

The Morning Calm

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U.S. and Republic of Korea Army Engineer Soldiers train together at Rodriguez Range

A Combat Engineer from 576th Clearance Company, 602nd Aviation Support Battalion, Task Force Warhorse, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade prepares explosives for a training mission during a recent exercise at Rodriguez Range.



By Pfc. Jee Hwan Choi
2nd Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

RODRIGUEZ RANGE, South Korea - Soldiers from 576th Clearance Company Engineers, 602nd Aviation Support Battalion, based at Camp Humphreys, and Soldiers from the 158th Engineer Battalion, Republic of Korea Army, worked side by side to complete a seven month-long training mission to develop their demolition skills.

In addition to testing the Engineers' mission-essential skills, the demolition training facilitated construction of a new 300-meter M4 rifle range that will be used by units on the South Korean peninsula.

"In addition to the creation of a M4 range, the mission enables soldiers to certify and build confidence in their explosives technical knowledge," said 1st. Lt. Kelsey Reppert, who served as the Range Officer in Charge at the California and Shoshone Ranges.

The Engineers set fire to the surrounding land to clear most of the trees and vegetation. Next, they attached explosives to the remaining trees and felled them to create an abatis, a centuries-old battlefield obstacle created by overlapping sharpened tree branches or trunks and used for both defensive and mobility deterrence.

Abatis is one of the light engineers' most-effective techniques to create an obstacle capable of halting a tank using demolition supplies that can be carried in a rucksack with elements of the terrain.

"They maximized use of their most junior leaders and team leaders, and provided them the autonomy to direct and develop their Soldiers as they saw fit," Reppert said. "While ensuring safety, this hands-off approach challenges Soldiers to ensure proficiency in execution."

This kind of training was a first for many of the Soldiers. But through creativity, motivational leadership, and dauntless spirits they were able to detonate well over 1,000 pounds of explosives making a lasting impact on the peninsula.

1st Sgt. David Jusino, the 576th Clearance Company first sergeant, praised his Soldiers for a job well done.

"Combat engineers and horizontal construction engineers did a great job communicating well through the mission," said Jusino. "It is important to hone the skills and techniques to create obstacles that can deter enemy forces."

Capt. John Meyers, company commander of the 576th Clearance Company, summarized the training.

"158th Engineer Battalion has been working with ROK Army engineers," Meyers said. "The training was a mutual supplementation. I applaud the Soldiers for all of their hard work during the training."

The mission was a great success. Yet, Staff Sgt. Brandon Davis, the Range Safety Noncommissioned Officer, stressed that there was something much more important than completing the mission.

"Yes, it is important to complete the mission," said Davis. "However, the most important thing, Soldiers, is your safety."

Engineer
Clearance
Support

Soldiers from 576th Company, 602nd Air Battalion, Task Force Warhorse, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, carefully position explosives at Rodriguez Range during demolition training.

A Combat Engineer from 576th Clearance Company, 602nd Air Support Battalion, Task Force Warhorse, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade prepares for the mission at Rodriguez Range.▲



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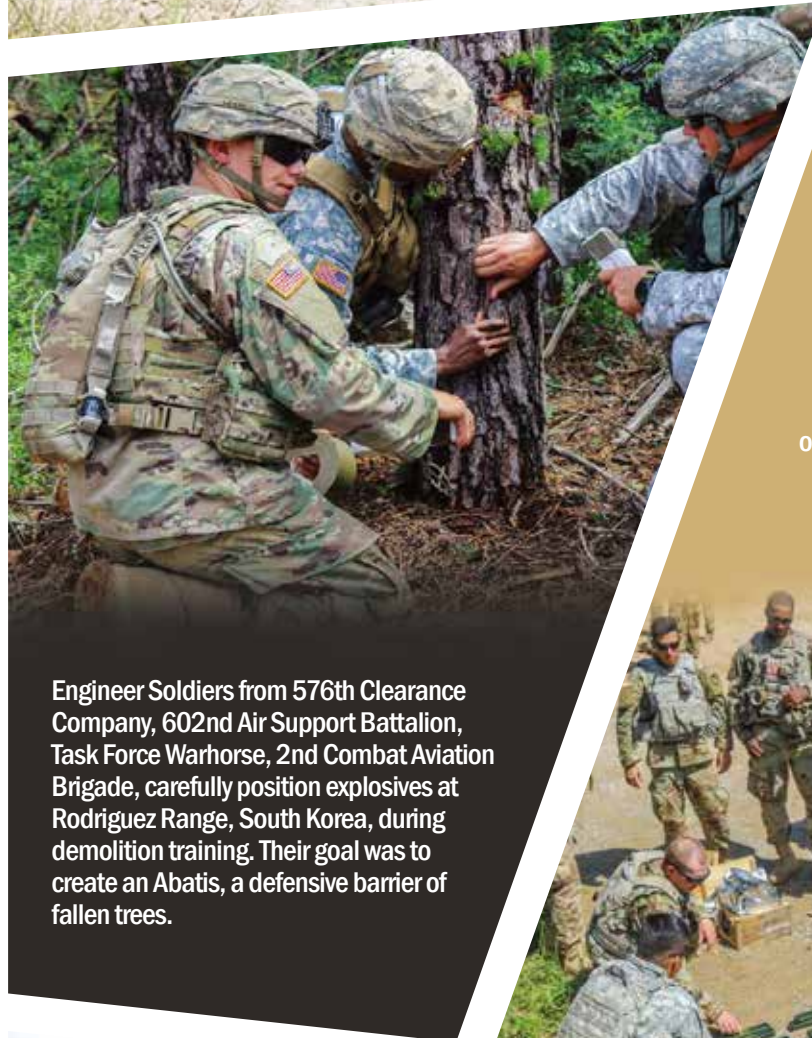
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Engineer Soldiers from 576th Clearance Company, 602nd Aviation Support Battalion, Task Force Warhorse, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, recently completed training at Rodriguez Range, South Korea with Republic of Korea Army Engineer Soldiers.



Engineer Soldiers from 576th Clearance Company, 602nd Air Support Battalion, Task Force Warhorse, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, carefully position explosives at Rodriguez Range, South Korea, during demolition training. Their goal was to create an Abatis, a defensive barrier of fallen trees.

An instructor from the 576th Clearance Company Engineers, 602nd Air Support Battalion, Task Force Warhorse, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, discuss the safe and proper way to set up explosive devices before executing the culminating demolition operation at Rodriguez Range, in South Korea.



Rodriguez Range, immediately after the detonation of explosives devices used during demolition training at Rodriguez Range, in South Korea.



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On Camp Casey in Dongducheon Aug. 22, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael L. Berry, senior enlisted leader of U.S. Army Garrison Area I, is awarded the Legion of Merit for “exceptionally meritorious service” during the year-and-a-half he’s served with the garrison. Col. Brandon D. Newton (right), Commander, USAG Area I, presented the award. According to the written citation that accompanied the award, Berry’s “superb leadership, expertise, and commitment to excellence were evident as he led Soldiers, Civilians, and a local national workforce in building teams, communicating ideas, and enhancing efficiency” in the garrison’s support of more than 13,000 Soldiers and civilians in Area I. Newton said Berry’s “contribution to Soldiers” surpassed that “of any leader that I’ve worked with.” — U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Lee Jin-woo



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael L. Berry, who from January 2016 until this month served as senior enlisted leader for U.S. Army Garrison Area I, talks to Soldiers on Camp Red Cloud in Uijeongbu in September 2016. Berry, a career infantryman and Ranger and former drill sergeant, has moved to a new assignment as Commandant of the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy at Fort Jackson, S.C. — U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Vincent Byrd

Area I's Berry to train drill sergeants

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael L. Berry departs Area I to head Drill Sergeant Academy

By Franklin Fisher
USAG Area I Public Affairs

CAMP CASEY, South Korea – Command Sgt. Maj. Michael L. Berry, a career infantryman and former drill sergeant who in January 2016 became senior enlisted leader for U.S. Army Garrison Area I, has moved to a new assignment as Commandant of the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy.

The Academy, at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, trains noncommissioned officers to become drill sergeants, who in turn assume the pivotal role of training the Army’s recruits and seeing them through the crucial transition from civilian to Soldier.

