EIE

Engineering In Europe

BUILDING FUN! in Wiesbaden

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

WHO'S THE HARD HAT OF THE YEAR?

A BAVARIAN RENEWAL

THE READERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN!

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
Europe District
Vol. 6 • Summer 2009

Message From

THE COMMANDER

John S. Kem
COL, EN
Commanding

Europe District Team,

Every day we must strive to continually improve our ability to create lasting value for our stakeholders by providing vital engineering services and capabilities. I'm proud of the entire district for our commitment to accomplishing this mission. But without a roadmap, our actions may not be as methodical, synchronized, and collaborative as we need them to be.

To succeed, we need to know what we're aiming for and how to get there, not just within the Europe District, but also as part of the North Atlantic Division and in support of the entire Corps of Engineers. A central part of achieving that unity of effort is understanding and taking proactive actions in support of the USACE Campaign Plan.

Understand

The campaign plan lays out an ambitious route that will help us ensure we demonstrate initiative, ingenuity, and proficiency to deliver innovative and sustainable solutions. If we are to succeed, everyone on the team must understand this plan.

Already we've had posters illustrating our District's part in the plan, discussed execution during the town hall, and held a brownbag luncheon on tying it in to NSPS performance metrics.

Embrace

The USACE campaign plan is not slick marketing and fancy buzzwords. The plan and the associated NAD Implementation Plan provide a strategic framework to help synchronize our efforts in a few focused areas. It is intentionally not an all-encompassing document to cover every task or key action that we do. Rather, it is intended to use the four Goals and associated Objectives to take us from Good to Great. At the same time, we must continue to excel in the myriad of activities we do that are not specifically addressed in the Campaign Plan or NAD I Plan. But, whether they are highlighted in the Campaign Plan or not, all of our actions should be consistent with the intent and spirit of the campaign plan goals: a disciplined team delivering innovative and sustainable solutions through disciplined thought and action.

Act

We've started the framework. Everyone has explicit ties to the campaign plan as part of your performance metrics. Some of you have already demonstrated how our commitment makes a positive impact on our nation and our allies.

A great example is all of our employees that have volunteered to support contingency operations – whether deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq or participating in our expeditionary FEST-A teams. Volunteers like our new group of FEST team – Timothy Anderson, Will Dailey, Darrell Cullins, Daniel Gilstrap, Chris Hood, Capt. Andrew Olson, Brandon Stone, Tammie Stouter, John Walls, and Mellissa Walls – align with the campaign plan to ensure we're ready to provide support to any contingency operation.

I also want to highlight all of our District team members that are engaged in our leadership development programs – Veronica Henzi, Peter Barth, Orkun Dincer, Kelly Grant, Brett Howard, Gary Jones, Brandon Stone, Yvette Teal, and Alex Tomosieski . They are a group committed to success and are clear examples of our dynamic and high performance work force.

If you haven't taken the time to determine how your work fits into the overall campaign plan fabric, now is the time. It will leverage and enhance your individual strengths and improve OUR ability to deliver effective, resilient, and sustainable engineering solutions as the Europe District Team.

We have to do this. Our program will continue to grow a great deal in the next few years. We will not be able to deliver as a "GREAT" organization unless we are working together under the banner of the USACE Campaign Plan.

Essayons! BUILDING STRONG!®

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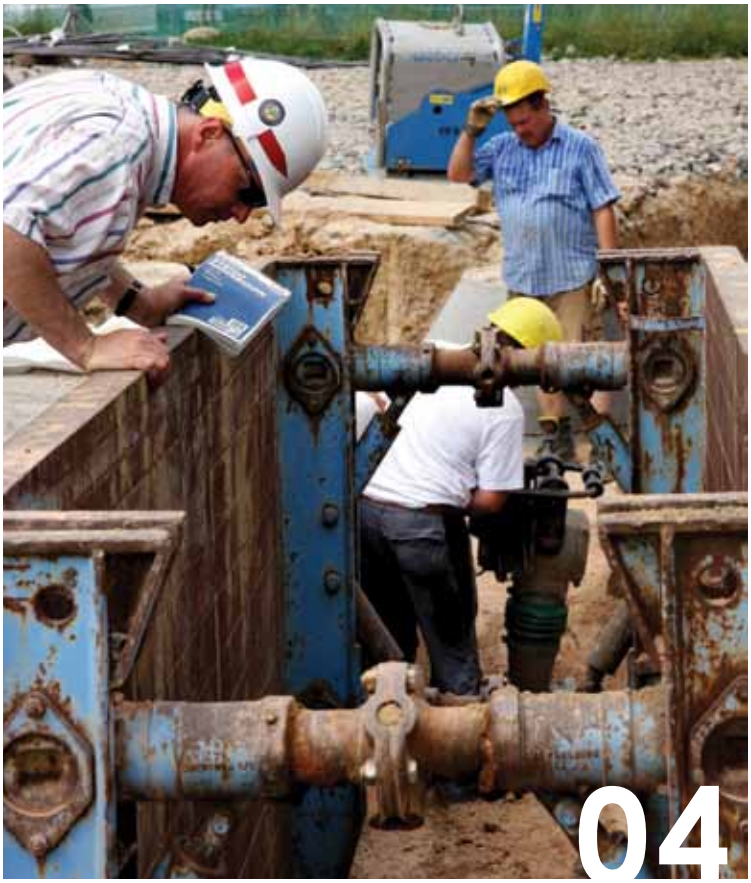

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ON THE COVER

Interior walls are placed at the $8.8 million Wiesbaden Entertainment Center July 1. Across the parking lot from the new lodge in the Hainerberg Housing Area, the facility will host 16 bowling lanes, slot machines, a billiards room, a bar and lounge, and a cafeteria-style restaurant.

