

SUPPORTING CONTINGENCIES

and the demanding contingency contract administration responsibilities elsewhere in the world, DCMA will no longer be able to provide services in Bosnia and Kosovo.

Considering Europe District's extensive experience supporting USAREUR, assuming this mission was a natural fit. In addition, the district has provided engineer support since the beginning of operations in the Balkans. And, in recent years, Europe District was called upon to provide directorate of public works and environmental support in this region.

"I am pleased to accept this responsibility," said Col. Margaret W. Burcham, Europe District commander, "and to carry on the great tradition of support to our Soldiers stationed in the Balkans."

Burcham thanked Col. Timothy D. Dixon, commander of DCMA – Southern Europe, and Maj. Vernon Jameson, chief of Contingency Plans and Operations for DCMA – Southern Europe, for their "superb guidance, support, and availability to make this transition a success."

In preparation for the transfer of contract administration responsibilities, DCMA and the district have been working closely for several months to plan the transition and to create and

fill positions in the Balkans and at the district headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany.

During meetings in early August with TAC, the district outlined its organizational structure for supporting the Balkans mission.

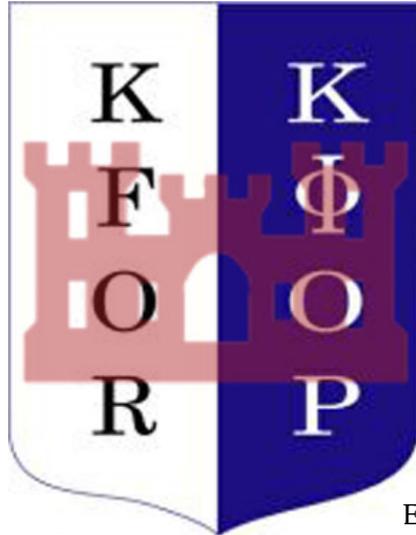
In the Balkans, Europe District has 12 positions: administrative contracting officers, quality assurance representatives, and administrative support personnel.

"Our downrange people have been doing a 'left seat/right seat' ride with the DCMA team members to fully learn their job duties," said Bill Mills,

Europe District's chief of

Contracting. "Left seat/right seat" refers to the new person working side-by-side with those familiar with the job responsibilities to learn them completely.

The "left seat/right seat" concept was used to train the Europe District team to provide the same level of services provided by DCMA to ensure a seamless transition for the contract administration functions. Also, to help with continuity, six host nation employees who had worked for DCMA have been hired by the district to continue their quality assurance and administrative functions in Bosnia and Kosovo.



◀ A contractor pounds nails into a crate to ready it for shipment.

In addition, DCMA – Southern Europe is collocated with Europe District, and Burcham said this team “will remain as a source of consultation and support.”

While DCMA is no longer involved in daily contract administration in the Balkans, DCMA remains a vital part of the government team that oversees the Balkans Support Contract. DCMA provides a corporate administrative contracting officer at the contractor’s headquarters to review, approve, and monitor the management and cost systems that the contractor must have in place to perform cost reimbursement contracts for the government. These systems include accounting, purchasing, billing, property, and estimating.

In her closing comments during the transfer of authority ceremony, Duncan said, “I am confident that the team is ready to meet Soldiers’ needs in the Balkans. Together, we will continue the tradition of ‘Soldier support through teamwork’ to ensure that our forces have the necessary logistics services they need to perform the vital peacekeeping mission.”



Editor's Note: Joan Kibler is the public affairs officer for the Corps' Transatlantic Programs Center in Winchester, Va. Photos by Andrew Stamer.

▲ Dining facility staff at the North Dining Facility serve personnel at Camp Bondsteel with Mongolian Grill specialties.

▼ Contractors haul supplies at the camp.