The garrison operates U.S. Army camps in a region that sprawls from a point north of Seoul all the way north to the Demilitarized Zone that divides Korea.

The garrison maintains key services – electricity, water, upkeep of roads, barracks and other structures, and also operates fitness centers, swimming pools, libraries, and recreational programs that support the readiness and resilience of Soldiers and civilian employees.

It mainly supports the 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-US Combined Division, the bulk of whose forces are being moved south – gradually and by carefully orchestrated stages – to a new home on Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek.

On his final day with the garrison, Berry was awarded the Legion of Merit for “exceptionally meritorious service with the garrison,” during an Aug. 22 ceremony on Camp Casey

According to the written citation that accompanied the medal, Berry’s “superb leadership, expertise, and commitment to excellence were evident as he led Soldiers, Civilians and a local national workforce in building teams, communicating ideas and enhancing efficiency to improve the garrison’s mission to a community of “more than 13,000 Soldiers and Civilians stationed on Area I’s widely dis-

persed installations.

“His contributions to rotational and permanently assigned forces,” the citation continues, “were critical to the historic transformation of Area I, Korea, and the United States Army.”

The award was signed by Lt. Gen. Kenneth R. Dahl, Commander, U.S. Army Installation Management Command.

Col. Brandon D. Newton, Commander, USAG Area I, presented the award during a morning ceremony attended by garrison officials and representatives of various U.S. and South Korean military units in Area I, local municipal governments and civic organizations.

In remarks at the ceremony, Newton said Berry had won the respect and admiration of the Area I community and its Korean neighbors, including the garrison’s South Korean army counterparts and local Korean officials.

But, “most importantly,” Newton said, Berry’s “contribution to Soldiers” surpassed that “of any leader that I’ve worked with.” In addition, in Berry’s dealings with Soldiers, civilians and senior leaders, he had “been that voice of reason and perspective that we all need from a senior enlisted adviser, or Command Sergeant Major,” Newton said.

Newton predicted that upon assuming his new duties, Berry would “probably start to make immediate impact on, really, our core competency in the Army, which is training Soldiers, training fighters, training riflemen, training people to move from the civilian world into the military.”

In his final official remarks before departing the garrison, Berry told those at the award ceremony that his assignment with the garrison “was so broadening, and taught me so much, personally and professionally, that will set me up for the next job that I’m going to.”

Berry thanked Newton, saying that in nearly 25 years of military service “I’ve served with some phenomenal leaders but Colonel Newton is by far the best commander I have ever had the opportunity to serve with.”

When he first arrived at the garrison after years in the Army’s infantry and Ranger communities, Berry said, duty with a garrison had seemed daunting and humbling, he said.

“Because it’s a very fluid and ambiguous environment,” said Berry. “One day we’re worried about floods, the next day we’re worried about icy roads, the next day we’re worried about electricity, the next day we have sporting events that provide leisure for the Soldiers. So each day you come in and there’s something new you learn and you learn it on the fly.”

Berry said the garrison’s staff of knowledgeable professionals had been a major help in adapting to the garrison.

“Berry said his service with the garrison had “been truly a distinct privilege and honor.”

Berry entered the Army in 1992 and took Basic Training at Fort Benning, Ga.

In addition to his assignment at USAG Area I, Berry has served as squad leader; Long Range Surveillance Team Leader; Drill Sergeant at Fort Sill, Okla.; Platoon Sergeant; Ranger Instructor at the U.S. Army Ranger School at Fort Benning, Ga.; First Sergeant; Foreign Security Forces Transition Team Operations Sergeant; Operations Sergeant Major; and Battalion Command Sergeant Major.

He took part in three rotations of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

His military education includes: Command and General Staff College; Brigade and Battalion Pre-Command and Command Sergeants Major Course; U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy; First Sergeant Course; Senior Leaders Course; Advanced Leaders Course; Warrior Leaders Course; Ranger School; Drill Sergeant School; Master Fitness Trainer Course; Battle Staff Course; Pathfinder School; Long Range Surveillance Leaders Course; Air Movement Operations Course; Jumpmaster School; Air Assault School; Army Combatives Course; and Airborne School.▲

AREA I MAN ON THE STREET



Spc. John Rivas, a Multiple Launch Rocket System crew member, Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery Regiment, 210th Field Artillery Brigade.

“Before I came here, they told me that it was kind of miserable; humidity and heat. I’ve found that summer is actually pretty fun though, because you can go out and enjoy yourself, explore Korea.”



Spc. John Glebus, a Nodal Network System Operator Maintainer, 293rd Signal Company, 41st Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade.

“When I was on my way over here, they were saying it was extremely hot and humid. What I experienced was exactly that. I am from North Carolina, so it’s kind of almost the same thing, it’s extremely hot and humid over there too.”



Pfc. Alexandra Jancewicz, a welder and machinist, 61st Support Maintenance Company, 194th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 501st Sustainment Brigade, 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

“When I first got here I thought it was cold, and I didn’t think it would be super-hot. But, it’s humid. I didn’t think it would be that humid. It’s brutal. It’s hotter than I thought it would be.”

Our Question:



"With the summer season now well past its midpoint, what have you heard about what summer is like in Korea, and how are you finding this one?"



U.S. Army photos by Sgt. James M. Griffin



Pvt. Mathew Deseranno, a Multiple Launch Rocket System crew member, Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery Regiment, 210th Field Artillery Brigade.

“I heard it was very, very hot and humid. And yeah! It was, very hot and very humid. It was definitely the humidity that made the heat worse, but it was only like 80 degrees on average, but the humidity made it feel a lot worse than it was.”



Pfc. Jancy Brown, a signal support specialist, 229th Signal Company, Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Sustainment Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-US Combined Division.

“I heard that, of course the summers were really hot and humid. Being from Florida, I didn’t think too much of it, because it is like that all year round pretty much. But, actually experiencing it now, it is a different kind of heat. It’s really hot.”



Pvt. Lionel Valdez, a Military Police officer, 55 Military Police Company, 94th Military Police Battalion, 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

“I was actually not really told anything about Korea. I’ve been told about the winter, but as I’ve been experiencing Korea I’ve found out that it is very humid here, especially out on run days. But I like it. I like the weather here.”



Area I holds chemical training for garrison Civilians

On Camp Casey in Dongducheon Aug. 24, Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison Area I use a stopwatch and clipboard while training garrison civilians in how to don the chemical protective gear they'd need in case of wartime chemical attack. The training sessions, inside the Carey Physical Fitness Center, were held over a three-day period and saw nearly 200 Civilians receive instruction in the various steps needed to don the gear properly in the required time and how to perform decontamination procedures. The gear includes a hooded jacket, trousers, boots and a protective mask. The civilians had nine seconds in which to pull the protective mask from its case, fit it over their face, clear and seat it. — U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Lee Jin-woo



Area I practicum program holds closing ceremony for its first semester

U.S. Army Garrison Area I held a closing ceremony marking completion of the first semester of its Practicum Experience Program on Camp Casey in Dongducheon Aug. 18. The program, which began this year in partnership with local Shinhan University, affords college students the chance to gain experience in working on Area I camps under supervision and mentorship of garrison staff. Six Shinhan students enrolled for the semester and were assigned to such garrison functions in outdoor recreation, public affairs, financial planning and marketing, among others. — U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Lee Jin-woo

Memorial Service honors victims of axe incident

By William Wight
65th Medical Brigade Public Affairs

USAG YONGSAN — Forty one years ago, the first true conflict between North and South Korea directly involving the U.S. since the armistice agreement was signed in 1953, took place when 30 Korean People's Army guards attacked 12 Korean and U.S. Soldiers.

The United Nations Command Security Battalion-Joint Security Area held the Barrett-Bonifas Memorial Ceremony on Camp Bonifas Aug. 18 to remember the loss of two Soldiers, Capt. Arthur Bonifas, of Newburgh, N.Y., the Joint Security Force company commander, and 1st Lt. Mark Barrett, of Columbia, S.C., the 1st platoon leader, who were brutally axed to death during a routine tree trimming operation near the Bridge of No Return.

