BUILDING FOR PEACE ON FREEDOM’S FRONTIER
1957-2007
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On the cover
Collage of the Far East District, 1957-2007
Graphic illustration by Yo Kyong-il

Editor’s Note: Pictures used in this 50th Anniversary edition are FED file photos.
Happy 50th Anniversary Far East District! As I read the anniversary East Gate Edition article summarizing the District’s history, one thought came to mind. Embrace change. For the past 50 years, the district has been an important part of our Nation’s history in developing stability and the opportunity for economic prosperity in the region. I am sure FED employees were apprehensive when they were informed they would assist the war-torn Republic of South Korea in developing a vibrant construction industry. I imagine people were initially nervous when they were assigned the mission to assist the Korean construction industry in setting up high-quality concrete plants shortly after the war. I’m certain there was concern when the district at one point was also the Corps of Engineers district for Japan, and had a mission change to only serve Korea. In slow construction years, the district was barely larger than an area office. During the major reconstruction efforts, after severe flooding in the late 1990’s, the District was over 750 people strong. Adapting to change is in the patchwork fabric of our District’s history.

The Far East District has the amazing ability to transform itself to meet the changing environment. We have been Relevant-Ready-Responsive-Reliable for 50 years. We have adapted because our employees have been open to new ideas and willing to share technical expertise with our construction partners. Similar to post-war FED, we still conduct safety training with our contractors, we still invite our construction partners to our three nationally and internationally certified laboratories to see how we enforce quality control. We still work with our construction partners with an annual six-week construction management course. We are currently working with our Ministry of National Defense partners to implement a flexible contracting vehicle, which is widely used in the US construction industry, but new to Korea. Our willingness to work with partners has clearly been a strength to support change.

Our war-fighting ability has also developed with the addition of several advances in technology that permits us to react more quickly to support the war fighter’s requirements. We have moved far beyond our traditional war time construction management role. We have civilian employees on Forward Engineer Support Teams supporting the war fighter in the field. We are able to immediately communicate, via satellite, with technical experts in the United States to help solve complex problems. We have deployed nearly 60 people from the district to support the Global War on Terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan. Numerous others have deployed to support hurricane recovery in the US, tsunami relief in Sri Lanka, and mud-slide recovery technical assistance in the Philippines.

Similar to our past FED family members in 1957, who were faced with changing times, we too are facing big changes. The District’s physical move to Camp Humphreys, the many changes in business practices that we will encounter as we build the facilities to support the transformation of military forces on the Peninsula, and the additional tool of build-to-lease housing, will all require the same commitment and flexibility from us, as it did our predecessors over the past 50 years. We will remain Relevant-Ready-Responsive-Reliable because of the dedicated and professional employees in the district. The personality of the district, welcoming new employees and temporary visitors, with open arms and a true sense of family, will get the unit thru any change in mission or location. The next 50 years promises to be as bright and exciting as the last 50. Congratulations FED. You are looking great at 50!
WHEREAS, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was established in the Republic of Korea in June 1957 pursuant to OCE General Order No. 11. The Far East District is an operating component of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division.

WHEREAS, The Far East District was initially designated to assume the construction programs of its predecessors, the U.S. Army Construction Agency Korea and the U.S. Army Construction Agency Japan, its mission eventually evolved to support the U.S. Forces in Korea by supervising military construction.

WHEREAS, Since its inception, the Far East District's work has involved a wide variety of design and construction projects including complex construction on mountain-top sites, sophisticated well-drilling operations all over Korea, tunnel neutralization projects in the demilitarized zone (Panmunjom), and a host of projects not only designed to improve the quality of life of American Forces residing in Korea but to allow them to become the best and most highly trained fighting force in the world.

WHEREAS, During the 50 years of its existence, the Far East District's leadership and employees have met diverse challenges resulting from fluctuations in the annual workload caused by ever-changing national and international events. The District has designed and constructed billions of dollars worth of facilities consisting of thousands of projects.

WHEREAS, The Far East District's mission is: To provide quality planning, engineering, design and construction management services in direct support of the US Forces Korea in Armistice and contingency. As the Department of Defense design and construction agent in the ROK, executes MILCON and Host Nation funded construction, and programs on US installations throughout the peninsula.

