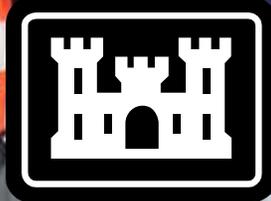


GEARING UP IN ISRAEL



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

*WIESBADEN'S NEW ENTERTAINMENT CENTER
McCULLY HAS GONE TO THE BIRDS
BREAKING GROUND IN GERMERSHEIM*



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Europe District
Vol. 9 • Spring 2010



THE COMMANDER



John S. Kem
COL, EN
Commanding

We're now entering our busiest construction season in Europe. And as the temperatures rise this summer, so will many of our buildings. So this is a great time to take a moment and reflect on the importance of safety, both on the work site and in our personal lives.

We already have an excellent safety record – one of the highest in USACE thanks to every one of you. Thankfully, we did not have any construction deaths in fiscal year 2009, and we continue to have extremely low civilian and contractor lost-time injuries despite the high amount of contractor man-hours we oversee.

Bottom line: We accomplish an incredible amount of work here. And we always do so while getting home safely to our families. That's what it's all about – doing great things and being there for our friends and family.

But remember, there is absolutely no room for complacency. Unfortunately, people have died on our job sites in the past and their families are still feeling that horrible impact. It's a reality we face on construction sites and even on the high-speed autobahns. We have to continue to think about safety in everything we do.

Whether you're a USACE employee, contractor or customer, you should familiarize yourself with the new edition of the USACE EM 385-1-1 Safety and Health Requirements Manual (which can be found at <http://www.usace.army.mil/CESO>). Yes, it's 1,050 pages, but I encourage you to download a PDF copy to your computer and search it for relevant standards and requirements that affect your projects. Whether it's fall protection; material handling, storage and disposal; rigging; or scores of other topics that help preserve lives through risk management, the help is at your fingertips.

Or for more hands-on learning, OSHA and safety training classes are being offered internally, such as our own contractor quality control courses and our one-day Focus Four construction safety training course (check with our safety manager Jonathan Bach for details at 0611-9744-2477).

And finally, we should always be aware of even the simplest hazards, even in our personal lives.

Hot weather, for example, is a killer. If you work outdoors in hot weather, you are at risk for heat illnesses, including heat stroke. Remember to take frequent short breaks, drink plenty of water, avoid caffeinated drinks that can contribute to dehydration and dress in light-colored and lightweight fabrics. Also, realize that you're at higher risk for heat illness if you are overweight, in poor health, poor physical condition, have heart disease, diabetes or other medical conditions.

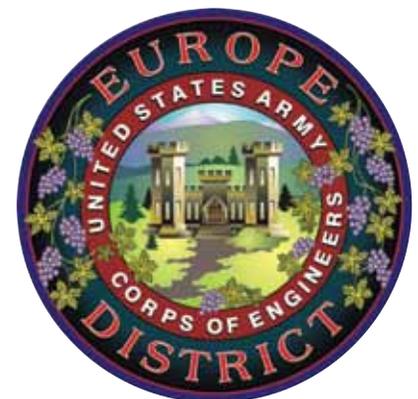
Road traffic accidents are the number one non-disease cause of human deaths worldwide. And using a cell phone to talk or text while driving is one of the most common driver distractions. Studies have shown that motorists who talk on handheld or hands-free cellular phones are as impaired as drunk drivers. And in case that's not enough, the USACE Safety Manual and Army Regulations strictly prohibit hand-held cell phone use while driving on duty and also while driving personal vehicles on a DoD facility.

We have an amazing workload in front of us this year. But in this business, the risks are very real and we shouldn't forget that.

One key phrase that will help us all get home this year is, "Report it, don't ignore it." If you've got a gut feeling that something isn't safe, report it, don't ignore it. Ask the contractor, "What makes that safe?"

I know we are going to have another successful summer delivering innovative, resilient, sustainable solutions for our customers (USACE Campaign Goal 3). Let's make it a safe one, too! Report it, don't ignore it.

Essays! BUILDING STRONG!®




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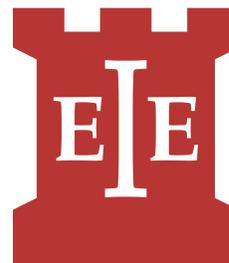
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ON THE COVER

USACE PUTS THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON A \$5.5 MILLION, 175,000-SQUARE-FOOT HEADQUARTERS BUILDING AT TEL NOF AIR BASE FOR THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE'S MANAT SQUADRON, ALSO KNOWN AS THE 601 SQUADRON - ONE OF THE MOST ELITE IN THE IAF. IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FLIGHT AND WEAPONS TESTING, AIRFRAME MODIFICATION AND AVIONICS INTEGRATION. **Photo By Justin Ward**



Commander COL. JOHN S. KEM
Deputy Commander MAJ. JOHN DREW
Public Affairs Chief JUSTIN WARD
Editor RACHEL GOODSPEED
Art Director ERYKA NEMATPOUR
Staff Contributor CAROL E. DAVIS
Staff Contributor REBECCA LIPPMAN

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USACE EUROPE DISTRICT PLUGS INTO SOCIAL MEDIA

Are YOU LinkedIn?