Photo By Carol E. Davis

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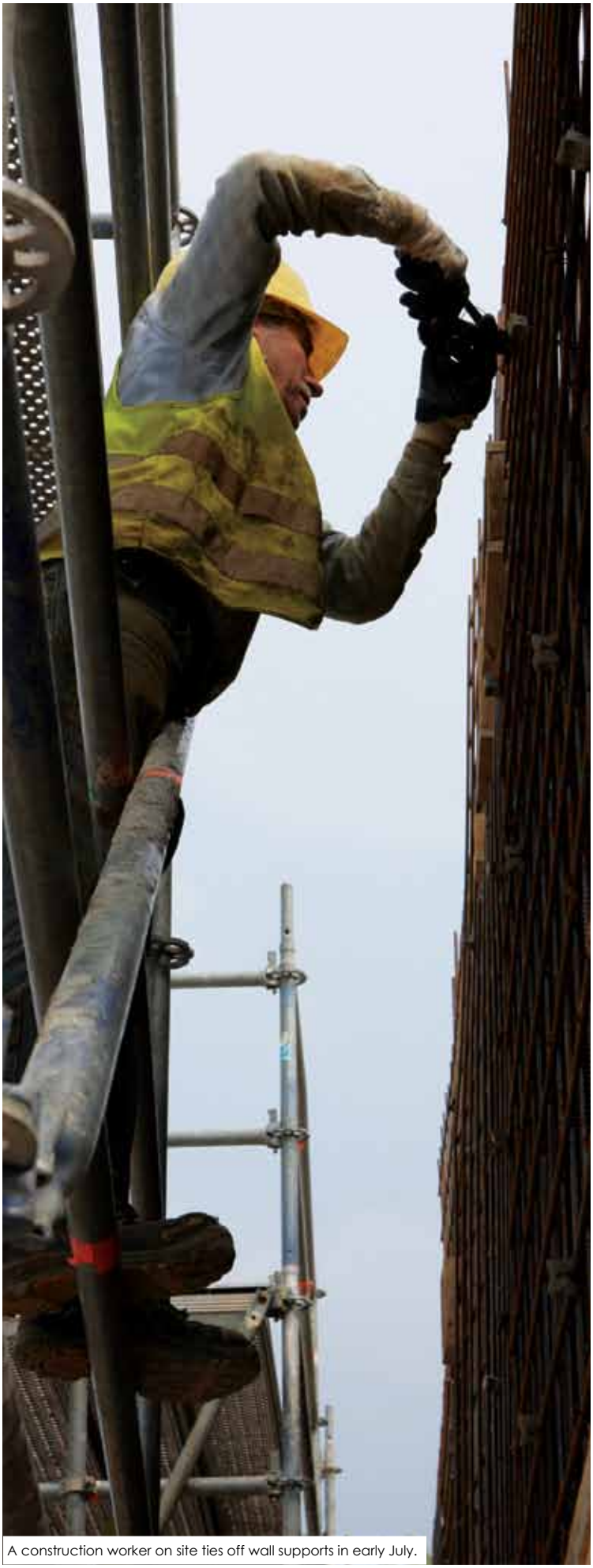


A construction worker on site ties off wall supports in early July.

Building Fun in Wiesbaden

Starting early next year, Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members in the Wiesbaden community will have a new entertainment center to call their own.

Story and Photos by Carol E. Davis & Justin Ward

Wiesbaden's upcoming $8.8 million family-focused entertainment center will certainly draw the crowds. The facility will consolidate and upgrade existing entertainment facilities in the garrison's footprint, including a 16-lane bowling alley, a cafeteria-style restaurant, a bar and lounge, a dance floor with a DJ booth, a slot machine room, and a billiards and table games room.

Additionally, the center's multi-purpose rooms can host meetings or birthday parties, while the kid's zone and video game room will provide youngsters an area all their own.

"The 27,000 square-foot, two-story facility will have something for everyone," said Col. John Kem, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District commander, during a speech at the May 26 groundbreaking ceremony, which also welcomed the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden commander and officials from the German state and federal government. "This facility will be a bona fide one-stop amusement zone … That sounds like a lot of fun on Friday night!"

A similar facility was recently constructed in U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza's Caserma Ederle and routinely hosts live music events, theme parties, and poker tournaments.

Placement of the facility in the middle of the Hainerberg Military Family Housing area is strategic, planners say. Across the street will be the Wiesbaden Lodge that, when opened in late 2009, will house out-of-town visitors as well as Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members PCSing in and out of Wiesbaden.

And for the many military families in the surrounding housing communities of Hainerberg, Aukamm and Crestview – which house Soldiers and Families from junior enlisted to general officers – the center will be within a five-minute drive.

"It's right down the street from our homes, so we don't have to take public transportation; we could walk," said Tamarie Russel, a local volunteer with seven children whose husband is scheduled to deploy later this year. "It would be nice to let loose, get away from the kids, especially with the upcoming deployment. I think it would help to fuse the family."

Hainerberg residents will see some construction traffic, cranes and some alteration of traffic patterns, said Ken Turner, District

Dignitaries take a tour of the Wiesbaden Lodge, located across the parking lot from the entertainment center, in late May.

program manager for family housing. But these slight disruptions are nothing new for the community, which has seen its share of renovations in the last few years.

As a part of Army Housing's goal to eliminate all inadequate family housing in Europe, the District will have put over $50 million in whole neighborhood renovations into the community by the end of 2012, including new sidewalks, parking area, landscaping, electric, sewer and storm water lines, and refurbished and right-sized apartments.

"Hainerberg will be our benchmark to show just how much we invest in the community and in the warfighter and his family," said Turner. "We do our best to make sure these neighborhoods are renovated to the highest standards possible because we know how important quality of life is for morale, recruitment, and retention."

Soon, Hainerberg will also see a new $5 million CDC (see page 6). Construction on the project comes on the front of a wave of projects in Wiesbaden as the garrison prepares for USAREUR/7th Army's re-stationing actions.

"The U.S. military community in Wiesbaden will continue to see more modernizations and upgrades to existing facilities and new construction as we prepare for the restructuring and re-stationing of forces in Europe," said Roger Gerber, USAG Wiesbaden transformation and stationing officer. "Supporting USAREUR transformation with quality facilities in Wiesbaden is a top priority."

Dr. Helmut Müller, Wiesbaden's Lord Mayor said at the entertainment center groundbreaking that he was glad to see these projects in Wiesbaden taking form, as they are a symbol of the "good cooperation" between the German city and U.S. military.

"I am always happy to drive by the area and see how these projects are coming along," he said. "We see this as part of the growing of the community here at Wiesbaden."

