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Far East District

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TOURS **FAR EAST DISTRICT** PROJECTS

Story begins on page 7

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**US Army Corps
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Far East District**

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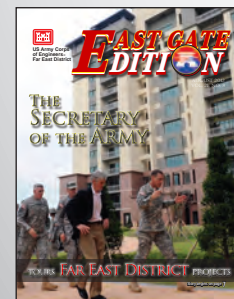
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On the cover



Secretary of the Army John McHugh walks with Col. Donald E. Degidio, Jr. (right), commander of the Far East District, as they prepare to enter the new Army family housing towers at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Aug. 18. (Eighth Army photo by Pfc. Choi)



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Commander's Corner

Col. Donald E. Degidio, Jr.

To the Great Team of the Far East District and our entire Team of Teams,

Thanks for all you do! Just as the Seasons change, our District has the amazing ability to transform itself to meet an ever-changing environment.

This month we rehearsed our ability to "Fight Tonight" as we supported U.S. Forces Korea and the Republic of Korea-U.S. Alliance during the annual Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2012 exercise. Our ability to carry on with our mission through armistice, contingency, and crisis is just one of the many reasons our Team is so honored to serve here in the Republic of Korea.

The District had a great visit by Maj. Gen. Kendall Cox, our U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Commanding General for Military and International Operations, who visited the District and U.S. Forces Korea as we prepared to support our contingency mission. Maj. Gen. Cox had the opportunity to tour Camp Henry in Daegu, while meeting with our Southern Resident Office as well as our deployed Forward Engineer Support Teams. He also visited Garrison Humphreys, and the dynamic and extensive program being executed by the District.

This month the District was also honored to host Secretary of the Army John McHugh. The Secretary visited the newly constructed Senior Leader Quarters and Army Family housing project sites and was suitably impressed with the great work our District is doing in support of the vast Yongsan Relocation and Land Partnership Plans.

For those who did not have an opportunity to participate in the exercise, but would have liked to, you do have a chance to volunteer as an emergency essential civilian or mission essential civilian. What a great opportunity to serve!

As the summer comes to a close and fall soon approaches, it is a great opportunity to enjoy some well deserved time to see the beautiful Korean countryside and explore this great culture while spending time with Family and Friends. And again, thanks for all you do!

To our great Alliance – Katchi Kapsida!

To our great Corps – Essayons!

One Team Building Strong® in Korea!



Preparation is the key to success

By Robert V. Lamoureux
Security, Plans, and Operations

On July 27, 1953, the warring powers on the Korean Peninsula signed an armistice that brought to an end three years of devastating conflict. While the guns were silenced, the war did not end. Today, nearly 60 years later, the threat of reengagement still exists. In the aftermath of the war the Republic of Korea has flourished and become one of the premier economic success stories of the 20th Century. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has not shared in this success and remains a belligerent, militaristic state which constantly threatens the peace.

As a result of the tension that continues to exist between the two Koreas and the potential threat of renewed hostilities, the Korean Army with support of U.S. Forces Korea maintains a constant state of vigilance and readiness to deter aggression. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District which is tasked with providing direct engineering support to USFK is an integral part of the deterrence mission.


Key to the Far East District's ability to provide support to USFK in the event of a contingency operation is the District's 215 Emergency Essential and Mission Essential Civilian Employees who serve as the backbone of the District's "Fight Tonight" capability. These are volunteers who have agreed to remain in place to fill critical positions during a crisis rather relocate or evacuate. They do this with the understanding that their service may require them to live in an austere environment and work in dangerous conditions that are far removed from their normal life. In order to prepare themselves for this challenge EE/MECs are issued military field uniforms and equipment, undergo a rigorous annual physical and vaccination regime, receive soldier survival training in field first aid and chemical warfare, are issued ID tags, Geneva Convention Cards, security clearances and participate in major joint services exercises such as Ulchi Freedom Guardian and Key Resolve.



As Alexander Bell, the engineer credited with inventing the telephone, so eloquently stated, "Preparation is the key to success." This statement is the foundation of the district's EE/MEC readiness program. The Far East District maintains a robust readiness posture and our EE/MECs meet or exceed the highest standards. Recently FED has been acknowledged by the USFK as having the most thorough readiness program in the theater.

A vital component to the District's contingency readiness response capability is its ability to efficiently evacuate non-combatant personnel from the peninsula. To accomplish this, FED has formed Noncombatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) teams. These teams are guided by appointed NEO Stewards who are responsible for assisting the NEO family sponsors with preparing their dependents for evacuation should it become necessary. The diligent efforts of the NEO Stewards resulted in FED achieving 100 percent accountability during the recent Courageous Channel NEO exercise.

In addition to FED's military role in the defense of Korea, the district also maintains an equally robust civil response capability. The district's base camp development team, civil response volunteer team and logistics support team's high state of readiness has made them a valuable asset to the Pacific Command. FED civil response personnel have deployed in support of a wide range of civil disasters to include occurrences in Guam, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the Philippines and the U. S. for Hurricane Katrina.

The future is unpredictable and no one can know where the next crisis will occur, however one thing is certain, the Far East District's contingency response personnel are trained, prepared and ready to answer the call. 



(Above) Republic of Korea Air Force fighter jets fly over Seoul on the anniversary of the Korean War. Today, the U.S. continues to stand by its ally, the Republic of Korea, in defense of the Korean peninsula. (Photo by Patrick Bray)

(Below) Sgt. 1st Class Ernestine Smith, FED Workforce Management Office, keeps accountability of FED personnel to ensure mission preparedness during the Ulchi Freedom Guardian Exercise 2012. (USACE Photo by Marilyn Phipps)



Readiness is constant

By Sgt. Maj. David Breitbach
FED Sergeant Major

Traditionally, Labor Day weekend marks the end of summer; the weather is cooling off and school is back in session. The Far East District's participation in Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG-12) was successful in spite of Mother Nature sending two torrential storms through the Korean peninsula during the exercise.

