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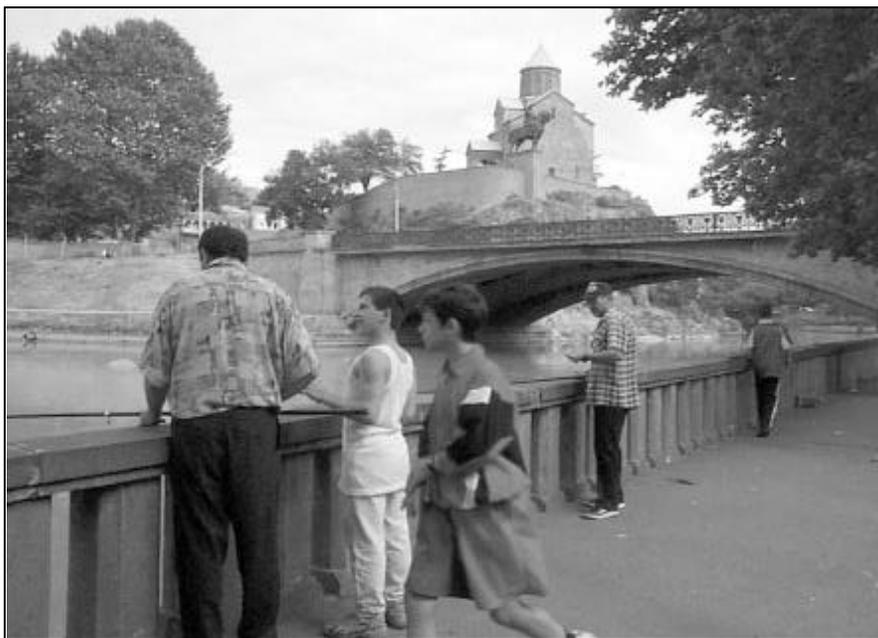
Building Peaceful Borders on the Silk Road

*Story and Photos
by Torrie McAllister
Europe District Public Affairs*

Peacekeeping takes many forms that won't make a splash on CNN but fire the imagination of Corps of Engineers project managers like Shawn Pelowitz.

While the news cameras focus on Russian accusations that the Republic of Georgia is harboring Chechen rebels on their mountain border, Pelowitz heads the Europe District project execution team that is in Georgia making a small gesture of friendship and sowing the seeds of political and economic stability in this volatile part of the world.

Georgia lies at the heart of the ancient Silk Road – the strategically important crossroads of Asia, Europe and the Middle East. Located on the Black Sea, it shares land borders with Russia, Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan. It is an important new nation with aspirations of becoming an international business and industrial transit hub.



In the shadow of the Metekhi Church, one of the oldest and most prominent churches in Tbilisi, townspeople enjoy a summer day fishing in the Mtkvari (Kura) river.

On the ramshackle landing strip of a former Soviet Air Base, the Europe District is working with the U.S. Customs Service to help the Georgian Border Guard improve border security.

“This is a very challenging border situation, so the Georgians need a credible, effective border patrol,” said George Levitsky, U.S.

Inside

**Corps Builds Bases
for Peace in Israel**
Page 9

**Stuttgart's Kelley Hotel
Opens for Business**
Page 3

Continued on Page 6

**Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers
toured the Europe District
Headquarters' building in
Wiesbaden, Germany July 9.**

**Several team members were
able to speak to the Chief of
Engineers about his new vision
and give their impressions of
how the Corps is accomplishing
its mission.**

**Peter Zoeller (far left) and
Tony Pereira, from Program
Management Branch, talk shop
with the Chief of Engineers.
(Photo by Tanya Williams)**



Chief of Engineers Visits Europe District

The Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, visited the Europe District July 9 to present his new Corps vision and to acknowledge the accomplishments of district team members.

That morning the general participated in a district staff meeting, gave an interview to Armed Forces Television, and visited employees in their workstations, prior to hosting a 1 p.m. Commander's Call at the Hainerberg Chapel.

The Chief discussed synergy, as defined by Steven Covey; emphasized the importance of knowing ones job, promoted his initiative of individuals having a 30-second commercial that explains what we do, and how we do it; then gave his own 30-second commercial to the crowd.

During the town hall, the general presented coins to

Mary Chadwick, Bob Bessler, Steve Ross, Leah Kolb, Robert Weaver, Elizabeth Richardson, Sigfried Schaefer, D.C. Gupta, Calvin Taylor, Doug Sommer, Ray Flock, Anita Morsman, and John Rice. He also presented the district daypacks to team members of the following project delivery teams – Fisher House, 1AD Headquarters, Kelley Hotel, Euro Conversion, Ukraine Exercise Related Construction, Hohenfels Environmental Compliance, and Force Protection Compliance Survey.

The Chief concluded the day's activities by telling all team members he wants them to not only know their jobs, but also to enjoy their jobs. As he said, "Have fun working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."

Engineering in Europe

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Stuttgart's Kelley Hotel Opens for Business

*By Alicia Gregory
Europe District Public Affairs*

Guests in the Stuttgart area can rest a little easier now that the \$10 million Kelley Hotel, located at Kelley Barracks, is completed.

The 41,600 square-foot hotel, which was built for the 6th Area Support Group's Army Lodging, will provide guests to the Stuttgart area with facilities that were built to modern industry standards.

"We're very proud of this initiative which will provide increased well-being for our soldiers and families," said Joe Strobel, hotel manager.

