

# From the Commander



## By embracing change positively and fostering business partnerships, we will build a better future

There is one interesting and ironic aspect of our lives that is constant: Change!

Some view change as difficult and stressful, whereas others welcome it with open arms. Some label change as bad; others, good. No matter how you view it, we need to seek ways to embrace change in a positive manner that promotes success.

Many things have effected change over the past year and a half since I've been in command. From business processes to adjustments in the workforce, the District continues to be flexible to maintain the momentum of its substantial success.

However, we are not alone in our endeavor to achieve our highest potential. Customers, local national partners, and contractors all play key roles along with us in striving for excellence.

Europe District holds a partnering conference every year to discuss the development of previous or ongoing projects and to introduce new initiatives to its business partners. District employees, *bauamt* personnel, architect and engineering firms, and customers gathered in Wiesbaden Nov. 8-9, to share their thoughts on carving a direction for this next year.

District employees suggested last year that the *bauamts* consider the District's evaluations of Architect-Engineering firms when making pre-selection decisions on project awards. The proposal to have a database of ratings was accepted by the group this year as a topic for continued discussion and analysis.

It was suggested that those involved with ongoing actions try to interact on a more frequent basis. This was suggested to help cultivate some of the initiatives and to continue the momentum started at these annual conferences. Clearly, our goal is to increase quality communication among partners.

These annual gatherings certainly help build a rapport between the District and its partners. I want to thank all of those who attended. Your commitment to enhancing our communication and working together through these changes will lead toward a more efficient business process and a more effective construction product.

(Editor's note: For more specific information on this topic, please read "Partnering with our neighbors" on pages 10-13.)

  
MARGARET W. BURCHAM  
COL, EN  
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# Engineering in Europe

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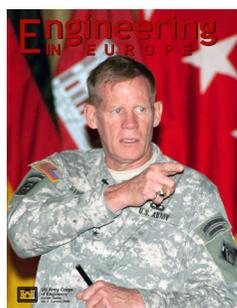
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### On the Cover

Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, the Commanding General of USACE, explains the organization's strategic direction to participants at the Dec. 12, 2006, town hall ceremony at the Taunus Theater in Wiesbaden. During the presentation, Strock described how USACE serves as a global organization and provided guidance on how the audience could personally help address worldwide engineering and environmental challenges.

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