

# Engineering in Europe

## Contents

- 7 ▶ **Hohenfel's Building 100**  
Keeping it cool at the Combat Maneuver Training Center
- 9 ▶ **AFRC Raises the Roof**  
AFRC Europe celebrates topping off ceremony German style
- 10 ▶ **From Prison to Payroll**  
World War II prison soon to be DFAS-Europe headquarters
- 12 ▶ **Fisher House II**  
Second Fisher House at Landstuhl gives relief to families
- 14 ▶ **Don't Touch That Dial**  
Armed Forces Network Europe moves to Mannheim in Fall 2004
- 16 ▶ **Wolfram Wolz Retires**  
Corps architect completes milestone 50 years of service



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#### 4 ▶ **BLIC Towers**

No more hauling laundry down to basements in Heidelberg

#### 6 ▶ **Clubs Combine**

Construction begins on collocated club in Spangdahlem, Germany

#### 5 ▶ **All Smiles**

New dental clinic at Ramstein Air Base has airmen smiling

#### 18 ▶ **Top Hat Club Opens**

Mannheim jamming at new facility on Benjamin Franklin Village

# SAVING STEPS

With the six-month-early completion of bathroom and laundry tower additions in Heidelberg's Patrick Henry Village in mid December, more than 240 families are saving thousands of laundry hauling steps.

The \$6 million BLIC Phase II project added stacking washers and dryers to two-bedroom unit kitchens, and tower addition bathrooms and laundries to three- and four-bedroom apartments in 13 buildings.

Bettina Reinhard, project engineer from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District, said residents are pleased with the results — especially once the three-week-long intrusion into their apartments while towers were joined to the building was over. "They are all happy about it because they don't get disturbed anymore," she quipped. Reinhard said that residents are due a lot of credit for cooperating with the inconvenience during construction.

Reinhard said the half-year early completion of the project is due to close cooperation between the contractor, D&B Bau GmbH, and the 411th Base Support Battalion Housing Division. D&B Bau Supervisor Manfred Schroeder devised a compressed schedule for delivery of the stackable modular bathroom and



From left: Dave Freeman of the 411th BSB housing division; Manfred Schroeder, D&B Bau GmbH; Bettina Reinhard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and Georg Volz, architectural engineering firm AAg, discuss exterior work Dec. 12 for tower additions in Patrick Henry Village.

laundry tower units that kept his workers on site full time.

In order to make the schedule work, Dave Freeman, engineer technician with the 411<sup>th</sup> BSB Housing Division, coordinated between the contractor and families in the affected units to start a new building every other week.

Freeman met with residents of each building and showed them an example finished unit before work on their apartment was to begin. "We tried to show them the horror scenario, which was the dust wall in their master bedroom ... so that they knew what we would be doing to them for about three weeks," Freeman said. "Of course when the dust wall came down, they could walk into their tower with their additional bathroom."

Residents are pleased with the quality of the new additions, Reinhard said, another plus from the

modular design presented by Georg Volz, engineer with the Architect Engineering firm AAg. Both Volz and Schroeder had previous experience with the standard masonry design of BLIC Phase I and made improvements for BLIC Phase II.

The prefabricated modular design presented several advantages, Reinhard said. "There are time savings because they can produce ahead of time, and deliver in a day for one building," Reinhard said. "There is also less weather impact, because it is produced indoors and you don't have to do interior work on site. And it is of consistent quality."

Reinhard said site preparation for construction of the tower bases started in November 2001. "Our original completion date was June 2003, and now we are finished in December 2002," she said.

Europe District Project Manager was Robert Grumberg.

# It's SMILES at Ramstein

Story and photo  
by Grant Sattler

The completion of the Ramstein Dental Clinic Addition has people in the Kaiserslautern Military Community smiling. The addition, phase one of a three-phase project on Ramstein Air Base, was ceremonially opened with a ribbon cutting Dec. 16.

"The 86<sup>th</sup> Dental Squadron is really excited about how this new facility will enhance the 60,000 annual patient visits we provide, over half of which are from family members, and the \$12 million worth of care we provide each year," said Col. Kevin Blair, commander of the dental squadron, in remarks.

The two-story, \$5.4 million addition expands the clinic's floor space by more than 30 percent to 36,000 square feet. The additional 17 dental treatment rooms bring the total to 61. Blair said efficiencies the additional space provides include the ability to house all the dental specialists in the Kaiserslautern area under one roof and providing state-of-the-art pediatric specialty care.

"This is completion of Phase I of this project, but Phase II and III remain. Six to nine months from now, with luck, all will be completed,"

Blair said. "All the facility will have an updated look and a much needed fire suppression sprinkler system."

LBB Kaiserslautern Director Norbert Hoebel said the work on the adjoining Building 301, housing a dental clinic staff of nearly 100, includes installation of a sprinkler system in the existing building so that the entire facility will meet fire regulations. Building 301 was constructed in 1953 at cost of \$160,000. The building first served as the combined home of base medical clinic, dental clinic, food inspectors and medical storage, but became the sole possession of the dental clinic in 1978.

Ground was broken March 2, 2001, for the addition. Project Manager Oryal Aktasli said the facility user elected to build to the higher standard, whether European or U.S., to provide the best quality of life for patients. In some instances, such as in the case of medical gas supply where the European standards were more stringent, doing so was more expensive. Construction contractor Firma Budau continues work on Phases II and III of the project. Work also includes landscaping, utilities and new parking areas.