LEFT: Form work on the $8.8 million entertainment center continues on schedule. **CENTER:** Europe District Commander Col. John Kem and 1st Armored Division Commander Maj. Gen. Terry Wolff get briefed on site following the groundbreaking ceremony. **RIGHT:** Dignitaries in attendance at the center's groundbreaking ceremony May 26 included Col. John Kem, Wiesbaden Lord Mayor Helmut Müller and Maj. Gen. Terry Wolff.

CDC GOES MODULAR

Engineers Break Ground on the First of Four New Child Development Centers in Europe

Story and Photos By Carol E. Davis

In about six months, children between six weeks and five years of age will be laughing and playing in a new Child Development Center at Kelley Barracks, said Army officials at a June 29 groundbreaking ceremony.

The $5 million facility is the first of four specially approved child care centers funded by Operations and Maintenance money under an exception to policy of the National Defense Authorization Act. Three others will be located in Ansbach, Landstuhl and Wiesbaden.

"This is going to be very helpful for families on all four installations because the facilities will provide on-post child care services so families won't have to go out on the local economy," said Francisco Torres, project manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District.

The emphasis on proper child care facilities on Army installations comes as part of the Army Family Covenant, a promise to Soldiers and Families to ensure excellence in child care, youth and school services. Part of the covenant was the acceleration of constructing child care spaces to meet the new Army goal of having enough for families that wanted them.

The chosen method to quickly and effectively meet this goal was constructing modular facilities.

"A modular facility essentially means about half of construction occurs off-site in a factory," said Torres. "This system mitigates risk to workers and ensures quality control. It also significantly reduces construction time, sometimes in half, so the customer moves in faster and provides service sooner."

Ideally, these centers are assembled and opened for operation within a year. And because modular facilities generally cost less, each of the four facilities are within the O&M requirement not to exceed $5 million each.

In Stuttgart, the new facility is badly needed because of the influx of personnel caused by realignment of European installations and the establishment of AFRICOM, said Col. Richard Pastore, USAG Stuttgart commander.

"Our most significant challenge is providing daycare for our children," he said during a speech at the groundbreaking ceremony.

Kelley Barracks' current CDC is housed in a renovated dental facility, said Suzanne King, USAG Stuttgart's Child and Youth Services chief. This has meant that some of the equipment and furniture fit imprecisely.

The new facility will add 100 childcare spaces to Kelley Barracks, King said. When opened to the public, the new facility will allow the current CDC to provide part-day and hourly care for toddlers and older children, increasing the total number of spaces offered.

"We all celebrate and are so thankful for this facility because it's all about the children," said Gen. William "Kip" Ward, U.S. Africa Command commander, who also participated in the groundbreaking ceremony. "I probably should have waited for the ribbon cutting ceremony because that's going to be the big deal."

AFRICOM's official establishment on Kelley Barracks in October 2008 buoyed the Stuttgart garrison's request for the new CDC, said King.

"Competition for a modular CDC was high but in the end selection was made strictly on the installation's need," she said.

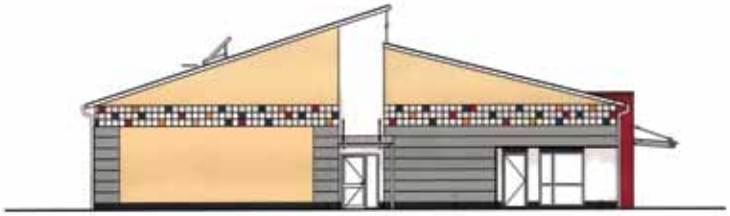
Lt. Col. Anela Arcari, the District's deputy commander, said safety was the Corps' first priority.

"We'll ensure the contractors put in all the safety measures possible, including closed-circuit television for video monitoring, mass notification system, a fire protection and alarm system as well as exterior security lighting," she said during a speech at the event.

Toys and safety equipment aside, the new facilities mean parents on the waiting list will soon have child care.

"By extending our available spaces, with the new facility, we give our parents more options and opportunities for childcare," said King. "This new facility is designed especially for a CDC with age-appropriate playground, additional storage and a parent waiting area."

NORTH ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION

Stuttgart, Germa-

TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: USAG Stuttgart Commander Col. Richard Pastore, U.S. Africa Command Commander Gen. William "Kip" Ward, Europe District Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Anela Arcari join members of the garrison, CYS workers, and host nation to mark the ceremonial start of the CDC's construction June 29. **OPPOSITE PAGE AND BOTTOM:** Conceptual renderings show the basic color scheme and modular design for USAG Stuttgart's new $5 million Child Development Center, the first of four new CDCs in Army garrisons throughout Europe.

EAST ELEVATION

WEST ELEVATION

Cleaning Up Kosovo

New Employee Helps Camp Bondsteel Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

Story and Photos By Carol E. Davis

THIS PAGE: Improving the environment one step at a time, these compost piles reduce waste and beautify the landscape on Camp Bondsteel making the camp cleaner and greener. **OPPOSITE PAGE, UPPER RIGHT:** Madagascar native Patrick Chauvey oversees Camp Bondsteel's environmental program, ensuring resources are properly used.

For most people, living green means you put the glass in the yellow bin and the paper in the blue. But for Patrick Chauvey it means so much more.

Growing up on the island-nation of Madagascar, Chauvey couldn't help but think green. The subtropical African forests that surrounded his native town, the untouched beaches, and the lack of a reliable waste management system meant Chauvey and his family had to reduce, reuse and recycle almost everything they had.

Today this Europe District employee is cultivating those early-learned skills in a different way – as the environmental officer on NATO's Camp Bondsteel in southern Kosovo.

"The more I learned about Kosovo and its environmental challenges, the more it reminded me of the land of my birth," said Chauvey, who works out of the camp's Department of Public Works office.

Although the two countries are dissimilar in culture, climate and ecosystems, Chauvey quickly saw parallels between the two. They have similar political and economic systems, similar basic telecommunication and transportation infrastructure, and limited government involvement in environmental assistance programs.

But at Camp Bondsteel, Chauvey is now helping change that by carrying out arguably the most advanced environmental program in the country.

"Maintaining the environment is part of the Army's covenant to ensure that the Soldier leaves the smallest environmental footprint, or in this case boot print, as possible," said Chauvey.

Waste not, want not

Waste is not wasted at Bondsteel. Many of the waste products that would have found their way into landfills a few years ago are now being separated, recycled and turned into reusable resources free from eco-damaging ingredients, setting the standard for the rest of the country. Some of these products are even used to beautify the spacious camp, which makes up .33 percent of the country.

