

# FACILITIES

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Story and Photos by  
Andrew Stamer

Child care is a precious commodity in places overseas, and there are many children in the Wiesbaden, Germany community who are still waiting to be placed in a child care facility.

That is why a new Child Development Center and School-Age Services facility being built on Wiesbaden's Army Airfield is so important to the community.

"This facility fits in with my priorities to provide a better Child Development Center to the community. I hope that it will attract

qualified people to help with the care of children in the community because we are in short supply now and we need the help," said Lt. Col. Timothy Wulff, commander, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden.

The new facility is the brain child of Morale, Welfare and Recreation construction, who have partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District, to provide the Wiesbaden area with the newest in facilities providing care.



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The building will be a dual purpose facility. It will house both a CDC and a SAS center and provide programs for children ages six to 12. When opened, this facility will provide 303 additional spaces for the community, said Naomi Evans, assistant project manager for Morale, Welfare and Recreation construction.

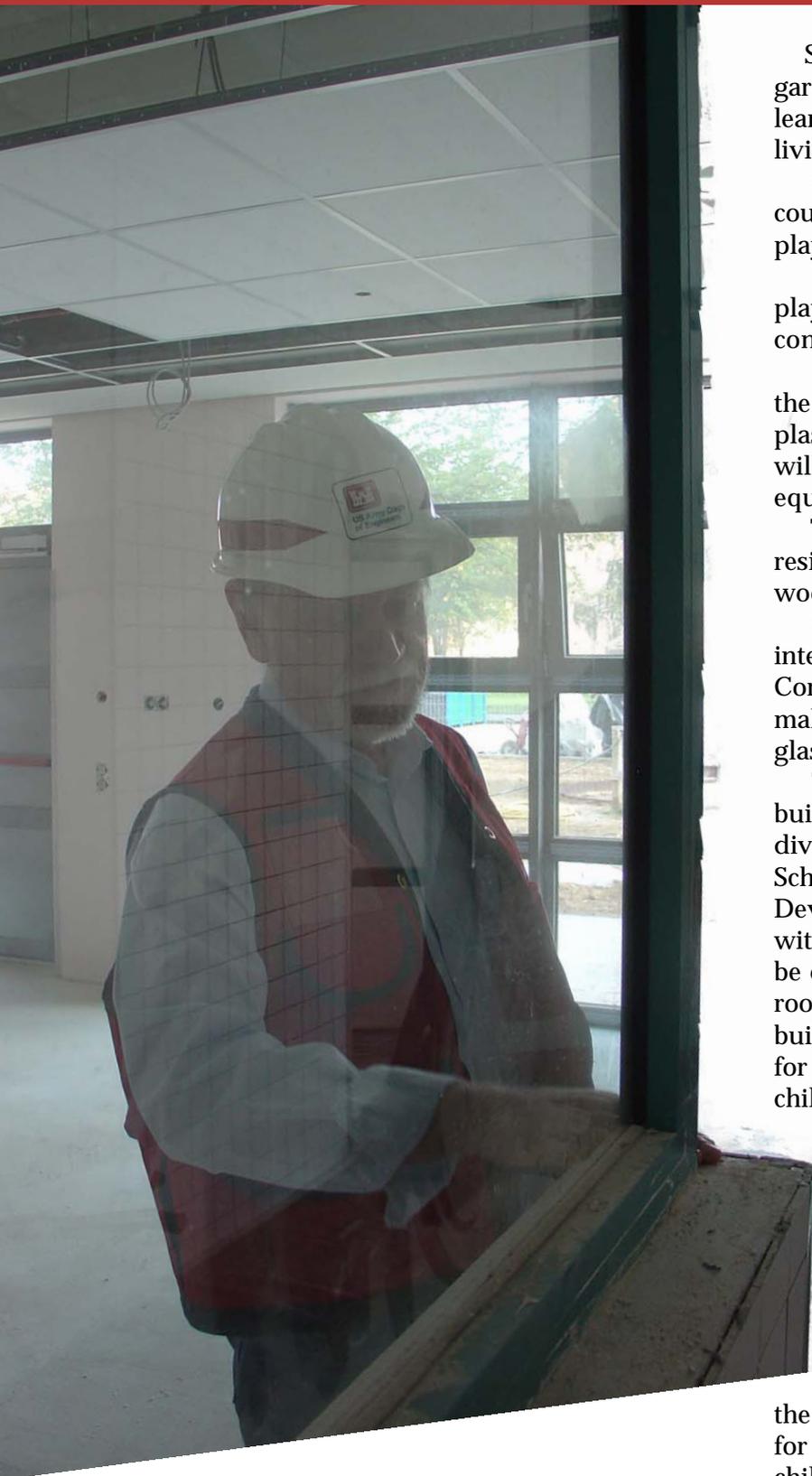
Evans added that there will also be a



computer area, multipurpose sport room, reading area, and demo kitchen for children using the SAS.

“The kitchen is supposed to be innovative because it lets kids experiment with cooking. A lot of child development experts say it helps them learn about time concepts, sequencing,

measurements, nutrition and general life experiences,” said Evans.



▲ Dieter Schwaenen, a Europe District project engineer looks at how window seams in the Child Development Center line up. This type of quality assurance is just one of the many value-added functions Europe District provides customers.

SAS children will also have a hobby garden to plant flowers and vegetables and learn the responsibilities of taking care of a living thing.

Outside, there will also be a basketball court for the SAS children and multiple playgrounds for CDC children.

What is notable about the new playgrounds is the material used for construction.

“Instead of using wood construction, the playground will be made of a special plastic composite,” said Evans. The result will be less wear and tear on the equipment.

The playground surface also has a resilient rubber surface instead of woodchips or asphalt.

Careful thought was also put into the interior of the CDC portion of the facility. Corners were rounded, walls sanded to make them less coarse, and shatterproof glass was installed, said Evans.

Thought has also gone into the buildings security. The building will keep a division from the older children in the School Age Services portion and the Child Development Center portion. Meeting with Army standards, the building will also be equipped with security cameras in each room of the CDC. Cameras on the building’s outside will also make it possible for child care providers to observe the children’s behavior on the playgrounds that adjoin the building.

The video surveillance is both a tool for security, but it’s also a learning tool, said Evans.

“They also make it so parents can observe their child and to view any positive or negative behavior,” she said.

The Corps was also charged with the task of getting the video camera system for the security and the monitoring of the children’s activities, said Dieter Schwaenen, project engineer from the Corps’ Europe District. “This is a success story for the Corps, but also for the community because it saved a good deal of money.”

This is also a success story for MWR construction.

A contractor cuts slabs of concrete to be used along the sidewalks at a new Child Development Center at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany. ▶



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“When you save money, it gives money for other needed things,” said Tony Blevins, project manager for Morale, Welfare and Recreation construction.

The original proposal to install this system was going to be about \$344,000, but by comparing market prices for this equipment, the Corps was able to save the American taxpayer over \$120,000, said Schwaenen.

While it is great to be saving money for the taxpayer, there is something even more important that the American taxpayers in the

Wiesbaden community care about – quality child care.

“I think it will boost morale of the clients using the facility,” said Wulff. “It will make parents comfortable and secure to drop their children off at a facility like this.”

With the opening of this new facility there will be additional job openings, said Wulff.

“We are also encouraging others throughout the community to go to the NAF (Non-Appropriated Funds) office and see what it takes to become a child care provider,” said Wulff.

Children will ▶  
be able to  
walk and  
play along  
bricked  
pathways  
that run  
through the  
Child Development  
Center’s  
many  
outdoor  
playgrounds.