"What we see today wasn't the dream of any one individual, this project was truly a team effort," Blair said as he named many of those involved. "Frau Holzer and John Moreno from the Corps ... took care of the occasional speed bumps that arose."



## Key Members of the Project Delivery Team

Europe District's  
Project Engineer  
Jutta Holzer-

Lyroth, Resident Engineer John Moreno and  
Project Manager Oryal Aktasli, and the medical  
community's Col. Charles DeFrest, Master Sgt.  
Norma Lozano, and Stefanie Hauck.



photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook

Robert Williams, project manager for the collocated club (left) gives Brig. Gen. (select) Stephen Mueller, Commander, 52d Fighter Wing, a ceremonial shovel.

# EXPANDING The Eifel

dormitories, a lodging facility, fire station, and the addition of a troop and passenger processing center.

Design of the club was a cooperative effort between the 52d Services Squadron, the club managers, and USAFE services, said Glenn Garrison, chief, Business Operations Flight, 52d Services

Squadron. "We also had coordination with the Air Force Services Agency, which is based in San Antonio. They weighed in with their inputs as well, part of that is they have two Air Force signature brands, J.R. Rockers sports café and N.Y. Pizza and Deli being rolled out from the agency. That was a very big piece integrated into the design."

The process started almost four years ago with a needs assessment, Garrison said, and will be a vast improvement when finished. "We're operating now out of two very old buildings, ... they're dilapidated, falling down, just not able to serve the needs of our community," he said. "They are too small. We're forced to take some of our larger catering events such as the Air Force Ball and Noncommissioned Officer Inductions over to the Fitness Center, which just makes it a logistical nightmare."

Garrison said the new ballroom will hold the large functions and divides into five rooms to provide needed meeting space on the base. The collocation of food service and club

operations into one facility will also be more economical. "The bottom line is we will be better able to take care of our customers, our members," he said.

Commander of the 52d Fighter Wing, Brig. Gen. (select) Stephen Mueller said teamwork has been key to the start of Eifel Evolution. "...We couldn't do without the great teamwork and partnership that we have between the Corps and our folks here on the base."

Mueller thanked Spangdahlem Mayor Klaus Rodens and the people of Spangdahlem for providing land for the expansion. "We really have a world-class base, but we've been constrained by land issues for 50 years. Thanks to everybody who has taken part to this point."

**THE CONSTRUCTION START FOR** a new collocated club facility on Spangdahlem Air Base marks the first of an array of buildings sited on the base's northwest expansion. The 40,700 square foot building will replace the current separate officer and enlisted club facilities built in 1953.

Base leaders, local German dignitaries, and representatives from the construction community gathered to break ground Nov. 13 for the \$7.6 million project, a cornerstone for quality of life projects being billed as Eifel Expansion.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District, is managing several projects for the expansion. These include the collocated club, infrastructure, a hospital, kindergarten classrooms, a health and wellness center, and an air control squadron maintenance and support facility. Other projects are scheduled to expand the installation's airlift mission capability, especially because Rhein Main AB near Frankfurt is closing, said Robert Williams, project manager for the collocated club. The Rhein Main Initiative expansion includes new

Members of the Project Delivery Team include: Glenn Garrison; Robert Williams; Friedrich Heitzeberg and Elvira Hommelsen from LBB Trier; Dan Dues, U.S. Air Forces in Europe Civil Engineering; Commander of the 52<sup>d</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron Lt. Col. Kaiser; Udo Stuermer of the 52<sup>d</sup> CES; Lu Link, Karen Torner-Fauss, and Tim Walker from USAFE Services; Jean Marc Laurent, Command Chef, USAFE Services; Kevin Huwe, Air Force Services Agency; Moses Thompson, Former Spangdahlem Club Complex Manager; and John Moreno and Hans Hoock, from Europe District's Kaiserslautern Area Office.



# Keeping Their

# COOL

Story by  
Brian H. Temple

**STAKES WERE HIGH** for one Project Delivery Team in Hohenfels, Germany. Falling behind schedule could halt combat training for thousands of troops and tangle training schedules into 2004.

Building 100, the Combat Maneuver Training Center's (CMTC) home for a \$100 million war-gaming computer needed a renovation. And, the air conditioner protecting the Center's one-of-a-kind computer network needed replacement - it had been running 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for 15 years.

The Project Delivery Team set the project in motion in August 2001, dividing construction into five phases meshed with the CMTC's training schedule.

A new 142-ton cooling system, appropriately nicknamed **"THE QUEEN MARY," WAS PLACED** in a new 6,750 square foot addition to Building 100 and a new 7,400 square foot office addition was completed **BEFORE AN EIGHT-WEEK GAP IN THE CMTC'S TRAINING CYCLE. THEY CLEARED THEIR FIRST HURDLE.**

With "The Queen Mary" in her new location and the new office addition ready to occupy, Raytheon, the instrumentation system contractor, could move the CMTC's "nerve center" into its temporary home beginning May 20, 2002.

Raytheon moved miles of fiber optic cable, the computer network, and offices into temporary trailers and the new office addition during the next eight weeks. Renovation of the air conditioning system in the vacant Building 100 began while CMTC operations continued in the temporary trailers and new office addition.

Seventeen Europe District employees, along with stakeholders from 10 additional U.S. and German agencies, as well as contactors, were recognized for delivering a quality design and construction project within an aggressive design and construction schedule without interrupting the CMTC's training operations.