At the same time that Korea was dealing with Typhoon Bolaven and Tropical Storm Tembin, back in the United States the Gulf Coast states were dealing with Hurricane Issac. This was the first real test for the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana's readiness to endure a powerful storm since Hurricane Katrina destroyed much of the city in 2005.

There is that word again; "readiness." It was just a couple of months ago that I asked our readers if they were "ready" for not just the exercise contingency mission but in their personal lives and at home to deal with the "what if" events that happen, whether it is a medical emergency or Mother Nature stopping by to remind us that she still has the ability to come by any time and test mankind's advancements in technology.

Readiness and preparing to execute our missions are never ending. We create checklists, refine processes, conduct inventories and perform maintenance on our equipment, rehearse time and time again to make sure we've got it right.

During the exercise there were many tasks which we had a marked improvements from the previous exercises and in some areas we still need to refine. The weather only added another aspect to deal with. Fortunately, for the exercise participants



in Daegu were spared from the severe winds and rain that were experienced in the Seoul metropolitan area.

Here comes that word again... readiness. This was key to making sure that people were receiving timely information and taking proactive measures to mitigate the effects of the storms to facilities, equipment and more importantly ensure the safety of people. Our teammates across the peninsula in the resident and area offices should be commended for their actions ahead and during the storms.

If you've read up to this point you have easily come to the conclusion that readiness and preparation are important to me as they should be with you. If you, your teammates and section are ready, and your family is ready, then the district is ready to carry out our mission and be successful.

Keep up the good work that you are doing for our countries and our Army. Essayons! 🇺🇸



Sgt. Major David Breitbach, Far East District Sergeant Major, ensures that FED Soldiers and civilians are prepared prior to their departure to Daegu for Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2012. (Photo by Jason Chudy)

Secretary of the Army visits Far East District project sites


By Patrick Bray
FED Public Affairs

Secretary of the Army John McHugh visited the Korean Peninsula Aug. 17-18. McHugh's visit was of strategic importance as the U.S. is shifting focus to the Asia Pacific region. As part of that focus McHugh was able to see firsthand the relocation efforts currently underway at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys.

McHugh was able to visit two of the many active construction projects by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District at Humphreys: the build-to-lease senior leaders' quarters and the Army family housing towers.

These projects will improve quality of life for Soldiers stationed in Korea.

The Far East District is continuing to achieve its motto, "Building Strong in Korea," by supporting both U.S. Forces Korea and the Republic of Korea-U.S. Alliance.

"Korea has been and will remain a key U.S. ally and an important partner supporting peace and stability in this vital region," said McHugh. "We are proud of this long-term relationship and what it has meant to both Korean and U.S. national security interests." 

Secretary of the Army John McHugh tours a completed apartment at the Army family housing towers under construction by the Far East District Aug. 18. McHugh visited this project at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys as part of his tour to view the expansion of the installation. (Photo by Eighth U.S. Army Public Affairs)



Secretary of the Army John McHugh shakes hands with Richard Sudhoff, Far East District Construction Division, during his visit to the Army family housing towers under construction by FED Aug. 18. McHugh visited this project at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys as part of his tour to view the expansion of the installation. (Photo by Patrick Bray)



ULCHI FREEDOM GUARDIAN

2012

Far East District supports combined readiness exercise

By Jason Chudy
FED Public Affairs

Members of the Far East District deployed to the unit's tactical operations center in Daegu Sunday, Aug. 19, to take part in exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2012.

More than 30,000 participants from the Republic of Korea and the United States took part in the exercise, including the U.S. Army Pacific headquarters, as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pacific Ocean Division staff, which arrived Thursday, Aug. 24.

District civilian and military lined up in ranks on Sunday morning before loading luggage and gear into buses, vans and sedans for the hours-long ride to Daegu. Although the weather was hot in Seoul and Daegu, the rain held up and all vehicles and personnel made it safely.

Not all of the Daegu staff made the Sunday trip. Others were already in place supporting the district.

"We're the first in and the last out," explained Jun Kang, lead helpdesk technician for the Information Management Office.

"Prior to the exercise we go and set up all the desktops and laptops and make sure they're connected," he explained. This was Kang's third UFG since arriving more than two years ago.

Exercises such as this are designed to test a unit's ability to operate during contingency or wartime. For the information management staff, these exercises closely mirror what they would be doing if deploying for real.


"Every day of the exercise is the same as the real thing would be," Kang said. "Everything we deal with is the same."

Also on the peninsula were members of four Forward Engineer Support Teams, deploying from the United States.

"UFG is also a great opportunity for U.S. Active, Reserve and National Guard forces to conduct some tough and realistic training together with the ROK military," said Eighth Army Deputy Commanding General for Operations Maj. Gen. Walter M. Golden, a native of Salida, Colo.

"We train like we fight here in Korea and that means training with the entire combined, joint and total force team."

The exercise ended Aug. 31, but had a short pause Aug. 28 as Typhoon Bolaven moved onto the peninsula, bringing strong winds and rain.

The command post exercise, which was defensive in nature, incorporated lessons learned from the U.S. military's operations in Iraq and Afghanistan during the past decade, according to a U.S. Forces Korea press release. 



(Above) Members of the Far East District man their workstations at the district's emergency operations center in Daegu during Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2012. (Photo by Jason Chudy)



(Right) Pat Crays, chief of the Far East District Security, Plans, and Operations Office, briefs Maj. Gen. Kendall Cox, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Commanding General for Military and International Operations, about field force engineering in preparation for Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2012. (USACE photo by Marilyn Phipps)



Col. Donald E. Degidio, Jr., commander of the Far East District, addresses members of FED prior to their departure to Daegu for Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2012. (USACE photo by Marilyn Phipps)

579th Forward Engineer Support Team-Main participates in UFG

By Marilyn Phipps
579th FEST-M PAO

Elite groups from across the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently gathered in South Korea when a combination of four Forward Engineer Support Teams – Main and Advanced – to exercise their specialized skills and gain certification for deployment next spring.

The teams arrived in time for a major coalition exercise known as Ulchi Freedom Guardian-12. While the teams did not directly participate in UFG-12, they did provide professional solutions to complex engineering problems that the military faces across the peninsula.

