



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Far East District

# EAST GATE EDITION

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## Construction division chief makes return to Far East District

By Stephen Satkowski  
FED Public Affairs

**T**he Far East District's (FED) new construction division chief is a familiar name to many in the district. Chad McLeod returned to FED in September 2018, after previously serving as the resident office engineer at the southern resident office from 2012 to 2014.

"It's great to be back," said McLeod. "The Korean people and the culture are amazing and the construction projects are new and interesting every day."

McLeod started his career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2000 when he began working as an intern at the Jacksonville District. He later moved on to the Mobile District and Savannah District progressing to become a project engineer. It was there he met former FED Construction Chief

Sam Adkins who was on a recruiting tour for the Far East District and sold him on coming to Korea to be the resident engineer at the southern resident office.

"At the southern resident office there were and are so many cool construction projects and working with the local Korean Nationals you learn a lot and I was challenged a lot," said McLeod.

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*Chad McLeod was previously assigned to the Far East District from 2012 to 2014. Here, he conducts a meeting at the southern resident office while he was resident engineer. (FED file photo)*








*Far East District held its annual mandatory training for employees at the FED Headquarters Jan 22. Training classes included equal opportunity, ethics and suicide prevention. (Photos by Yo Kyong-il)*



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# New housing under construction on Camp Humphreys

**By 1st Lt. Tucker E. Jones**  
FED Family Housing Resident Office

**N**ew barracks are under construction on U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys. As part of the Yongsan Relocation Plan, unaccompanied enlisted personnel housing will provide much needed space to house the increased number of Soldiers stationed at Camp Humphreys. The relocation plan, agreed upon in 2004, is set to have the majority of the 28,500 U.S. service members moved to Camp Humphreys.

Hanwha Consortium is the contractor responsible for building the

barracks, with the Far East District's family resident housing resident office providing quality control. The barracks will include private modules with individual living/sleeping rooms. The rooms will be joined by a private kitchen and bathroom to be shared by two Soldiers. Common areas include entry lobby, charge of quarters station with counter, vending areas, ice machine, mail facilities, janitor's closet public phones and toilets.

The Unaccompanied Enlisted Housing began in November of 2017

and is currently at 15 percent project completion. Structural work has been the main focus of the project for the last year. Last January the foundation of each building was being constructed through pile cap construction. Over the last year, significant progress has been made in the vertical construction. Construction on each barracks building has been done half at a time, working simultaneously constructing re-bar, concrete forms, and placing concrete. The project is expected to be completed in 2021.

*Construction on unaccompanied enlisted personnel housing on Camp Humphreys continues to progress smoothly thanks to the work of engineers at the Far East District's family housing resident office. (Photo by Seukhwan Son)*





## Construction division chief makes return to Far East District

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McLeod returned to Mobile District as the Area Engineer before coming back to FED as the new construction division chief. His goals include maintaining a top notch construction management program and supporting his team with proper training and leadership.

“I’d like to help identify and advance future leaders in the district, take care of the projects today, but have an eye on tomorrow as well,” said McLeod. “I want to prepare them for the future. Teaching them how to manage a project and work well as a team. I want to ensure we have the right people in the right place,” said McLeod.

McLeod said the unique nature of the job, working with our Korean partners, and the historic nature of the projects at the district install pride in his work.

“You’re part of a program here that you just can’t find in the States now,” said McLeod. “You will be challenged and you will have a chance to lead. Working for the Corps you get to put your stamp on something. Every time I see the FED name block on of the buildings here, when I take my kids around I’ll point that out and tell them our organization helped build that,” said McLeod.



**Chad McLeod, Far East District's new Construction Division Chief (FED file photo)**



**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District's former relocation officer, Capt. Christopher J. LaRocque, was presented the Steel Order of the de Fleury medal by Col. Robert J. Clark, Commander, Wilmington District on behalf of Col. Teresa A. Schlosser, Far East District Commander. The award was presented in recognition of his efforts during the Far East District's successful relocation of its headquarters to Camp Humphreys. The de Fleury Medal, an award of the U.S. Army Engineer Association, was named in honor of François-Louis Teissèdre de Fleury, a French Engineer in the Continental Army. Capt. LaRocque returned to North Carolina last fall after serving one year with the Far East District. (FED file photo)**





