

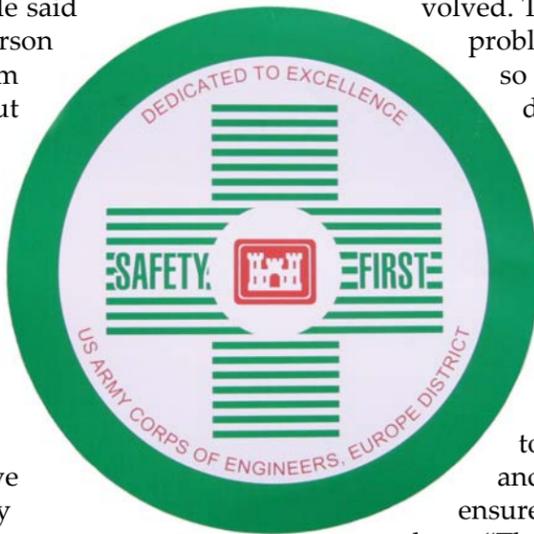


of the wrong kind of insulation around pipes and open holes in the floor.

After a thorough inspection and the violations were noted, McBride said she put the quality control person on notice for failure to perform proper quality control. She put the manager on 60 days probation, in which the manager would have to comply.

"If they don't step up to the plate after 60 days," said McBride, "then we can take action."

The quality assurance people, like McBride, may show their teeth, but they have the Corps backing and usually don't have to use them. Most contractors know and respect the protocol that is



placed upon them when they bid on a contract. Being put on notice is very serious and also tends to get the company more involved. This generally gets whatever problems there are fixed quickly, so probation does make a difference, said McBride.

While contractors are generally responsive to the Corps protocol, quality assurance remains a top priority the Corps will implement for the customer, even though it may be transparent to the customer. The Corps continues to put trained quality assurance specialists in the field to ensure quality work is getting done. "The more eyes in the field, the better," said McBride.



Peggy McBride shows Maj. Ed Chamberlayne debris at a renovation project in Weisbaden which should be discarded immediately because of the threat it poses to safety.

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## SAFETY FIRST

# Applied Safety

By putting to practice Corps' teachings, one contractor walks away with Israel's top prize for safety

Story and Photos by **Brian H. Temple**



**Ron McPeters (left) shows retired Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, former commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the overall scope of the Nachshonim Storage Base near Tel Aviv, Israel.**

One of the pleasing aspects about working behind the scenes is taking the chance to step back and enjoy the success of those performing on center stage.

One contractor at the Nachshonim Storage Base, near Tel Aviv, Israel, recently stepped into the spotlight for earning the Yoseftal Prize. The Israel Ministry of Labor and the Israel Safety Institute give the award every three years, recognizing the highest safety standards on a construction site. And, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer team that helped the contractor get there was happy to see it happen.

Ron McPeters, civil engineer, Norfolk District, and Peggy McBride, construction quality assurance program manager, Europe District,

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were two instrumental players in helping the contractor posture themselves for the award. Through continued training, specialized classes, coordination meetings, perseverance, and patience, they were able to get the 300 plus workers on site to embrace safety.

It was a learning experience for both parties to reach that point, McPeters said. "We are up against a cultural paradigm. They can't believe the stuff that we would require (in the Corps Red Book and Engineering Manual 385-1-1). We've

had to fight, and fight, and fight, and push, and push, and push and insist on the standard." The process took several years.

McPeters said he was happy with the eventual outcome, however. He said when he spots an infraction, he calls safety and they take immediate action. There is better teamwork at this point he added.

Eyal Kizermn, the primary safety officer with the joint contract venture between ABB SUSA, A. Arenson and the Baran Group, said although safety has been his profession over the past 20 years, the Corps of Engineers staff helped him and his team gain the honors. "I always thought I would win first place," Kizermn said. "We have the Corps of Engineers here to encourage us to



The President of Israel, Moshe Katsav (left) and Michael Ratzon (middle), Deputy minister of Industry Trade and Labor, greet Hezi Baruch, chief foreman, AAB JV, who accepted the Yoseftal Prize for safety on behalf of his company.

work better. ... We are working as a full team. We are learning from each other."

Kizermn said too, that working with some of the construction crews were initially a challenge. Because some of the worker's have different cultural backgrounds, it was difficult to get them to pay heed to safety. It just was not something they were used to.

"It is a great challenge to get people to comply. We needed to let (workers) understand that we are on their side. At the

Yair Shani (right), civil engineer, Israel Program Office, talks with a contractor at the Nachshonim Storage Facility near Tel Aviv, Israel.

**"We have the Corps of Engineers here to encourage us to work better."**

end of the month it was always the same. We'd tell them, 'We want to get you home safely. We don't want to send you home ... in a coffin.' It sounds severe, but ... that's the way it is."

Safety and quality assurance are important to everyone - from a commanding general to the workers placing concrete. During a meeting with the Israel Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz in May, former U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, was told that construction under the Corps of Engineers is of the highest quality and that the safety standards are remarkable. Mofaz said ensuring that safety is built into the project and quality assurance is conducted throughout construction, the work for the Israel Defense Forces has cost less and has protected lives - a good value for any customer.



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## WORK EXCHANGE

# Walking in Your Shoes

It can be hard for two industries working together to create something without having some differing views. What can make this venture even more difficult is a language or culture barrier. It may, however, be essential, and beneficial, for both industries to allow individuals to cross-train.

This is exactly what the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District did in conjunction with its German partner in the state of Rheinland-Pfalz.

For nearly four months, Bettina Miller, project manager, Rheinland-Pfalz der Geschäftsbereich Bundesbau der Oberfinanzdirektion (GBB) and Joni Rhiner, project manager, Europe District, participated in a job exchange.

For both women, it was an introduction into how the other works daily — and the offices and people they work with. It was a chance to walk in the other's shoes.

A chance to learn the different trials and tribulations each has to go through, when working to get a project done.

Rhiner was working in Kuwait at the time when the offer came to be part of this exchange, which she felt would be a good opportunity to learn about her German colleagues in the GBB. She would also be able to take what she learned and spread it throughout the District, so employees who work closely with the GBB could get a glimpse of how the German agency works.

Two days a week, Rhiner worked within the German offices. Then two days a week, she hosted Miller at the Europe District Headquarters, and the fifth day, what she calls her spare time, Rhiner continued to manage her projects.

Story by  
**Andrew Stamer**

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