NOW, THEREFORE, I JOHN W. PEABODY, Commander and Pacific Ocean Division Engineer, do hereby proclaim June 15, 2007 as the 50th Anniversary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District. I call upon all U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees, Soldiers and the citizens of the Republic of Korea to join me in recognizing this anniversary with heartfelt thanks and continued support for the men and women who serve and defend our great Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand seven.

JOHN W. PEABODY
BRIGADER GENERAL, U.S. ARMY
Pacific Ocean Division
Dear Women and Men of the Far East District,

On behalf of everyone at the Defense Installations Agency, I congratulate you on the 50th anniversary of your organization’s establishment.

When the Far East District was founded in 1957, much of the Korean Peninsula was still in ruins with scars from the Korean War. When the sovereignty of the Republic of Korea was threatened by the North Korean invasion in June 1950, U.S. Forces, under the command of General MacArthur, formed the main force of the United Nations forces and led us to preserving freedom and democracy in this nation. Ever since, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America have been brothers in a blood-forged alliance.

The FED, since its foundation in 1957, contributed significantly to technological advancement of ROK engineers. Those who were able to learn construction technology from FED became authorities in the ROK construction industry after their retirement from active duty, and as key managers and directors of construction companies, these individuals further improved the skills they learned from the FED. Based upon this foundation, ROK construction companies were able to win contracts in the Middle East during the 70’s and 80’s which eventually spearheaded the industrialization of the Republic of Korea. Moreover, when Highway 1 connecting Seoul to Busan was under construction, ROK engineer officers performed construction supervision of the program, demonstrating the world-class skills we obtained from U.S. engineers.

I have little doubt that Korea’s construction capability was a key factor of the nation’s industrialization, and ultimately contributed to Korea’s prominence as the tenth largest economy of the world. And certainly, the construction technology transfer from FED to ROK engineer had an impact in creating today’s Korea with its exceptional skyscrapers and infrastructure.

I would strive to further strengthen our alliance through our joint execution of important programs, including Combined Defense Improvement Projects, ROK Funded Construction, Land Partnership Program and the Yongsan Relocation Program. At the same time, I hope to further enhance the technological standards of the ROK engineer by learning advanced construction technology and quality assurance system from the FED.

I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation for the services your organization has rendered during the past half century. Let us work together in playing a pivotal role in solidifying our alliance and providing the adequate support for sustained USFK operations.

Once again, I congratulate you on the 50th anniversary of the FED’s establishment, and wish prosperity and continued success for the FED organization, Colonel Dombi and her staff.

Sincerely Yours,

Park, Byung Hee
ROKA Major General
Chief Director
Defense Installations Agency
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District was established in June 1957 by the Office of Chief of Engineers General Order No. 11. Following the Korean War and the United States’ decision to maintain armed forces in the Republic of Korea, increasing demands for military construction in South Korea, as well as in Japan and Okinawa, led to the establishment of the Far East District in Korea. Initially established to assume the construction programs of its predecessors, the U.S. Army Construction Agency Korea and the U.S. Army Construction Agency Japan, the District’s mission initially was to support the U.S. Forces in Korea and Japan by supervising military construction.

Since its inception, the Far East District’s work has involved a wide variety of design and construction projects including complex construction on mountain-top sites, sophisticated well-drilling operations all over Korea, tunnel neutralization projects in the demilitarized zone (Panmunjom), and a host of projects to improve the quality of life for American forces in Korea. Among the district’s significant accomplishments are the rehabilitation of the Inchon Tidal Basin in 1957, the 258-mile trans-Korea petroleum pipeline from Pohang to Seoul in 1968, and most recently, the District’s support to the Korea Relocation Program.

From 1963 to 1970, the Far East District was the Department of Defense’s design and construction agent in Korea and Japan. With the shrinking workload trend in 1970, the impending withdrawal of the 7th Infantry Division from Korea in 1972, an economic recession in the United States, and the removal of American forces from Southeast Asia, the Far East District lost its responsibilities in Japan and became a semi-autonomous, augmented area office in 1970.