Their coordinated efforts earned them the only Europe District nomination, and one of the North Atlantic Division's three nominations, for the United States Army Corps of Engineers Project Development Team of the Year for 2002.

CMTC is one of the Army's three combat training facilities and without the war-gaming abilities in Building 100, operations at Hohenfels would cease, said Europe District Project Engineer Larry King. "One of the biggest issues ... was coordinating the working of this facility with people in the building," King said. "They had one plan originally to work around the people ... but it meant too many problems."

The original design was sound, but implementation of the plan would not work within that timeframe, said Project Delivery Team leader and Project Manager Gary Lacroix. He said they had to revamp the old design, plan the move in

several phases, and "do it once, and do it right."

Lacroix said each team member took ownership and quickly recognized the urgency in the project. "We backed up the schedule from the gap in the training cycle, then the time for construction, award, and design. We quickly realized we had to start immediately," he said. "We constantly were coordinating to make sure that the design was a reflection of what we asked for, and that we had the verification that [the *Bauamt*] had the message right. We had to work with certain constraints in the cost ... and we had to hit this thing pretty much right on."

With more than 30 people composing a multi-national team, Lacroix said it is not unusual for the design process to have interruptions where information goes back and forth. This eats up time, but Lacroix credits Staatsbauamt Regensburg with "an exceptional job in understanding, and sharing in the urgency" of the project. He said at one time he was able to offer them an extra week to work on the final design but they declined it. "I have never had that happen before where I proposed to give designers in the *Bauamt* more time and they said 'No, we need to have this done.'"

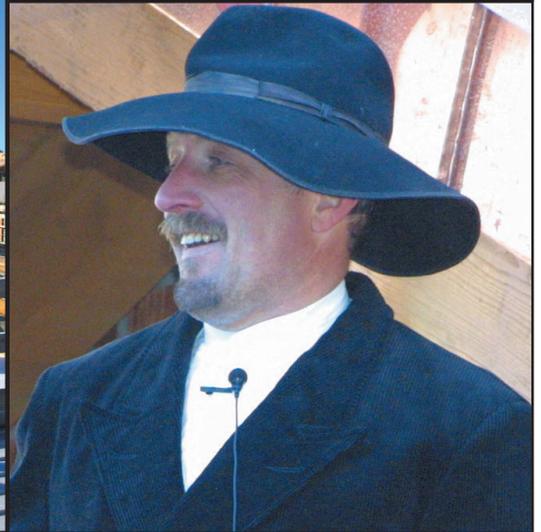
Lacroix said he has worked in project management since 1989 and Building 100 has been one of his proudest works. He said team members focused on getting the job done, and despite not winning the nationwide honors he is thrilled that the team was nominated.

The project now totals slightly more than \$5 million and Lacroix said the CMTC's crew should be ready to move back into their refurbished home by May 5, 2003, the agreed to completion date.



photo by Paula J. Guzman

Soldiers train under war game scenarios controlled by staff and equipment in Hohenfels' Building 100.



photos by Brian H. Temple and Susanne Bledsoe

# AFRC Europe Tops it Off

Story and photo  
by Brian H. Temple

At the sound of shattering glass a cheer went up from approximately 175 construction workers, as well as distinguished guests, at the Armed Forces Recreation Center Europe's resort hotel construction site in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, Dec. 10.

The *Richtfest*, or "topping off" ceremony, celebrated the installation of the roof on AFRC's \$50 million, 330-room resort hotel at the base of Germany's Bavarian Alps.

In a time-honored tradition, Franz Zierenger, a master carpenter, drank three glasses of champagne toasting AFRC, the site supervisors, and the workers. He then tossed the empty flutes from a third-floor scaffolding, shattering them against a concrete floor. This German ritual is practiced to wish health and prosperity to a building's future occupants.

"Today's event is awfully exciting because there is quite a bit of history and tradition behind the idea of a *Richtfest*," said General Manager of AFRC, Europe, Richard LeBrun.

LeBrun said carpenters traditionally travelled with their tools and went from site to site looking for work. They labored for months on a project with little time off, and the *Richtfest* was a suitable time for them to celebrate. It was also a turning point, as they had to say goodbye to friends and search for more work.

The master carpenter traditionally reads an ode to the carpenter, makes several toasts, and then places a decorated evergreen tree upon the completed roof.

In larger projects such as the AFRC hotel, a crown made of tree branches is dressed with ribbons and hoisted from a crane over the site. Both the tree and the crown are symbols of continued fortune.

Because of its deep roots, the ties to a *Richtfest* go beyond superstition - tradition dictates that the ritual take place. LeBrun said when the roof is done the building's owner pays for a celebration for the people who erected it.

"If the person responsible for putting the building together was ... less than generous and didn't host an appropriate farewell party, then instead of kind remarks and the raising of a tree, the carpenter would place an upside down broom on top of the roof," LeBrun said.

This broom served as a statement to all that the host "is essentially a pretty cheap guy."

According to folklore, he said, if you do not hold a party, it could bring some bad luck upon the facility or hardship upon the family that lives there.

LeBrun is not worried, however, about the future of this consolidated resort facility. He said that through a continued team effort, future guests will have the opportunity to enjoy the facility by April 2004.

Greg Vaughn, project engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District, said the completion of the roof at this time was pivotal in order to keep the construction moving. With approximately \$1 million dollars worth of work completed on the roof, the interior phase of construction can begin, Vaughn said. "We wanted to get the building protected so we can continue working through the winter. And we've done that."