**Maj. Gen. Anthony C. Funkhouser, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Deputy Commanding General for Military and International Operations, visited the Far East District and met with dignitaries and key stakeholders from United States Forces Korea and the Republic of Korea from Jan. 22-25. Maj. Gen. Funkhouser toured the medical and dental complex, communications center and family housing construction projects as well as meeting with the USACE Leadership Development Program representatives from the district. Maj. Gen. Funkhouser concluded his tour by holding a town hall for the workforce and recognizing exceptional Far East District employees. (Photos by Yo Kyong-il and Stephen Satkowski)**





# District welcomes first two Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army Soldiers

By Stephen Satkowski  
FED Public Affairs

**T**he United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Far East District (FED) has welcomed their first two Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army Soldiers (KATUSAs). Pvt. Ahn Hong-in and Pvt. Jeong Tae-yeong came on board this past November and December. Both Soldiers will work in the district's operations shop and are excited to be part of the team here at FED.

"I want to learn how engineering is done on the job site, as opposed to in the classroom," said Ahn.

Jeong said he wants to learn engineering skills, but also wants to gain more understanding of the United States.

"I want to experience the American culture and also I hope this experience will increase my communications and inter-personal relationships with foreigners," said Jeong.

Both Soldiers are studying engineering, Ahn at Pohang University of Science and Technology, and Jeong at Kyeongbuk National University in Daegu.

They will both be stationed with FED for 16 months, the entirety of their time as KATUSAs.

"We are really excited to have them here and get them to work and educate them about what we do at the district," said Master Sgt. David

Montes Jr., District Operations Non-commissioned officer in charge.

Both Soldiers said this experience will be beneficial as they continue their studies at the college level. They both think what they learn here will lead them to find the right professional job in the future and perhaps a job one day with an engineering company.

"I realize there are lots of ways to get a job in engineering and I also noticed there are a lot of civilians working at the district so I think it would be great one day to come back and get a permanent job here working for the Far East District," said Jeong.



*Pvt. Jeong Tae-yeong (left) and Pvt. Ahn Hong-in, the first two KATUSAs to work at the Far East District. (Photo by Stephen Satkowski)*

# USACE-POD senior executive service officer retires after 41 years of service

By Sgt. 1st Class Ershwyn Thibou

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division

**A**fter 41 years of service to the Nation, Senior Executive Service member Eugene Ban, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, (USACE) Pacific Ocean Division (POD) retired on Jan. 15, 2019.

In a ceremony held in Ban's honor, Brig. Gen. Thomas Tickner, POD commander, expressed his gratitude saying "Gene... Thank you. Because of your contributions, the POD enjoys the level of strategic and critical alliances that we have today. Your work throughout the pacific, supporting U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, military and civil works missions, host nation construction programs and continuous support of Indo-Pacific Command's (INDOPACOM) theater security cooperation plan, has strengthened our efforts in every way, making the POD the strategic engineer of choice."

As part of the POD team, Ban has worked for ten Chiefs of Engineers and seven division commanders who he says helped to shape his career in meaningful ways. He has spearheaded many significant ventures during his time with the Corps. His major accomplishments include helping to plan, and direct or play a role in some of the largest engineering projects undertaken by the Department of Defense in the Pacific since the end of the cold war: the Humphrey's Korea relocation program, the Iwakuni Program, and the Futenma Replacement Program for example. He was also inducted into the National Academy of Construction, a very exclusive organization.

Ban expressed his confidence that those coming after him possess the competence to get the job done, and will receive the same support, guidance and mentoring from leadership that he has



**SES Eugene Ban poses for a picture with his wife Sandra and his son Lawrence at his retirement ceremony held at the Oahu Country Club in Honolulu Hawaii on Jan. 15, 2019. (Photo By Sgt. 1st Class Ershwyn Thibou)**

gotten over the years in order to do the job.

Ban grew up in Honoka'a on the Big Island, and has fond memories of his time as part of the close-knit plantation community, playing football as a half back at the local high school. After graduating, he attended the University of Hawaii, but didn't know which career or academic path he wanted to pursue. However, Ban but knew that whatever path he followed, he wanted it to lead back to his beloved Hawaii. Ban's desire was to serve and make Hawaii a better place. He knew that he wanted to enter into a discipline that would challenge him mentally and intellectually, choosing civil engineering and joined the ROTC program. This penchant for seeking out challenges is something that he would carry with him throughout his long career.

After graduating University, he

joined the U.S. Air Force as a second lieutenant, served in some key positions, and had the chance to make an impact. Despite having a promising career in the Air Force, he left the Service as a captain because he wanted a career that was centered in Hawaii where he felt he could make a difference.