"Our assessments indicated occupants expect amenities like those found in a commercial hotel on the local economy," continued Strobel.

He went on to say that the impetus for the project was a shortage of hotel rooms in the Stuttgart community.

The eight-story hotel has a total of 64 guest rooms, which includes eight family suites. Of these 64 rooms, there are four handicapped-accessible rooms—three standard rooms and one suite. It also has a conference room, laundry facilities, information room and game room.

From the beginning of the project, the focus was to implement Army lodging standards and give the architects a real live look at what military families wanted and needed. To this end all of those involved, which included the Europe District's team, the project manager from the Reutlingen (Stuttgart) Bauamt, the



The new Kelley hotel opened Aug. 1, with a brief ribbon cutting ceremony. Col. Michael R. Pelkey, Europe District commander, was one of several speakers at the events. (Photos by Greg Boghossian)

architect-engineer firm Kaiser & Kaiser representatives from U.S. Army Europe, Craig Fabrizio, Army Lodging's business operations chief, and Strobel, went to Italy to engage in a design charette.

"Basically the charette process involved locking the technical people, the builders and the users, in a room for a week to work out the project concept," said Strobel. "This included the design, and deciding all the American items needed in the hotel."

It was in Italy that Strobel was able to show the team what he wanted by visiting a successfully completed Army guesthouse—the Erdele Inn in Vicenza, Italy.

"Without the commitment and

personal involvement of the entire team, this project would have been delayed by months," explained Rich Beauclair, project manager.

"Europe District is proud to have been part of the design and construction of this new facility, which will greatly improve the quality of life for our service members in the Stuttgart area," said Col. Michael R. Pelkey, Europe District commander, at the hotel's grand opening this August.

"This facility demonstrates our Army's commitment to provide our people overseas the quality of life that they expect and deserve," said Pelkey. "I think we have hit the bull's-eye with this hotel."



The Area Support Group Eagle DPW staff -- local Bosnian engineers, USACE supervisors and military engineers -- confer on a project. (Courtesy photo)

Balkins Program Office taps talent with local hires

*By Grant Sattler
Europe District Public Affairs*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is doing more to cement a lasting peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina by finding better ways to staff operations there – methods that save money, take advantage of local talent, and support the future disengagement of Multinational Division (North) from the region.

In August, Europe District's Balkans Program Office developed an A/E contract to augment the existing team of USACE and military engineers with local Bosnian engineers and technicians. These engineers now join the Directorate of Public Works team within the new Area Support Group Eagle located in Eagle Base, Tuzla, Bosnia. The initiative to employ Bosnian engineers coincided with the Aug. 2 transition from a Base Camp Coordinating Agency to a formal ASG structure.

While the DPW has employed local Bosnians as an integral part

of the workforce for several years, Corps of Engineers civilians held most of the working level engineer positions, said Deputy Director of Public Works Robert Bauer. The new contract basically integrates a greater number of local Bosnian engineers among a team of civilian USACE supervisors and military engineer teams. It also eases the requirement to recruit and employ USACE engineers from the United States for up to one year unaccompanied tours while at the same time taking advantage of a rich local talent pool.

Maj. Gregg Huston, Balkans program manager with Europe District, said "We've changed to now include Bosnian local nationals, but still maintain Department of the Army civilians and military in supervisory roles to ensure the best interests of the United States are maintained."

Finding talented people eager to work with the right engineering skills was not a problem even in the war-torn country. "There is a very good talent pool of available

architects, engineers and CADD personnel," Huston said.

Bauer, who returned to Europe District headquarters in October after a 10-week temporary duty assignment at ASG Eagle, said the licensed architects, engineers and CADD technicians are really talented people. "These are very high-caliber employees. I would proudly recruit these folks to join my team in Wiesbaden," he said.

Hiring local nationals is the right idea for a number of reasons, Huston explained. It was becoming increasingly difficult to recruit Corps engineers for the deployment now in its fifth year. "Vacancies were not being filled and the DPW mission was being jeopardized," Huston said.

Program costs are also much lower. "We now do not have to recruit exclusively from CONUS, we have additional options now," Bauer said. "The benefits and allowances are different, we don't have to house folks on base, and the base labor costs for Bosnian engineers and architects are a fraction of American salaries." Salaries are lower because they are paid on the local scale, but are a real benefit for the region. "It puts money back into the pockets of the local people," Huston said. "The U.S. Embassy was very supportive of the concept."

Hiring more local nationals also lines up with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commanding General Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers' desire to work at reducing the Corps' footprint in the Balkans in a responsible way.

Seeking to be an "equal opportunity" employer, the Balkans Program Office aims to hire professionals from all ethnic groups to help in some measure with the mending of the region's social fabric, Huston said.

District's EBS breaks new ground on Israeli Construction Program

*Story and Photo
by Torrie McAllister
Europe District Public Affairs*

Let the Guinness Book of World Records and Corps of Engineers historians take note. In the annals of awesome contracting feats, Europe District's solicitation package for the Israeli Southern Infantry Training Base is one for the record books — the largest electronic bid set ever done by the U.S. government.

A magnum opus, the electronic bid set compressed more than 2,600 construction drawings and 1,470 pages of specifications onto four CD-ROM's. Even more remarkable than its size, was its success in efficiently delivering a procurement package that could be read and understood by both U.S. and Israeli firms. More than 70 U.S. and Israeli firms requested the solicitation package. Eight firms — six U.S. and two Israeli joint ventures — submitted proposals.