The 579th FEST-M from Vicksburg, Miss., provided command and control for the three smaller FEST-A teams. They consolidated the daily situation reports, visited the teams and monitored their work.

Lt. Col. Dongha Yi, the FEST-M officer in charge for the exercise, described the deployment as an opportunity for the teams to prove the Corps of Engineers mantra of “ready, responsive and reliable.”

“Each team arrived in South Korea with a loosely defined mission. They have to take their skills and prove that we can support operations in other nations. We will have the opportunity to hone our reach back capabilities and refresh skills using equipment such as the automated route reconnaissance kit,” Yi said.

The Far East District in Seoul, South Korea, is the only corps district with a contingency mission outside of Transatlantic Division’s Middle East District.

“During this deployment, we will be exercising our skills to support USFK in preparation for contingency operation,” Yi said. “It is a chance for each team to show that USACE is truly ready, reliable and responsive while delivering effective, sustainable solutions for the military.”

As the teams moved across South Korea, they learned more about the country and its culture. “There is more to an assessment than looking at infrastructure,” Yi said. “You have to consider the impact of your recommendations not only on

Members of the Forward Engineer Support Team work with their counterparts in the Republic of Korea Army during the exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2012. (USACE Photo by Marilyn Phipps)



the mission but to troop and on the citizens.”

The six-member 273rd FEST-A from Fort Hood, Texas operated out of Camp Casey. They spent two weeks on the road surveying and collecting data on Camp Greaves and Warrior Base, Dorasan Rail Station complex and an ammunition depot and collected data. The team took extensive measurements of the buildings at Dorasan and put together recommendations for the possible military use of the complex. Part of the team traveled to Warrior Base for additional information for dining facility.

The eight-member 34th FEST-A based out of Seattle, operated out of Warrior Base supporting the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command engineer. They spent two weeks surveying locations such as Imjimgak parking lot, Liberty Bell logistics support area and assessed Yangsan Stadium.

Ray Langdale, Northwest Division military planner and field force engineering program manager, accompanied the 34th on this deployment. “Our mission is assessments based on post contingency operations,” he said, “we are looking at it from a recovery point of view.”

The eight-member FEST-A hailed from Tulsa, Okla., operated out of Osan Air Base. Their customer was the U.S. Air Force, 51st Civil Engineers. The original mission was to survey numerous building and two modulated interoperable surface terminal; towers for 7th Air Force. They also inspected retaining walls, the aircraft parking aprons for drainage, and


water wells for vulnerability.

Capt. Charles Koppennolle, FEST-A team commander, described the experience of working with the Air Force engineers on force protection. “We are making a difference. The Air Force tends to look at force protection needed from an air attack. We are Army; we can assess force protection from a ground attack,” he said. “It gave them a different perspective.”

The commander admitted that working on an air base gave the team a different training paradigm from previous contingency operations that the FEST-A supported. “We are operating on an air base, and a FEST-M has command and control. It is interesting to see how all this is working.”

The FEST-A’s work impressed the customer and resulted in the 51st Civil Engineers asking the team to take on three more projects before departing the country. After a discussion with the 579th FEST-M officer in charge, an agreement was reached and three 579th team members headed south to Osan to support the Tulsa team.

Koppennolle admitted that he was marketing the team’s skills to the Air Force, seeking future jobs for the team.

Overall, the deployment proved to benefit each team. They experienced a new culture, supported new customers, and honed their many skills. The teams, each with new members, grew stronger as they explored and exploited the skills of the new people. They left the peninsula with reinforced skills; ready to return in the spring. 

By Yi Yong-un
FED Public Affairs

Who is Ulchi Mundeok?

One of the biggest exercises that takes place in Korea is Ulchi Freedom Guardian, but where does it get its name? What does Ulchi mean?


The name Ulchi is derived from a noted Korean military leader in 7th Century Goguryeo, one of the three kingdoms of Korea, who was called Ulchi Mundeok. He is one of the greatest heroes in Korean military history for defending Goguryeo against the Sui Chinese, and eventually rose to become prime minister of Goguryeo.

Ulchi Mundeok was an educated man, skilled in both political and military science. Some Korean scholars hypothesize that his last name “Ulchi” is a form of Goguryeo rank or title, and some say that “Ul” is his last name and “chi” was added to show respect to the general.

In Korea, Ulchi Mundeok has been recognized as one of the greatest figures in its national history. The most famous battle that he fought was the Battle of Salsu River. Ulchi’s leadership and tactical acumen was the decisive factor in de-

feating the Sui invasion. Facing vastly numerically superior forces, he developed a strategy that allowed him to secure a decisive victory. Such spectacular tactical success was sufficient to earn him a permanent place among Korea’s most famous leaders.

Today a main thoroughfare in downtown Seoul, Euljiro, where the Far East District is located, is named after Ulchi Mundeok. The second highest Military Decoration of South Korea, Field Marshal Lord Ulchi’s Order of Military Merit, is also named in his honor.

One of the biannual U.S. and Republic of Korea Combined Forces Command exercises was called Ulchi Focus Lens in honor of Ulchi Mundeok. It has now been renamed Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG). UFG is the world’s largest computerized command and control exercise, focusing on how U.S. and South Korean forces would defend the peninsula against an attack. 

Far East District hosts ‘Kids in Hard Hats’

By Patrick Bray
FED Public Affairs

About 20 students from Pyongtaek High School visited U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Aug. 8 as part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District’s Good Neighbor Program.

The high school is located near the garrison and these students had a rare opportunity to learn from FED engineers about the multi-billion dollar construction and expansion project at the garrison taking place in their community.

Kim Tae-kon, one of FED’s engineers and also a Pyongtaek resident, encouraged the students to consider a future in engineering while he explained to the students about some of the details of the expansion project and equipment used. The briefing included many “fun facts” about the project to help the kids visualize the scope of work to be done, including a comparison to a popular amusement park.

“When finished, U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys will be ten times larger than Lotte World,” said Kim.