Vaughn said the project is on time, mainly because of the efforts of a dedicated construction crew, coupled with the lack of heavy snowfall this season. "The Romanians have really been working their tails off. They've been out here six days a week, 12 hours a day," Vaughn said.

Vaughn said the *Richtfest* is a great way to reward the workers for their hard work, and that he is personally grateful for their efforts. Vaughn also enjoyed the day's events and said the host did a fabulous job recognizing the crew's work.

LeBrun was pleased to do so. AFRC met the bill in taking care of their crew, he said.



Brig. Gen. Robert L. Decker, Commanding General, U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center (left), talks to Christopher Forbes, corporate imaging director (center left) for AFRC Europe, about the hotel's "theme" along with Richard LeBrun, General Manager of AFRC, Europe (center right), and John Adams, Ansbach area engineer for the U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District at the hotel site after the *Richtfest*, Dec. 10.



Work is on schedule and halfway to completion on Kleber Kaserne's Building 3200, the future home for the Defense Finance Accounting Service – Europe, in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Construction contractors, DFAS representatives and

# CLOCK



Europe District engineers met in November to iron out finishing details and to review progress on the \$7.7 million project to be finished in August.

"Today's visit is a partnering session between DFAS, the Corps of Engineers, and the construction

contractor to make some of the final decisions as we move forward," said Jan Nordsiek, DFAS project manager, at the Nov. 20 meeting.

Directly managed by Europe District, the complete renovation of the 122,000 square foot building is one of the largest projects prime contractor SKE GmbH has ever had, said Klemens Kunz, the firm's branch manager from Mannheim.

10 Engineering in Europe

# T I K ON SCHEDULE



Lalit Wadhwa, Europe District Project Manager (center right), looks at plans with DFAS-Europe Director Joan Causey (center left). Photo by Grant Sattler.

by  
Grant  
Sattler

"It's a very big building, an unusual building," Kunz said. The three-story historic structure has an imposing three-block-long front with a clock tower in the center and two wings with cobblestone courtyards. Originally built to house the Kaiser's troops, it has served as a French garrison, a prison for Italian soldiers in the second World War and most recently, a contingency barracks for U.S. troops during the Gulf War.