The United Nations Command workforce and a 10-man security detail began a routine tree trimming operation Aug. 18, 1976, on a large poplar tree, which was impeding the South's visibility between two UNC checkpoints. The UNC workforce was attacked without warning. The fight only lasted for four minutes, during which time Bonifas and Barrett were killed by North Korean soldiers.

Among the guests at the memorial ceremony were representatives of the Republic of Korea, U.S., New Zealand, Swedish and Swiss Army, members of the JSA Veterans Association, aka "JSA old boys" and members of the Bonifas-Barrett Memorial Post 8180 Veterans of Foreign Wars.

"We should never forget that Capt. Bonifas and 1st Lt. Barrett sacrificed their own lives for peace here," said the JSA Republic of Korea Army Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Kwon, Yong Hwan.

"We remember them in order to steel ourselves for the enemy that faces us today. And as we continue to hold the line and prepare ourselves to stand in defense of freedom with the same courage and honor as Capt. Bonifas and 1st Lt. Barrett demonstrated," said United Nations Command Security Battalion-JSA commander, Lt. Col. Matthew S. Farmer.

Col. Jon Howerton, Deputy Commanding Officer for Maneuver for 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-US

Combined Division and guest speaker for the ceremony said, "Today's ceremony reminds us that nothing is routine about the mission in the JSA, not even the periodic removal of trees and debris in the Demilitarized Zone. The mission here is real and fraught with constant threats from the enemy requiring the highest level of preparedness and readiness as exemplified by the Combined Team of Soldiers that form the line 'In Front of Them All.'"

Mr. Kim Moon-hwan, the former Korean Augmentation to the United States Army company commander in the Joint Security Area during the time of the attack, worked with Bonifas at the JSA in 1976, was also by his side during his last moments on earth.

"I lost a good friend," said Kim. "We fought together against the KPA guards."

Back in 1976, as it is today, the JSA was a sensitive location. Even the smallest incident could escalate to something bigger, and then it could be the rekindling of the Korean War, Kim stated.

According to Kim, in 1976 the KPA guards were able to move freely throughout the Demilitarized Zone and no one thought anything of it.

"Before we speak about the incident on Aug. 18, 1976, we need to know the situation in 1976," said Kim. "In 1975, the Vietnam War was finished and a lot of people did not want to be involved in the war in foreign countries. So we tried to lessen the tensions with North Korea."

Kim stated that there were small altercations between the KPA guards and Republic of Korea and U.S. Soldiers who were at the JSA from 1975 up to Aug. 18, 1976, but no one had been killed.

That all changed on that horrid day.

"Because check point three was in a dangerous location and surrounded by North Korean outposts we used a nearby check point to look after Soldiers who were on duty by signaling to each other; but the tree

hindered observation," said Kim.

In order to be able to see from the check point, Bonifas and a team of 11 ROK and U.S. Soldiers proceeded to cut down the branches.

That was the last mission Bonifas and Barrett took part in before they were attacked by the KPA and killed.

While performing the tree trimming detail, the group was brutally attacked by 30 KPA guards resulting in two deaths and others receiving minor injuries.

Three days later the United Nations Command launched Operation Paul Bunyan, the largest tree trimming operation in Korean history, which placed all U.S. and South Korean forces in Korea on full combat alert. The regular JSA security force was augmented with an additional combat platoon from the JSA, 50 martial arts experts from the ROK Special Forces and 15 combat engineers to cut down the tree. Flying south of the DMZ were B-52 bombers, F-111s, and F-4s in support whilst steaming off the coast of Korea was the USS Midway aircraft carrier with her entire battle escort on full alert. In forty five minutes the Task Force completed its mission without incident.

Today, at the Bridge of No Return, a bronze and stone monument stands where Bonifas, Barrett and 10 other ROK and U.S. Soldiers fought off those 30 KPA guards.

Kim returns to the JSA throughout the years because he believes Bonifas is still there even though he knows he has passed.

Capt. Arthur Bonifas is interred in West Point Cemetery and 1st Lt. Mark Barrett is buried at Greenlawn Memorial Park in Columbia, South Carolina.

The ROK-U.S. Alliance has become significantly stronger following the 1976 attack. It is an enduring partnership, committed to the strong defense of the Korean Peninsula. ▴



Raising suicide awareness through ask, care, escort training

By Cpl. Park, Min-je
USAG Yongsan Public Affairs

USAG YONGSAN - The Army has designated September as Suicide Prevention Month and joins the nation in observing National Suicide Prevention Week Sept. 10-16, 2017. A recent eighth Army Operations Order designated Sept. 14, 2017, Suicide Prevention Observance Day. The suicide prevention observance campaign acknowledges suicide as a threat to the total Army and aims to achieve zero suicides in Eighth Army. The theme is "Be There - Your action could save a life!"

The campaign focuses on total Army Family well-being, resilience, stigma reduction and positive results

achieved by getting involved and reaching out for help. The goal is to increase unit readiness to "Fight Tonight" by enhancing health promotion, personal readiness, and resilience through character and value development, and positive outcome activities, using available resources.

All units are to conduct activities for the observance, training for Soldiers and DA Civilians, and Family members to increase awareness of suicide-risk factors and warning signs as well as intervention with at-risk individuals; promote available resources to the community; and implement Soldier Risk Reduction Tool-Korea (SLRRT-K).

Suicide prevention training is required every year for

all Soldiers and civilian employees in accordance with Army Regulation 600-63. Ask, care and escort training is the Army-approved suicide prevention and awareness training model. ACE is approximately 1.5 hours, and the key training objective is awareness training, to include risk factors and warning signs.

Suicide awareness made headlines recently with the Netflix television series "13 Reasons Why," which deals with the suicide of a high school girl who leaves behind 13 tapes explaining the reasons why she took her own life. This series was controversial for its graphic nature and adult content, putting parents and educators on alert in ensuring students were properly informed on the nature of the show.

Below are some statistics provided by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention:

- Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States.
- Each year, 44,193 Americans die by suicide.

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- Suicide costs the United States \$51 billion annually.
- On average, there are 121 suicides per day.

Also according to Defense Suicide Prevention Office, 31 active duty Army Soldiers killed themselves during the first quarter of 2017, 127 died in 2016. This number is approximately double the per capita suicide rate of the U.S. population, highlighting suicide awareness as a high priority for the Army.

Risk factors for suicide

There are many risk factors for suicides, many are diagnosed with depression or a mental disorder. Other factors according to the ASFP include suicide attempts, a family history of suicide or violence, physical or sexual abuse, and exposure to the suicidal behavior of others.

According to U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Terrell Jones, in the military, financial troubles and investigations into wrong doings have been factors in suicides. Combat trauma and transitions amplify the risk of suicide since they can disrupt social and interpersonal relationships in the military, according to the AFSP.

How to help out those in danger

ACE Training puts emphasis on those surrounding the at-risk person to pick up on the signs of someone hurting, said Jones. The signs can include anything from talking about dying to giving away valuables or projecting hopelessness and inconsolable sadness. The training is very much in line with the National Institute of Mental Health (NIH) five action steps to help people in suicidal danger.

1. Ask: The question, "Are you thinking about killing yourself?" is not an easy question to ask somebody. Surprisingly, studies show that asking individuals the question does not increase suicide or suicidal thoughts, and it can help identify those at risk.

2. Keep them safe: It is helpful to insulate suicidal tendencies against tools that could aid in the suicide, such as guns and drug.

3. Be there: It's important that you take the warning signs seriously. Listen to the person carefully, but do not dismiss the person's concerns or argue with the person. It is suggested that acknowledging and talking about suicide may help those at risk.

4. Help them connect: In many cases, it is difficult solve the problem alone. It can be helpful to take a potential victim to a mental health professional. The Korea-wide suicide prevention toll-free hotline is 118 from DSN or 0808-555-118 from a commercial line. For Yongsan, the on-call chaplain's number is 010-4793-0143. If the situation seems urgent, you should take the person to a nearby hospital for assistance.