Repair and upgrade of existing facilities rather than initiation of major new projects went on until 1975 when the relocatable barracks program started to improve the troop living conditions in the Republic of Korea. Between 1976 and 1977 the District experienced a sharp increase in its workload. The District directed much of its activity toward the improvement of the living and operational facilities for U.S. Forces. The Soldiers’ housing needs in Korea became so apparent, and that need coupled with command emphasis on customer satisfaction, led the District to accept many projects from various organizations and soon returned to being a full-service district.
During this time, the District contributed to development of Korean construction industry through education of contractors and their employees. In the field, District inspectors literally taught supervisors and laborers how to do everything from the most elementary tasks including carpentry, operating heavy machinery and power tools and learning how to translate plans into structures. In Seoul, members of the District staff gave classes which encompassed all phases of construction from formulating bids to on-the-job safety. In addition, the District commenced a training program for ROK military engineers. The Far East District's advice, lectures, encouragement and training provided an impetus for the developing Korean building industry; by the late 1960's, local companies were successfully competing in the world market. Today ROK firms are actively engaged throughout the globe.

The Far East District's area of operations stretches from Panmunjom, in the DMZ, to the southern port of Pusan and across the Korean peninsula from the Yellow Sea to the Eastern Sea. The district has five Resident Offices that oversee construction projects throughout the peninsula. The Hospital Resident Office handles projects in the Seoul area as well as K-16 and Command Post TANGO and military installations in north of the city. The Central Resident Office handles projects at Suwon and Osan Air Bases. The Kunsan Resident Office manages projects in Kunsan Air Base and Gwangju area. The Southern Resident Office located on Camp Henry, Daegu administers all construction for Area IV including Camp Mujuk in Pohang. The Pyongtaek Resident Office established in 2000 to handle projects in Humphreys is now facing huge increase of workload as the United States Forces Korea executes transformation on the peninsula. The Korea Relocation Program will triple the size of Humphreys and increase its population from about 11,000 to 45,000.

To have the relocation effort start rolling, the district established the Korea Relocation Programs Office in 2006. It has resident offices in Pyongtaek and Kunsan. The Far East District awarded the 205-acre Parcel One land development construction contract on November 2006, which is a significant milestone for projects at Camp Humphreys for success. In April, 2007, the USFK and the South Korean Ministry of Defense chose the preferred contractor for program management to relocate U.S. bases between Seoul and the Demilitarized Zone to Camp Humphreys. FED is playing a key role in this huge transformation effort and its support.

Pictures of the District’s main gate
Also serving alongside FED’s workforce are nearly 200 dedicated professionals from three Architecture and Design firms; Thomas J. Davis–Jung Il Associated which began service with FED in 1979; AMKOR/SAC International, 1982; and MM International, 2001. These firms continue to play a key role in the District’s mission.

During the 50 years of its existence, the Far East District has designed and constructed billions of dollars worth of facilities consisting of thousands of projects. Today, the district’s major activities still include project design, contract administration for architectural and engineering services, construction, and maintenance and repair in support of the United States Forces Korea, as well as design and construction surveillance for host nation projects funded by the Republic of Korea.

The Far East District carries on its proud heritage that began with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1775. Just as the Corps has gained national recognition since its creation, Far East District continues to enhance the Corps reputation as the quality construction and design agent for DoD in the Republic of Korea.

Amidst the fluctuation in workload and personnel, one theme in the Far East District’s history has remained constant: the desire to provide quality construction at a fair price, safely completed and on time, to provide its customers with the best possible service anywhere in the Republic of Korea, and to provide those serving in Korea with the best possible quality of life.

A map shows the location of the Far East District and its resident offices and project offices.
Far East District  Projects 1957–1959

Three-Bedroom Duplex built for the Provisional Military Assistance Advisory Group-Korea, Seoul, 1957

Five-bay maintenance shop, Transportation Battalion area, 7th Infantry Division, 1958

Standard 72 man latrine, Light Truck Company area, 7th Infantry Division, 1958

Family housing under construction for the office of the Economic Coordinator, Seoul
Far East District Projects 1959–1963

Aircraft Hangar, Camp Humphreys, 1960

121st Hospital in Yongsan, 1962

Suction Dredge in operation in Incheon, 1960
Tidal Basin Rehabilitation in Incheon, 1963. The mitre gates are undergoing repair on the south side of the lock. The piles used in the replacement of the south wharf can be seen in the right background.