Wood is chipped and combined with paper, cardboard, yard trimmings and food to produce mulch, in compliance with the Environmental Protection Act. After a six-week curing process, the mulch is used for new landscaping and to aid in erosion control.

Making History

"Maintaining the environment is part of the Army's covenant to ensure that the Soldier leaves the smallest environmental footprint or in this case, boot print, as possible."

– Patrick Chauvey

The newest system to reduce the camp's environmental footprint is the laundry water recycling center, which uses nanofiltration technology to recover, treat and reuse about 80 percent of its water used in a normal wash. Reusing this "Gray Water," said Chauvey, saves the government energy and water.

"It's exciting to see the system in operation," he said. "We've seen a drop in daily consumption from over 200,000 gallons to 150,000 gallons. That's especially great because we are getting into the real warm weather here where the water level in the aquifer begins to drop. So it's really good news."

Chauvey also manages the 50,000-gallon diesel and jet fuel bladders known to DPW as the "Fuel Farm."

The bladders are a part of the largest bulk fuel storage and distribution "farm" in Europe. The most recent upgrade to this system is the installation of a unique manhole system that provides a backup to prevent soil and possible water containment in case of any spillage or breech to the bladders.

"The largest part of stewardship is prevention. We will do everything we can to prevent contamination," said Chauvey.

"You will never meet a more dedicated civil servant especially when it relates to environmental issues," said Carl Mandleco, director of DPW,

Workers repair pipes ensuring Soldiers have all needed services.

Camp Bondsteel.

Mandleco added that Chauvey continues to seek new initiatives to keep the camp environmentally sound. "Most notable is a bid to connect the camp to the power grid which would reduce the camp's carbon boot print by 25 percent and save approximately $25 million."

Healthy Habits: At work, At home

Good stewardship over resources is a theme Chauvey carried over in personal life as well.

The resonant sounds of reveille play every morning at Camp Bondsteel. To Chauvey, the chirpy melody is reminiscent of his military school days, signaling long days of classes, military drills and physical exercise.

These days, the military drills are over. But exercise and the sobering sound of the bugler still directs him to the gym.

"The gym at the institute had a huge banner on the wall with a motto I remember fondly and that still motivates me to this day: Mens sane in corpore sano. Latin for 'a healthy mind in a healthy body,' " said Chauvey. So he skips lunch and instead chooses to runs a few miles on the treadmill as a way to maintain health and eliminate stress.

Chauvey's birth nation gave him a strong love of nature; his electrical engineering degree gave him an appreciation for energy; and an Army environmental internship put him in a great position to combine what he loved with what his education taught him. Seventeen years later, Camp Bondsteel's environmental challenges simulate good memories and provide professional fulfillment.

"Witnessing history in the making makes [the job] even more special – almost an adventure," said Chauvey.

TOP: Workers at Camp Bondsteel's "fuel farm" repair a walking path while cranes in the background remove a fuel bladder for repairs. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Col. John Kem, Europe District commander, receives a brief from Chauvey on the newly installed backup manholes at the farm.

A Bavarian Renewal

A perfect storm of upgrades comes to Ansbach

Story By Justin Ward

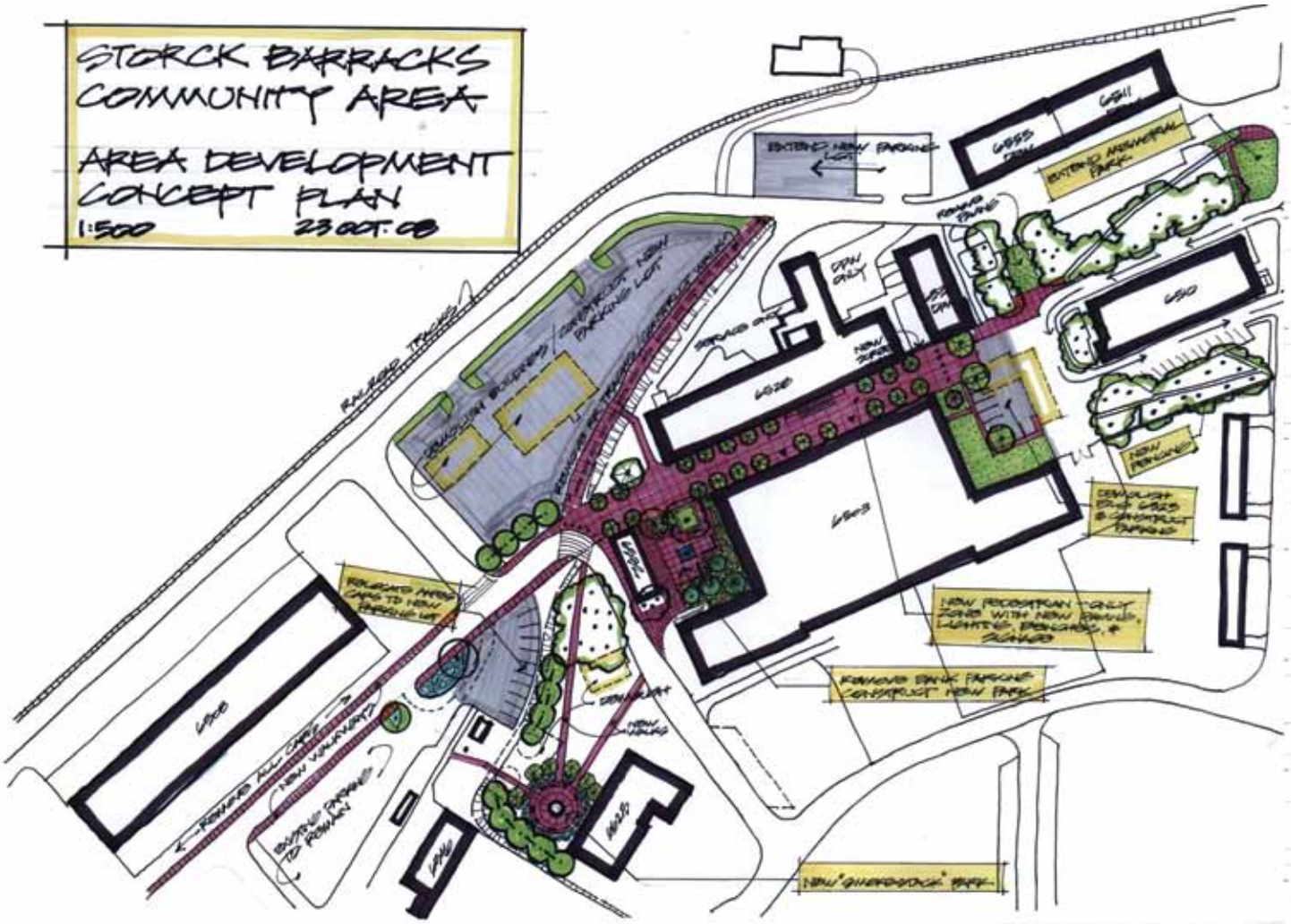
From Camp Swampy to a Community of Excellence – that's the goal of U.S. Army officials seeking to turn U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach into a flagship installation.