"It was well worth the effort but the challenges were formidable," said Gordon Simmons, chief of Technical Coordination for the Israel Program Office. "Besides the volume of drawings, one of the things that made this EBS difficult was that Corps involvement started very late."

"The design was 70 to 80 percent complete by the time the Israeli Ministry of Defense started working with the Corps of Engineers," he said. "They were using nine different Israeli Architect Engineering (A/E) firms and several different Israeli government agencies—all with different computer aided design (CADD) systems and different technical abilities and expertise. None had ever heard of an electronic bid set. They had no experience with the U.S. method of contracting or the drafting standards required for EBS or the required CAL format for submitting drawings. Their CADD systems used software, photo formats and other drafting packages that were unknown in America. We had almost as many formats as design A/Es," Simmons said.

There were other obstacles as well. Hebrew fonts were used throughout the drawings that the software didn't recognize. Operating system differences between U.S. and Israeli versions of Windows and



Gordon Simmons, chief of Technical Coordination for the Israel Program Office, holds the paper version of the Southern Infantry Base bid set, which consists of 2,600 construction drawings and 470 pages of specifications. The electronic version is an easily handled four CDs.

AutoCAD® created some roadblocks. There were no standard sheet sizes. Some drawings were over six and a half feet long when plotted—a size the software commonly used to create drawings would not recognize. Finally, several drawings had to be shown in color, something not commonly done in an EBS.

Undaunted by the challenges, Europe District decided to pursue electronic bids set because of the magnitude of the project.

The Southern Infantry Training Base involves the creation of an all-new training base on 180-acres of desert in southern Israel.

The Corps had to send the many interested bidders, who responded to Commerce Business Daily's request for proposals, more than 16 volumes of drawings.

"We were able to mail them CD ROMS of Electronic Bid Sets in a matter of days," Simmons said. "To reproduce and mail hard copies would have taken weeks. We saved over \$100,000 in reproduction alone. It also saves the contractors time and money when they provide drawings to their prospective subcontractors because it's easier to print and send them only the relevant pages."

The job of reconciling their work into a consistent procurement package fell to Ed Hiles, Europe District's

See EBS on Page 7

Silk Road From Page 1

“This is a first gesture we are making that is part of a much bigger U.S. plan. Down the road, we are helping form a very close relationship with the Georgians that benefits U.S. policy and Georgian way of life.”

— Shawn Pelowitz, Project Manager, Georgia Border Guard Aircraft Maintenance Hangar, Europe District

Customs Service Chief, in Georgia. “For example, if there is any perception that Chechen rebels are operating out of Georgia it could destabilize the region. Drug smuggling and weapons peddling affect the international community’s willingness to invest. This is a critical time in Georgian history—a formative transition. This is a new country with an old methodology. We are trying to guide them towards a new approach...something the Georgians can take ownership of that ultimately brings them closer to our way of doing business and our point of view.”

Last year the U.S. Customs Service asked the Europe District to help the Georgians renovate an aircraft maintenance hangar. Customs has given the Border Guard new MI-8 helicopters, which need regular maintenance and repair. The Georgians use the MI-8s to fly in shift changes and to re-supply Rapid Reaction Forces at border outposts in the Caucasus Mountains and other remote regions. The airfield is also used by the European Organization for Security and Cooperation, which flies tense border areas to inspect border patrol activities and provide independent verification for the international community.

Levitsky says the U.S. Customs Service had two goals when it invited the Corps to help in Georgia—

- First, to manage construction of a modern maintenance hangar and ensure U.S. tax dollars are properly spent.

- Second, to show the Georgians the value of western-style construction management and building techniques so they learn trade and management skills to handle their own work and develop their construction industry.

Pelowitz says at first the dilapidated building didn’t look worth the trouble to repair to American eyes. It is a hodge-podge of assorted-sized bricks and stones that are held together by mortar so soft you can chip it out with your fingers. But to the



Members of the Georgian Border Guard load up a supply helicopter with maintenance equipment to deliver to a remote border post that can only be reached by helicopter. Performing this type of work would be extremely difficult during bad weather. The renovated aircraft maintenance hangar will improve conditions.

Georgians it was a building with a roof—something to be prized.

“When we first saw it, we cringed,” said Project Manager Shawn Pelowitz. “It was built helter-skelter with whatever materials Soviet workers had on hand that day. There were no standards, no quality control, and no craftsmanship. When the Russians left, they destroyed everything of value. They took out any equipment that could be used. We could see malicious demolition. It would be so much easier to just start new. But the Georgian view was, ‘We have a building. Why would you tear down something that’s standing?’”

“As we got into it, we realized that we really could fix up the hangar and return it to a usable facility,” he said. “It’s more work, but we are showing them how to build to a quality product to a modern standard. They are beginning to understand what we are talking about.”

Over the next four to five years, the Europe District will complete an estimated \$40 million worth of construction in the Eastern Block country. This includes the development of master plans for four and concept designs for two Georgia Border Guard installations, construction of a Georgia Border Guard headquarters and station, and a multiple award task order contract targeted to introduce Georgian firms to U.S. procurement and construction practices.

"It's fascinating to work with people and be touching on world events," Pelowitz said.

Just 10 years after the Georgians claimed their independence from Russia, unemployment is high. But Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze has a vision for his country—to make it a conduit for trade and one of the most important transit countries in the world. Major road, railway and pipeline routes between Asia and Europe cross its borders. A new pipeline is planned from the oil-rich Caspian Sea basin through Georgia to the Turkish port of Ceyhan on the Mediterranean Sea. But Georgia needs modernization before it can become a conduit for trade.