Students from Pyongtaek High School look at some of the ongoing projects at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys Aug. 8. The students were invited to the garrison as part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District’s “Kids in Hard Hats” Good Neighbor Program. (Photo by Patrick Bray)



Sgt. Major David Breitbach, the District Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District, presents books to a student from Pyongtaek High School Aug. 8. The books were donated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District as part of its Good Neighbor Program. (Photo by Patrick Bray)

(Below) A student from Pyongtaek High School prepares to eat lunch at the Provider Grill dining facility Aug. 8. The students were invited to U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys as part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District's "Kids in Hard Hats" Good Neighbor Program. (Photo by Patrick Bray)




The students put on hard hats, just like the FED engineers, and were taken to a nearby project overlook site. Steve Kim, resident engineer at Pyongtaek Resident Office, pointed out a large portion of the new land granted to the garrison and on-going vertical construction projects.

Afterwards, members of FED presented the school with about 600 books. The books were collected during FED's Good Neighbor Program book drive which also received support from the National Honor Society at Seoul American High School. The books will be used to build an English library.

Many of the students in attendance were members of the school's English club and they were accompanied by two English teachers.

"This was one of the greatest opportunities I ever had for my students," said Jo Sang-yun, one of the English teachers.

The students were also able to have fun during their visit. They scaled the climbing wall at the Zoekler Station Gym and then had lunch with FED employees at the Provider Grill dining facility.

The District's Good Neighbor Program, known as "Kids in Hard Hats," has been ongoing since 2008. Since then, FED has hosted 11 local schools, reached nearly 400 students, and donated more than 10,000 books. 



Students from Pyongtaek High School make it to the top of the climbing wall at the Zoekler Station Gym Aug. 8. The students were invited to U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys as part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District's "Kids in Hard Hats" Good Neighbor Program. (Photo by Patrick Bray)

Building **Education** Strong in Korea

Every summer the Far East District gives an opportunity to students from various educational backgrounds and levels the opportunity to learn about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This month the East Gate Edition highlights cadets, Advancing Minorities' Interest in Engineering interns, and summer hires as they share their unique learning experiences.


Art school and beyond

By Youheum Son
FED Public Affairs

Going back to the time when I thought my father was the greatest artist in the world, I remember trying to copy the rough croquet sketches on the pages of his old moleskin books. Nothing was more entertaining for me and my older sister than sitting at his wooden desk watching lines become forms and forms become images. Cherishing these early memories of childhood, I wished to become someone who inspires other people. In the beginning, the exposure to his works and my admiration for them was what got me interested and attracted to art, but as time passed, it became something that defined me. I was able to get a better understanding of what art meant to me.

There has been a major turn in my life, from the days when I thought art was simply a hobby to the moment where I became 17 and decided to pursue a dream as an illustrator. The greatest part was my admiration and appreciation for the diversity and creativity produced by contemporary painters, writers, photographers, and others in the creative field. Among all the great artists that had a profound influence to me, surrealist painter René Magritte, opened my perspective on what art should be, and what it actually is. His paintings, in which he turns familiar objects into odd, peculiar forms, have taught me the idea that art was limitless in its expression and its interpretation by the viewer. Through reading, researching, and going on my own field trips to art museums, galleries, and art events, my eyes opened to a new world. I became a more mature individual who can develop a clear

vision of who I am and what I wanted to be.

Growing up had me thinking of what kind of future I want to walk in; and after taking the path to pursue undergraduate study in the field of visual arts, I know much competition would come. Although I am not exceptionally skillful or knowledgeable of art, I am not afraid to strive for my goal to become a successful illustrator who is determined to show how an individual's perspective on art can change through art work. I am also willing to forge ahead into new areas and subjects to challenge my abilities during my college years in the School of Visual Arts at New York. 



Youheum Son (right) along with her sister, Youhjung, were 2012 summer hires in the Far East District Public Affairs Office. (FED file photo)

Minority students gain experience with Far East District

By Patrick Bray
FED Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is partnered with a non-profit organization to provide internship opportunities to minority students who are studying engineering. The organization, known as Advancing Minorities Interest in Engineering or AMIE, implements programs to attract, educate, graduate, and place minority students in engineering careers.

The Far East District has accepted AMIE interns since 1999. This summer the district accepted four interns to work with FED's Korea Program Relocation Office and Construction Division at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys.

During their tenure the interns were able to do many of the things that FED engineers do on a daily basis.

"I was afforded the opportunity to 'test drive' potential career paths in civil engineering such as project management and construction during our rotational periods," said Angela Strong, a junior at Morgan State University in Baltimore. "This experience allowed me to facilitate networking contacts, valuable exposure to the international workplace, skill development, and a competitive edge in future employment."

One of the unique aspects of the Far East District is the overseas experience in the Republic of Korea and the different culture, language, customs, and geography that come with it.

"This is definitely a once in a life time experience," said Kyle Majors, a sophomore at Alabama A&M University. "Being able to gain valuable work experience while becoming a cultured individual at the same time is something that a lot of people cannot say they have done."

Brittany Nixon, a senior at Morgan State University, has never been outside the U.S. before. Her internship with FED gave her a new perception of the world.

"It has been eye opening to be on the other side of the world and see Korean language on every sign you read, Korean being spoken, and Korean food delicacies that I would not normally eat. I am embracing this opportunity," said Nixon.

Not only are the interns gaining a unique cultural perspective but they are also getting the opportunity to contribute to the largest project in USACE: the expansion of U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys. The interns rotated through FED's Parcel 2 Resident Office, which is overseeing the development of new land adjacent to the garrison, and the Family Housing Resident Office, responsible for housing construction.


Keysha Cutts-Washington, a project manager with the Korea Program Relocation Office, coordinates FED's AMIE program and ensures that they get hands-on experience with USACE's largest project.

"Supporting the USACE and AMIE partnership affords FED the opportunity to take some time to explore the softer side of 'Building Strong,'" said Cutts-Washington. "Through the AMIE summer internship, FED is also given the extraordinary opportunity to build, develop, and nurture the talent pool of aspiring engineers that attend the AMIE partner universities."