Officers’ quarters in Osan Air Base, 1964

Initial Phase of Osan division headquarters project, 1967

Tank Maintenance and warehouse, Camp Carroll, 1964
Far East District Projects 1968–1970

Chinhae ammunition pier, 1969

Main Post Chapel, Yongsan, 1968

Laying out pipe for trans-Korea POL Pipeline, 1970

Non-68-S jet fuel storage tank, Osan Air Base, 1969

Partial completion of dispersal pads and associated paving, Kunsan, 1969
Far East District Projects 1970–1972

121st Evacuation Hospital, emergency building, Yongsan, 1970

Warehouse addition and hardstand project underway, Camp Carroll, 1971

Conduit placement, CP TANGO, 1972

(Left) Tunnel excavation, CP TANGO, 1971
Far East District Projects 1972–1975

Camp Humphreys confinement facility, 1973

Main Exchange in Yongsan, 1975
Far East District Projects 1975–1980

Camp Humphreys various types of troop housing in the center, 1975

Relocatable barracks project, Camp Casey, 1975

55,000-barrel fuel tank in Kunsan, 1975

Operations Building in Camp Humphreys, 1977
Far East District Projects 1980–1989

Yongsan Family Housing, 1984

Camp Casey Chapel, 1984

Camp Carroll Water Tank, 1985

Operations Building, Camp Humphreys, 1984

Total Clinic, Camp Humphreys, 1984
Far East District Projects 1990-1999

Dragon Hill Lodge, Yongsan, 1990

Osan Golf Course, 1991
Single Soldiers Barracks, Camp Casey, 1990s

Osan High School, 1995

Motor pool, Camp Hovey, 1994
Far East District Projects 2000–2007

Yongsan Overpass, 2004

K-16 first Built-to-Lease Project contract signed in 2005

K-16 Community Activity Center, 2005

Humphreys’ Barracks Dining Facility Complex, 2006
Still Serving with Pride
Joe Clancy started working at the FED Chemical Lab as a chemical Engineer when he was a Pfc. in 1975. He was discharged from the Army in 1978 and started working in the states as a civilian. Joe came back to Korea in 1984 and has been working in Programs and Project Management Division since 2002.

Specialist 4 Yoo, Bong S. started working at FED as a Mechanical Engineer, Construction Division in 1975. He finished the military service in 1978 and transferred as a civilian employee and did the same job until he left for the Pacific Oceans Division in 1983. Yoo came back to FED as a chief of ED in 1996 and went back to POD after two years. He came back again in 2005 and is currently working as chief of ED.

Choe, Si-cha started working at the Northern Project Office in 1973 and moved to Construction Division headquarter in 1979. She works at the Construction Services Branch, CD.

Kim, Hyong-su (left in the above picture) and Hwang, Sang-chae started working at the Design Branch, FED’s Engineering Division, on 22 August, 1972 and they are still working right next to each other.

Han, Chom-cha started working with U.S. Forces Korea in 1960 and came to FED in 1972 as a secretary of a chief of Engineering Division. She is now working at Resource Management Office.
I was assigned to the U.S. Army Engineer District, Far East District in July 2006. This being my first assignment to the Corps of Engineers, I was a little hesitant and uncertain what my role would be in FED. Having been assigned to traditional Army units for my entire military career, where my role was clearly defined and understood, it was difficult to perceive where I would fit in FED. After working in FED for almost a year, I can now see how FED’s military members have an important role in supporting the overall mission in Korea. Although FED’s military can serve in a multitude of roles and have a wide range of responsibilities, the primary roles and responsibilities can be summarized as:

* Liaisons to our military customers in Korea
* Forward Engineer Support Team (FEST) Members
* Trainers for our Emergency/Mission Essential Civilians
* Construction Inspectors/Project Engineers/Resident Engineers
* Augmentees to the Global War on Terrorism and Operation Iraqi Freedom

Although the inception of the Corps of Engineers dates back to 1775, it was not permanently established by Congress until 1802. The Corps’ continuous existence dates from this year. Up until the Civil War the Corps of Engineers primarily consisted of Soldiers. After the Civil War the position of civilian professionals employed by the Corps was uncertain at best. Some officers saw them as an unwelcomed necessity, forced on the Corps by a shortage of military personnel. Toward the end of the nineteenth century, some exceptionally able civilians and the officers who believed in them helped to change the Corps of Engineer’s outlook. From that day, the Corps has transitioned from what used to be primarily a military organization to what is now primarily a civilian organization, commanded by military officers and augmented by military personnel.