By Rachel Goodspeed



The world is chatting on Facebook, sharing photos on Flickr, spreading opinions on blogs and watching their friends and co-workers on YouTube.

What better way to communicate with employees, stakeholders and the public than via social media, said Justin Ward, the public affairs chief for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District, which now posts up-to-date job announcements, news stories and more on its Facebook, Flickr, YouTube, Twitter, Delicious and CNN iReport sites.

“Our social media sites provide another platform for getting our stories out and having conversations,” Ward said. “They don’t replace what we’ve already been doing, they supplement it.”

With projects that span Europe, Africa and portions of the Middle East, the Europe District utilizes its social media sites to communicate with military, diplomatic and civilian communities near those sites.

“The short-term objective was to catch up to the information demands of the public, which have steadily increased in both scope and speed,” Ward said. “The long-term objective is to build trust and understanding through these interactions.”

In a statement issued by President Barack Obama, “Departments and agencies should harness new technologies to put information about their operations and decisions online and readily available to the public.” But even more, “Executive departments and agencies should also solicit public feedback to identify information of greatest use to the public.”

“In other words, we don’t just want to wait for feedback to happen naturally, because sometimes it never does. We’re asking for it via these sites,” Ward said.

Proper usage of social media sites, however, requires a firm understanding of operational and information security issues, said Lionel Chappelle, a district security specialist and INFOSEC manager.

“We also have to keep in mind that the bad guys are looking at our sites too,” he said. “We have to continue to use our common sense and practice good judgment while freely sharing information across such a broad spectrum.”

As social media rapidly spreads across defense agencies and federal departments, it’s even more important now than ever that public affairs continues to balance the freedom of information with security, Chappelle said.

And as long as the information is properly coordinated, Ward said, it is a superb tool in ensuring the widest possible dissemination of the messages.

“Social media is a powerful tool that allows us an easily accessible forum for two-way communication with the public,” he said. “So we will capitalize on it as much as we can so our office can continue to, pardon my geekiness, KickApps.” 



FACEBOOK
300+ Friends &
Fans



TWITTER
150+ Followers,
400+ Tweets



FLICKR
745+ Photos With
21,000+ Views



YOUTUBE
13,000+ Views On
100+ Videos

EFFICIENT BASING

Unique Project Delivery Methods Bring New Community To Fruition, On Time And On Budget

By Rachel Goodspeed

It was the U.S. Army's biggest construction project in Europe since the 1950s – and it was delivered on scope, on time and most importantly, on budget.

For the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Efficient Basing-Grafenwoehr was not business as usual. The U.S. Army Europe initiative to consolidate command and control headquarters and six battalion-sized elements consisted of more than 150 projects valued at close to \$1 billion with the Europe District managing about \$100 million each year since 2001.

Succeeding in bringing this massive construction project to fruition required innovative approaches to organization and acquisition, said Col. John Kem, USACE Europe District commander, in his speech during the official EB-G Transition Ceremony April 28.

“Normally, each U.S. Army construction project in Germany is dealt with individually, with U.S. and German experts coming together to iron out project-specific differences in standards, processes, criteria and preferences,” he said. “That just wasn’t going to work here. The magnitude and timeline demanded an entirely new model for collaboration.”

Because the projects were in Germany, U.S. engineers had to follow a U.S.-German agreement to work through Bauämter, or German state construction offices. That extra

layer of bureaucracy could have potentially slowed down these critical projects, said Peter Barth, USACE’s EB-G regional program manager, were it not for a unique solution to develop a Baudeinstelle, or construction service location, where highly-qualified professionals from both U.S. and German sides would come together and dedicate their time solely to the Grafenwoehr program.

According to Barth, the Baudeinstelle was probably the most important factor to the success of this extraordinarily large and fast-paced program, as it shortened lines of communication. Rather than waiting for e-mails or playing phone tag with each other, Barth said the group – comprised of members from the Corps of Engineers, the Grafenwoehr Army Garrison and Bauämter – could literally walk down the hall to deliver a message.

“We made the communication process more efficient just by utilizing face-to-face meetings and verbal communication,” Barth said. “We had open communication with the garrison and with the Bauämter and we identified problems very early so we could come up with the right ways to compensate.”