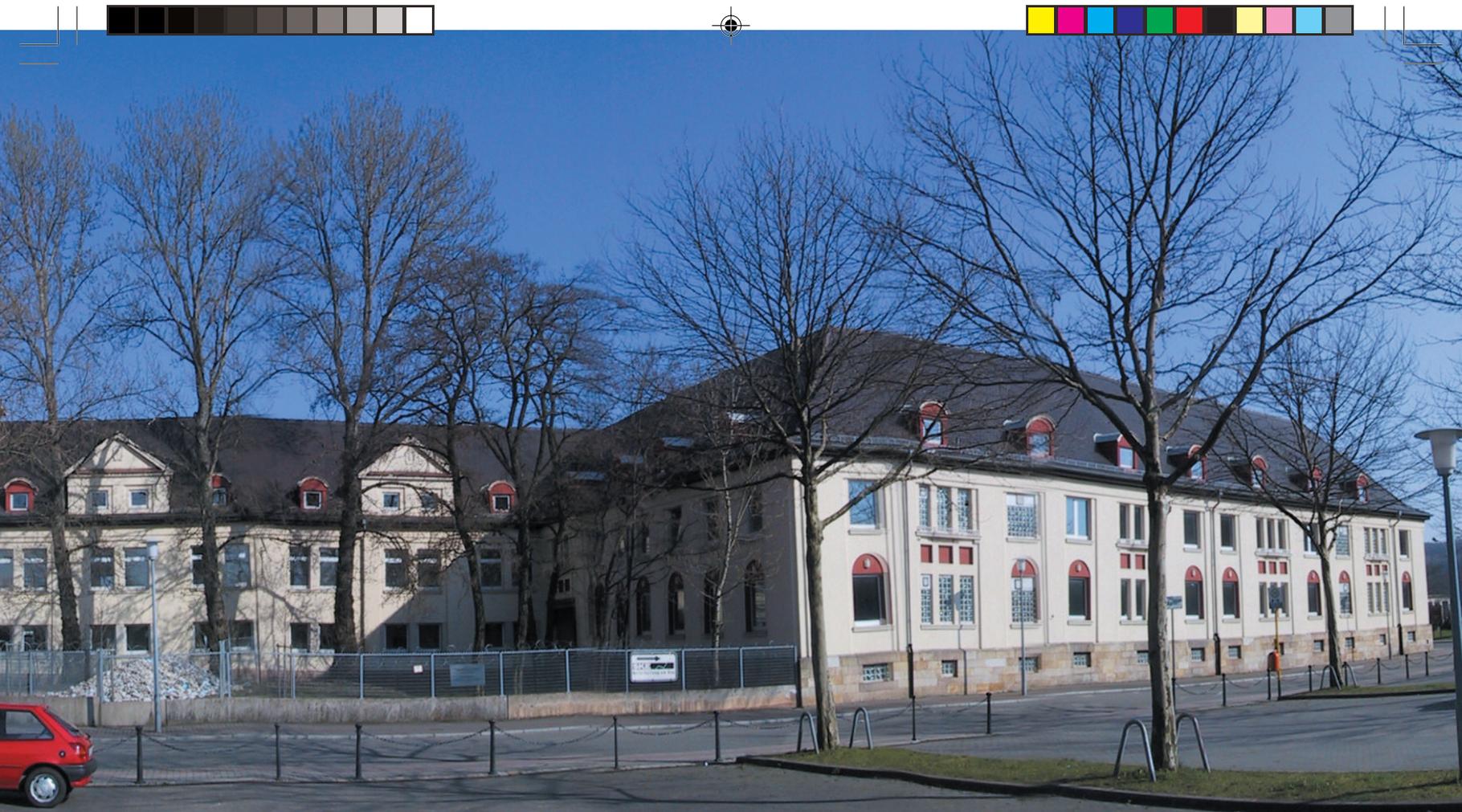


photo by Andreas Meyer

Jack Gates, vice president of Marketing and Business Development for SKE said the project posed a number of challenges as floors in several areas had to be replaced with floors of greater load-bearing capacity for the new occupants. "... [This project] was particularly difficult because of all the structural problems that we had within the facility that really had to be fixed. Some were unknown and uncovered by demolition," he said.

Gates said structural engineers from SKE and Europe District found solutions to the concerns. "It was a great teaming effort," he said.

Nordsiek applauded the Corps of Engineers and the contractor. "The reason we've had so few changes and bumps in the road as we go along is because the Corps has done such a wonderful job in preparing and leading us to this," she said.

Kunz added that gutting the interior on multiple levels had to be done carefully in the century-old structure. "We took a lot of care to safety and had, thank God, no accidents ..." he said. With the demolition completed and roofing and floors replaced, the job site is abuzz now with close to 100 workers doing interior work from wiring to plaster and painting.

DFAS employees are excited about the coming completion of the building, according to Director DFAS-Europe Joan Causey. "They're biting at the bit to come over here. ... We've been promising this building since DFAS capitalized the Army and Air Force workforce here in Europe in 1999," she said. "To us it means bringing together all of our accounting operations into one facility. All our [local area network] support will be right here ... our storage of our original vouchers will be here in this building, so everything will be self-contained, which is going to be nice."



Other Project Delivery Team members: Kaiserslautern Resident Engineer John Moreno, Project Engineer Thomas Kies, Construction Representative Peggy McBride, Project Manager Lalit Wadhwa, and Program Manager for DFAS from USACE Louisville District, Mark Ringenberg. Photo by Andreas Meyer.



# Landstuhl 'Home Away From Home'



## Provides Care for Families

### Story by Grant Sattler

Landstuhl Fisher House II opened its doors Dec. 4 as a "home away from home" for families of patients receiving medical care at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany.

A ribbon cutting ceremony attended by more than 300 guests witnessed Arnold Fisher, Chairman and CEO of the Fisher House Foundation, Inc., and other

dignitaries, cut the ceremonial ribbon opening the foundation's 31st facility.

The project to construct the 7,900 square foot, two-story temporary residence was the second managed by Landstuhl by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District in concert with the German construction agency, *Staatsbauamt Kaiserslautern*. Construction of the home began May 24 and was completed by Nov. 26 – a six-month turn around.

Typical houses donated by the

Fisher family of New York are 5,000-8,000 square foot temporary residences designed to provide 8-10 suites located near major military and Veterans Administration hospitals. Houses are furnished and decorated in local architectural style.

"We have adapted the design of the Fisher House Foundation houses from the States to masonry construction common throughout the region," said Europe District Project Manager Bernie Rodriguez. The Corps of Engineers, in concert with the



Ken Fisher, Fisher House Foundation Vice Chairman (left), and Arnold Fisher, the foundation's chairman, unveil the marker stone in front of the home during dedication ceremonies Dec. 4, 2002.





German construction agency, further developed these plans into specifications and drawings used by contract construction firm Theisinger & Probst to build the facility.

"On the construction side, the Corps of Engineers provided the Quality Assurance," Rodriguez said. "We've delivered it on time—something that could be used by families today."

The 11-bedroom Fisher House II was built across the street from a seven-bedroom Fisher House completed in June 2001.

Europe District Project Engineer, Hans Hoock, said the Corps' experience in the construction of Fisher House I was pivotal in completing the second house on time.

"It was very good to have the same team because we made a lot of experience with house one. Everybody on the team knew what was expected, what we should do, and what we needed to deliver," Hoock said.

The first Landstuhl Fisher House has seen a 97 percent occupancy rate and a continual demand for rooms, and hosted families of 39 service members wounded in Operation Enduring Freedom, said Sue Johnson, assistant manager.

The foundation decided to open the second home, a \$1.5 million project, as a direct result of the events of Sept. 11, 2001 and the deployment of troops to Afghanistan.

"This Fisher House is [Arnold Fisher's] response to Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>," said Ken Fisher, son of Arnold Fisher and the foundation's vice chairman. "... As he reflected on our nation's resolve, and the president's statement telling America that the fight to beat terrorism would be measured in years, not days, not weeks or months, he decided to begin immediately to build Fisher House II here at Landstuhl."

The medical center was known as the focal point for all battlefield



photos by Brian H. Temple

Left: Hans Hoock, Project Engineer, talks with Beverly Archer Miears, an interior decorator with Abbiente Design Group, about final touches needed on Fisher House II a few days before opening.

Below: Dignitaries cut the ribbon at the 31st Fisher House opening.



casualties and he wanted to do his part to ensure all families could be with loved ones during Operation Enduring Freedom, the younger Fisher said.

to stop such attacks from occurring in the home territories of our allies has increased the possibility of harm to our young service men and women.