FED is no exception to the structure of the rest of the Corps of Engineers. Since its establishment in 1957, FED has always been primarily a civilian organization. Although small in numbers, FED’s military members have a relevant role in supporting both the wartime and peacetime missions. Today, FED consists of approximately 440 dedicated employees that include U.S. Department of the Army Civilians, U.S. Army Soldiers, and Korean national citi-
zens. Out of the hundreds of employees, FED is only authorized seven military personnel. These military personnel have served as Commander, Deputy Commander, Resident Engineers, Project Engineers, Construction Inspectors, Staff Officers, Resource Management and Office of the District Counsel. Most tours in FED for military personnel are one-year unaccompanied tours, although some are two-year command sponsored tours. As we approach FED’s 50th Anniversary, it is important to reflect on the continuing contributions that the military service member provides to FED and the Corps of Engineers.

One of the most important roles that FED’s military members serve is as liaisons to its Joint Service military customers. As an unwritten rule, FED’s military serve as conduits between military commanders and our own FED commander. Often, the military member is looked upon to relay information, assist in resolving issues, and as a means to express concerns that FED’s military customers have and relay those issues/concerns to FED’s Commander. Although command authority is reserved to the Commander, the military liaison is sought out to formulate partnering and mutual support with FED and its military customers. From peacetime construction activities to wartime contingency operations, FED’s military hold the responsibility to formulate the relationship among FED and the military community and assist in solidifying coordination, mutual support and direction. FED’s civilian employees do the same, but, often the joint service counterparts feel more at ease dealing directly with other military members. This is even more prevalent during exercises where FED is augmented by numerous military personnel to specifically serve as liaisons to other Major Army Commands.

Another truly unique asset that FED provides is the Forward Engineer Support Team. Utilized primarily during contingency and emergency operations, the FEST deploys to provide planning, technical support, contracting, and real estate acquisition. Although the FEST consists of both military and civilian personnel, the military personnel must serve as the continuity and foundation of a successful FEST. As FEST Team Leaders, military engineer officers provide the knowledge, skills and experience to translate military requirements into well defined technical requirements. These technical requirements are then relayed to the civilian members who utilize their specialized skills to develop solutions and requirements that can be delivered to the military customer. The military FEST members must be the subject matter experts on the equipment utilized by the team. They must also ensure that all members of the FEST are properly trained and equipped and are ready to deploy on short notice to support the military mission, a natural disaster, or other emergency situations where the specialized skills of the FEST are required.

Additionally, FED’s military members are utilized as trainers to our civilian workforce. In order to remain relevant, FED must effectively meet the diverse challenges resulting from fluctuations in the annual workload caused by ever-changing national and international events. This brings about even greater challenges ensuring that FED’s civilian workforce is properly trained and ready to rapidly transition from peacetime to wartime. FED military personnel provide the expertise to train Emergency Essential and Mission Essential Civilians on the individual Common Tasks needed to be an effective member of the FED contingency team. FED’s Military personnel serve as the cornerstone for training Emergency Essential and Mission Essential Civilians to be ready to transition from peacetime to wartime.

Today’s Engineer Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers are more skilled, educated and have more training than in the past. With the introduction of the continuing education program at the Engineer Captain’s Career Course and greater opportunities at Advanced Civil Schooling, the Engineer Officer comes to the Corps with engineering undergraduate degrees, engineering graduate degrees, and are often registered Professional Engineers. The Non-Commissioned Officer has developed comprehensive skills in Theatre of Operations Construction and also often have degrees in engineering. The skills that these Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers bring to the table can often be formidable assets to FED and its mission. They are more often
Following the September 11th terrorist attacks, the United States embarked on military campaigns to oust the Taliban’s regime in Afghanistan and Saddam Hussein’s government in Iraq. Both countries suffered from decades of war, corruption, and government neglect and mismanagement, resulting in the devastation of their national infrastructures. At the conclusion of major military operations, attention was turned to rebuilding these two countries and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was called upon to deploy its personnel and expertise. Since the Global War on Terror began, 46 military and civilian employees have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. 35 from the Far East District have completed their tours and safely returned to Korea. Today 11 members are currently deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.
“The time in Iraq has allowed me to gain my deepest understanding of the Corps and its values. Everyone worked very hard. That was the beauty of our work. We had to get the mission done, no matter what that was. And we made it happen. I’m so proud of what we’ve done in Iraq.”