Planners and architects are laying the groundwork for a building expansion that could reach nearly $400 million over the next five years.

A host of new projects, including a commissary, lodge, fitness center and townhouse community that will eventually total about 450 homes, are expected to highlight the construction boom. But that only scrapes the surface, said Bill Lewis, garrison master planner.

"It's a very good place to be for a master planner," said Lewis. "Many of our facilities don't meet current Army standards, so mostly we're replacing them with new construction. But we're also upgrading utility and road infrastructure and improving the quality of life in the process."

The anticipated growth comes just after the Bamberg and Schweinfurt garrisons were announced to come under the direction of USAG Ansbach and three years after the stand up of the 12th Combat Avia-



A hand-drawn sketch of an artist's concept of a new pedestrian zone on Ansbach's Storck Barracks shows how parking will be moved away from the central plaza, supporting anti-terror-force protection measures while providing a cleaner "college campus" feel to the Kaserne. **Drawing by Phil Cohen, Europe District Planning Section Chief**

TOP LEFT: Work continues on schedule for the 106 units in Phase I of the new townhouse community in Ansbach's former Urlas Training Area. **Photo by Francisco Torres**

TOP RIGHT: An artist's rendering shows what a portion of the new community will look like when complete. NCOs and officers from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade will be housed there. **Rendering by AB Bayer**

tion Brigade – the only U.S. aviation brigade in Europe.

Although the garrison won't grow in population, the reformation represents its increased importance and justifies a building expansion unparalleled in the Ansbach's history, said Jim Hughes, garrison public affairs officer.

Today

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District is currently managing over 30 projects valued at more than $200 million in the Ansbach footprint. Although the building boom's ripple is felt throughout the garrison, the epicenters are at Storck Barracks in Illesheim and Katterbach, said Lewis.

"Each of those Kasernes have airfields," Lewis said. "So that's where the focus is going to be."

At the heart of construction is the first phase of the townhouse community at the former training range at Urlas. When finished in summer 2010, the $52 million Phase 1 will have constructed 106 units to house 12th CAB families.

Of those units, 22 will be ultra-low energy "Passivhäuser," or passive homes. These units would use about one-fourth of the energy demanded by the German standard home, which still bests the typical U.S. home.

About $4 million in infrastructure site improvements will be put in next year to prepare the site for the townhomes.

"We're all proud of the new community and the progress we've made so far, especially the Passivhäuser," said Darren Walls, Europe District project manager. "It's a step farther than any other Army agency has taken."

Coinciding with this project is a confluence of three different funding streams that will bring another $45 million to this northern Bavarian post.

The first stream, from Army Family Housing, is a neighborhood revitalization in Katterbach. Expected to be turned over to the garrison in spring 2011, this undertaking – valued at $19.5 million – includes new roads, landscaping, parking areas and redesigned family housing units.

The second stream brings roughly $7 million to update a hangar, motorpool and a headquarters building at Storck Barracks.

The third and largest stream – valued at just over $20 million – comes in the form of Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization funds that support nine small projects to improve the roads, walkways, drainage systems and floor plans of operational buildings mostly located on Illesheim and Katterbach Kasernes.

"These projects – even the small preventative maintenance ones – bring a higher quality of life here and they help transform this area one day at a time to a community of excellence," said Matt Ludwig, regional program manager for Stuttgart and Ansbach.

The fiscal year 2009 SRM funding seeks to eliminate outstanding work and service orders, initiate projects that enhance energy efficiency and produce lasting improvements in facilities that have historically suffered funding challenges. This is the first year that Europe garrisons have ever received 100 percent of their authorized SRM funding, IMCOM-Europe officials said.

Other projects include resurfacing runways upgrading access control points and building three new child development centers for almost $30 million at Illesheim and Katterbach.

Tomorrow

Still in the design and concept stages, the fiscal years 2010 and 2011 projects at Ansbach estimated at roughly $150 million compose the bulk of future work.

More than half of that is currently planned for Katterbach Kaserne, the "tactical hub" of the garrison, said Lewis.

For starters, the $8.5 million Army Lodge at Urlas is expected to be awarded by the end of the fiscal year. Other envisaged proposals include a $16.5 million physical fitness center, a $16.5 million renovation to the vehicle maintenance center, a $21 million commissary at Urlas, and a second phase of townhouses in Urlas valued at $32 million.

The centerpiece for Katterbach's currently expected FY11 program, however, is a $36.4 million health facility.

Other foreseen projects include building two new barracks for $31.7 million at Illesheim and Katterbach and, perhaps more anticipated, pedestrian-only community centers on Storck Barracks in Illesheim and Katterbach Kaserne.

"The pedestrian zones will really improve the appearance of Storck and Katterbach," said Lewis. "They'll also provide a safer pedestrian flow and will prioritize traffic routes."

In the end, it will be a new American face to Ansbach, said Ludwig.

"The warfighters and families in these communities will have a modern and effective garrison that they can be proud of," he said. "We're thankful to be involved in this huge and dynamic program. We really are."

The director of Tbilisi's new police academy speaks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the new school and gym June 12.

Coaching Cops in the Caucasus

Army Engineers Hand Over Most Modern Police Academy in the Caucasus

Story by Justin Ward and Photos by Nana Kacheishvili

Amid a crowd of Georgian and American dignitaries – including U.S. Ambassador John Tefft – the Europe District handed over to the government of Georgia the keys to the largest and most modern police academy in the Caucasus during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the outskirts of Tbilisi June 12.

