



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Far East District

EAST GATE EDITION

JANUARY 2019 VOL. 28, NO. 01

Geotechnical and Environmental Engineering Branch relocation improves office efficiency

By Stephen Satkowski
FED Public Affairs

The Far East District geotechnical and environmental engineering branch has some new equipment and space due to the district's recent headquarters relocation to Camp Humphreys. One of only eight in all of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers performing quality assurance in design and construction, geotech moved out of the old district headquarters in Seoul to their new home in the fall of 2018.

Jay Pak, geotechnical branch chief, said the new setting provides a better and more open space for district employees.

"It looks more professional," said Pak. We also have new furniture in the lab which makes a big difference.

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The Geotechnical and Environmental Engineering Branch characterize the geology of the earth by collecting samples with the use of the district's two drilling rigs. These samples are then tested and identified in the field and at the district's materials testing laboratory. (Photos by Stephen Satkowski)



Far East District employees celebrated Christmas early with family and friends at our new headquarters Dec. 14, 2018. Santa Claus did not forget to pay us a surprise visit this year, too! (Photos by O Sang-song)



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www.pof.usace.army.mil

Geotechnical and Environmental Engineering Branch relocation improves office efficiency

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Along with the new office and furniture, geotech was also able to acquire new state of the art equipment in the last year. They now have a new industrial oven used for measuring and removing moisture from soil specimens. They also have a remote automatic consolidation machine, which will help replace the older manual ones. Construction materials are then tested and identified in the field and at the district's materials testing laboratory –validated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers materials testing center in Vicksburg,



MS – where it allows them to expertly characterize a construction site. Most districts in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have to contract out this testing.

“We have in-house capability,” said Pak. It is very unique compared to the rest of Corps.”

The Geotechnical branch also provides training, inspects equipment and validates the capabilities of Republic

of Korea contracting firms, as well as supporting U.S. military engineers in training and knowledge sharing.

From professional engineers, to geologists, to drill rig operators, the geotech office has a wide variety of positions and is one of the more distinguishing aspects of working for the Far East District in the Republic of Korea.



Cooperation, Commitment, Partnership keys to FED alliance

By Antwaun J. Parrish

FED Public Affairs

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Far East District (FED) has diligently worked alongside its Republic of Korea (ROK) partners in support of one of the largest transformation, re-stationing and construction projects in Department of Defense history. The Yongsan Relocation Plan (YRP) and Land Partnership Plan (LPP) signed in 2004 formally designated a new footprint for the American military in the Republic of Korea, with the main hubs located at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys and U.S. Army

Garrison Daegu.

Colonel Garrett Cottrell, USACE FED deputy commanding officer-Transformation/USDCA, has worked meticulously over the past two years alongside Col. Park Jong Yeon (left), Republic of Korea DCA, MND-DIA, and other ROK officials to ensure completion of construction projects related to the transformation.

Garrett contributes the success of the development of Camp Humphreys to a few factors.

“History and longevity are key components of the relationship,” said

Garrett. “More importantly the commitment by both parties to be aligned and the commitment by the ROK.”

For Garrett, his passion for working alongside the ROK has come full circle for him and his family.

“My grandfather fought in the Korean war in 1952,” said Garrett. “That’s another aspect which, for me personally, reinforces and intensifies the alliance in what we’re trying to do here today.”

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Col. Park Jong Yeon (left), Republic of Korea DCA, MND-DIA and Col. Garrett Cottrell, USACE FED deputy commanding officer-Transformation/USDCA, sign the Acceptance Release Memorandums for the SLQ031 Unaccompanied Officers Personnel Housing and UEH050 Enlisted Barracks, Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Dec. 18, 2018. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)

Cooperation, Commitment, Partnership keys to FED alliance

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The two entities often celebrate the success of construction completion with a formal Acceptance Release Letter memorandum signing. The signing of this memorandum releases the facility over to the director of public works, in order to complete the work for facility usage.

“The signing is another step in a long process,” said Garrett. “Each time we execute one of these ceremonies, it gives an opportunity to recognize the great work of the team. Without the combined effort at all echelons we wouldn’t have the success that we have here today.”