The AMIE internships are also an excellent avenue for students to explore the possibility of a future career with USACE. Jeremy Langford, a senior at Tennessee State University, is already considering this route.

"My current goal after completion of my undergraduate degree includes applying for the graduate internship with the Corps," said Langford. "I now understand what it takes to become a successful project manager, quality assurance representative, and construction representative and that the expectations to succeed are set at a very high standard."

Previous AMIE interns Charles Johnson and Adrian Devillasee have gone on to pursue careers with the Far East District.

"Allowing the AMIE interns to see classroom theory turned into practice and the significance of their individual contributions to project successes will encourage them to continue toward great accomplishments within the engineering field and to strongly consider USACE for future employment opportunities," said Cutts-Washington. 



Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick (center), Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, meets with the Far East District's Advancing Minorities Interest in Engineering interns during lunch July 17. (Photo by Jason Chudy)

From West Point to the Far East: cadets gain engineer experience




By Cadet Colin Hennessy
U.S. Military Academy

My visit to Korea through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Cadet District Engineer Program has been a short but incredible adventure. The program allows West Point cadets studying an engineering major to learn about USACE by working at a district office. For three weeks in June, I shadowed the staff at the Far East District's Central Resident Office at Osan Air Base under Maj. Sidney Howard's sponsorship. Initially, I had no idea what to expect since I had never interacted with USACE or visited Korea. By being open to the experience, I have gained a wealth of knowledge about Korea, USACE, and the U.S. Army.

Traveling through Seoul after landing at Incheon, I first glimpsed Korea's liveliness in the endless skyscrapers, busy streets, and colorful advertisements. Seoul's palaces, museums, and markets gave a more detailed picture of the rich culture. Another day I saw Korea from a new view on top of Mt. Daedun. The beautiful rock formations and vegetation were unlike any others I have seen. Despite my drastic changes in location, the people's hospitality remained constant. No matter where I went, I felt welcomed by the Korean people, and their kindness made my transition easier.


While overcoming culture shock, I handled the overwhelming amount of construction. Each day I would help inspect one of ten construction sites at Osan under the tutelage of Maj. Howard, Resident Engineer Jamie Hagio, or one of the other project engineers or quality assurance representatives. The second runway, airfield tower, and the Senior NCO Dormitory were a few of the projects I saw at Osan. Besides the site visits, I learned much from asking staff members about their own experiences. The camaraderie between the engineers and QARs made Osan a great learning and working environment.

As I reflect on my adventure, I have learned the valuable lesson that the people make the place. The teachers, the travel companions, and the locals make the experiences happen in any location. With this realization, I conclude by thanking all who made my trip possible. Thank you to Col. Degidio, FED commander, for authorizing the trip and having the district host me. Thank you to the USACE staff at FED Headquarters and Osan for sharing their knowledge. Thank you to Hagio and Howard for their time, patience and mentorship. Last but certainly not least, thank you to the Korean people whose hospitality and respect were immeasurable. Thank you for making this unforgettable. 

By Cadet Shane Greaves
U.S. Military Academy

I came to Korea on a program that is called the Cadet District Engineer Program. The purpose of this program is to expose cadets to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is very similar to any college student's typical summer internship, in which the student observes how things actually happen in their field of study. Being a mechanical engineering major at West Point, spending time with USACE was something I was very interested in. My time here has blessed me with many enlightening experiences. I have seen more construction while in Korea (both on base and off) than I have in my entire life in the U.S. I spent most of my time at the Central Resident Office at Osan Air Base. Osan is in the middle of some substantial changes, such as the addition of a second runway, the renovation and addition of military housing on base, and the expansion of the base's perimeter. This would cause a headache for anyone anywhere, but being on an Air Force Base in South Korea adds many more layers to be considered. Seeing the coordination that goes on between USACE, the U.S. Air Force, the Republic of Korea, and multiple Korean contractors has been the most beneficial experience I have had while here. The construction process is something that I have not been greatly exposed to in my education, and seeing the problems that arise during the process and the solutions that solve these problems has taught me quite a bit. I have grown an enormous respect for all of the staff in USACE while here in Korea. They have an enormous amount of work and responsibility placed on each person, but they perform their jobs exceptionally well.

Outside of working with USACE I have had some fun and enjoyable experiences. Eating Korean food was one of them. I wish someone had warned me how spicy Korean food is! I saw the people around me eating the food so effortlessly that I thought I had nothing to be afraid of. That first bite was spicier than anything I've ever tasted, and it is something I will never forget. Another opportunity I was able to take advantage of while in Korea was an MWR-organized paragliding trip. Soaring through the air and seeing the beautiful landscape from above is a memory I will cherish for the rest of my life.

I want to thank the Far East District for all of their help in making this an unforgettable experience. Coming to Korea has been the opportunity of a life time and I hope to someday return to this beautiful country. 

Forty-eight years of faithful service to God and country

By Joe Campbell
FED Public Affairs

In June of 1964 a young man from Jacksonville, Fla. was inducted into the U.S. Army. This month, after more than 48 years of dedicated service to our great nation, William “Bill” Baker will retire from the federal government to begin the next chapter of his life.

“It has been a blessing and honor to have worked with Bill. He makes a difference in everything he does,” said Ed Minnerly, Chief of Logistics Management Office. “He cares about people and interacts with them to get things done. That is a trait I see less and less of these days as we become more connected by automation.”

Baker rose to the rank of first sergeant and retired from active duty in 1987. He served at various installations in the United States, Europe and Asia and was awarded the Bronze Star with “V” device for his heroism while serving in Vinh Long, Vietnam, from 1969 to 1970.

Following his retirement from the military he began his federal service as a GS-02, ration control monitor at Camp Page, Korea. Shortly thereafter, he was hired by the United States Army Corps of Engineers Far East District in February 1988 as a Ration Control Clerk, GS-04. He left the District in 1989 to serve as the Installation Property Book Officer at Camp Long, Korea and subsequently returned to the District in 1995. Since then he has served as the property book officer, supervisory supply officer and the chief of Logistic Management Office.

Baker attributes his long and successful career to his faith and upbringing.