"Georgia is an important ally and friend," said Charles Samuel, Caucasus Project Office chief with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District. "And with every project like this that we help complete, we not only build stronger buildings, but we also build stronger bonds."

The three-story, $2.1 million facility, which includes a 26,000 square-foot training facility, billeting area for 250 recruits and a 13,000 square-foot gymnasium, replaces a mistreated, ageing facility with few classrooms, broken windows and poor heating.

This, officials say, made it difficult to maintain focus and order throughout the year, even if the of-ficers were motivated.

Plus, because there were no barracks and officers weren't given an allowance for housing, those recruits outside of the city usually stayed with friends or family while training if they came at all.

"The new classroom space, dormitory and gym provide the venues required for police officers to attain the professional skills needed to carry out their duties in a democratic society – protecting public safety and upholding the rule of law," said Laura Malenas, the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs program manager for Georgia. "INL Tbilisi was proud to fund the construction of this beautiful facility that will support the professional education of Georgian law enforcement."

The facility is one of many academies throughout the world supported by INL, which was established to professionalize police forces; support democracy through the rule of law; enhance free markets through improved law enforcement; and increase social, political and economic stability by combating organized crime.

The goal of the academy is to continue to develop a capable and professional national police force, dedicated to the rule of law and the protection of the citizens of Georgia and their property.

These facilities will help the still-nascent police forces of this nation to properly prosecute the destabilizing criminal activities in the region and help this new democracy claim that its checkered past is truly history.

"We're happy to help serve our partners here in Georgia and we want to thank them for continuing to rely on our services," said Samuel.

Since the Rose Revolution of November 2003, the country has worked hard to trade many of the dark clouds that once kept this country in obscurity for technical assistance packages and trade deals. Part of the assistance in this country of 4.5 million people has come from the District, which has set up a small office in the capital of Tbilisi to provide engineering assistance to Department of State- and DoD-funded efforts.

Building Buildings and Bonds

"...We not only build stronger buildings,
But we also build stronger bonds."
- Charles Samuel, Caucasus Project Office Chief

The three-story, $2,1 million police academy on the outskirts of Tbilisi, Georgia, was built to help professionalize policing forces throughout the country.

Livin' Lodge IN BELGIUM

Story by Guest Contributor Rachel Parks, BENELUX Public Affairs. Photos by Justin Ward

TOP: The Army's newest lodge in Europe, completed with oversight from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, opened for business in late June as the largest project ever on Chièvres Air Base. **LEFT:** A June 23 ribbon cutting ceremonially opened the new lodge to the public. **BELOW:** The new lodge's suites have a two-plate range, a microwave, refrigerator and a dishwasher.

After almost two years of construction, Chièvres Air Base has a new Army lodge, the first of six in Europe to be built to the new Army standard.

"This facility is a source of pride for the entire region," said JoAnn Chambers, chief of staff, IMCOM-Europe. "It is the first environmentally friendly lodge to be erected in Europe. It's the newest and most modern in the region."

The much anticipated lodge, directly behind the community plaza, was ceremonially opened in a ribbon-cutting ceremony June 23. As the air base's biggest Corps-managed construction project

ever, this three-story, $15 million hotel will serve the base, NATO, SHAPE and diplomatic communities, said, Lt. Col. Anela Arcari, deputy commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District.

"It took a lot of toil, sweat and commitment to ensure that this $15 million lodge was completed on time, on scope and on budget," said Arcari, "but the effort of all of our team members was no less than our Soldiers and their families deserve."

Before the Chièvres lodge, most servicemembers, civilians and their families called the Hotel le Maisières home while they were in-processing and out-processing at SHAPE and Chièvres. One of the most notable changes between the two properties is the lengthy list of upgrades in the new lodge.

"First and foremost, we have air-conditioning at this lodge. Each room also has a DVD player and there is a 32-inch flat screen television in each guest room," said lodge General Manager William Cook.

"In the suites, there are two televisions, one in the sitting area and one in the bedroom," Cook continued, adding that is just the beginning of the improvements. "We now have 60 family suites. We had three suites at the Maisières Hotel. The standard rooms are also bigger than the standard rooms in the previous location. And the TVs have over 20 channels you can watch."

The new lodge has 94 rooms, including the 60 suites. Two of the standard rooms are extended-stay rooms, and four of the lodge rooms are completely handicap accessible.

The rooms are larger too. In the Hotel Maisières, the average size for a standard room was 262 square feet. In the new lodge, the standard room is 339 square feet and the suites are 472 square feet.

All of the suites have a two-plate range in the kitchenette, a microwave, refrigerator and dishwasher. The standard rooms have a microwave and refrigerator but do not feature the range or dishwasher.

Cook said the fact that the majority of the rooms allow you to cook in them is a major improvement to the quality of life while living in the hotel.

"At the Maisières, you couldn't cook in the rooms. Actually, because of the infrastructure you couldn't even run a hair dryer and a coffee maker in those rooms. Here, you can do that," said Cook.

And yes, each room does come equipped with a coffee maker and hair dryer, as well.

There is also an Internet jack in each room where guests can link to high-speed Internet, and an Internet café for travelers without laptops. There is also an elevator so guests arriving with several large suitcases don't have to lug them up stairs.

But the upgrades to the rooms aren't the only changes guests can look forward to. Because the lodge is now located on Chièvres Air Base, services that were once a car or shuttle ride away are now just a short walk away.

"Patrons are within walking distance of all the stores, the credit union, and the gym," added Cook. "That's a big thing. And if you need to board pets at the kennel, it's just down the road, so you can go down there and visit them or go on a walk."

The opening of the lodge is also driving more service decisions. The Patriot eatery is now open every evening as another food choice for lodgers to help fill the void on Mondays when most locations on Chièvres are closed, said USAG Benelux Morale, Welfare and Recreation Director Craig Larsen.

"We are now standing up the Patriot to support the lodgers living at the hotel. They need someplace to eat and drink, and it's a nice family friendly option because it's located right next to the gym, so there's space for the kids to run around," he added. "This is helping to change the dynamic of Chièvres Garrison. The larger customer base allows us to offer more activities and events."