Secure borders are an essential first step towards attracting economic investment, Levitsky said.

"For the U.S. Customs Service, the long-term thrust of better border control is economic," he said. "Over the long run we are trying to establish a stable country that is going to be home to cooperative business efforts. This supports Georgia's national objective of being a major transportation hub and it suits the

EBS **From Page 5**

CADD manager. Hiles worked with each A/E to find ways to shake hands between their systems and ours, Simmons said.

"We were lucky because Ed knew EBS inside out," Simmons said. "He helped develop the EBS process for the Corps in his previous assignment as CADD manager at Mobile District. We couldn't have done it without him."

The District held partnering and training sessions between the Corps, the Israeli Ministry of Defense and the A/E firms. Together, they merged the design documents that had been produced with the requirements to make an EBS. Hiles worked with Simmons, Rob Saari, Ragan Glandon, Jim Noble, and Louie Brackett to

provide training and technical assistance to the Israeli A/Es. He identified different methods to create the CAL files and the drafting standards that should be used.

The Southern Infantry Training Base was just the first of several large projects in Israel being solicited by electronic bid set. Contracts for the Nachshonim Storage Base and the Northern Infantry Training Base were awarded this summer.

"The Israel Defense Force engineers and architects are amazing," Simmons said. "Together we decided, 'We can do this. Anything is possible.' I've never worked with so many wonderful people on such a fantastic program. Israel is exciting. It doesn't get better than this."

U.S. national interest in peace and regional stability."

"The Corps is helping us get the Georgians involved so they can learn to sustain and maintain their own operations," Levitsky said. "We are using as much Georgian labor as possible. We are teaching them western methodologies to provide structure to their approach to construction. They are learning about quality control, about business transparency and about how to create a competitive atmosphere for the selection of vendors, builders and construction subcontractors. We are trying to keep the quality as high as possible and get maximal effect for the funding available. Most important, we are trying to help them develop a fair government procurement process so that when they allocate

money they buy the product they want."

Pelowitz says he is glad the Corps has a role to play.

"This is a first gesture we are making that is part of a much bigger U.S. plan," Pelowitz said. "Right now the project is going well and we are setting an excellent example. Down the road, we are helping form a very close relationship with the Georgians that benefits U.S. policy and Georgian way of life. We are really out here to help the people and our government."

Other members of the Georgia Border Guard Support Team are: Herman Celosse, project engineer; Lisa Spratt, U.S. Customs Service program coordinator; Laura Smith, council representative; and Ann Gunzel, contracting specialist.

Europe District upgrades Ukrainian Training Base

By Alicia Gregory
Europe District Public Affairs

When the almost 1,000 service members, including approximately 200 from the United States, representing 21 countries deployed to Yavoriv Training Center, Ukraine this July to participate in Peace Shield 2001, they were pleasantly surprised with upgrades to the dilapidated training facilities.

Although it was a tough row to hoe, a team from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District was able to bridge the cultural and ideological differences between the Ukrainian and American ways of doing business.

“This project is important to the U.S. in supporting our American troops who come here during Partnership For Peace (PFP) training exercises,” explained Joseph Zaraszczak, project engineer. “It is also important to

Ukraine, because we are helping in renovating a training area for them. The projects we are working on elevate the conditions at the Yavoriv Training Center to be more consistent with Western standards and more suitable for future exercises.”

The Yavoriv Training Center is an approximately 16 kilometers by 18 kilometers, Partnership For Peace training center operated by the Ukrainian Army’s Western Operational Command. The site, located in western Ukraine near the city of L’viv, has been used to host the several annual Peace Shield exercises, a U.S. Army Europe-conducted joint training exercise.

The Partnership For Peace program was established to enhance the relationship between the NATO countries and participating Central and Eastern European countries. Through

initiatives like leadership visits, workshops, and security assistance programs the goal is to increase the stability, promote peace and expand political and defense cooperation throughout Europe. Joint military exercises are another way that the PFP program accomplishes its mission.

“We have been doing exercises here since 1995,” said Lt. Col. Henry Nowak, U.S. Defense Attaché, U.S. Embassy in Kiev. “Over the last two years, and through this effort working with the Army Corp of Engineers, our objective has been to replace the infrastructure, which was built when this area was still the Soviet Union in the 1960s and 1970s. The Army Corps has been very instrumental in upgrades in key areas.”

Since many of the facilities and infrastructure at the training area were in poor condition, they were identified and nominated as Engineering Related Construction (ERC) projects to improve facilities used by U.S. forces during exercises, according to Project Manager Edward Krolikowski.

ERC projects are generally small in scope and routine repair-type construction, but the project in the Ukraine was quite different from what is generally done. There was quite a bit of coordination between the host-nation authorities and the U.S. Defense Attaché Office in Kiev. Also, because the Ukrainian military and contractors were not familiar with U.S. contracting rules and regulations and the district had to learn local design approvals, permits, and license requirements, there was a steep learning curve, said both Zaraszczak and Krolikowski.



(right to left) Tatiana Korzhan, MP Julia’s translator; Iryna Mykolaenko, Ukraine Army Western Operations Command intern, Joseph Zaraszczak, project engineer; and Boris Vronych, quality control representative with MP Julia review powerline design drawings. (photo by Joseph Zaraszczak)

Continued on Page 13

Engineering in Europe

Fall 2001

(left to right) Ambassador Martin Indyk, former U.S. Ambassador to Israel; Brig. Gen. Steven Rhoades, NAD commander; Ken Goldberg, project engineer; Sig Milerski, construction representative; and David Peng, resident engineer attended the Southern Infantry Base groundbreaking this summer.

