

SUPPORTING THE WARFIGHTER



Wiesbaden Area Office engineers Fritz Ligday and George Van Cook explain a recent renovation project to engineers of the 1st Armored Division during the Officer Professional Development event June 15.

the Coalition Provisional Authority. "I've got a lot of experience in combat units," he said. "A lot. ... But I wanted to try something different."

OPDs are one example of how

the Army team shares knowledge. It is a manifestation of the one-Army-family way of thinking and helps promote the Army's joint and expeditionary mindset, Stoll said.

Stoll said OPDs can also be used as recruiting tools. "It's not just an informational pitch, it's to try and recruit some quality folks and get them working for our team," he added.

OPDs place great emphasis on knowledge sharing to help ensure the Army is constantly modernizing, adapting, and bridging previously stovepiped mindsets – even while engaged.

Dupont said the knowledge he and fellow officers received from the OPD made it well worth their time. "Any time we're given the chance to sit down with our brother engineers," he said, "it gives us a chance to help facilitate ideas. This will allow us, as an organization [and] as the engineer corps as a whole, to provide the warfighter what they need."



Col. James Shumway, 1st Armored Division's Engineer Brigade commander, gives Maj. Kevin Stoll a coin as a token of his appreciation.

USAREUR Support Contract OK'd

It's official. After more than a year of anticipation, the stop-work order was lifted on a logistics services contract to support the operational readiness of U.S. forces deployed in the U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) area of operations. But what does that mean for Europe District?

Story by Justin Ward

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Transatlantic Programs Center (TAC), in Winchester, Va., announced on July 26 that the USAREUR Support Contract was awarded to Kellogg Brown & Root Services, Inc., (KBRS) of Arlington, Va.

Under the indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract, which replaces the Balkans Support Contract (BSC) awarded in 1999, KBRS can support, as directed, military contingency operations and training exercises within the 94 countries that comprise USAREUR's area of responsibility, including continuing operations in the Balkans.

Operating the contract will be a team effort, with USAREUR determining when to use it, TAC functions as the contracting organization, and the District providing contract administration services in the Balkans. Other areas will be determined as they occur.

"We issue the notices to proceed for one-time efforts," said Chief Warrant Officer Klaus Guenther, District Installation Support Branch lead. "So the money that gets put against the contract for one-time efforts is directed by the District."

In total, the contract has a maximum value of \$1.25 billion over five years. Its first year of life will officially begin after a two-month transition period with the Balkans Support Contract. Afterward, it can be renewed through using four additional option periods.

Most important, though, is the contract's flexibility. "The contract provides an option for meeting the Army's logistics and support needs anywhere in the region," said Guenther. "And it's a structured contract that's convenient for the government to pick and choose services from."

Unlike the BSC, services may be ordered under the

USAREUR Support Contract as either fixed price or cost reimbursement, said Guenther.

Because of this, the District will learn to use a new performance-based services method that includes both fixed-price and cost-reimbursement line items, Guenther said. "Our team members will have to ensure that the costs associated with fixed-price line items and cost-reimbursement line items are kept separate. In the end, the experience we'll gain will help us increase our overall contracting capability."

But there's going to be a learning curve at first, said Mike Annand, Installation Support Branch chief. "It's a different type of contract. So there's going to be a lot of communication to ensure a clear understanding of contract requirements. ... There's certainly going to be an adjustment period."

The contract was originally awarded June 21, 2005, but performance was deferred pending the outcome of a protest of the award by one of the unsuccessful offerors. The Government Accountability Office sustained the protest and recommended the government take corrective action, which included reevaluation of proposals, but not terminate the contract unless warranted by a new source selection decision resulting from the government's reevaluation.

The decision held that KBRS offered the most advantageous proposal overall for providing logistics services to the Army in the USAREUR area of operations.

According to the Halliburton Web site, KBRS's parent company, Kellogg Brown & Root, is a global engineering, construction, technology and services company that has performed work in support of the U.S. military for more than 60 years.