5. Stay connected: Just being there for someone can save a person's life.▲

ARMY SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM

Shoulder to Shoulder

FINDING STRENGTH and HOPE TOGETHER



Prevent Army Suicide
Ask ★ Care ★ Escort

Talk to your Chain of Command, Supervisor, Chaplain, or Behavioral Health Professional or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK (8255), press 1 for the Veterans Crisis Line

www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org www.militaryonesource.com
www.preventsuicide.army.mil



Yongsan finds calmness through move with me training

Janine Harper, Family Advocacy Program manager, hosted move with me training and workshops (professional certification), Aug. 21-22, at the Main Post Club. The class convened more than 10 participants for instruction in professional mindfulness, yoga and music. They are then expected to apply these elements to their interaction with children and families. This will help students and their family achieve better work performance and maintain calmness.
— U.S. Army photos by Cpl. Park, Min-je

Chef Robert Irvine cooks up Yongsan

Chef Robert Irvine takes a break from his challenge show at the U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan, Main Post Club, Aug. 13 to ask the kids in the audience come up and dance for the crowd. During his show, Irvine invited audience members to take part in cooking challenges and competitions.
— Photo courtesy of Gretchen Chapman



By Staff Sgt. David Chapman
USFK Public Affairs

USAG YONGSAN - Service members and families from the U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan community had to decide if it was too hot in the kitchen, Aug. 13, when a special guest rattled pots and pans on the Korean peninsula.

Chef Robert Irvine stopped at USAG Yongsan, and other areas of Korea, to meet and sign autographs for those fans who are living overseas. His tour of Korea, hosted by the USO, allowed home cooks an opportunity to meet the famous chef and take part in a cooking challenge show.

"I'm here to show the men and women that wear the flag of our nation that we care about them," said Irvine. "We do a live show and a meet and greet here at the USO basically just to say thank you for maintaining freedom, and it is just our way of letting them know that we care."

As an entrepreneur, restaurateur, and celebrity chef, Irvine, who has three books to his name has hosted more than 12 talk shows, including Dinner: Impossible, Worst Cooks in America, and Restaurant: Impossible. Irvine also has two restaurants.

He started his career in the kitchen at age 11 and then joined the Royal Navy in 1981 at the age of 15. That was the age when he knew cooking was going to be how he made his mark on the world.

"I wanted to be a chef because I like to see people's faces when they eat food and they smile," said Irvine. "I love to give people happiness. If you cook and make a nice meal and people enjoy it, it changes their demeanor and they become happy and I like to see happy people."

Now, with his success on multiple platforms, Chef Irvine has turned his attention to bringing laughter and fun to service members and their families.

"The show that we do is very unusual and just craziness," said Irvine. "I have no idea what we are going to do. The audience picks what we are going to do. It is just two hours of having fun and escaping a little bit from their daily stresses. They know there are a group of people, the USO and others who care about them."

For some of the fans who came out to the meet and greet and show, it was an opportunity many don't get, to shake hands with a celebrity. Some even got to cook with Chef Irvine.

"It was an awesome show. Absolutely amazing," said Sgt. Dwayne Jackson, 121st Combat Support Hospital. "At first I was glad just to get to shake his hand. But getting to go up on stage and cook with him was

even more amazing."

As a special note of encouragement, Chef Irvine wanted to send the Army and military cooks in Yongsan and peninsula-wide a special message from someone who has been where they are now.

"I can tell you, they say an army marches on its stomach and, unfortunately, cooks are really under appreciated," said Irvine. "It is a job that is thankless, and no matter how many options or how good the food is, Soldiers are still going to complain. The fact of the matter is cooks are the morale keepers of the service. I would say to them to keep doing what you're doing and learn as much as you can while you're in the service. Keep morale up and keep positive. You're doing a great job, and you will always do a great job."

The day in Yongsan ended with a special cooking demonstration at the Main Post Club that allowed some of his fans an opportunity take part in various cooking challenges.

"The show was phenomenal. Seeing him live is completely different than what he is on TV," said Jose Velazquez, of Yongsan. "I love the fact that he embraces the military and really supports what we do. He was very personable at the meet and greet, and I think people really got to see him on a personal level instead of that actor, TV level, and it really made people want to come see the show."▲

Cooking contestant Sgt. Dwayne Jackson (right), 121st Combat Support Hospital, tastes some of his creation, as celebrity chef, Robert Irvine, handcuffed around him, gives instructions. The two worked as a cooking team during a show Irvine did for families and service members at the Main Post Club, U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan on Aug. 13. Irvine also visited other garrisons during his USO-sponsored tour of Korea.
— U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. David Chapman



Blood Knights and Watch Dogs awarded Eighth Army Command Readiness Streamers

By William Wight
65th Medical Brigade Public Affairs

USAG YONGSAN - The Eighth United States Army has an adage that is well known throughout the Republic of Korea: "Fight Tonight!"

For the Soldiers of the 95th Blood Detachment and the 5th Medical Detachment, subordinate units of the 168th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, their high standards of excellence were applauded Aug. 4, by Lt. Gen. Thomas Vandal, the Eighth Army commanding general. Vandal presented the two companies with guidon streamers for the Commander's Award for Command Readiness.

"Readiness is the cornerstone of 8th Army! As both individuals and units our duty every single day is to ensure we are ready to 'Fight Tonight'," said Vandal. "As the 8th Army Commander, my priorities remain readiness, teamwork, leadership and discipline. These four pillars define how we fight and win, and how we remain the best fighting organization in the entire Pacific. The units within the 65th Medical Brigade are doing an outstanding job, maintaining high standards while executing the mission."

Vandal said that the Commander's Award for Excellence is about readiness, physical readiness training, weapons qualification, no misconducts, no alcohol-related incidents and Soldiers setting the standard and leading themselves.

"All personnel in our formations must be ready and resilient. We can achieve the highest readiness by focusing on our warrior fundamentals and truly understanding standard operating procedures and operational plans. Physical fitness is one of the key areas of ensuring we are ready to 'Fight Tonight'," said Vandal.

To be eligible for the Commander's Award for Command Readiness the unit must have an average physical fitness score of 260 or higher on the Army Physical Fitness Test and five percent of assigned Soldiers earning the Army physical fitness badge; 90 percent marksmanship qualification for assigned weapons with ten percent of assigned strength qualified as expert; zero recordable Class A or B accidents; zero readiness recall violations; zero alcohol-related incidents; zero SHARP related incidents; maintain the equipment readiness standards for critical equipment; maintain the 8th Army standard for medical readiness of 90 percent and maintain the Eighth

Army standard for personnel readiness of 90 percent.

Since its inception over the last six months, the Commander's Award for Command Readiness has only been achieved by one other unit within 8th Army.

"The Republic of Korea (ROK) is unlike any other theater of war. We have the unique opportunity to work shoulder to shoulder along with our ROK partners to strengthen the Alliance and truly invest in our combined partnership," said Vandal. "As professional Soldiers, we must also continue to build trust among our teammates by operating in an environment that promotes respect and discipline. Congratulations to the 95th 'Blood Knights' and the 5th 'Watch Dogs' for achieving this high honor."▲



The Soldiers of the 95th Blood Detachment and the 5th Medical Detachment, subordinate units of the 168th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, were applauded for their high standards of excellence by Lt. Gen. Thomas Vandal, 8th Army commanding general. Vandal presented the companies with the Commander's Award for Command Readiness.
— Photo courtesy of William Wight



This drawing depicts General Eulji Mundeok calling for an attack on Sui's army. As drawn in the photo, Sui's troops are attempting to cross the river of Salsu while Eulji's troops ambush Sui's army. This surprise attack made it possible for Eulji to achieve a victory over Sui's one million troops. — *Courtesy photo*



This photo is the map of the Three Kingdoms Period consisting of the three rival states, "Goguryeo," "Baekje" and "Silla," occupying all of the Korean peninsula and parts of Manchuria (now land belonging to China and Russia). At the very end of the Three Kingdoms Period, the Silla kingdom claims victory in bringing the three states under one rule as the united, or "Tongil" Silla. — *Courtesy photo*

UFG exercise named for legendary General Eulji Mundeok



General Eulji Mundeok was a legendary military figure who helped to control the Goguryeo era in the first century. This picture is intended to depict what Eulji looked like although there is no historical record of his actual appearance. Moreover, there is no historical record of Eulji Mundeok's life apart from his great victory in the battle of Salsu River. — *Courtesy photo*

Story by Cpl. Lee, Kyoung-yoon
USAG Yongsan Public Affairs

USAG YONGSAN - The combined military exercise between the U.S. and the Republic of Korea called Ulchi Freedom Guardian ended Sept. 1 after two weeks of strategic and simulated defense operations from a fictional North Korean attack. This annual exercise was named for a famous Korean general from the Goguryeo Kingdom who is symbol of victory against all odds.