Bill and Won-mi Baker relax together during time off from work at the Far East District. (FED File Photo)




“It has truly been a blessing to serve our country for nearly 50 years, and I thank my parents for teaching me to treat people the same way I want to be treated regardless of race, creed, color or national origin.”

Baker and his wife Won-mi, also a federal employee, will relocate to U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys where she will work as a program analyst for the Far East District’s Korea Program Relocation Office.

Although soon to be retired for the second time, Baker doesn’t plan on sitting idle.

“I plan to continue serving my Lord by preaching and volunteering at church,” said Baker. “I will also be volunteering with Child and Youth Services as a bowling coach for the U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys and Yongsan communities.”

When asked what advice he would give to those just entering federal service Baker was quick to say, “Don’t let nothing bother you and treat people the way you want to be treated. I’d like to use some of what former President [Bill Clinton] and first lady Hillary Clinton said years ago, ‘It takes a community to raise a child,’ but remember it takes team work to accomplish the mission.”

“I never say goodbye, just see you later and thanks for being a friend.” 

Labor Day: not just another three-day weekend

By Joe Campbell
FED Public Affairs

Many of us think of Labor Day as the last hurrah of summer; a day for family, friends, barbecue and the start of a new school year. But, let me ask, how many of us really understand or know the origin and significance of this traditional day off that occurs on the first Monday in September each year?

According to the United States Department of Labor, this holiday is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

It all started back in the late 1800s when the first labor movements began to spring up across the nation. The first national observance of Labor Day began in 1894. It was conceived by America's labor unions as a testament to their cause. Legislation sanctioning the holiday quickly went through Congress amid labor unrest and was signed by President Grover Cleveland as a reluctant election-year compromise. Incidentally, Cleveland was not reelected.


Today, nearly 120 years after the first Labor Day observance, there is still some doubt as to who first proposed the holiday for workers. Some records show that Peter J. McGuire, a cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, was first in suggesting a day to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold." Others say that Matthew Maguire, a machinist, founded the holiday.

What is clear is that the Central Labor Union adopted a Labor Day proposal and appointed a committee to plan a demonstration and picnic that was actually celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City when union workers took an unpaid day off and marched around Union Square. Several other states were also observing Labor Day during that time, but it wasn't until the passing of legislation in 1894 that all Americans were given the day off.

Samuel Gompers, the founder and longtime president of the American Federation of Labor, was instrumental in laying the foundation by which labor unions operate and their impact on the enactment of labor laws that we know today.

During one of his many addresses to workers across the nation, Gompers said, "Labor Day differs in every essential from the other holidays of the year in any country. All other

holidays are in a more or less degree connected with conflicts and battles of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed and power, of glories achieved by one nation over another. Labor Day...is devoted to no man, living or dead, to no sect, race, or nation."

So now that you know a little more about this holiday, take a moment during this long weekend to reflect on the strength and courage of those whose trials and tribulations made it possible. 



Tracy George, Far East District executive assistant, grills hamburgers for his coworkers Aug. 31. Although unofficially known as the "last day of summer" and a popular occasion to cookout, Labor Day is traditionally a holiday dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. (Photo by Patrick Bray)



Building **Safety Strong** ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG



Chuseok Holiday

What is Chuseok? (추석이란 무엇인가?)

Chuseok, originally known as Hangawi, is a major [harvest festival](#) and a three-day holiday in [Korea](#) celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar.

한가위로 알려진 추석은 한국에서 중요한 추수 행사이며, 음력으로 8월 15번째 날 앞 뒤를 포함해 3일 동안 휴일이다.



Traditional customs (전통 관습)

In modern [South Korea](#), on Chuseok there is a mass exodus of Koreans returning to their hometowns to pay respects to the spirits of one's ancestors. People perform ancestral worship rituals early in the morning. They often visit the tombs of their immediate ancestors to trim plants and clean the area around the tomb, and offer food, drink, and crops to their ancestors. Harvest crops are attributed to the blessing of ancestors. One of the major foods prepared and eaten during the Chuseok is [songpyeon](#) a crescent-shaped rice cake which is steamed upon [pine](#) needles.



현대의 한국에는 추석 연휴에 고향을 방문하여 조상들에게 경의를 표하려는 대규모의 이동이 있다. 사람들은 이른 아침 조상을 숭배하는 의례를 행한다. 그들은 보통 조상의 묘를 찾아 초목을 다듬고 주변을 정리한다. 그리고 음식과 수확한 작물을 올린다. 수확된 작물은 조상의 축복 덕분으로 여겨진다. 추석의 대표적인 음식 중 하나인 송편은 솔잎 위에서 찐 초승달 모양의 떡이다.

Safety tips (안전 조언)

The Chuseok holiday is a time when all major highways will be extremely congested as families travel to their traditional homes to visit their ancestral grave sites and celebrate the harvest season. So during holiday, if you plan to go somewhere you need to know that you might get stuck in a lot of traffic and be more careful of car accidents.

추석은 많은 한국인들이 조상 묘를 방문하고 추수를 축하하는 기간이다. 그래서 추석은 또한 주요 고속도로가 극심한 정체에 시달리는 때이기도 하다. 그러므로 만약 당신이 연휴기간 동안 어딘가를 갈 계획이라면, 극심한 교통체증에 시달릴 수도 있다는 것을 알아야 한다. 그리고 차사고에 더욱 주의를 기울여야 한다.

Safety has to be your first concern whenever you are driving!

‘Wheels of change keep on moving’

By Khadijah Freeman

FED Federally Employed Women’s Program

During the week of July 16-21, the 2012 Federally Employed Women’s National Training Program took place at the JW Marriot at the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit. As the federally employed women’s program manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Far East District and an official member of the Federally Employed Women’s organization, I was both privileged and honored to have been given the opportunity to attend such an event.

The theme for this year’s program “Wheels of Change Keep on Moving” stands true in my life, as I have balanced being a wife of a U.S. Army service member, mother of two children, full-time careerist, and a full-time college student. Life sometimes throws us curve balls and causes us to come out of our comfort zone and into the challenge zone. It is tough, but life is what you make it and I want the best for me, my family, and for those around me.