One of the things that Ban always attempted to do wherever he worked, was to promote, or create a win-win situation for all the players involved in any endeavor. He said "I learned from early on in my career that because everyone works for the same team, it is always better to work together in a cooperative effort, though at times we may seem to have competing interests." Ban reiterated that "we should always pursue the win-win situation."

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# EEO CORNER / DIVERSITY

**By Valerie Bradley**

FED Equal Employment Opportunities Officer

## 2019 Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their immeasurable impact on the history of the United States.



The annual celebration of Black Americans' achievements is credited to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Known as "The Father of Black History," Woodson dedicated his life and career to the field of African-American history and lobbied extensively to establish Black History Month as a nationwide institution.

The theme Black Migrations emphasizes the movement of people of African descent to new destinations and subsequently to new social realities in the United States. This massive demographic shift remade our nation in ways that are still being felt today—culturally, politically, and socially.

## The Great Migration 1910 to 1970

### World War I/Great Migration

Between 1915 and 1970, more than 6 million African Americans moved out of the South to cities across the Northeast, Midwest and West in search of higher wages in industrial jobs and better social and political opportunities.

This relocation—called the Great Migration—resulted in massive demographic shifts across the United States. From a geographical context, historians divide the Migration into two periods: 1910-1940 and 1940-1970, with a pause in migration during the Great Depression in the 1930s.

When World War I broke out in Europe in 1914, industrialized urban areas in the North, Midwest and West faced a shortage of industrial laborers, as the war put an end to the steady tide of European immigration to the United States and millions of men left to serve in the Armed Forces.

Between 1910 - 1930, New York, Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis and Cleveland saw their Black populations grow by about 40 percent, and the number of Blacks employed in industrial jobs doubled.

Not only was there a massive demographic shift during this time, African Americans began to build a new place for themselves in public life. They actively confronted racial prejudice as well as economic, political and social challenges to create a Black urban culture that would have an enormous influence in the decades to come.

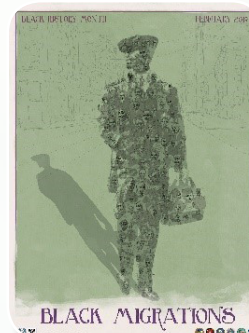
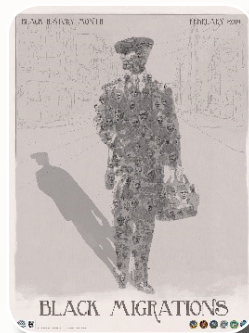
During the migration many people found doors opening into areas that had been previously denied resulting in an explosion of opportunities in the arts, sports, science, technology, and politics.

The observance of African American / Black History Month was established by Public Law 99-244. This observance runs through the month of February and celebrates the contributions of African Americans to our nation. The theme for this event changes each year.

The Department of Defense 2019 Black History Month poster provides three colored options with choice of tan, green, or orange background, but with identical imagery.

At the top left corner in capitalized text is the month's title, "Black History Month" in purple letters on the green and orange backgrounds and gray letters on the tan background. At the top right corner is the month, "February 2019."

The top one third of the poster reflects a pencil sketch of an early 20th century city street with multiple storied buildings. Superimposed across the center of the poster is the purple or gray (on tan background) silhouette of a man looking off to his right and walking down the city street towards the viewer. The man is attired typical of a person from the early 20th century; he wears a suit, a newsboy cap, and is carrying a briefcase in his left hand. The man's shadow reflects on his right side and slightly behind him.



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## **EEO CORNER / DIVERSITY**

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The man's silhouette consists of numerous images of African Americans from all walks of life; inventors, scientists, military members, astronauts, actors/actresses, politicians, sports figures, and others. Some members include an icon of their key invention, an aspect of their profession or life, or a key historical location. Complete legend of individuals shown on poster is provided with this document.

At the bottom center of the poster in larger purple or gray text is the observance theme, "Black Migrations."

At the bottom left corner is the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) seal, a quick response code, and in smaller text the words, "Designed by DEOMI – Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute." At the bottom right corner are the Service seals for the Army, Marines, Navy, USAF, Coast Guard, and Department of Defense in consecutive order.



Fannie Lou Hamer said, "Never to forget where we came from and always praise the bridges that carried us over."

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## **USACE-POD senior executive service officer retires after 41 years of service**

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His recipe for success was to simply continue challenging himself with the toughest assignments, and do the best in everything that he did, with the goal of always producing the top results. This is the advice that he also gives to anyone hoping to be successful in their chosen field of endeavor.