From the first century BC to much of the first century, Korea was in the age of "The Three Kingdoms Period." The Three Kingdoms Period consisted of three rival states, "Goguryeo," "Baekje" and "Silla," which occupied all of the Korean peninsula and parts of Manchuria (now land belonging to China and Russia). Among the three Kingdoms, Goguryeo had the largest territory, dominating the entire northern part of the peninsula and Manchuria with its powerful military.

The large territory was a double edged sword for Goguryeo as it had to share its borders with three rival Kingdoms—Silla, Baekje and the Chinese Sui dynasty. In the early seventh century, the adjacency of different kingdoms resulted in frequent wars all over the cardinal points, bringing constant threats to Goguryeo's stability. The Battle of Salsu River was one of the largest threats Goguryeo had to face and, during this war, General Eulji Mundeok rose to become the hero of Goguryeo.

In the early seventh century, Emperor Yang of the Sui dynasty decided to launch an attack on Goguryeo. He led 1,133,000 troops and more than two million auxiliaries towards Goguryeo, incapacitating Goguryeo's border defenses. In response to Yang's impending threat, Eulji Mundeok was commissioned as the field general by King Yeonyang of Goguryeo, commanding an army of 300,000 to stop Yang's army from further intrusion.

Sui's troops advanced across the Liao River quickly and then to the city of Yodong. However, they came to a deadlock as Eulji's troops succeeded in defending Yodong city. To find a way out of the impasse, Sui's troops turned their attention to the city of Pyeongyang. For Eulji, Sui's choice was a welcome decision as Eulji had full knowledge over the geographical features of the route toward Pyeongyang. He had the conviction that he could cut the supply centers of Sui's army and eventually trap them around the river streams. In order to do this, Eulji lured Sui's troops inside the river streams by engaging them in fights at times and places of his choosing. The records say that he went through seven small engagements and attempted seven retrograde operations to bring Sui's troops deeper towards Pyeongyang.

As Eulji succeeded in bringing Sui's army within six miles of Pyeongyang, he mocked the enemy commander in a letter saying that Sui's army had successfully invaded enough Goguryeo territory and that it was best for both Kingdoms to a ceasefire. In light of the fact that Sui's army marched on foot with only few leaders supplied with horses all the way to Pyeongyang, Eulji's offer was very reasonable. On that account, the Sui army retreated to Sui. Meanwhile, the core strategy of Eulji was focused on Sui's army crossing the river of Salsu while retreating. Eulji waited for one-third of Sui's army to cross the river, the other third crossing the river, and the rest waiting to cross the river. As soon as the condition was set, Eulji called for an attack, and his 300,000 men wiped out Sui's army, leaving only 2,000 men to retreat.

Eulji's advanced strategy brought victory to Goguryeo and emboldened the Korean people. In addition, Eulji's achievement symbolizes the belief that numbers do not determine victory or defeat. ▀

Back to school bash welcomes children



ACS staff member Janine Harper (right) offers a student his choice of backpack as a prize at the Back to School Bash Aug. 25. — U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Tommy Spitzer



Program assistant for the School Age Center Audriana Vassel-Rose shows off her face-painting skills at the Back to School Bash with support from the Army Community Service Aug. 25 at the SAC. — U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Tommy Spitzer



School Age Center/Middle School Teens Program Trainer Wendy Lee oversees the spin the wheel activity during the Back to School Bash, Aug. 25, at the School Age Center. — U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Tommy Spitzer



Parents and students gather at the School Age Center Aug. 25 for the Back to School Bash commemorating the end of summer vacation and the start of a new school year for U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan Department of Defense Schools students. Children participated in games and activities, going home with prizes and renewed excitement for the new school year. — U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Tommy Spitzer



School Age Center Director Travis McKinney raffles off prizes during the Back to School Bash Aug. 25 at the School Age Center. Approximately 70 children participated in the event marking the last day of summer vacation for children at U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan. — U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Tommy Spitzer



Children transitioning from kindergarten to the first grade stand in line to spin the wheel for prizes at the Back to School Bash Aug. 25, held at the School Age Center. — U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Tommy Spitzer

Safety tips for heading back to school

USAG YONGSAN - As school starts at U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan Aug. 28, parents and children are reminded several important safety rules to ensure a safe and healthy school year for students of all ages. The U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan Safety Office put together the following safety tips to get the 2017 school year off to a safe and fun start.

Riding the school bus

- Make sure your child knows to stay seated while in the bus and use seatbelts when provided.

- Make sure your kids wait for the bus to stop before approaching it from the curb and always remain in clear view of the bus driver.

Backpack Safety

- Pack light. Organize the backpack to use all of its compartments. Pack heavier items closest to the center of the back. The backpack should never weigh more than 10 to 20 percent of the student's body weight.

- Choose a backpack with wide, padded shoulder straps and a padded

back.

- Make sure your kids always use both shoulder straps. Slung a backpack over one shoulder can strain muscles.

Bicycle Safety

- Whether child or adult, always wear a bicycle helmet, no matter how short or long the ride.

- Ride on the right side of the road, in the same direction as auto traffic.

- Know the rules of the road. This includes no talking or texting on the phone while you are riding.

- Use appropriate hand signals.
- Respect traffic lights and stop signs.
- Wear bright color clothing and a reflective vest to increase visibility.

Walking to school

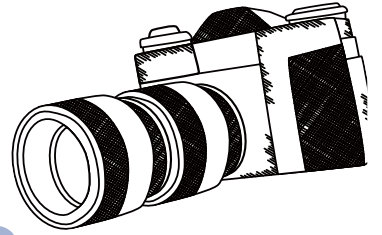
- Make sure your child's walk to school

is along a safe route and that your children cross streets only at marked crosswalks. Ensure they do not assume that they are safe in the crosswalk. Remind them to look in both directions, make eye contact with drivers, and ensure the vehicles are stopping before crossing.

- Be realistic about your child's pedestrian skills. Because small children are impulsive and less cautious around traffic, carefully consider whether your child is ready to walk to school without adult supervision. Also note that here in Yongsan, a responsible family member must accompany all children under the age of 10 to and from school.

- Finally, have your children wear bright-colored clothing. This will make them more visible to drivers.▲

AJ+ correspondent visits 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade



**Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Monik M.A. Phan
35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Public Affairs**

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea – Dena Takruri, senior correspondent with AJ+ based in San Francisco, visited the Delta Battery, 6th Battalion 52nd Air Defense Artillery, 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade tactical site here on Aug. 15 to learn about the unit's mission in South Korea and their ability to "Fight Tonight."

AJ+ is a global news and current events community that uses multiple digital media platforms. It is part of the Al Jazeera Media Network, a news network with 80 bureaus around the world. Its home base is in Qatar.

"Fight Tonight" means that our Soldiers and our equipment needs to be ready to defend Osan Air Base at a moment's notice," said Capt. Lance J. Oh, commander of Delta Battery, 6-52 ADA Battalion. "We are ready 24/7, 365 days to respond to any threat."

The brigade's mission is to protect the Korean peninsula and provide area defense from aerial attacks and missile threats.

The Korean War ended in 1953 with the Korean Armistice Agreement and not a peace treaty. Since the signing, the U.S.

military has stood side-by-side with its Republic of Korea counterparts.

Takruri's goal was to explore why the U.S. military maintains a heavy presence in South Korea. Her team will visit locations across the peninsula such as the Demilitarized Zone, Seoul and a village near the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense site. She will interview the community within those locations. She will also interview a North Korean defector. Her interviews will help her understand the country's current situation.

The U.S. military has maintained a presence on the peninsula since 1945. Takruri wants to provide a thorough explanation and the importance of the long-term U.S. military presence in South Korea in her next story.

