



# NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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## **Fire station opens at Chinhae**

**Seoul** — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District along with personnel from the U.S. Navy cut the ribbon on a new fire station at Fleet Activities Chinhae May 20.

It was a rainy day in Chinhae, but it did not stop about 50 people from attending the ceremony.

“It’s always a great day when we get to turn over a new facility,” said Sam Adkins, Chief of FED Construction Division.

Rear Adm. Peter Gumataotao, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea, also expressed why it was a great day.

“Over the past four years this station has answered the call at least 10 times a month,” said Gumataotao. “These brave firefighters deserve this new facility.”

The new facility has much more space for both firefighters and trucks than the old fire station, which was over 25 years old. Work began on this new fire station December 2009 by Shinsaegye Construction Co., Ltd.

Constructed by the Republic of Korea using host nation funding, Col. Han Bong-wan, Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense, Defense Installation Agency, presented the master key to the fire station to Gumataotao

“This new fire station has been constructed by the Republic of Korea Government and provided to Fleet Activities Chinhae for the ROK and U.S. combined defense,” said Han.

The fire station is also a new symbol of the partnership between the naval base and the City of Chinhae. Fire Chief Kim Jong-gil from the Chinhae Fire Department was present to congratulate the naval base fire department on their new building. Both departments pledged their mutual support in maintaining public safety in Chinhae.

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Following the ceremony, Cmdr. Don Murray, Commander Fleet Activities Chinhae, rang the fire bell for the first time. The firefighters put on their helmets, the engine turned on its lights, and the new fire station's operations officially began.

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PHOTO:



Sam Adkins (right), Chief of Construction Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Far East District, joins with Rear Adm. Peter Gumataotao (center), Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea, and Col. Han Bong-wan, Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense, Defense Installation Agency to cut the ribbon on a new fire station at Fleet Activities Chinhae May 20. (Photo by Patrick Bray)