After working in Federal Service for about four years, and getting what he described as "itchy feet," he transitioned to the private sector where he enjoyed success as the Vice President, and President of two companies successively. After about ten years in the private sector he said "I missed taking on projects that make a difference to DoD and our nation."

Ban returned to the federal service for the DoD to undertake a major engineering project in Japan the project was eventually scrapped. He was not fearful of this challenge, meeting it head on, which led to other opportunities. He was quickly offered a different position

at a higher grade with the Pacific Ocean Division, Japan Engineer District.

He describes his time in Japan as a very rewarding experience, and holds on to a special Japanese saying "ichigo-ichie." He is pensive as he translate, "This is a very special moment in time with very close friends and you should cherish it for a life time because you may not get it again."

His work accomplishments are not what Ban is most proud of during his time with the POD. His proudest and fondest memories are of the people. He says considerately, and with sincerity that "it is always about the people. It is the people who are the strength of our organization." Ban also added that he feels blessed to have served with some of the best people that anyone can hope to have as part of one's team.

In looking back on his journey, and what yet lies ahead; he says that he feels good. He muses happily about his career, describing it as more fun than

work to him. Ban says "I reflect on my career with great joy and fulfillment." Recalling his humble beginning, he says "I cannot believe that a small town boy like me has gotten to do as much as I have done with my life."

Entering this new phase of his life, he plans to spend time with his wife Sandra, who he says is a major inspiration to him. "I call her the ambassador of the family because of how good she is with people, and because of her beautiful heart," Ban adds. As for the future, he foresees playing a lot of golf, enjoying Hawaii, and reminiscing and catching up with his old high school buddies from his home town of Honoka'a. As his journey comes full circle, and he makes his return to his hometown on vacation; he is taking with him the fond memories of his time with the Corps, the friendships he has made, and the way that his life has been enriched by the whole experience.





# 8A Safety Gram

## Lunar New Year Holiday



**“Sae-Hae-Bok-Manhi-Paduseyo!”** (Happy New Year!). Lunar New Year, known as Seollal is one of Korea’s major holidays when people show respect to elders, having joyful family gatherings and sharing traditional meals while looking forward to new blessings in the coming year. However, we also need to be aware of the risk and consider these few tips for planning and safety during this holiday season:

### Safety Hazards and Concerns:

Understand the elevated risk of traffic hazards during this time period, especially from 1st to the 6th of February. Major intersections and highways will be extremely congested, including the rest stop areas. But at the same time, you may note that Seoul could be less crowded as people visit their families in the countryside outside of Seoul. Tips to remember:

- ✓ Risks of fatigue due to long travel times are likely. Recommend drivers take stretch breaks every two hours (Example Travel Times: Seoul to Pyeongtaek = 4 hours; Seoul to Daegu = 10 hours)
- ✓ Enforce seatbelts for all occupants.
- ✓ Be responsible and do not drink and drive.
- ✓ Ensure Chain of Command knows where you are going.
- ✓ Encourage guests to leave their cars at home and use public transportation or a designated driver.
- ✓ Minimize all tactical vehicle movements during this holiday period.

### 2019 LUNAR NEW YEAR ROAD CONDITIONS

Location	AREA I (USAG CASEY)	AREA II (USAG YONGSAN)	AREA III (USAG HUMPHREYS)	AREA IV (USAG DAEGU)
Source	USAG-YC DPTMS	USAG- YC DPTMS	USAG-H DPTMS	USAG-D DPTMS
FRIDAY 1 FEB			Starting @ 1700 hours	Conduct Safety Briefings
SATURDAY 2 FEB				
SUNDAY 3 FEB				
MONDAY 4 FEB				
TUESDAY 5 FEB				
WEDNESDAY 6 FEB				
THURSDAY 7 FEB				

**GREEN:** Highway conditions are normal.

**AMBER:** Military vehicles, other than those required for essential business, will not be driven on highways. POV owners need to use extreme caution and are encouraged to observe the rules established for military vehicles. An O-3 or GS-10 or above may authorize mission on back of dispatch.

**RED:** Military vehicles, other than emergency/essential business, will not be driven. O-5 / GS-13 or above may authorize usage for business that cannot be postponed without jeopardizing military requirements. Back side of dispatch must be signed by person authorizing mission.

**BLACK:** All U.S. Government vehicles are prohibited from movement. Commanders of O-6 and above must personally authorize the use of emergency vehicles after the appropriate risk assessment and mitigation actions are considered.

For more information contact the **8A Command Safety Office** at **DSN 755-1281**