



**Bettina Miller (left) and Joni Rhiner.**

Miller was taken around Europe District Headquarters and met with all the different branch chiefs, while Rhiner said she rotated through many of the German governmental offices.

Rhiner said everyday she prepared an itinerary of what she did and who she met.

Both took extensive notes on how their exchange partners differed and what possibilities could be offered to change or make working together smoother. This information included such things as the basics on how construction projects are normally performed in Germany, the differences with doing work for foreign forces, as well as the U.S. and German government structure and the role of individuals and organizations.

"It helped a lot because the Corps of Engineers was like a black hole," said Miller. She knew she had to get into it to learn all that she did.

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The exchange was important to both the GBB and Corps relationship. Many in both organizations don't understand how some of the processes work. And that was the point of this exchange, to learn and teach others about the little, and sometimes, vast differences.

The organization structure also helped, as well as giving good networking contacts.

Miller said her colleagues now come up to her and ask who they need to see at the Corps if they have a question or concern. She is able

to help solve these problems because now she understands how Europe District works and the time it takes to set up certain documents. She can pass on the knowledge of why something may take longer than what people within her agency expect.

While the exchange was to learn how each agency conducts business in order to better understand and work together in the future, there are some things that have to be taken into consideration. These things include certain laws, rules, or regulations one firm has to follow and the other does not. Now, Rhiner and Miller can inform their colleagues of why these inequities may occur, so everyone can better understand proper procedures.

Miller gained a better appreciation of how things worked on the Corps side by preparing some of the forms that have to be filled out, like the ABG3 form. What before was just seen as a sheet of paper on the GBB side has become personal for Miller because she has experienced



**Rheinland-Pfalz Crest**

the process and specifics of setting up these specialized forms and the difficulty that's involved.

"It's always good to know how the other side works and functions to be able to cooperate together," said Miller.

As for the relationship between the two entities, Rhiner said the GBB was glad to participate because they were glad the Corps was interested in them. As for Miller, "We were grateful to have her," said Rhiner.

Although many of the aspects of the GBB and the Corps are very different, they also have many similarities. And the exchange shows the dichotomy.

"Not only does the job exchange teach us how to see how the Germans do business, but ... Miller got to see what it takes to do things at the Corps level," said Rhiner.

The exchange is something both hope will continue. They also hope that some of the suggestions made can be pursued and changes can be made for the better. Although the program was successful with the GBB, Miller said she thinks the Corps can also benefit from integrating more with the Landesbetrieb (LBB), because they work together.

## PROJECTS

# FROM START ...

Projects are being started and completed throughout Europe District on a regular basis, and some are still in the works. While some are for the U.S. Warfighters, others are for multinational forces, and some are even for our communities.

Some of those projects (from clockwise): Two Israeli soldiers talk while standing guard during a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Northern Infantry Training Base near Tel Aviv, Israel.

An electrical contractor tests a panel at a facility at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.

Brig. Gen. Vincent Boles, former commander, 3rd Corps Support Command, helps a child put on her helmet during a ground breaking ceremony for a new Child Development Center at Wiesbaden Army Airfield in Germany.

Europe District employees take Tom Waters, director of programs, North Atlantic Division, through a renovation project of the medical facility at Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

Construction continues in Grafenwöhr, Germany, as a crane helping construct the new physical fitness center looms high overhead. The new center is just one of many projects being conducted as part of Efficient Basing-Grafenwöhr.

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Photo by Brian H. Temple



Photo by Andrew Stamer



# T ... TO FINISH



U.S. Army Photo



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## SAVING LIVES

A statue of Sadriddin Aini, a famous Tajik writer, looms over children playing in a park in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.



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