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Brig. Gen. Stevens receives Korean name

Seoul – Brig. Gen. Richard Stevens, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division, was conferred with a Korean name Sept. 9 during his initial tour of the Far East District.

In a ceremony held at the Ministry of National Defense in Seoul, Stevens was given the name, “Shin Taek-su.” The name translates as “comfortable house” and considers his title as POD Commander with oversight of the construction of comfortable buildings at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys.

The bestowal of a Korean name is an important part of Korea’s history and dynamic cultural heritage. Stevens expressed his gratitude for his Korean name and was humbled to be included in this tradition.

“Taek-su, which translates literally to ‘Comfortable House,’ seems very appropriate for the Commander of the Pacific Ocean Division whose largest program is building the houses that are part of the \$10 billion Korea Transformation Program at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys,” said Stevens.

The new name was bestowed by Chairman Suh Jin-sup of the ROK-US Alliance Friendship Association for recognition of Stevens’ leadership over the engineering and construction projects at USAG Humphreys.

“Today, a Korean name is given to Brig. Gen. Stevens with a hope of his support and contribution to the success of USFK Base Relocation to Pyongtaek,” said Suh.

Suh presented Stevens with a scroll with “Shin Taek-su,” written in Hanja, traditional Korean characters. The family name “Shin” is derived from the Korean pronunciation of the letter “S” in Stevens. Suh also presented Stevens with an honorary taekwondo license from the World Taekwondo Headquarters.

In the past, many American leaders were given Korean names such as U.S. President, Barack Hussein Obama, who was given the name “O Han-Ma.” U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton was named “Han Hui-Sook.”

Gen. Walton H. Walker, former Eighth U.S. Army Commander, who died during the Korean War, was named “Gu Wung-Su.”

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – FAR EAST DISTRICT, PACIFIC OCEAN DIVISION

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Chairman Suh Jin-sup (left) of the ROK-US Alliance Friendship Association and Brig. Gen. Richard Stevens, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division hold up a scroll with the Korean name “Shin Taek-su.” Suh bestowed the name on Stevens during a ceremony held at the Ministry of National Defense in Seoul Sept. 9. (Photo by Patrick Bray)