Garrett stated that in construction there are always friction points in projects and when all the stakeholders from a project come together, to include the two nations, it can sometimes be difficult.

“Because of the strong partnership and commitment from the U.S. and the Republic of Korea, it allows us to get to where we are today,” said Garrett.

Looking forward, Garrett stated that we must continue to remind ourselves of what we’re doing and what’s our goal.



Col. Park Jong Yeon (left), Republic of Korea DCA, MND-DIA and Col. Garrett Cottrell, USACE FED deputy commanding officer- Transformation/USDCA, sign the Acceptance Release Memorandums for the SLQ031 Unaccompanied Officers Personnel Housing and UEH050 Enlisted Barracks, Camp Humphreys, South Korea, Dec. 18, 2018. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)

“I appreciate the opportunity to highlight the relationships and what we’ve been able to achieve through this process,” said Garrett. “It’s only through those successes and commitment that we are able to get to the end state.”



The Far East District held a farewell luncheon for 1st Lt. Zachary Hawkins, a family housing resident office project engineer, Dec. 7, 2018. Best of luck sir in your new assignment and thank you for all your contributions to the Far East District! (FED file photo)

POD offers employee a chance at progression through professional development training

By Antwaun J. Parrish
FED Public Affairs

Within the Department of the Army Professionals field, there are educational courses designed to train future and current leaders across all spectrums.

Army professionals often attend the Civilian Education System (CES) Leader Development Program at the Army Management Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. CES provides enhanced educational opportunities for civilians throughout their career.

It can seem difficult to travel from outside the Conti-

mental United States (OCONUS) to attend training due to a number of elements. However, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Pacific Ocean Division (POD) ensures that its employees are offered opportunities to attend training.

Cindy Sheu, a civil engineer from the USACE Japan District, recently attended the CES intermediate course at Fort Leavenworth.

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John Kutzman (center), a writer and instructor at the Army Management Staff College, spends a candid moment with his students, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Dec. 14, 2018. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)

POD offers employee a chance at progression through professional development training

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The Japan district is a subordinate unit of POD, which requires eligible candidates for the course to submit a packet of information prior to being selected to attend the training. Once the employee is selected, they must select a course date and process their travel orders through the Defense Travel System.

Sheu stated that this process can be quite time consuming, however, she found it to be worthwhile.

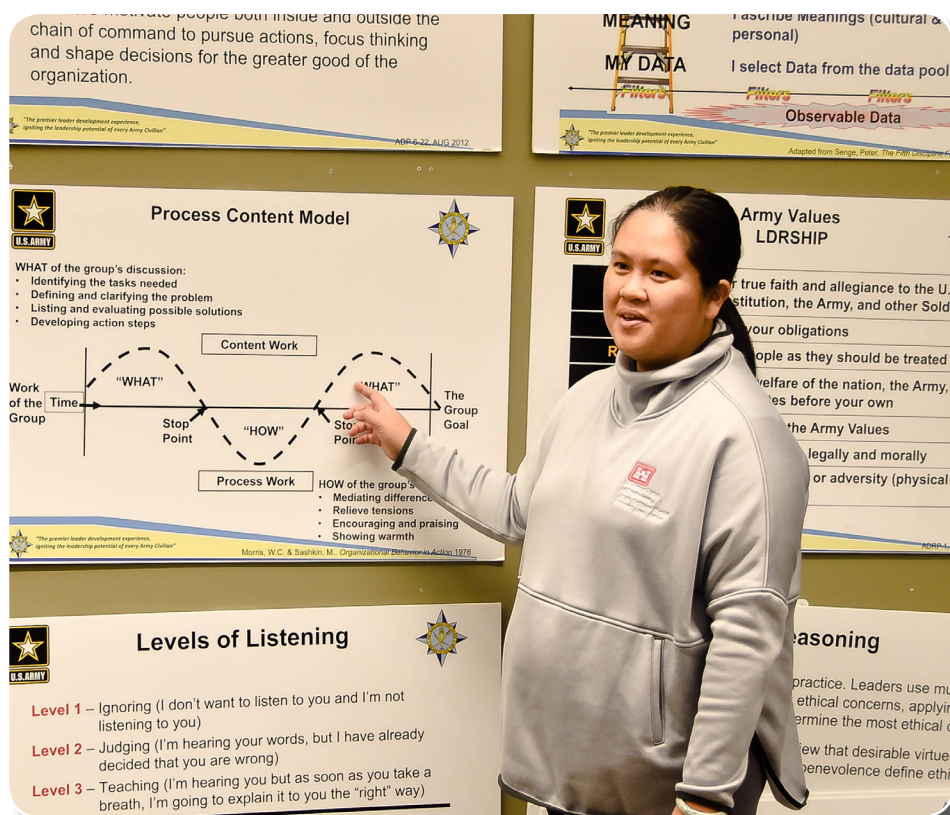
“Once everything aligned, that was the light at the end of the tunnel,” said Sheu. “I hope that more people take this opportunity, there are many benefits to this course.”