"We want to show what it means to be ready to fight tonight," said Takruri.

Her story will include the local community's perspectives on the ROK-US alliance and the U.S. military presence.

"We work and pursue every opportunity to work with our ROK partners here and around the Korean Theater of Operation," said Oh. "We will work to maintain our relationships with our ROK counterparts and strengthen the alliance." ▴

Dena Takruri (right), senior correspondent from AJ+ based in San Francisco, interviews Capt. Lance J. Oh, commander of Delta Battery, 6th Battalion 52nd Air Defense Artillery Battalion, about his battery's mission in Korea. Takruri visited to learn why the United States maintains a heavy military presence in South Korea. — U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Monik M. A. Phan



160 participants participated in this year's PIEFriends for Kids Summer School. The camp was held at PIEF Paengseong International community Center and Camp Humphreys for three days from July 26 to 28.

— U.S. Army photo by Lee Ji Min

American and Korean youths learn about each other at the 2017 PIEFriends for Kids Summer School

By Lee Ji Min and Kim Jae Woong
USAG Humphreys Public Affairs

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea - The Pyeongtaek International Exchange Foundation hosted the '2017 PIEFriends for Kids Summer School' at the PIEF Paengseong International community Center and Camp Humphreys for three days from July 26 to 28.

PIEFriends for Kids Summer School is an annual event designed to promote friendly relations between Korean and American children. 160 participants participated in this year's camp--80 from local Pyeongtaek schools and 80 from Camp Humphreys and Osan Air Base.

In the first two days, the children experienced Korean Culture at PIEF in Paengseong. They learned how to make traditional Korean food, Taekwondo and Nongak, traditional Korean music performed by farmers.

On the last day, the children visited Camp Humphreys and had the opportunity to eat with American Soldiers and experience American culture at the Provider Grill Dining facility.

After lunch, they shared friendship through sports games at the gym. They played dodge-ball, a ball rolling

game and danced. One American participant, Jacob Brosseau, even danced "Gangnam Style" with a bright smile.

One of the Korean children who participated Kim, Ji O, was happy to make new friends during the camp.

"My dream is to become a U.S. police officer, so it is nice to have foreign friends," Kim said. "I am glad to join this time to meet foreign friends. I hope that I can meet you all next year."

The final event of the summer school was the completion ceremony, it included a special performance for the children and about 400 of their family members by the Ji Young Hee YS Ensemble.

After the performance, Jeong Sang Gyun, Vice Mayor of Pyeongtaek, presented each participant a certificate and a commemoration medal.

A PIEF official who organized the event said the camp provided the American and Korean children a chance to learn more about each other.

"I think Summer School is good opportunity for children to experience various cultures and understand each other's culture. I hope that this program will be an opportunity to promote friendship not only among children but also through their families."

"PIEF would like children of both countries to develop a foothold in the world to become leaders. With this opportunity, we hope to promote more friendship through exchanges between Korea and the U.S." ▲

A young Korean student enjoys playing dodgeball at the 2017 PIEFriends for Kids Summer School. — U.S. Army photo by Kim Jae Woong



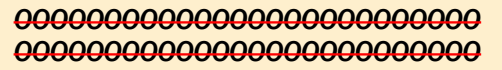
Sophie Tehvand participates in "dance time" during the 2017 PIEFriends for Kids Summer School.
— U.S. Army photo by Kim Jae Woong





Korean Service Corps. Battalion, Executive Officer Maj. Willie Harris III (left) briefs USAG Humphreys commander Col. Scott W. Mueller (right) and KSC commander Ho, M.T. (center) during the recent mobilization exercise in Pyeongtaek.

Korea Service Corps provides essential wartime services



The Korea Service Corps is a paramilitary force created on July 26, 1950 to provide logistic support to the U.S. Army and United Nations forces fighting the North Korea invaders.

During the Korean War they delivered food, water, ammunition and medicine to the front lines. They also evacuated the dead and wounded, built fighting positions, trenches, command posts and main supply routes.

Today the KSC performs a vital mission in support of U.S. Forces Korea and 8th Army. Day to day they keep installations running by filling important roles in Public Works, Logistics and Transportation; during wartime they're part of the force that remains, serving alongside combat units to ensure they have the support they need to fight and win.

There are 17 KSC companies with 2,185 members serving at installations from Camp Casey in the north to Busan in the southeast. In time of war their numbers grow to about 22,000 organized into 150 companies headquartered in Seoul, Pyeongtaek, Daegu and Busan.

Republic of Korea Army reserve officers lead the KSC companies and platoons. As much as possible, the officers are assigned to companies and platoons whose mission is close to their branch, e.g. infantry, artillery, armor, engineer, signal, ordnance, quartermaster, transportation and chemical.

The members of each KSC company are a mix of general labor forces and skilled professionals. A KSC company has several functional platoons, each with a unique mission: ambulance, heavy construction (bulldozer, crane, forklift and excavator operators), heavy vehicle drivers, maintenance (mechanics, welders, and wrecker operator), facility support (sheet metal mechanics, electricians, masons, carpenters and plumbers) and cooks. ▲

Korea Service Corps conducts annual mobilization and Wartime Host Nation Support exercise

By Lee Ji Min and Kim Jae Woong
USAG Humphreys Public Affairs

PYEONGTAEK, South Korea - The United States Army Material Support Command, Korean Service Corps Battalion and 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command conducted their annual mobilization and Wartime Host Nation Support exercises at Pyeongil elementary school in Pyeongtaek City Aug. 9-11.

The purpose of the mobilization exercise was to standardize mobilization station in-processing procedures, verify logistic support channels and improve mobilization station operation members' capabilities to deploy and operate the station.

This exercise was done in coordination with the Pyeongtaek City Government Officials, and the Republic of Korea Army 52nd Homeland Reserve Division, who play a vital role in the success of these events with planning and coordination.

The WHNS exercise objectives were to improve understanding of WHNS mobilization transfer procedures and to validate that WHNS assets meet mobilization requirements based on ROKA WHNS plans and the KSC Mobilization Station plan.

The WHNS program provides resources and assistance from the Republic of Korea to support U.S. Army operations during a contingency. The resources include trucks, ambulances, fuel tankers and refrigerator trucks. Both of these exercises support the KSC's ability to activate a general and skilled labor force while receiving WHNS assets.

KSC Mobilization officer Oh, Ki Ho said the purpose of the exercise is training for their wartime mission in support of the Korean government and the

United States military.

KSC executive officer Maj. Willie Harris III emphasized the importance of the training.

"It is important because we are practicing all the necessary steps in order to be successful if contingency operations do occur, so everyone is familiar with the process and also to find better ways to enhance our capabilities," Harris said.

The exercise began at the holding area and was followed by six different stations. At station one, the KSCs received a basic physical examination. At station two, they were issued an M50 protective mask and learned how to use it. At station three, their personal information is entered in the KSC Form 12. At station four, they are issued Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment. At station five, they learn Army Warrior Training. At station six, they received a Geneva Convention card.

KSC member Kim, Kwan Hong, a former Army 1st Lieutenant offered an insight into the exercise.

"This year's mobilization resources are directly mobilized to provide hands-on training but we need to make efforts to become more practical," he said. ▲



Should they go to war Korea Service Corps personnel will be issued the Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment they'd need to perform their missions as shown in this photo from the 2016 Mobilization Exercise. — U.S. Army photo by Bob McElroy

Third of an Ongoing Series about Environmental Initiatives at USAG Daegu USAG Daegu Energy Office wins 2017 Secretary of the Army Energy and Water Management Award for Energy Conservation Category

By Sgt. Soh, Jung-han
USAG Daegu Public Affairs

Q. What is your name and what is your job title?

A. My name is Joshua Seo, and my job title is the United States Army Garrison Daegu Energy Manager. I am with USAG Daegu Directorate of Public Works.

Q. Can you tell me a little bit about your Area of Responsibility or duties?

A. My area of responsibility is all about energy management for Area IV. My job focuses on improving energy security, securing funds for energy projects, modernizing energy systems, educating all communities on energy awareness and conservation, and programming for future energy actions for energy infrastructure sustainment.