-Gloria M. Martinez- In 2003 Gloria became the first FED woman to deploy to Iraq. She is still serving in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

(Above) David Newcomer (fifth from right), Programs and Project Management Division, and Charley Quian (second from right), Southern Resident Office, departed to Iraq and Afghanistan, respectively in April 2007.

(Left) Inhui Spann (second from left), Hospital Resident Office, has been deployed to the Gulf Region Division since Oct. 2006.
“Many days I found myself thinking of FED and how it must have been some 50 years ago when FED first started. The Afghanistan Engineer District faces the same challenges and with time will realize the same rewards that FED enjoys.”

-Capt. Daniel Galvan who was deployed to AED, June-December 2006-

(Below) Steven Haselman, Central Resident Office has been deployed to the Afghanistan Engineer District since Oct. 2006.

(Above) Edward Pena, Central Resident Office poses with an Afghan boy. He served in the AED in 2005.
FED helping those in need

Over the decades Far East District team members have responded to many emergencies around the nation and also around the world—hurricanes, floods and landslides. The men and women of the District step out of their normal routine to provide disaster victims essential services for a quick recovery.

1998 Floods in Seoul

In August 1998, the area north of Seoul experienced record rainfall and heavy flooding. The District was asked to respond and made a significant effort in flood damage assessment and restoration.
Hurricane Katrina and Wilma Disaster Relief Operations, 2005
FED helping those in need

Tsunami Recovery: Thailand, Feb. 2005
Landslides Recovery:
Philippines, 2005
FED reaches out to “Future Engineers”

Far East District has hosted an annual Engineers Day at the Seoul American High School since 1997, in conjunction with the National Engineers Week. FED has set up hi-tech displays and demonstrations showing students how exciting it will be to be an engineer. The event gives students the opportunity to explore and learn about the various aspects of engineering through discussions, demonstrations and exhibits prepared by practicing engineers and scientists.
Boosted by the success of Engineers Day, FED started supporting the job-shadowing program of Seoul American Middle School in 2006. This program is designed to help students explore certain professions of their interest and get a glimpse of what it takes to get there.

“I became more deeply interested in engineering after I looked at all the maps and prints. I learned a lot and had a good time after looking at the special steps that engineers take to build a building.”

-Louis Ji, Seoul American Middle School student-
assigned to Emergency Management, Resource Management, and Office of the District Counsel. They serve roles such as Project Engineer, Construction Inspectors and sometimes Resident Engineers. These are typically their peacetime assigned positions but they quickly transition to liaisons and FEST members during wartime.

Since September 11, military members of FED have deployed to support both Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Rotational needs of the Corps of Engineers have mirrored the needs of the Army in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Military members of FED have deployed to both the Afghan Engineer District and the Gulf Region District on six-month tours. Most military members will complete at least one six-month deployment during their tenure in FED. For some, this is often their second or third deployment in support of the GWOT and OIF.

As we reflect on the 50th Anniversary of the Far East District and the history of the Corps of Engineers it is important to remember the vast contribution of both the military and civilian members. Over time, the Corps of Engineers has transitioned from primarily a military organization to one that is dominated by civilians and augmented by military personnel. We all have important roles, whether civilian or military, but it is often important to reflect on the past to better understand the present and future organization. It is also important to understand the relationship between the civilian and military members to better formulate an atmosphere of “One Team, One Fight”.

Continued from Page 29
Three testing laboratories at the District are fully accredited. The Materials Testing Laboratory was first validated by the USACE Materials Testing Center in June 2003, followed by validation of the Chemistry Lab by the USACE Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste Mandatory Center of Expertise in September 2004. With final accreditation of the Asbestos Lab on July 2005, the District has accomplished another major milestone in providing quality services.
In recognizing the need for an understanding between the Far East District and the Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense engineers, FED started to conduct an annual exchange training program in 1986. With its almost 20-year history, MND Exchange Training has made a lot of contributions as a bridge between FED and MND. The exchange training programs have paid many dividends for the students’ professional development as well as an understanding of the Corps’ business processes and have also positively contributed to improvements in MND’s execution of the Combined Defense Improvement Projects program.