"The very least we can do as

patriotic and supporting Americans is to help ensure the comfort of our military personnel and their families when medical care is provided at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center," he said.

**"... the fight to beat terrorism would be measured in years, not days, not weeks or months, he decided to begin immediately to build Fisher House II here at Landstuhl."**

**- Ken Fisher, telling of his father's decision to build a second home at Landstuhl**

**Europe District Project Delivery Team members**

**included: Bernie Rodriguez, John Moreno, Hans Hoock, James Wofford, Joe Hovell.**

In prepared remarks Arnold Fisher said American efforts to prevent further attacks at home and



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District, is expected to turn Building 23, a former barracks building, over to the American Forces Network Europe in May. AFN Europe currently has five technicians working in the building and will continue a phased move into its new European headquarters through 2004.



## Story by Brian H. Temple

"Right now, in Frankfurt, we are installing a lot of systems, kind of ad hoc, into an old facility," Edrington said. He said the Mannheim facility is more innovative, featuring a back-up power generator and high vacuum ventilation and cooling systems designed specifically for broadcasting.

Edrington said working with Klebl GmbH, the primary contractor, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District, through design has enabled AFN to get exactly what they need. The facility itself is not the move's only plus said Edrington. "The other ancillary benefit is being on a military base where we are back with the family so to speak," he said.

Although AFN has enjoyed many years in Frankfurt, local support for soldiers and employees has vanished since the closure of the military community there.

"The doctors are far away, the gyms are far away, as are the other facilities," he said. "We are looking forward to moving in, but more than anything ... it gives us an opportunity to move closer to the community we serve."

And, service and innovation have been a greater part of this \$6.1 million project, said Lalit Wadhwa, Europe District Project Manager.

The design team used an innovative technique that yielded quick, quality service to the customer, he said. "It was an expeditious design process, and this [project] was the very first one. We thought out of the box. It's a very different way of doing business," he said.

### DON'T TOUCH THAT DIAL –

the American Forces Network Europe will be right back with broadcast planned to begin from its new Mannheim, Germany, facility in the fall of 2004.

In May 2003, American Forces Network Europe staff and equipment will begin a phased move from Frankfurt, AFN's home since 1966, and settle into a transformed barracks building on Mannheim's Coleman Barracks. The audience may not even notice the move, as it will take place with uninterrupted radio and television service.

Construction managed directly by Europe District is moving quickly, and the building will soon be equipped with high-tech television and radio studios, as well as new offices.

The customer is itching to move in.

AFN Europe Commander, Lt. Col Michael Edrington, said his staff has been involved in the building's design, ensuring the facility will be state-of-the-art.



**Left: Michael Greeb, liaison with Klebl GmbH, talks with Lalit Wadhwa, Europe District Project Manager, on completing the last phases of construction for the American Forces Network Europe future headquarters in Mannheim, Germany. Above: Raised floors and ventilation systems are key elements in transforming this barracks building into a state-of-the-art studio facility. Photos by Susanne Bledsoe.**

Wadhwa said the design team was given approximately 120 days to design and award the contract.

Requests for Proposals for specific disciplines such as architectural, electrical, and mechanical were released in stages to expedite the construction bidding process. This allowed work to begin while another proposal went out.

"We gained time by doing that. We didn't have to wait for everything to be finished before we sent out for proposals. We accomplished the design within the suspense dates and awarded the contact and were within budget," Wadhwa said.

The first of the project's two phases has been completed within budget, on time, and without modifications. This is a testament to the design and construction team, he said. AFN personnel and the contractor were involved from the start, especially because heavy structural design was needed to alter the barracks into a major broadcast operation, he said.

"We designed it and the AFN team worked with us. We reviewed the contractor's construction submittals on a regular basis and worked as a team so there wouldn't be modifications in the first place. The first phase is the major and critical phase of construction," Wadhwa said. "I'm very proud of the design team. This is one of the best teams I have ever come across in all the years I have been with the Corps."

Wadhwa said a project such as the AFN headquarters is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Michael Greeb, a liaison with Klebl's project office for construction agrees.

"I've never built a TV studio or a radio studio before. It has been interesting," Greeb said. "We've all worked together as a team because otherwise this would not have worked. Getting together as a team and working smoothly is not necessarily normal. Strong partnerships are not found everywhere. It depends on the people."

Wadhwa said by June of 2003 the Corps should be finished with the second and final phase and prepared to turn the building over to AFN.



## **Key Members: Corps Design and Construction Team**

Lalit Wadhwa, Winfried Aust, Horst Zenker, Caecilie Kloeter, Konrad Hiller, Alfred Waldhofer, Andreas Busch, Claus Dey, Kieran Sheehan, and Jeffrey Ward.



five decades

18,262 days

**5** half **century**  
*600 months*  
*Years of Service*

Wolfram Wolz' service to the Nation spans half the 20th Century - taking him from the Philippines and dungarees to Germany and design review.



Story by Grant Sattler



Wolfram Wolz, architect with Europe District's Engineering Team, has achieved a golden milestone of service to the United States – 50 years of government service. He retired Nov. 30 after serving more than 47 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Morocco, Italy, and Germany. More than two years with the U.S. Navy preceded his time with the Corps.

Wolz left for a new life in Long Beach, Calif., where he and his wife, Christiana Salvador Wolz, reside near family.