*Story and Photo
by Torrie McAllister
Europe District Public Affairs*

What do Israel's elite paratroops look for when building a new military base? Like Americans, they put quality training and quality of life at the top of their list.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District and the Israeli Ministry of Defense laid the corner stone for a new U.S.-financed basic training base in the northern Negev Desert May 15.

Israeli Defense officials said the location in the Judean hills is particularly suitable for paratrooper infantry training and state-of-the-art support facilities for the Israel Defense Forces.

Recruits can look forward to air conditioning and other modern amenities in new barracks, dining halls and recreation facilities. Their families are happy because it will be safer to visit their loved ones on weekends once their training bases are relocated from the West Bank into Israel.

The \$45 million Southern Infantry Training Base is being funded by the United States to support the Wye River Memorandum, which Israeli and Palestinian leaders signed in 1998 as a result of summit talks hosted by former President Bill Clinton. The United States is funding base construction and infrastructure costs so Israeli forces can move out of the West Bank to free up



Corps Builds Bases for Peace in Middle East

land for possible transfer to the Palestinians.

The Israel Defense Forces and 35th Infantry Training Brigade celebrated the start of construction with a traditional Israeli stone laying ceremony, where a scroll is buried to commemorate the new beginning.

"What we are doing here lays the cornerstone for a secure Israel, at peace with her neighbors," said U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk, who participated in the Wye River negotiations and came to sign and help bury the scroll. "It is highly symbolic of the United States' iron-clad commitment to Israeli security and serves as a foundation for reaching a comprehensive peace.

"This is the first of many construction projects brought about by Wye River which will assist with the redeployment of Israeli troops in the West Bank," he said.

"It is an important step towards building a spirit of trust with your Palestinian neighbors."

Over the next four years the Corps will manage construction of an estimated \$280 million in military facilities for the Government of Israel as part of U.S. assistance. The Corps is soliciting, awarding and managing the construction contracts.

Near-term construction consists of three new military bases—

- The Southern Infantry Training Base, now under way, which was awarded to the Israeli Joint Venture Firm Solel-Boneh and Minrav Holdings Ltd.
- The Northern Infantry Training Base, which is scheduled for construction next fall. Proposals are being solicited.
- The Nachshonim Storage Base, a

Continued on Page 11

Cadet Contemplates Corps Career

*Story and Photo
by Alicia Gregory
Europe District Public Affairs*

Some might say it is by design that she is exploring the career choices of her construction contractor father and her grandfather who worked as a civil engineer. So it was only natural for Kathryn Purchase to survey the option of becoming an Army engineer officer.

As a West Point cadet, she was given that opportunity through the military academy's Individual Academic Development initiative and the cooperation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District.

Purchase had a choice of several different academic programs, but choose an internship at the Corps.

"I wanted to see how what I am doing as an engineering student applies to the real world," said Purchase.

The civil engineering major was given a choice of several different Corps districts including Japan, Korea, Hawaii, and other stateside locations. She finally decided on the Europe District.

"I wanted to travel around Europe and I heard that the Corps was different over here—working on only military projects."

Though she only spent three weeks at the Europe District, she was able to experience work at the district headquarters, and in a field office.



West Point Cadet Kathryn Purchase was able to take in the sites of Wiesbaden, location of the Europe District headquarters, as well as several other famous European city during her training opportunity overseas.

"I learned basically what the Corps does—especially in overseas offices, the roles they play in the interaction with the military, and how engineering projects are run," said Purchase. She went on to say that in the field office she was able to see the daily interaction with the Corps customers.

Purchase said one of her favorite parts of the visit was actually seeing the project being worked on. "I got to see barracks renovation work, mailroom construction, and other ongoing projects," explained Purchase. "It was interesting because I didn't really think about all the work that goes into renovations. Seeing it from this side, and what all goes into it, I can understand what the Corps' role is."

"The whole trip was a good experience," said Purchase. "I am glad I did it, and I am glad I chose to come over here. I am also thankful I have had the opportunity to travel around

Europe. I went to Belgium, Paris, Trier, but even if I did not get to travel like that, getting to see how the Corps works over here, and how they handle military projects, was invaluable to me."

She said she was thankful for her tour guides and sponsors — Capt. Louis Reagan, district executive officer, her sponsor in headquarters, and Jaime McCormick from the Baumholder field office.

"This experience has given me more knowledge to make my decision on what area I want to select for the future. Basically I have narrowed it down to engineers or military intelligence. But I think in October the things that I saw here, the experiences I have had in the last few weeks here will definitely help me make the decision. It isn't set in stone that I am going engineers, but it has given me valuable information to help me make a decision."

The Vermont native began her senior year at West Point this fall.

Bases for Peace From Page 9

\$138 million storage and maintenance facility, which broke ground in September. The contract was awarded in June to the United States/Israeli Joint Venture firm of ABB SUSA, A. Arenson, and Baran Group.

Israeli Director General of the Minister of Defense Amos Yaron told young soldiers who gathered to see the new site, "It gives me particular personal pleasure to look back on my days in the 35th Infantry and see how well this fits the new needs of this old Brigade as we begin a new century."