Students attended the FEW and Military Awards Program luncheon where members of the U.S Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Army National Guard, and Air Force were recognized by Dr. Jarris Taylor, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Air Force’s strategic diversity integration, for their military service and voluntary service contributions to the FEW. Awardees for national awards, presidential awards, special recognition awards, and scholarship winners were also recognized.


The executive director of the National Coalition for Equity in Public Services (NCEPS), Julius Crouch, welcomed everyone to the Diversity Town Hall Meeting July 18. Crouch talked about the overall responsibility of the NCEPS which is to monitor and represent minorities and women on issues such as equal employment opportunity policies, practices, implementation of the No Fear Act, senior executive service candidate development programs and other federal recruitment initiatives in the areas of workforce management and outsourcing.

Sue Webster, the immediate past president kicked off the FEW Friday celebration where guest speakers Larry Stubblefield, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for diversity and leadership, and Susan Tsui Grandman, who was nominated by President Barack Obama to serve not only as a member but also as chairwoman of the Merit Systems Protection Board, gave speeches on diversity in the workforce, and encouraged everyone to never lose sight of dreams and aspirations.



Attending the training program was truly an amazing experience. During the registration process of the program, candidates were given the opportunity to schedule classes that they were interested in attending. Of the wide variety of course selections, I opted to take courses that would ultimately enhance my knowledge and awareness as the Federally Employed Women’s program manager, in addition to professional development courses in the areas of Lean Six Sigma white belt certification (an introduction to waste elimination management theory) and briefing flag officers and members of the senior executive service.

I was also able to take courses on SES development and interviewing for SES positions, for grades GS-07 through 12. I’m excited about my career as a federal employee and I look forward to building relationships, serving, analyzing problems and applying the right solutions as well as progressing to the level of SES. Students taking the SES development courses were given strategic guidance on career advancement and tracking procedures, and a listing of courses available to GS-07 and above. I will begin taking an eight-week course in pursuit of certification as a certified Lean 6 Sigma green belt in financial services in September with Villanova University.

I’m looking forward to attending next year’s national training program and would like to encourage others to attend. You don’t have to be a member of the Federally Employed Women and you don’t have to be a woman. 



EEO CORNER

Women's Equality Day 2012

By FED Equal Employment Opportunity Office

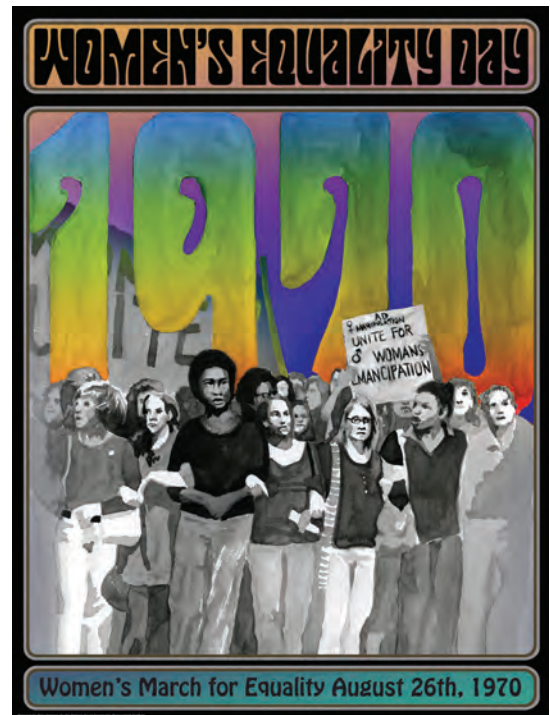
Since 1971, Aug. 26 has been designated as Women's Equality Day in order to honor women's continuing efforts toward equality. Here at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District, we strive to achieve equality for our diverse workforce.

Aug. 26 has been a significant day in women's history. In 1920, the 19th Amendment was signed into the U.S. Constitution giving women full voting rights. Fifty years later, on August 26, 1970, a nationwide strike for women's equality took place. The strike organizers, Betty Friedan and the National Organization of Women, asked women all over the nation to stop working for a day in order to draw attention to the common problem of unequal pay for women's work. It was a year later that Women's Equality Day was chosen to take place on Aug. 26.

The district's emerging leader, Jisun Kang, explains her experience working as a woman in the Far East District.

"I find my assignment here at FED very rewarding and I am proud to be serving in my role as a contracting officer, leading my branch," said Kang. "Being a young, petite, minority woman in the workforce, one may probably imagine I had experienced some hard time advancing in my career, but luckily and thankfully I don't think I have ever experienced any real discrimination for being a woman. The environment that I grew up from and am currently in has always been pretty fair in all dealings, and in this type of environment I have not had much difficulty developing my skills and ability to be where I want to be. For this, I thank the many women who fought toward equality, and I trust and hope there are continuous improvements in places where women are still suffering from discrimination."

The Federal Women's Employment Program manager, Khadijah Freeman, had the opportunity to attend the Federally Employed Women's National Training Program 2012 from July 6-21 in Detroit. The theme for this year's




Poster design by Peter Hemmer for the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Office.

program "Wheels of Change Keep on Moving," stands true in Freeman's life, as she has balanced being a wife of a U.S. Army service member, mother of two children, full-time careerist, and full-time college student.

"Life sometimes throws us curve balls and causes us to come out of our comfort zone and into the challenge zone. It's tough but life is what you make it, and I want the best, for me, my family, and for those around me," said Freeman.

The Federally Employed Women organization works to end sex and gender discrimination, to encourage diversity for inclusion and equity in the workplace, and for the advancement and professional growth of women in federal service.

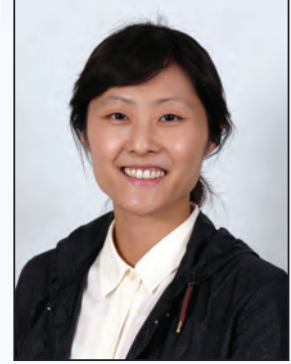
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District continues to diversify the workforce and foster an environment of inclusion. 