Leadership training can cover an array of topics. At the CES course, attendees are taught through the adult learning model. The adult learning model views progression as a way to gauge whether the student has learned the material.

“I came here with an open mind,” said Sheu. “I didn’t have any expectations, but I was willing to learn as I knew that this course is required for future opportunities.”

John Kutzman, a writer and instructor at AMSC since 2014, is confident that the course is beneficial regardless of the distance traveled to attend.

“It’s a testament to how well our program works here and how people admire our program due to the positive feedback we’re getting from all of the major commands based on their employees’ experience,” said Kutzman. “I am honored that overseas folks come here, and I think it’s a fantastic concept that we can mix classrooms in such a way that we have a diverse crowd. You’re going to get a lot of strong perspectives and anecdotal information from being in this class.”



Cindy Sheu, a civil engineer, USACE Japan District, delivers a presentation at the Civilian Education System Intermediate Course, held at the Army Management Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Dec. 13, 2018. (Photo by Antwaun J. Parrish)

Kutzman speaks highly of the professional education and leadership taught at the course. He states that it’s imperative the hemorrhaging of talent ceases, and we garner the talent we have in order to groom it for the Army’s future.

“Education is a huge part of our responsibility and a way to show them how we want them to lead as a generating force and as professionals.”

Kutzman stated that he looks forward to training more professionals and sharing the knowledge that he’s acquired.

“I think anyone who comes here has a wonderful experience,” said Kutzman. “It’s a fantastic experience for anyone who wants to serve as an Army civilian.”

EEO CORNER / DIVERSITY

By Valerie Bradley

FED Equal Employment Opportunities Officer

Diversity Matters

What is diversity? Simply put, diversity means difference – individuality – unique – and it means variety. Diversity is also that set of characteristics, experiences, and values that cannot be changed which define an individual such as national origin, age, language, race, color, and ethnicity. Diversity also includes characteristics that define an individual which may change or that occur naturally such as religion, gender identity, socioeconomic level, veteran status, education level and family structure.

What is inclusion? Inclusion is best exemplified in a work culture that encourages collaboration, learning from differences, flexibility, fairness and equal opportunity which collectively enhance organizational effectiveness. Inclusion leverages diversity throughout an organization so that all individuals are able to participate and contribute to their fullest potential.

What are the benefits of diversity and inclusion management?

- Get beyond individual bias or misconceptions about others.
- Make better use of the individual talent and experiences of coworkers and subordinates.
- Access a variety of viewpoints and experiences.
- Feeling of inclusion results in higher employee engagement and productivity.
- Enhances working relationships.

Special Observances

Special observances are conducted to recognize the continuous achievements of all Americans to American culture and to increase awareness, mutual respect, and understanding. They are designed to enhance cross-cultural and cross-gender awareness and promote harmony among all military members, their families, and the DOD civilian workforce.

The following lists only observances established by law, bill, or resolution of Congress.