First MND Exchange Training in 1986
The Far East District English Class began in the spring of 1995 with the intent of helping to increase employee’s communication skills by teaching conversational English during the lunch hour. The size has varied over the last 12 years, but the group has about 10 to 12 active members. The group meets every Tuesday and Wednesday during lunch hour in the Executive Assistant’s Office.

The FED Soccer Club was organized in April 2004. The group has 28 general members and 8 honorary members currently. Members play soccer games with other organization teams such as DPW, AMKOR and MMI once a week.
The FED Alpine Club began in 1988 and has about 40 members currently. The group goes hiking to mountains in Seoul area once a month and takes three-day trips twice a year.

The FED Pingpong Club began in 2003. The group has 8 members and plays pingpong at during lunch.

The FED Quartet was organized in 2004. The group sings beautiful songs on many occasions such as the district’s Organization Day, Safety Day, and special emphasis observances.
FED COMMANDERS 1957-2007
50TH ANNIVERSARY: 1957-2007

COLONEL JANICE L. DOMBI
JULY 2004 - PRESENT

Essayons!
사령관 메세지

미육군 극동공병단의 50주년을 축하합니다! 특별호로 나온 East Gate Edition의 공병단 50년 역사 기사를 읽으면서 한 가지 뜻은 생각이 있었습니. 바로 “변화의 수용”입니다. 지난 50년 동안 극동공병단은 한반도의 안정과 경제적 번영에 있어 매우 중요한 한 부분을 차지하고 있었습니다. 전쟁으로 폐허가 된 대한민국의 건설사 업 개방을 원조해야 한다는 것을 알았을 때 극동공병단 직원들은 매우 두려웠습니다. 전쟁 직후 대한민국에 대규모 공공자금을 건설하는 건설산업 안정의 임무를 맡았을 때 여러분들은 많이 걱정이 되셨을 것입니다. 한 때 일본을 지원하던 극동공병단이 대한민국을 위한 공병단으로 그 임무가 바뀌었을 때 많은 혼란이 있었었습니다. 건설 산업이 부진했던 시절에는 극동공병단이 지역 사회로의 크기에 불과하기도 했습니다. 그리고 1990년대 후반 수복 복구 되는 건설 경기가 돌아올 때는 극동공병단 직원이 750명이 넘었던 적도 있었습니다. 변화에의 적응이야말로 바로 우리 극동공병단의 역사이길.

극동공병단은 변화하는 환경에 적응하는 능력을 가졌습니다. 우리는 지난 50년 동안 “적절하고, 준비된, 신속응대하는, 신뢰할 수 있는” 팀이었습니다. 우리 극동공병단이 변화에 잘 적응할 수 있었던 것은 직원들이 새로운 생각에 열려있었고, 건설 파트너들과 기술적인 지식을 나누고자 했기 때문입니다. 전쟁 직후와 마찬가지로 극동공병단은 여전히 계약업체들에게 안전 교육을 실시하고 있고, 국가에서 인증받은 세 개의 학습실에 파트너들을 초대하여 우리가 품질 관리를 위해 어떻게 노력하고 있는지를 보여주고 있습니다. 또한 파트너들을 위한 6주 과정의 건설 관리 교육도 여전히 실시하고 있습니다. 현재 우리는 국방부와 함께 탄력적 계약 수송제도를 실시하기위해 공조하고 있는데, 이는 미국 건설계에서는 널리 이용되는 제도이지만 한국에서는 새로운 것입니다. 파트너들과 함께 일하고자 하는 우리의 노력을 변화를 지원하는 힘이 되고 있습니다.

우리의 전시 전투 능력도 보다 신속한 전투 지원을 가능케하는 신기술들과 함께 발전해 오고 있습니다. 전직의 전통적인 전시 건설관리 역할과는 많이 달라졌습니다. 전방 공병지원(FEST)팀에서 전투를 지원하는 민간인 직원들도 있습니다. 복잡한 문제 해결을 위해 미국에 있는 기술 전문가들과 협력을 통해 즉시 대화할 수도 있습니다. 테러와의 전쟁 지원을 위해 60여명의 직원들이 아프가니스탄으로 파병되었습니다. 이외에도 많은 분들이 미국의 해병대 본부나 수리링크의 스미니 구호, 필리핀의 산사태 복구 기술 지원을 위해 파견되기도 했습니다.