*Ronald Lim
Contracting Division*



*James Hightower
Logistics Management*



*Shim Ka-young
Engineering Division*



*Kevin Garey
Construction Division*



*Jin Y. Kim
Contracting Division*

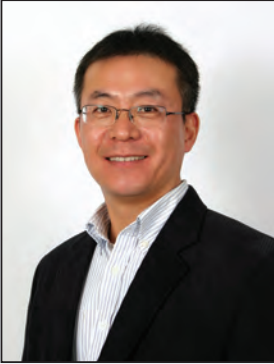


*Won S. Lee
Engineering Division*



*Eric Caradang
Construction Division*

 See You Again... 



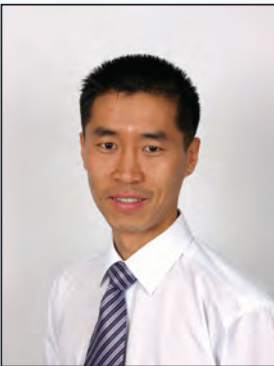
*Jang H. Pak
Engineering Division*



*Cecilia M. Dussing
KPRO*



*Michael Oliver
Construction Division*



*Pak Chong-pin
Engineering Division*



*Yim So-young
Resource Management*



*Min Tang Tan
KPRO*



*Jean Pierre Messier
KPRO*



*William Baker
Logistics Management*

Bill Baker

Logistics Management

My Plan

I help the Corps Build Strong in Korea by...

- Providing top-quality supply and facilities services to the Far East District so that we are always ready to execute our mission
- Ensuring that every member of the district has the equipment they need to not only meet, but to exceed the mission standards
- Being a mentor and a role model to others in the Logistics Management Office



My Plan, My Face

My Plan

I help the Corps Build Strong in Korea by (What piece of the puzzle do I provide to ensure the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers goes from Good to Great?)...

- Which Far East District operations plan actions and tasks do I support?
- Which Pacific Ocean Division implementation plan action do I support?
- Which Corps of Engineers command plan goals and objectives do I support?
- What unique contributions do I make to FED, POD, USACE, and our Nation?

My Face

I am Building Strong in Korea by...

- Fun things I do
- People and Family
- Hobbies
- What else?

My Face

I am a key person in the Corps by...

- Serving the Lord with all my heart
- Enjoying time with my family
- Devoting nearly 49 years of service to my country



Bok Yoon

Resource Management



My Plan

I help the Corps Build Strong in Korea by...

- Build up analytic knowledge and skills to be an efficient management analyst
- Being thorough on performance of my duties for quality work products
- Being an efficient work partner to my colleagues
- Being loyal to myself, my work place, FED, and my naturalized nation



My Face

I am a key person in the Corps by...

- Golfing and go hiking whenever possible
- Since I am the baby in my family, I have 15 grand nephews and nieces in total from my older siblings, calling me hal-mo-ney (grandma in Korean)..., but I am enjoying being with them though
- Hobbies are reading, napping, and traveling

Would you like to share your “My Plan, My Face?”

If you are a Far East District civilian or Soldier, simply send yours into the Public Affairs Office and you could be featured in the next East Gate Edition!

From the Commander

Thank you for doing GREAT things:

To EVERYONE that supported the Far East District during Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2012, THANK YOU!





사령관 코너

Col. Donald E. Degidio, Jr.

최고의 극동 공병단 팀과 모든 팀들에게,

여러분들이 하시는 모든 일들에 감사를 드립니다! 계절이 바뀌어 가고 있는데, 우리 극동공병단은 끊임없이 바뀌는 환경에 맞도록 스스로를 변화하는 놀라운 능력을 가지고 있습니다.

이번달은 2012 을지 프리덤 가디언 훈련동안 주한미군과 한미동맹을 지원하면서 "임전 태세 확립"을 위한 우리의 능력을 훈련했습니다. 전시, 비상시 그리고 위기시에 우리의 임무를 수행하는 능력은 우리가 이 곳 대한민국에서 영광스럽게 복무하는 여러 이유들 중 하나입니다.

미육군 공병대의 군사 및 국제 작전 부사령관이신 캔달 각스 소장님께서 우리 극동공병단을 찾으셨고, 비상시 임무 지원을 준비하는 우리 공병단과 주한미군을 방문하셨습니다. 각스 소장은 대구의 캠프 헨리를 방문하셔서 전방공병지원팀과 남부지역사무소 직원들도 만나셨습니다. 그는 험프리즈도 방문해서 우리 공병단이 수행하고 있는 역동적이고 광대한 프로그램을 보셨습니다.

이번 달에는 영광스럽게도 존 맥휴 미 육군성 장관 또한 우리 공병단을 방문하셨습니다. 장관님은 새로 지은 고위지휘관숙소와 육군가족숙소 사업부지를 방문하시고, 어마어마한 용산기지 이전사업과 한미 연합 토지관리계획 사업을 지원하고 있는 우리 공병단의 훌륭한 업무에 크게 감동을 받으셨습니다.

이번 UFG훈련에 참여할 기회를 갖지 못하셨지만 참여하고 싶으신 분들은 EECL나 MEC로 지원하실 기회가 있습니다. 나라를 위해 복무할 수 있는 정말 좋은 기회입니다!

여름이 끝나고 가을이 다가오고 있습니다. 가족이나 친구들과 좋은 시간을 보내면서 아름다운 한국의 전원을 방문하고 훌륭한 문화를 접하는 가치있는 시간을 즐길 좋은 기회입니다. 그리고 여러분들이 하시는 모든 일들에 다시 한번 감사를 드립니다!

우리의 최고의 동맹에게 - 같이 갑시다!
우리의 최고의 공병단에게 - 에세이온!
한반도에 강한 건설을 수행하는 하나의 팀!





**The discipline to
give up your keys ...**

**Have a designated
driver before you
can't see the signs .**

**The signs are all around
- it's up to YOU to recognize
and act on them.**

KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT
**know the
signs**
DO WHAT'S RIGHT