OBSERVANCE/AWARENESS EVENT	DATE
Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday	21 January 2019
National African American/Black History Month	1-28 February 2019
Women's History Month	1-31 March 2019

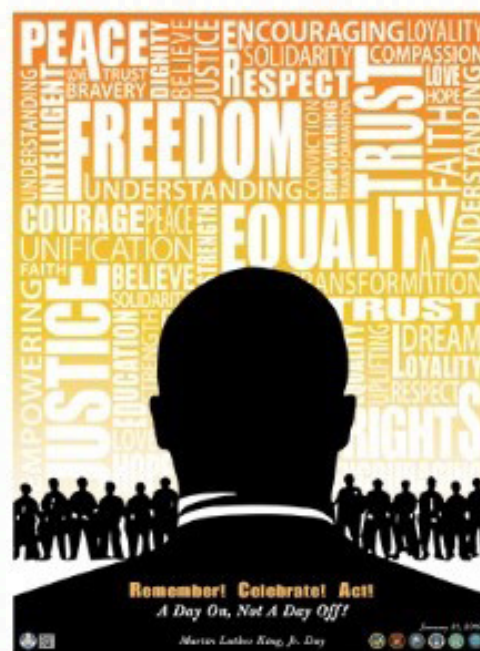
Holocaust Remembrance Day Days of Remembrance	2 May 2019 28 April – 5 May 2019
Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month	1-31 May 2019
Women's Equality Day	26 August 2019
National Hispanic Heritage Month	15 September- 15 October 2019
National Disability Employment Awareness Month	1-31 October 2019
National American Indian Heritage Month	1-30 November 2019

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday

The observance of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. was established by Public Law 98-144. This national day of service is celebrated on the third Monday in January. The theme for this event does not change each year.

The King Holiday

Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not A Day Off!



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EEO Corner / Diversity

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Poster Description: The Department of Defense 2019 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day poster depicts a background which transitions from orange color at the top, to yellow in the middle to white at the bottom, representative of the colors at daybreak. Superimposed across the top two thirds of the poster are words placed horizontally and vertically in white letters and different sized fonts. The words reflect many of the principles demonstrated by Dr. King in his speeches and actions, such as: peace, dignity, freedom, bravery, intelligence, understanding, love, trust, dream, rights, justice, loyalty, respect, and many others.

Centered on the bottom half of the poster is a black silhouette of Dr. King facing away from the viewer. Facing Dr. King and the viewer is the black silhouette of a crowd. Centered across Dr. King's shoulders is the theme in orange letters: Remember! Celebrate! Act! Beneath these words is the phrase, "A Day On, Not A Day Off!" in white letters. Beneath the theme is the title, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

In the bottom left corner is the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) seal and a quick response code. In the bottom right corner is the holiday's date, January 21, 2019. Immediately below the date are the Service seals for the Army, Marines, Navy, USAF, Coast Guard, and Department of Defense in consecutive order.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded the world that, "Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

He challenged Americans to live up to the ideals in our founding documents that we are all created equal, endowed with unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Facts of the Day

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is the first African American—and the first non-U.S. president—to have an official legal holiday.

In 1955, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was recruited to serve as spokesman for the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which was a campaign by the African American population of Montgomery, Alabama to force integration of the city's bus lines. After 381 days of nearly universal participation by citizens of the black community, many of whom had to

walk miles to work each day as a result, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation in transportation was unconstitutional.

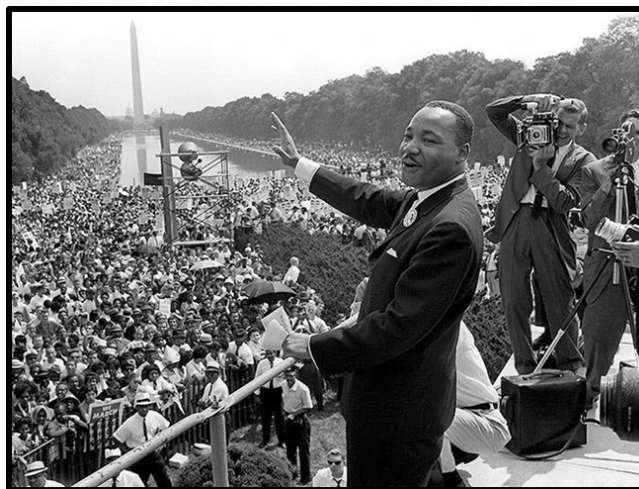
"We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed." —Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Letter from Birmingham Jail

In 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the driving forces behind the March for Jobs and Freedom, more commonly known as the "March on Washington," which drew over a quarter-million people to the National Mall. It was at this march that Dr. King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, which cemented his status as a social change leader and helped inspire the nation to act on civil rights. He was later named Time magazine's "Man of the Year."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was arrested numerous times for his participation in civil rights activities. While he preached about justice, empowerment, love and peace, in the final months of his life, his attention was turned towards fighting poverty. Sadly, more Americans live in poverty today than during Dr. King's lifetime. Forty-seven million Americans currently fall below the poverty line.

