennifer all the best in their new roles serving USACE within the Pacific Ocean Division. (Photos by Yo Kyong-il)



Welcome FED's Youngest Addition!



(Left) Steve Fowler, a Project Engineer in the Family Housing Resident Office, and his wife Yoonju Kim welcomed their first child Caleb into the world. Born on Jan. 16, mother and son are reportedly healthy. (Photo provided by Steve Fowler)

(Below) Nicole Hill, a Project Engineer in the Family Housing Resident Office, had a baby boy, Alexander Ray Hill, on Feb. 16. Both the baby and mother are doing well. Alexander joins his sister Tegan. (Photo provided by Nicole Hill)



FED Hails



Brittany Gilbert
Executive Office



Han Kyu-un
***Safety and Occupational
Health Office***



Nathan Han
Construction Division



Nicholas Kaechler
Engineering Division



Puujee Cline
Internal Review Office



Susan Lee
Public Affairs Office

FED Farewells



Gregory Smith
Logistics Management
***Transferred to U.S. Army Capabilities
Development Command***



Jennifer Moore
Programs & Project Management
Transferred to Honolulu District



Gina Petrino
Contracting Division
***Deployed to USACE Transatlantic
Afghanistan District in Kuwait***

REPRESENTATION • IDENTITY • DIVERSITY



"I think of my life as a unity of circles. Some are concentric, others overlap, but they all connect in some way. Sometimes the connections don't happen for years. But when they do, I marvel. As in a shimmering kaleidoscope, familiar patterns keep unfolding."

- Dorothy Height

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The BLACK FAMILY

THE BLACK FAMILY OF THE FUTURE WILL FOSTER
OUR LIBERATION, ENHANCE OUR SELF-ESTEEM,
AND SHAPE OUR IDEAS AND GOALS.

FEBRUARY