While lodgers will notice the big changes to the new facility and more events coming to Chièvres Garrison, they are also sure to notice the top-level customer service from the lodge staff.

Cook said not only have all the employees been working hard to keep the lodge in top shape, but every employee has also been taking updated line-level certification in their particular fields. Several lodge employees were recognized this spring by USAG Benelux leadership for their hard work and dedication, as well as their updated certifications.

Cook said he sees the employees giving 100 percent every day and that is reflected in positive ICE comments, as well as positive feedback from those staying in the rooms.

Additionally, the Education Institute of the American Hotel and Lodging association awarded the former lodge the Silver Pineapple Award earlier in the year. That award is given out by the association to recognize properties that have achieved exceptional standards by placing a high value on professional development, training and continuing education.

Ron Witcher, the IMCOM-Europe Lodging manager, told Cook that this award exemplified the quality of his efforts in training and developing his front line and supervisory employees.

"This is one more event in a long history of motivating your employees and other managers to strive for professional certifications and personal development," he added.

Cook said watching the lodge being constructed felt a little like Christmas each day.

"Everything is so new; it's great for the servicemembers and their families. This is helping Army Lodging move forward into the 21st century," he said.

Engineering in Europe
Explores Changes & Future Opportunities

Story by Rachel Goodspeed

The Europe District's Engineering in Europe magazine staff completed a readership survey in May. Results show that most readers are happy with the product overall and want to see only a few changes in the frequency and delivery of the product.

The survey was conducted to gather insight and suggestions from readers to improve the magazine and find out who is reading it, said Justin Ward, Chief of Public Affairs.

"We're trying to get a feel for what our audiences want to see in future editions," he said. "Also, because people are getting most of their news online, we wanted to tap into that to provide online content in a user-friendly way."

According to the readership survey, the magazine is read consistently across the district with more than 90 percent of readers picking up an issue in the past 12 months. Additionally, readers want the magazine to be published more frequently, preferably on a monthly basis.

Roughly 60 percent of readers picked up a hard copy of the magazine while another 38 percent read it online. Conversely, about 61 percent prefer electronic delivery versus the 36 percent who prefer a print product.

Considering the mixed results, the public affairs office is looking at the possibility of producing a monthly online supplement directing readers to stories published on www.Army.mil, Ward said.

"We explored the possibility of converting to a completely online product, but the survey says people want to continue to receive the hardcopy," he said. "So we'll give both a try and see how our readers like the new mix."

Overall, readers noted they were pleased with the magazine's content. The survey showed readers enjoyed the in-depth information on District-wide projects and efforts in new areas such as Africa, Romania, and Georgia.

Many also indicated there were not enough personal stories and not enough stories throughout the magazine in general. Readers said they'd also like to see more coverage on international engineering, as well as historical features and support to other nations.

First published in 2001, Engineering in Europe's mission is to deliver quality news and information from around the Europe District to better inform and support its partners and service members. The staff maintains journalistic core values while embracing and exploring change and Ward said that is exactly what the survey helped do.

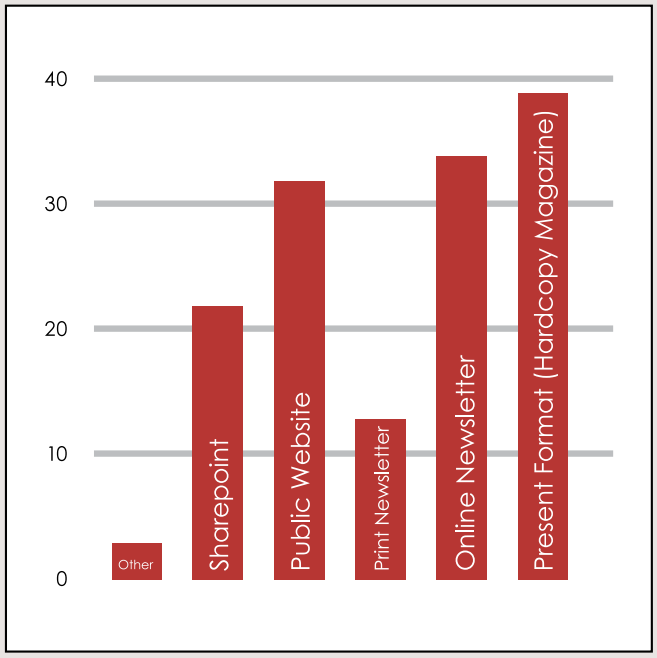
"We want to thank everyone who participated in the survey for their time and constructive feedback," he said. "It's good to hear that the stories we choose to write resonate with our audience. Readers will see some refinement and changes in content and design in the coming issues in response to their feedback."

The Engineering in Europe staff will conduct another survey in 2010 to measure the value of both the new monthly products and determine how well the magazine meets the needs of its readership.

Top 5 Most Requested
Coverage Topics for Future Issues

1. International Engineering
2. Historical Features
3. Support to Other Nations and/or Agencies
4. Personal features and Recognition
5. Energy Conservation

Which is Your Preferred Method to Get District News?



District Employee Wins Hard Hat Award

By Rachel Goodspeed

When Nilay Yardimci walks into the office Friday mornings, the smell of breakfast greets her at the door. It's got to be Charlie.

Charles Truesdell has been the sole quality assurance representative for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District's Turkey Resident Office for the past four years, running from project to project, and yet still finds time to cook breakfast for the office, said Orkun Dincer, a project engineer in the TUSEG office.

"When you're around Charlie, not only will you be well fed, but you'll also learn a lot from him," Dincer said.

According to his colleagues, Truesdell also excels outside the kitchen, relying on his sharp mind, sage patience and 27 demanding years of field experience to become the best of the best.

"He has this magnitude of experience he can pull from and he has skills in multiple areas," Dincer added. "I've seen a lot of QAs, but I've never seen one like him. He just loves what he's doing."

So it's no surprise to them that Truesdell will receive the 2009 USACE Hard Hat of the Year Award in August as the year's most outstanding construction field office team member.