Wolz was born in Karlsruhe, Germany. He was the second child of non-denominational parents. His father, a German physician of Jewish ancestry, left Europe at Christmas 1935 for the United States. Wolz went to boarding school in Florence, Italy, at the age of 13, but joined his mother, who was also a physician, when she emigrated to the United States in 1937. The family resettled in New Rochelle, New York.

There, Wolz attended enough high school courses to gain entrance to Syracuse University where he earned a bachelor's degree in Chemistry in 1942. He met Mary Ninesling, an editor of the college literary magazine, who came from Great Neck, Long Island, N.Y. They married in 1943. He worked for a time in his sister's pottery studio, but was drafted and served as an "enemy alien" for two and a half years with the U.S. Navy as a Seabee. "I was sent to the Philippines in late 1944, waiting to participate in the invasion of Japan that never came," Wolz said.

After he was discharged, Wolz wanted to put his G.I. Bill benefits to use. "I asked a former professor about getting a master's degree in chemistry, but he advised against it," he said. However, a friend who knew his interests suggested he look into architecture.

Wolfram decided to attend Kansas State College and received his Architectural Engineering degree in 1952. He then gained experience in Topeka with the state architect and a commercial firm as a draftsman. There, a fellow employee suggested he apply for a position with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Wolz's career with the Corps began in June 1955 when he packed up with his wife and four children for a GS-5 position in Morocco. "The big question for my wife was whether or not we could take the dog," Wolz said. They could, and off they went.

"I always wanted to get back to Italy," said Wolz, who remembered with fondness his days in Florence as a young teenager. "Morocco seemed about as close as I could get."

However, after only two years in North Africa, the Mediterranean Division relocated near Pisa, Italy, and Wolz went along. There, in Livorno, a fifth child came to the union.

In Italy, Wolz first started as a draftsman. After a five-year stint in Contract Administration he returned to Architecture and worked on a wide range of projects, including design review.

He also expanded his personal interest in the arts, creating hammered copper and silver jewelry and casting silver jewelry. He took the stage, first as an actor and later

expanded into direction of plays and musicals in the community theater.

Enjoying the cultural offerings in Italy, he and family often attended the *Festival dei Duo Mondi* in Spoleto, north of Rome, beginning in the early '60s and saw many notable stars perform before they became renown. Over the years, he has gone back as often as he can.

The Wolz children grew up and moved on. One daughter, though, still lives in Italy, staying with her mother after her parent's marriage split up in 1979. "We just developed separate interests," Wolz said, although they maintain an amiable relationship.

Wolz contributed his skills to the mission for 19 years at Camp Darby until the Mediterranean Division dissolved. "About half the division went to Winchester and half to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," Wolz said. "Just a few went to Germany. I was one of the few."

Wolz headed over the Alps to Europe Division in Frankfurt.

"I arrived Feb. 29, 1976," he said. "That's not a hard date to remember."

After coming to Frankfurt, his work consisted mainly of architectural review of designs by the various *Bauämter*. A highlight at that time was design of fortified elevated guard towers, many of which remain part of today's force protection measures in Germany.

In Frankfurt, he also continued his interests in the arts, directing a community musical, and as an avid concertgoer, amateur photographer, and traveler.

He married Christina Salvador in Basel, Switzerland, in 1986, although they first made their acquaintance about eight years earlier.

"It is so important that I married Christina, because I meet all these wonderful people," Wolz said of his Filipino wife. Although Christina has never had children, Wolz said she is "... a mother to many and a Godmother to dozens."

Wolz said that because he has suffered hearing loss, he has become less outgoing because of concern he will not hear someone correctly and will respond wrong.

During his years with the Corps in Europe, Wolz has prepared and reviewed thousands of designs. Most recently he has served in preparation of Department of Defense Forms 1354 which are used to determine the residual value of facilities being returned to Germany.

"Wolz has brought great dedication to his work," said David Marquardt, Chief, Engineering Team. "Over the last few years, his health has often failed him, but his loyalty and deep sense of dedication has never left him. [In his last work days] he was still more concerned about leaving clear instructions on how to complete a DD Form 1354 Project Close Out form than he was his final retirement paperwork." Marquardt described Wolz as a true dedicated architectural design professional, a credit to himself and his country.

Wolz has completed his half-century career and is now on the West Coast. "If you're wondering why we don't move to the Philippines, it's because I've been there several times and it's simply too hot for me," he said.

# Top Hat Club opens

STORY & PHOTOS BY  
BRIAN H. TEMPLE

The Mannheim community celebrated the \$2.9 million renovation to Benjamin Franklin Village's Top Hat Club at a soft opening celebration held Oct. 2.

Members of the 293<sup>rd</sup> Base Support Battalion, the 26th Area Support Group, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District, contractors and others gathered for an advanced peek at the state of the art nightclub.

With the latest in lighting and sound systems, a dance floor, bar, video and slot machine room, the nightclub is ready for the public. And, according to one employee, the public is ready for the nightclub.

"The community has been waiting for this for 18 months," said Alex Cole, manager of the nightclub. "It's not a standard Army club. It's beautiful. We've achieved our goal of getting a real nightclub."

Cole said the Top Hat Club moved into a temporary facility in the middle of 2001 while the new facility was being constructed, but business slowed down. The Top Hat Club formerly generated the most revenue for a USAREUR club he said, and he hopes that with the club now open for business it will help them get the title back.