"Thank you for continuing to stand by us in these difficult days," he told Ambassador Indyk. "We are working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to build 40,000 square meters of built up areas to the highest tactical and quality of life standards...standards befitting the responsibilities of such an elite unit. This is a moment in which we celebrate U.S. and Israeli cooperation. That spirit of cooperation is reflected in the partnership of our design and construction engineers."

Wye River implementation offers the Corps another opportunity to assist Israel. The first was more than 20 years ago, after the Camp David Accords were signed and Israel gave up airbases in the Sinai to make peace with Egypt. From spring 1979 to summer 1982 the Corps helped build the Ovda and Ramon Air bases—a \$1.6 billion initiative that helped defend Israel and keep the peace into a new millennium.

"The Corps of Engineers is proud to be your partner," North Atlantic Division Commander Brig. Gen. Stephen Rhoades said, when

he presented the Corps' traditional ground breaking shovel. "A superb team effort brought us this far."

Key players recognized by Rhoades included:

From the Europe District: Lt. Col. Larry McCallister, Israel program manager; Rob Saari, project manager; Paul Cheverie and Laura Smith, legal advisors; Anne Gunzel, contract specialist; and Gordy Simmons, chief technical coordinator.

From the Israeli Defense Forces: Lt. Col. Pini Liberman, chief of Wye Construction; Maj.

Orly Stern, project manager; and Semadar Bar-Nathan, chief architect and project design coordinator.

From the Israeli Ministry of Defense: Abraham Hadar, director of construction; Meir Ran, Israeli liaison to USACE, and Eran Rotberg, legal advisor.

"Our 35,000 soldiers and civilians from across the U.S. and Europe offer our hopes and prayers that the Corps efforts here will help secure a lasting peace in the Middle East and a better world for our children," said Rhoades.



All's well that year-ends well

Monica Grossman (left) and Kathy Wissel, program analysts in the Project Management Branch, were two of many Europe District employees who worked to midnight Sept. 30 to complete the fiscal year.

The district obligated almost \$582 million in 2,708 contract actions this year, 242 contracts in September alone.

This is \$100 million more than in fiscal year 2000, and is the most money obligated by any Corps district this fiscal year.

"The challenge was significant, and the District veterans and newcomers, of all disciplines, worked together as an effective unit," said Lloyd Caldwell, deputy district engineer. "No where is the individual commitment, teamwork and professionalism better than I observed here in the weeks leading to Sept. 30. Now the success of executing the contract awards and project orders leads immediately to the hard work of executing those studies, design and construction to the customer's expectations."

*Story and Photo
by Torrie McAllister
Europe District Public Affairs*

The Corps of Engineers' Israel Program Office Team represents something new for the Corps—a joint venture partnership between districts to support the mission. North Atlantic Division tasked four of its six districts to provide personnel to staff the Israel offices. However, five of NAD's six districts are actually represented on the Israel Program's in-country staff. No other Corps' project is matrix organized across district organizations this extensively. The initiative is part of North Atlantic Division's approach to operating as a Regional Business Center.

In traditional Corps' fashion, the Europe District, which manages work in Israel as part of its Area of Responsibility (AOR), is responsible for total planning and execution of the Israel program, including providing the project management team and technical experts who work with the Israeli Ministry of Defense and the Israel Defense Forces on design, solicitation and award of the contracts. The Europe District established the Israel Program Office just north of Tel Aviv, Israel in October 2000.

The Europe District team put in a lot of time and effort to make sure NAD had a clear pathway for construction of these projects. The Europe District project delivery team dealt with several unusual issues, such as unique legal clauses and country specific contracting procedures, swiftly and professionally to the delight of both the Israeli and U.S. governments. The Europe District team conducted numerous design reviews to make sure the Israel Defense Forces' designs or partial



Brig. Gen. Steven Rhoades, North Atlantic Division commander, presents Maj. Gen. Aharon Zeevi, Director of Logistics, Israeli Ministry of Defense with a ceremonial shovel from the Europe District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Southern Infantry Base groundbreaking ceremony, which took place this June.

The Southern Infantry Base is the first of three major installations that will be constructed for Israel under provisions of the Wye River Agreement.

North Atlantic Division tries Joint Venture in Israel

designs (for design-build bases) were complete, biddable, and met the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FARs) and design criteria. In fact, the Europe District will continue to be the center of all operations until the bases are turned over to the Israeli Ministry of Defense.

But when it came time to staff the Southern, Central and Northern Base resident offices, NAD asked each of its stateside District Commanders for engineer volunteers interested in lateral reassignments to the Europe District's Israel team to help manage the construction. Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk and New England are currently represented.

NAD, which supports European Command, needs to be able to quickly move people around to support international activities. For example, EUD provided the initial support, and Baltimore and New York Districts both deployed engineer teams to Kosovo for six months to staff the Base Camp

Coordinating Activity. Then Europe District took over steady state operations.

NAD Commander Brig. Gen. Stephen Rhoades sees two advantages to engaging all NAD Districts in overseas work. The first is that the entire Division gets experience is supporting the Army in contingency operations.

"If we excel at supporting Mother Army when she needs us, then when we need her she will support us," he said.

The second advantage is the fresh experience and new ideas people who've been engaged in high speed operations of national significance bring back to their home districts.

"You are working on the frontiers of the Corps and I appreciate what you do so much," Rhoades told the staff he met in the Israel Program Office during his visit to Israel for the Southern Infantry Base Stone Laying Ceremony.