변화의 시대를 직면했던 1957년의 극동공병단 가족들처럼, 우리도 지금 큰 변화를 마주하고 있습니다. 캠프 헨프리즈의 이동, 한반도의 군생명 변동을 지원하면서 겪게 될 사업 관행의 많은 변화들, BTL 주택 등은 우리에게 지난 50년동안의 우리 전임자들과 같은 협력과 융통성을 요구할 것입니다. 우리는 현실적이고 전문적인 직원들이 있기 때문에 “적절하고, 준비된, 신속응대하는, 신뢰할 수 있는” 조직으로 남아있을 것입니다. 새로운 직원들이나 모든 방송작을 가족과 같이 환대하는 따뜻한 마음의 극동공병단은 어디에 있든지 어떤 임무를 맡든지 잘 해낼 수 있을 것입니다. 앞으로의 50년도 지난 50년처럼 날고 활기찬 것입니다. 축하합니다. 이제 50살이 됐지만 여전히 우리 극동공병단을 엎입니다!
경 촉 사

친애하는 FED장병 및 직원 여러분!

부대창설 50주년을 국방부 시설본부 전 장병 및 군무원의 이름으로 축하드립니다.

FED가 창설된 1957년에 대한민국은 한국전쟁의 상처가 그대로인체 전국토가 폐허인 상태였습니다.

1950년 6월 북한 공산군의 기습 남침으로 대한민국이 평전등화의 위기에 처했을 때 맥아더 원수가 지휘하는 미군은 유엔군의 주력부대로서 한국군과 함께 공산군과 싸워 승리하였습니다. 이를 계기로 미국은 우리 행정으로서 영원한 한국의 우방이 되었습니다.

특히 1957년 창설된 FED는 주한미군의 시설을 지원하면서 한국군의 기술발전에 크게 기여하였습니다. FED로부터 건설기술을 배운 한국군 공병들이 전역한 후에는 건설기술의 권위자로서 한국 건설회사의 중요한 직위에 보직되어 미군으로부터 배운 기술을 계승 발전 시켰습니다. 이를 바탕으로 한국 건설기술자들은 60년대의 월남에서, 70-80년대는 종종에서 수많은 공사를 수주하여 한국의 산업화에 크게 기여하였습니다.

또한 경부고속도로 건설 시에는 한국군 공병 장교가 공사감독을 실시함으로서 미군으로부터 배운 한국공병의 건설기술이 최고 수준임을 입증하였습니다.

이러한 건설기술을 바탕으로 대한민국은 산업화에 성공하고, 이를 기초로 오늘날 세계 10대 경제대국으로 성장할 수 있었습니다.

따라서 오늘날 서울의 빌딩숲과 전국의 도로망, 항만, 비행장, 수많은 주택들, 공장들을 새롭게 수구하고, 한국이 세계적인 경제대국이 된 바탕에는 FED를 통해 미군공병이 한국군 공병에게 전해준 건설기술 때문입니다.

앞으로는 CDIP, IN-KIND, LPP, YRP사업을 FED와 국방시설본부가 공동수행하면서 더욱 공고한 협력을 유지하고 FED의 선진기술 및 공법, 품질관리제도 등을 배워서 한국공병의 기술수준을 더욱 향상시켜 나가겠습니다.

친애하는 FED장병 및 직원 여러분!

지난 반세기 동안 대한민국 발전과 주한미군 시설발전을 위해 헌신적으로 노력한 FED에 경의를 표하며, 앞으로도 한미 동맹 증진과 주한미군의 안정적인 주둔 여건을 마련하는데 FED와 국방시설본부가 협상하여 결정적인 역할을 할 수 있도록 함께 노력합니다.

다시 한번 FED창설 50주년을 진심으로 축하하며, FED의 무궁한 발전과 FED사령관 DOMBI 대령과 FED 전 직원의 건강을 기원합니다.

대한민국 국방시설본부장
육군소장 박 병 희
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FAR EAST DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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