With approximately \$2.4 million going into construction, and a half million going toward furnishings and decorating, one could expect a first rate facility to put Mannheim back on top. A new dining area is also scheduled to open in early 2003. Some originally wanted the nightclub to open sooner, however, said Lt. Col. Christopher L. Miller, commander, 293<sup>rd</sup> Base Support Battalion.

"Tonight the commanders, command sergeant majors and other leaders in the community got a chance to see first hand what has been going on over here. They've seen all the construction for the last year and now they've finally been able to come in and say, 'Hey, this club was worth the wait!'"

From the architectural construction teams to the interior decorator, Miller handed out plaques and mementos thanking those involved for their teamwork.

18 Engineering in Europe



MARY FORBES AND THE FUNKY CATS ARE THE FIRST TO PERFORM LIVE AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW TOP HAT CLUB ON MANNHEIM'S BENJAMIN FRANKLIN VILLAGE,

"The contractors did a great job. ... Everyone worked together through it (building process) and the results are right behind us here - a high-energy nightclub that you would probably only find in the bigger cities."

One project engineer involved in the final oversight of the construction phase thanked Miller and the Mannheim community in return.

"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District, appreciates every opportunity to support the community and your efforts to improve the quality of life for soldiers and family," said David Muellerleile of the Heidelberg office. "This renovation ... demonstrates the synergy obtained from working together."

Muellerleile said his office enjoys working with MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) projects because there is more architectural artistry involved versus standard barracks construction or renovations to Army family housing. No

matter which project they are involved with however, Muellerleile said it is a team focussing on making the community better.

"For any project we do ... whether the customer knows that it's the Corps of Engineers, or they categorize everybody together such as our organization along with the DPW (Department of Public Works) - that's immaterial to me. The public knows that it's an engineer who did the work."

**"They've seen all the construction for the last year, and now they've finally been able to come in and say, 'Hey, this club was worth the wait!'"**

- Lt. Col. Christopher L. Miller, commander, 293<sup>rd</sup> Base Support Battalion.



ABOVE: DWAYNE "DIRTY REB" CELESTINE MIXES IT UP FOR THE DANCE FLOOR.



ABOVE: DIANE WILLIAMSON AND DON ROBINSON CHECK OUT THE NEW CLUB AT THE GRAND OPENING.

RIGHT: COZY TABLES BECKON FRIENDS TO JOIN THE FUN.





# Pistol Range Upgrade Right On Target

Story by Grant Sattler

U.S. Army Europe soldiers are knocking down silhouettes left and right on their way to better marksmanship with the 9mm Beretta pistol following the Sept. 20 opening of USAREUR's newest Combat Pistol Qualification Course range.

"This is the first time since the mid-'80s there has been a Military Construction-Army (MCA) project in a training area," said Chief of Training Support Activity, Europe Thomas Scarbath. "It's a great facility for our soldiers. ... Small arms qualification is more important than ever for soldiers across the Army."

The two-lane, 31-meter facility on the Messel Range near Darmstadt represents a significant upgrade from the authorized alternate pistol qualification available before, said Dan Wemhoff, Regional Range and Local Training Area Manager for the Mannheim Region, 7<sup>th</sup> Army Training Command.

"Now, instead of firing at a 25-meter range for qualification, shooters can now qualify in accordance with Army standards," he said. "It's quality qualification."

Wemhoff said that within the Mannheim Region alone there are more than 4,000 soldiers who must shoot to qualify on the pistol, but added that the newest CPQC range is also available for all USAREUR units. "If they schedule, they can come on down and use it," he said.

Among first to shoot on the range were local Military Police. Pvt. Jason Gomez, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, 92<sup>nd</sup> MP Company, said the new range is a real benefit for their biannual qualifications. "We need this more than anybody," he said.

The nine-month construction on the \$546,000

range started Sept. 17, 2001, Wemhoff said.

"The physical effort that has been put into the facility is awesome, considering the condition of the range that was here before," he said.

Work was accomplished by German firm SKE & Klee & Ehrenfels Bau KG and subcontractor ROBA

Baubiologische Beratung GmbH under supervision of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District.

Raymond Perea, range manager for Messel Range and other facilities in Aschaffenburg and Babenhausen, said the contractor did an excellent job.

Europe District's Project Engineer David Muellerleile said, "Special pains taken in determining the final design requirements for the range have made it a template for future combat pistol qualification course ranges."

Scarbath said the range is the first of several Training Support Activity, Europe projects they will have with the Corps of Engineers. "In the '04 to '09 timeframe, there are roughly \$135 million worth of MCA projects USAREUR-wide for USAREUR training areas to include Grafenwöhr," he said. "Not long after soldiers start to fire on this, we'll start construction of the Army Record Fire Range behind us that will be the first of three regional range complexes, and the first Army Record Fire Range outside of Grafenwöhr."

Key to project success were Europe District Project Manager Gary Sebastian, 233<sup>rd</sup> Safety Manager Peter Grau, and Helmut Schwindl from the 100<sup>th</sup> Area Support Group Directorate of Public Works, who provided key design criteria to Europe District before contract award and worked closely with the project engineer and contractor throughout construction, Muellerleile said.



# Digging into the Future

A demolition worker removes debris from Kleber Kaserne's Building 3200, the future home for the Defense Finance Accounting Service - Europe in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Officials met in November to iron our finishing details and to review progress on the \$7.7 million project to be finished in August. See story on page 10.

photo by Andreas Meyer