Continued on Page 14

*Engineering in Europe
Fall 2001*

Ukraine

From Page 8

The proposed improvements consisted of upgrades to two barracks, which included installation of 23 new showers and the repair of four existing ones. It also included the construction of a new laundry facility, improvements to the water and sanitary systems for the buildings, and insect screens on all windows of the buildings.

“The new showers and laundry facility were a great addition because these facilities did not exist here before the Corps performed this work,” explained Zaraszczak.

Other improvements included replacement of an existing decrepit and inadequate underground high tension line with approximately 12.5 kilometers of overhead high tension line, upgrades to three transformer substations, construction of a new transformer substation, and much needed improvements to the water pumping station.

“The new water pumping system replaced an old water tower, which had virtually no cleaning system in place and contained stagnant water during periods of non-use that was a health risk for everyone at the Yavoriv Training Center,” said Zaraszczak.

A large majority of the improvements, such as 13 of the shower facilities, the water pumping station improvements and the construction of the laundry facility, had to be completed prior to the commencement of Peace Shield 2001 in July.

Work on the project actually began in August 1998, with the district participating in a joint survey lead by U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) to determine the



An Ukrainain soldier salutes dignitaries at the Peace Shield 2001 closing ceremony. (photo by Joseph Zaraszczak)

sites capability as a PFP training site.

Once the survey was completed, it was determined to implement a phased upgrade plan to make improvements to the training area. The Ukraine Army estimated \$2.6 million to complete the assessed upgrades.

“Over the next couple of years, through close coordination with the Ukrainian military and based on available funds, construction were chosen that would most benefit the area,” said Zaraszczak.

The district worked closely with officials from the Ukraine Army, U.S. European Command (EUCOM), and USAREUR to explain U.S. construction contracting procedures and processes, according to Krolikowski. Approximately 40 local contractors participated in the pre-bid meeting to explain these processes and procedures.

“All parties learned through the contracting process,” said Lt. Cmd. Tony Edmonds, EUCOM contingency engineer. “They learned our customs and we learned theirs.”

The Ukrainian firm, MP Julia LTD, was awarded the upgrade work, with an on-site district

project engineer, Zaraszczak, to oversee the work.

“It was important to have a permanent representative during the construction process,” said Nowak. “It was also important to have the supervision to make sure the work was done to standards.”

“Although the primary objective was to benefit the U.S. troops training in the area,” said Edmonds. “We recognize that a strong engagement benefits all — by strengthening relationships between the Partnership For Peace countries who participate.”

“Without the support of the United States, the (improvements) to this facility would not be possible,” said Col. Alexander Pushkar, chief, Military Preparations, Western Operative Command, Ukraine Army. “The assistance by the Corps of Engineers assured the success of Peace Shield.”

In a note of appreciation Nowak said that the recently completed work at Yavoriv, “...have not only confirmed the U.S. commitment to forging a long-range partnership between our two nations’ armed forces, but, more importantly, have demonstrated in practice the principles and standards on which such must be built.”



Incirlik Air Base's new central security control facility takes shape as construction on the hardened facility nears its final months. (photo by David Cates, Europe District)

Incirlik gets new Security Control Facility

By Grant Sattler
Europe District Public Affairs

24/7 Incirlik's security forces guard multi-million dollar fighter aircraft that are tucked away safely between combat missions in hardened aircraft shelters. Soon these security forces will be getting a hardened facility of their own.

Construction of a new central security control facility for U.S. Air Force Security Police protecting operations of the 39th Wing at Incirlik Air Base, Republic of Turkey, is more than three quarters complete.

TUSEG Project Engineer David Cates said a March 2002 completion is expected for the \$2.2 million hardened security command and control building. Design work by Turkish firm Altan/Tuncer began in February 2000 and construction notice to proceed came three months later to Kolin Construction.

Staff Sgt. Tom Snyder, physical security NCO for the 39th Security Forces Squadron, is looking

forward to moving in. "It's a pretty good deal. The new building will be a real enhancement for day-to-day operations and it incorporates features for contingencies," he said. Those contingency features make it one tough nut.

The new structure is not only hardened against ballistic weapons — the core of the facility, Base Defense Operations Center (BDOC), is rated against 500-pound bombs — but it is also designed to defeat chemical weapons attacks. The building design includes gas tight doors with multiple interlocked chambers to prevent chemical gases from entering, a filtering system and blast valves. A generator and fuel supply within the structure will provide independent standby power.

Inside is an armory and licensed storage space for Security Police munitions. The 16,000 square foot facility includes operations areas, administrative spaces, a guard mount area and showers.

Throughout the two years of construction the Corps of Engi-

neers, 39th Base Civil Engineers and the Security Police held weekly partnering meetings.

39th BCE Chief of Construction Management Robert Morton, who represents the end-user with oversight of the Corps-managed project, said the partnering allowed discussion of any problems that might arise on the interface to the base infrastructure, from communications to sewage and water. Cates said recommendations from the meetings also resulted in a number of modifications to the contract to support mission changes brought to the group's attention by the Security Police representative.

"I've been involved nearly from the beginning," Snyder said, "When we walk through the site and see something that could be improved, we tell Mr. Cates and it gets accomplished."

Morton agreed. "He's done an excellent job managing the project."

NAD From Page 12

"Not everyone is willing to serve far from the comforts of home in places like Israel, the Ukraine, Kosovo, Bosnia, the Republic of Georgia. But what you are doing is so important for the future—not just for peace in Israel. You are creating a more flexible, dynamic Corps," he said.