Q. Do you have any success stories or accomplishments regarding your programs?

A. Our team's biggest accomplishment is building comprehensive energy projects to improve and modernize our energy infrastructure. We have been very successful in securing funds to replace old systems with new systems for maximizing performance and reliability. In last three years, we've secured more than \$8.4 million in

last three fiscal years for these projects.

USAG Daegu DPW Energy Team consists of three members headed by USAG Daegu Energy Manager Joshua Seo, Ms. Song, Hye-in and Mr. Hong, In-ki. The team handles all energy-related duties in Area.

The Energy Team received the 2017 Annual Secretary of the Army Energy and Water Management Award for Energy Conservation for their conservation efforts in fiscal year 2016. The award was presented Aug. 17 at the Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, Florida.

The Secretary of the Army Energy and Water Management Awards Program was established in 1979. The awards recognize accomplishments in energy and water conservation and management that improve the Army's energy and water program goals and sustainability on Army installations. Small groups and individuals from the Total Army are eligible for consideration. Categories for the award include Energy/Water Conservation, Innovation and New Technology, Energy Program Effectiveness and Individual Exceptional Performance.

Q. How do you feel about winning the awards?

A. It's great feeling. I'm grateful that our work and efforts have translated to results locally (saved \$2.2 million in utility



(From second left to right) USAG Daegu Directorate of Public Works Energy Team Joshua Seo, Ms. Song, Hye-in and Mr. Hong, In-ki, Maj. Patrick W. Caukin accept the 2017 Secretary of the Army Energy and Water Management Award for Energy Conservation Aug. 17 at a ceremony in Tampa, Florida. — Photo provided by U.S. Army

costs in fiscal year 2016) and that our results are being recognized nationally within Army. We are meeting all Army goals and objectives but we will continue to find areas for energy and water improvements for further modernizing our garrison community.

Q. What did your Energy team do to conserve energy of Area IV community?

A. We've done a lot. We put lots of investments into replacing old and inefficient systems to new systems. This includes LED lights, heating and air conditioning systems, building optimization control systems, motion sensors, changing from fuel oil to natural gas and solar tube technology. These systems have yielded energy savings in terms of dollar figures and energy usage.

We have also educated and briefed

general public on the importance of energy conservation. Our efforts to reach the public and spread energy awareness have been very active and we are integrated into many weekly and biweekly meetings.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to the community to know?

A. I want the community to know how much we spend monthly on utility bills, it's about \$1.3 million. The general public and community do not see this bill since they don't receive invoices, but the garrison pays for this monthly. This is a must-pay so we cannot simply cut it, we have to work to reduce energy bills so we pay less to the providers. I want the general public to treat our facilities like they are their homes and conserve energy and water any way possible. ▴

Getting Started the Right Way

By Pfc. Kim, Bum-joon
USAG Daegu Public Affairs

USAG Daegu, South Korea – United States Army Garrison Daegu Army Community Service hosted the Camp Henry Newcomer's Orientation, Aug. 15 at the Camp Henry Theater. USAG Daegu Command Sgt. Maj. Juan A. Abreu and community representatives welcomed new Soldiers to the USAG Daegu community.

Abreu greeted more than 60 newcomers as he gave the introduction of USAG Daegu.

"Welcome to USAG Daegu and Area IV and congratulations on what will be an exciting and fulfilling assignment, said Abreu. "As for some of you, this will be your first station and for some of you not, but I guarantee all both that Korea, especially Daegu is unique from anywhere else."

Abreu introduced several programs useful in Daegu, such as the Korea Less Traveled program which pairs U.S. military personnel stationed in Daegu with Korean university students. The program provides a special opportunity to explore

South Korea in areas ranging from traditional Korean culture and the natural environment, to modern Korean society and contemporary lifestyle. Abreu discussed the Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers program which organizes various activities such as volunteering at a local orphanage and monthly movie night for single and unaccompanied Soldiers.

He also emphasized discipline among Soldiers; not just courtesy or proper attire but the attitude itself.

"Do the right thing because it's the right thing to do," said Abreu. "Demonstrate a commitment to excellence, ask, 'is this going to make us better?'"

After the introduction, community activities and organization representatives spoke about their programs and services, gave handouts and answered questions regarding their activities. More than 28 organizations attended the orientation including Army Community Service, BOSS, Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Postal Services, Chapel, Housing and Legal Services.

USAG Daegu Financial Readiness Program Manager Philip J. Chang was the host of the orientation.

"It is amazing that so many organizations participate in the orientation every week," he said. "It shows that our community shows deep interest and care for our new family members."

Some organizations not only talked about their services but gave information about the culture in Korea.

"Soldiers find this information about their local areas really beneficial," Chang said. "They especially enjoyed it when we taught them basic Korean sentences like greetings, and directions."

All newly-assigned Soldiers to Area IV are required to attend Newcomer's Orientation.

The orientation takes place at Camp Henry and Camp Carroll in turn. ▴



Command Sgt. Maj. Juan A. Abreu speaks to Soldiers newly arrived to Korea at the Area IV newcomer's orientation Aug. 15, at the Camp Henry Theater. — U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Kim, Bum-joon

Daegu Middle High School Opens for Business

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Norman Llamas,
19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command,
Public Affairs

DAEGU, South Korea – It's not often that you get to witness the grand opening of a brand-new school—it's an exciting occasion for everyone. This was the case when Daegu Middle High School celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony in the brand-new building at Camp Walker on Aug. 24. "Today we continue the rich tradition that has been Taegu American School, Daegu American School and now Daegu Middle High School," said Altorn Grade, DMHS principal. "This school has been in many locations and in many configurations. At one time we were the TAS Tigers. We are now the Warriors and we carry the name with pride, from posthumous Medal of Honor recipient, Charles George. We are developing future warriors to be college and career ready, socially responsible, and to flourish in a global community."

The new school is a split-level two story, Department of Defense Educational Activity 21st Century Middle/High School that encompasses 142,583 square feet. DMHS' construction began almost three years ago, September 2014 and was completed June 26, 2017.

"This day has been eagerly anticipated by our entire community," said Maj. Gen. John P. Sullivan, the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command's commanding general. "I would submit that, as you look around this tremendous facility, it was well worth the wait. The completion of this project is the result of much vision, planning, and hard work."

DMHS will provide academic facilities for 525 students in grades six to 12. The school includes site improvements such as visitor's and staff parking, bus drop-off with covered walkway, landscaping, bicycle racks, artificial turf playing field, marquee board, flagpoles, exterior lighting, and utility service connections. Additionally, it has common areas with multipurpose gathering spaces, food service dining hall and a dedicated performance space.

"As you look around Area IV, you can see a transformation taking place with the ongoing construction of the first two of what will be four housing towers here at Camp Walker," said Sullivan. "New barracks and headquarters facilities at Camp Carroll, Waegwan, this new Middle/High School, and a new elementary School that is in the planning stages. All these new projects represent vast improvements in our quality of life here in area IV, as well as our strong commitment to the

ROK-U.S. alliance."

"Next week about 300 hundred students will begin walking our halls," Grade said. "If needed, over 500 students can easily fit into this new 21st Century Facility. Classrooms are now studios and neighborhoods that are places where students take their learning to higher levels. Trust, respect and responsibility are themes that will permeate our focus and vision."

Both Sullivan and Grade expressed their most sincere gratitude to all those who helped this project come to fruition. They also thanked the many distinguished visitors who made the trip for the ceremony.

Among those present were, DoDEA Pacific West Superintendent Dr. Judith Allen, United States Forces Korea Director for Restationing Maj. Gen. James Walton, Daegu City Vice Mayor Mr. Yoo, Jun-ha, Namgu District Mayor Mr. Yim, Byung-heon and the 19th ESC Cultural Advisors, Dr. Kim, Ik-dong, Mr. Sammy Shin, Mr. Kim, Byung-chan, Mr. Seo, Sang-si, and Dr. Kim, Bum-dae.