Hard Hat Of The Year

LEFT: Truesdell shakes hands with Col. Phil McDaniel, former 39th Air Base Wing commander, at the communications facility site earlier this year. **RIGHT:** Truesdell explains the status of the consolidated communications facility to members of the Europe District's executive staff during a May 2009 visit. **Photos by Okan Nalbant**

Okan Nalbant, the office's resident engineer, said Truesdell was nominated for his corporate knowledge and tireless oversight over the office's projects over the past year, including Incirlik Air Base's Eagle Housing, Consolidated Communications Facility and miscellaneous job order contracts valued at more than $22 million.

"He's the best at what he does – and he does everything," Nalbant said. "He's extremely experienced and skilled, both in technical proficiency and in personality. He's a coach and a mentor for the office and for the contractors he works with."

In the award announcement, James Dalton, USACE chief of engineering and construction, added that Charles and the other nominees for the award are "outstanding examples of BUILDING STRONG for the engineering profession, the Corps, the Army and the nation."

Truesdell said he had no idea he was being considered for the award and thought the entire office ought to be recognized.

"I am just one part of the team that brings these projects to fruition," he said. "My main role is to be out at the sites to ensure we're getting what our contracts call for. Many times my responsibilities overlap with the project engineers, so if I'm successful, then that means these guys have also done their parts successfully."

Truesdell was an electrical superintendent for a civilian company before he joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1984 in Misawa, Japan, as part of a rapid development program. Although he went to the St. Louis District after his tour ended, he found himself back in Japan for several years before relocating to Turkey in 2001.

His variety of experience is what makes Truesdell the right guy be honored, said Volkan Tunay, a project engineer in the TUSEG office.

"He's a problem-solver. Whenever you ask him for his opinion, he comes up with all of these great ideas he pulls from his experience over the years," Tunay said. "I've only been here for four months, but even in that short time, I've learned so much from him. He is very friendly, very helpful, humble, hospitable and very cooperative individual."

But even more, Yardimci said he is the glue that holds the office together like a family.

"The work I do in this office is not just work to me. They are my family and when they need me, I'm there to help them. Charlie brought that environment to the office," Yardimci said. "He has friends all over the base. Everyone who knows Charlie or works with him is an instant friend."

At 71 years old, Truesdell said the word retirement comes up often. But he recoils at the thought, Nalbant said.

"Charlie laughs when others mention 'retirement,' telling his younger counterparts that 'I got the best retirement plan – I'm on the WTID [Work 'Til I Die] plan,'" he said. "But Charlie isn't on the WTID because of any financial need. He enjoys passing on his skills to the next generation of engineers and construction workers."

And Nalbant said they will be happy to have Truesdell for as long as they can hold on to him.

"There is a Turkish proverb that fits Charlie like a glove: True wealth is not abundance in property, but a generous heart," he said. "And like King Midas of ancient Turkey, everything Charlie touches turns to gold, but in Charlie's case, it is a blessing he gives to the projects he works on and to the people he works with."

As "the office's rock, as a champion of the Corps' systems," Charles Truesdell will receive the 2009 USACE Hard Hat of the Year Award during a ceremony in August. **Photo by Rachel Goodspeed**

Level II Leadership Development Program participtants from FY10 listen to Brig. Gen. (ret) Ralph Locurcio speak about leadership in engineering. **Photo by Justin Ward**

LDP Level II Kicks Off

The second iteration of Europe District's annual Level II Leadership Development Program kicked off this month with the entrance of eight new participants from various occupational backgrounds and geographical regions.

During the FY10 program, the participants – Peter Barth, Orkun Dincer, Kelley Grant, Brett Howard, Gary Jones, Brandon Stone, Yvette Teal, and Alex Tomosieski – will shadow a senior leader, work on developmental assignments and group projects, give oral presentations, and submit two reports.

"I expect a lot of work," said project manager Kelley Grant. "But I also expect to learn a lot from my peers and the perspective that they bring. That will absolutely enhance the experience."

The program seeks to provide the opportunity and resources for selected employees to deal with relevant, real-life problems currently experienced by senior leaders in the Europe District, and to obtain an overall perspective on leadership.

Ultimately, it seeks to enhance, enrich, and further develop the participants promising skills into sound leadership competencies that produce and promote the ability to lead an organization. These competencies not only create the foundation for strong leadership, but enable participants to strategically think, influence others to achieve organizational goals, create team effectiveness, and build on partnering relationships both internal and external.

This year's program also includes Francisco Torres, who was deferred from the FY09 class because of his deployment to Afghanistan in support of the District's FEST-A team.

After completing the program, participants will serve as mentors in the following year's program and will be encouraged to apply to the Division's annual Level III program.

NAU Revamps Records

Every day Corps of Engineers employees generate countless files and documents, many considered official records by the Army. Making the distinction and managing these files can be confusing and a time-consuming task.

That's where Ross Goodspeed comes in. The new District Records Manager's goal is to establish records management policies, programs and processes over the next three years to handle physical and electronic records efficiently, effectively and, most importantly, legally, said Hal Moncrief, chief of Information Management.

"It sounds like a lot of time, but in reality it's a short time frame to develop such a large program," he said. "Not only do we have to train coordinators to set up and organize the program in each office, all District employees also have to get into the every-day habit of managing records properly."

The District has lacked a program in place for nearly 10 years causing a buildup of electronic records on its shared drives, an abundance of boxes in the basement and crammed file cabinets throughout the building, Goodspeed said.

"It's more than just a storage issue. You have the liability of not being able to find pertinent information," he said. "Records management programs are developing to ensure we don't dispose of critical and historical information prematurely, as well as to make sure we don't keep information longer than we're legally required."

As part of the records management program, boxes and file cabinets around the Amelia Earhart Center will be sorted, labeled, filed and disposed of in accordance with Army Regulations. **Photo by Ross Goodspeed**

The program's implementation will be done in phases. The first phase is underway, which includes Logistics Management, Public Affairs, Employee Support, Resource Management and Environmental offices. Subsequent phases will ease the rest of the District into the program.

As each office establishes its program, Goodspeed said he'll take the lessons-learned and apply them to subsequent offices.

"This isn't going to be an easy or quick process at first, but I am working with the coordinators to make this as easy as possible for everyone," he said. "Once we lay the foundation for each office, it'll only be a matter of taking a small amount of time each week to maintain the system."

Bump, Set, Spike!

Europe District employees play volleyball behind the Amelia Earhart Center in Wiesbaden at the Organizational Day Picnic July 17.

Photo by Carol E. Davis