"NAD is a large Division, rich in experience and diverse in missions. We need an infusion of great Corps' people who have worked in other places with the energy to drive change. We need you to return to your home Districts with a new set of experiences—to tell others what you are doing and encourage them to volunteer," Rhoades said.

Corps helps Kosovo children in need

*By Grant Sattler
Europe District Public Affairs*

True charity begins at home. In fact, it can begin when you clean out your closets. Children in a remote Kosovo mountain village recently learned that lesson when several van loads of clothing, toys and school supplies arrived at their doorstep, with a return address from halfway around the world.

The materials were gifts from citizens of Humble, League City and Kingwood, Texas. Flown to Germany by Continental Airlines, the donated items were transferred into military supply channels by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District, in Wiesbaden, Germany, for the trip to Macedonia and Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. Army engineers with Task Force Falcon distributed the goods Sept. 18 to Albanian pupils at their "adopted" school in Izance, Kosovo. Many area residents are still rebuilding their homes in this war-torn province.

All those involved in the project point to Corps of Engineers Galveston District project engineer Mike deMasi as the driving force behind the initiative. "It was a real team effort," he countered.

When deMasi left Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, in July 2001, after a four-month tour of duty as a civil engineer, he did not leave behind his concern for the local children. He had volunteered for the Balkan duty looking for varied work experience with the Corps.

"I was also hoping to assist with some of the rebuilding of the local communities," he said. The father of three found his chance working with the U.S.

Army's Civil Affairs soldiers on repair projects for a number of schools, including the remote Osman Mani Primary School.

"I had quite a bit of contact with the Kosovo children while working with CA," deMasi said. "The kids always wanted to talk and learn a few new [English] words."

The Humble, Texas, native emailed his family telling them about the school and the children there. "They asked to see pictures, so I created a small Web site with the school and some pictures of the children.

"I asked them to clean out their closets and send me the stuff for the kids and their families," deMasi explained. "My wife and sisters came up with a number of boxes." Then his mother, Sally deMasi, decided to present the idea to her church organization.

The First United Methodist Church Humble and Kingwood Presbyterian Church congregations came through with almost 1,500 pounds of donated items.

"I had envisioned mailing a few boxes," deMasi said. "The problem was how to get all the stuff to Kosovo."

That is where Continental Airlines employee Lamar Berry and the airline's shipping department stepped in to move the goods to Europe. There, Europe District's Tom Miniard cleared the items through customs and moved the two pallets into military supply channels for forward movement to Kosovo.

Engineer soldiers working with the Directorate of Public Works, Task Force Falcon, delivered the goods to the village where the children thanked them, and America, with flowers, a song and a poem.



Task Force Eagle soldiers pass out school supplies and clothing to the children from the village of Izance, waiting patiently in line to receive their donated items.

Corps Breaks Ground at Storage Base Site

*By Alicia Gregory
Europe District Public Affairs*

Officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District, the Israel Defense Forces, and the Israeli Ministry of Defense broke ground for a new U.S.-financed storage and maintenance base located east of Tel Aviv, Israel at a ceremony in September.

The Nachshonim Storage Base is a crucial part of the U.S. investment in the peace process, said Corps' Deputy Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Hans Van Winkle to the more than 150 people who attended the Sept. 15 ceremony.

This is the second project in an estimated \$280 million program to build Israeli defense facilities over the next four years.

The \$124 million project was awarded in June to the United States/Israeli Joint Venture firm of ABB SUSA, A. Arenson, and Baran Group. It is funded with Foreign Military Funding (FMF) under authority of the Arms Export Control Act by the U.S. to support the Wye River Memorandum, which Israeli and Palestinian Authority leaders signed in October 1998. Under the agreement the new bases will allow Israeli defense forces to relocate from installations in the West Bank.

The 420 acre base will consist of over 227,000-square-meters of facilities designed for long-term storage and maintenance of combat equipment and vehicles that are ready to deploy on short notice. Its



Signing the symbolic scroll are (from left) Maj. Gen. Hans Van Winkle, Corps deputy commanding general, Lt. Col. Pini Liberman, program manager, Israel Defense Forces and Abraham Haber, chief of Construction, Israeli Ministry of Defense. Several other dignitaries also signed the scroll prior to its burial on-site. (Photo by Lt. Col. Larry McCallister)

“pie” shaped pattern is designed to allow fast and efficient movement of vehicles in and out of the base. The complex will consist of 119 climate-controlled warehouses, 14 office complexes, more than 70 logistical, residential, and general services buildings, ammunition storage bunkers, and over 15 kilometers of new roads.

“This project marks a continuation in the great partnership of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the Ministry of Defense of the Government of Israel,” said Van Winkle.

Towards the end of the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Van Winkle presented a ceremonial shovel to Maj. Gen. Itzak Eitan, Commander, Central Command, Israel Defense Forces to commemorate the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers participation in the project. The groundbreaking ceremony in Israel is really a symbolic scroll laying ceremony where the major participants sign a scroll to commemorate the occasion, said Lt. Col. Larry McCallister, deputy commander in charge of the Israel Program Office. He went on to explain that the scroll is sealed, and buried in concrete at a location that will not be disturbed by the construction.

The Europe District Israel Program Office's Central Resident Office will manage the three-year project. The staff consists of four Department of Army civilians, one local-hire secretary, and five Israeli engineers. The Resident Engineer is Jody Blackburn.