After the official ceremony, Principal Grade took many of the distinguished visitors for a tour of the new school. ▴



Daegu Middle High School marks its official opening day with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The event was held in the new building's performance stage. Among those invited to take part in the ribbon cutting were Maj. Gen. John P. Sullivan, the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, commanding general; Mr. Altorn Grade, the Daegu Middle High School Principal; Col. Robert P. Mann Jr., the U.S. Army Garrison Daegu commander; Mr. Jared McCormick, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District; Mr. Yoo, Jun Ha, Daegu Vice Mayor; and Mr. Yum, Byung Heon, Namgu District Mayor. — U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Norman Llamas

Mr. Altorn Grade, the Daegu Middle High School Principal addresses the audience during the Daegu Middle/High School's official opening day, ribbon cutting ceremony. The event was held in the new building's performance stage. — U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Norman Llamas



United States Army Garrison Daegu 2017 Spring Session interns and supervisors gather on the platform for group photo, Aug. 18, at the Camp Henry Theater.
— U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Soh, Jung-han

Building Positive and Personal Relationships

By Sgt. Soh, Jung-han, USAG Daegu Public Affairs

USAG DAEGU, South Korea – The United States Army Garrison Daegu 2017 Spring Session Intern Program Closing Ceremony was held Aug. 18 at the Camp Henry Theater to congratulate every 45 interns who contributed greatly to the Area IV community for the last six months.

USAG Daegu Commander Col. Robert P. Mann Jr., Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Juan A. Abreu, university administrators and Area IV supervisors attended the ceremony to celebrate the successful closing of the 26th session of the intern program.

“Over the last six months, our interns have contributed significantly to Area IV with their hard work,” said Mann. “It is hard to believe this incredible program has begun its second decade, that almost one thousand students have taken advantage of this opportunity. The USAG Daegu Intern Program builds strong, positive and personal relationships and highlights the partnership between our two great nations, strengthening our alliance forged in blood.”

Interns hail from Kyungpook National University, Yeungnam University, Keimyung University, Daegu University and Daegu Catholic University Medical Center.

After the congratulatory message from Mann, the interns received the Certificates of Appreciation for their dedicated work. Special awards were presented to two outstanding interns and one outstanding intern supervisor. Ms. Lee, Jo-eun and Ms. Shin, Hyo-ju, interns working at the USAG Daegu Public Affairs Office, received the Commander’s Award for Public Service. Ms. Sin, Hyon-chong, management analyst, USAG Daegu Plans, Analysis and Integration Office, received the Commander’s Award for Civilian Service.

“First of all, I would like to appreciate to my PAO teams: Ms. Teresa Kaltenbacher, Mr. Anthony Mayne and KATUSAs for supporting me whenever I had troubles,” said Lee. “The last six months has been a wonderful time for me. This intern program helped me to understand American work culture and develop many skills related to my future careers. I am honored to receive the award with my colleague Ms. Shin.”

“I am truly honored and grateful with this award,” said Shin. “Thank you very much to everyone, especially my Public Affairs team. During the last six months, I had a chance to meet many awesome people and experience that I would never earn if I didn’t apply for the internship program. I was very fortunate to work at the Public Affairs Office.”

“I am really grateful and honored to receive the Commander’s Award for Civilian Service for 2017 Spring Session USAG Daegu Intern Program,” said Sin. “I would like to thank Mr. Son, Sung-min who worked as a PAIO intern for the last six months, PAIO Chief Don Lambrix and all of my PAIO coworkers. Also, I encourage many Korean employees to participate as a intern supervisor.”

The USAG Daegu Internship Program is considered a benchmark for Good Neighbor programs in the Korean region by United States Forces Korea. The intern program builds positive U.S. and Korean relationships, brings a unique and talented group of young adults with fresh ideas to multiple work sites, and gives a decided edge in future endeavors for those students as they move into the Korean workforce. ▀



(From left to right) Col. Robert P. Mann Jr., USAG Daegu commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Juan A. Abreu present the outstanding intern award to Lee, Jo-eun and Shin, Hyo-ju, interns from USAG Daegu Public Affairs Office, Aug. 18, at the Camp Henry Theater. — U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Kim, Bum-joon



(From left to right) Col. Robert P. Mann Jr., USAG Daegu commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Juan A. Abreu present the outstanding intern supervisor award to Sin, Hyon-chong, management analyst from USAG Daegu Plans, Analysis, Integration Office, Aug. 18, at the Camp Henry Theater. — U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Kim, Bum-joon

On time on target

94th military police battalion aims to qualify

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Abril,
19TH ESC Public Affairs

POCHEON, South Korea - If it's not raining, we aren't training; a phrase well known to service members who know all too well training does not stop for poor weather. Under grey skies and extremely wet conditions, U.S. Soldiers and Korean Augmentation to the United States Army with the 94th Military Police Battalion, 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command sharpened their skills during heavy weapons qualifications at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex, near Pocheon, Aug. 23.

Steam rose in the air as rain pelted the burning hot barrels of a recently-fired machine gun. Heavy rains did not dampen spirits or rounds sent down range as Soldiers fired and qualified on vehicle-mounted grenade launchers, .50-caliber Browning machine guns and other heavy weapons. They fired their machine guns utilizing the Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station, a system that allows Soldiers to remain inside the vehicle using a screen and controls to fire their weapons remotely.

One platoon each from four of the battalion's companies representing the 55th, 142nd, 557th, and the 188th Military Police Companies from around the peninsula, converged on the live fire complex to train. This dynamic training event covered many aspects of the battalion's mission essential tasks with the final portion entailing a heavy weapons qualification range. Maintaining proficiency on these tasks and heavy weapons is paramount to the battalion's readiness and mission.

"We constantly train to ensure all of our Soldiers are proficient, qualified, and ready to fight tonight," said 1st Sgt. Henry J. Gardner, the 142nd MP Co. first sergeant, and a native of Knoxville, Tennessee. "Our training consist of long hours and a lot of demanding work, but it's our responsibility to ensure our Soldiers are physically and mentally ready to fight and to be force multipliers in any world-wide contingency operation."

Training and maintaining a constant state of readiness is something no military policeman takes lightly.

"We must always be prepared because the armistice means the war has technically not ended on the Korean peninsula," said KATUSA Cpl. Jae Jeong Lim, a military policeman with the 142nd MP Co. and native of Gwanju, Korea. "As a gunner, handling these weapons is a basic and mandatory requirement of us and we must remain competent and ready."

Weapons proficiency is a priority for every service member, even more so for Soldiers with occupational specialties that require more use of firepower like military police.

"If and when we go down range, knowing our assigned weapon system can be the difference between life and death or winning and losing," said Pvt. Moses T. Reyes, a native of Las Vegas, Nevada and a military policeman with the 142nd MP Co. "I love training, I love my unit and I love my fellow Soldiers, and being proficient at firing my assigned weapon helps me protect what I love."

Soldiers spent time perfecting their craft during the dynamic training event that lasted more than two weeks. Leaders crafted a training rotation that would

keep every Soldier in the battalion qualified in various aspects of their military tasks and drills.

"This dynamic training event gave us an opportunity to train at the platoon, squad, and team level that we don't normally have," said 2nd Lt. Lewis MI Jackson, a platoon leader with the 142nd MP Company. "Our Soldiers are being validated on detention operations, roadblock and checkpoint operations, critical site security operations, and Chemical, Biological, Explosive, Radiological and Nuclear operations in addition to weapons qualifications."

The 94th MP Battalion mission is to maintain law and order on the peninsula with subordinate companies located across South Korea. The battalion rigorously trains to carry out their mission on a daily basis living up to the "Assist, Protect, Defend" military police corps motto. ▴

Anyone who has a claim against the estate of SFC Albert A. Chung, Yongsan Army Garrison, South Korea, please contact the Summary Court Martial Officer (CPT Anthony J. Varela, 702-816-9283, or via email at Anthony.j.varela2.mil@mail.mil).

Cpl. Lim, Jae-jeong, a military policeman with the 142nd Military Police Company, 94th Military Police Battalion, 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, fires a MK 19 grenade launcher during a heavy weapons qualification range Aug. 25 at Rodriguez Live Fire Range Complex. — U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Abril, 19 ESC Public Affairs



Attention Area IV: Camp Walker Gate 4 will close Sept. 6 until mid-November