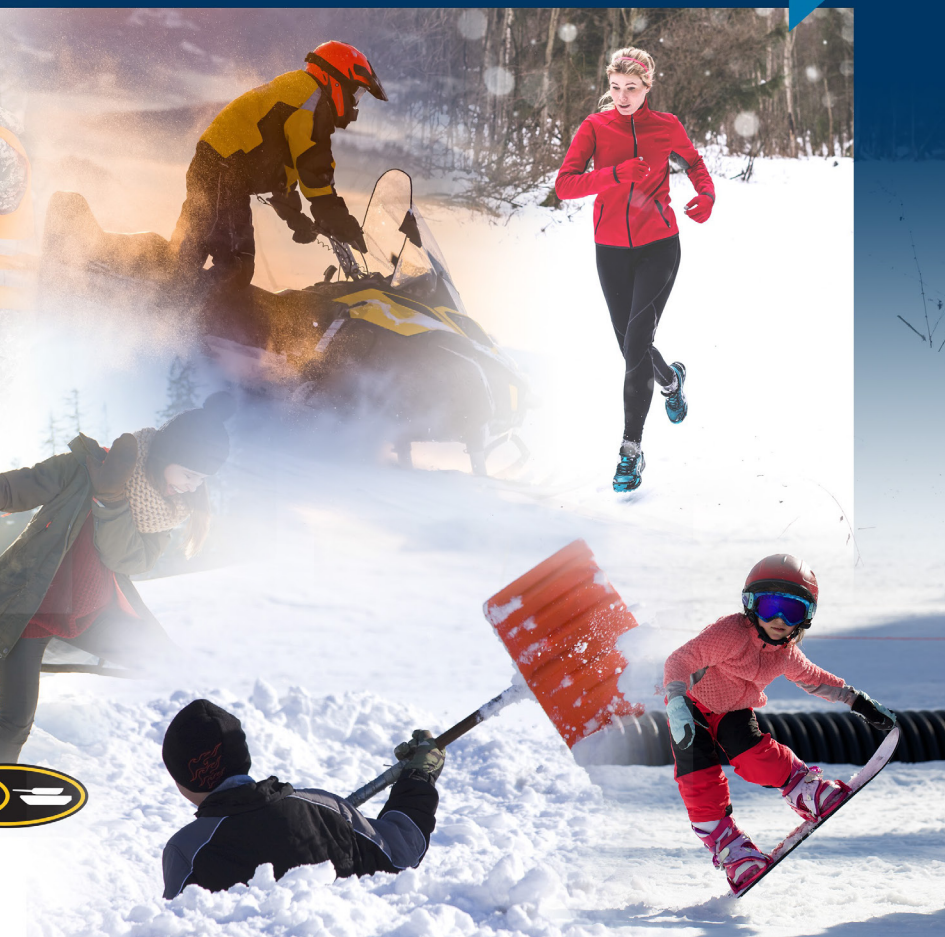
"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'"

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I Have a Dream



A COMBAT MEDIC'S RULES TO STAYING SAFE IN THE COLD

SGT. 1ST CLASS MARC KERRIGAN, a combat medic with the Massachusetts Army National Guard, gives these recommendations for playing safe while enjoying the outdoors this winter:



LIMIT EXPOSURE

If you feel cold, head indoors and warm up to prevent cold weather injuries.

LAYER UP

Stay warm and dry. Wearing more layers can help prevent hypothermia and frostbite.

STAY HYDRATED

Even though it's cold outside, your body still needs water to function properly.

<https://safety.army.mil>