Moreover, the team also provided continuity uncommon within many military construction projects.

“On the U.S. side, we are challenged with the rotation of people every few years,” Barth said. “Programming began in

2000 and construction began in 2002 – that’s 10 years for this program. We had to take the approach of keeping people as long as possible.”

Additionally, rather than approaching the EB-G effort as individual projects, the team looked at the effort as a whole program.

“We needed to know what the impact of one project would be on another if it was not constructed, and what the impact would be to the garrison if we completed one facility that cut off access to the construction site of another facility,” Barth said. “When you see it as a program, you see the benefits and impacts of each project to the next.”

By taking this program perspective, the team could discern what utility needs were to support all the new facilities and in what sequence infrastructure needed to be constructed. Traffic issues, earth management, site accessibility and even contractor access to the post all needed to be considered on the whole.

“For instance, with more than 150 projects, we had a lot of cut and fill going on. We would reuse material created by one project as fill material for the next project,” Barth said.

Soil management provided a unique challenge. Grafenwoehr’s training area was a German military site during World War II until it was bombed. Environmental contamination

was not as scrutinized as it is today.

“We had to do a significant cleanup of the site – oil spills, waste from the war and even an anti-aircraft gun buried in the ground,” Barth said. “The challenge here is that we really had to include host nation federal agencies like the water protection board. They were very concerned about limiting contaminations, coordinating cleanup and the use of partially-contaminated material.”

In spite of the environmental concerns, the EB-G team came up with a plan to reuse crushed asphalt and concrete rather than disposing it in a landfill and purchasing gravel, which saved roughly \$1.5 million.

Keeping the project on budget and on schedule was one of the most challenging aspects of the project, according to Barth.

Despite the holistic approach, Barth said they still had to piece-meal the program into \$2 million to \$20 million bite-sized projects that allowed multiple local contractors to participate – an approach that differs from similar stateside projects and could have caused delays.

“One contractor means less layers and less schedules to coordinate – less individual projects,” he said. “But it was give and take. Breaking down the program to individual projects benefited the local industry, which helped garner public support from the German community.”



GRAFENWOEHR, GERMANY

Another cause for potential delays was the German weather, Barth said. With budgets approved mid-October, contracts could not be awarded right away due to harsh winter conditions.

"It was a permanent struggle to deliver the projects in time," Barth said, as some projects had to be split into parts that could be worked immediately and parts that were weather-dependent.

To save time, the team worked to develop contracting and solicitation methods that shortened the time the Bauämter needed for an award.

"We really tried to have an interactive process during the award process," Barth said. "The Bauämter would work on their bid package while we worked parallel on our award package. We had preliminary discussions with them about where the bid is and if we would need additional money."

Another time-saving technique was the decision to bring in U.S. companies to design the larger projects that required an

understanding of U.S. administrative processes.

"We pulled in U.S. design companies for the schools, for example, because they had an excellent understanding about what our school needs would be," Barth said. "So the U.S. company came up with the basic design and got together with the German company to convert that design into German specifications."

Finally, the push to use or adapt available U.S. military design standards played a critical part in keeping the program on time and on budget.

"Even though the German architects have a tendency to bring in a little of their design culture, we really were sticking to the plan in making repetitive designs and constructing 12 similar barracks buildings or six similar-looking vehicle maintenance shops," Barth said.

At the same time, the team added efficiency features to make the facilities greener and easier to maintain.

"We have to meet host nation

standards in terms of energy conservation, which are pretty high, so a lot of the facilities are very efficient in terms of reusable energy and even in terms of using local construction materials so we didn't have to import it from all over the world," Barth said.

In total, EB-G provided the facilities to change the former 1,000-Soldier garrison into an installation that could support more than 3,500 Soldiers and over 5,000 family members.

"It is an understatement to say it was a lot of work," Kem said at the ceremony. "But somehow our engineers, architects and master planners made it look easy."

Projects included the Netza-berg Housing Area with 830 three- and four-bedroom units; a shopping center that boasts a 250-seat food court, PX, commissary and concessions mall; troop billet buildings, company buildings and motor pools; a physical fitness center with a running track and multi-purpose field; upgraded medical facilities; and a modern dining facility.

"This program has turned Grafenwoehr from the Army's premiere training facility outside the United States to a truly modern, highly-developed community," Kem said. "It's a station of choice and a community of excellence." ■



ABOVE & BELOW LEFT: Construction is completed on Grafenwoehr's MILCON Island in Netza-berg, which has an elementary school, middle school, child development center, school-age services facility and a gas station and shoppette.

BELOW RIGHT: The completed Netza-berg military family housing area includes 830 homes on the border of the Grafenwoehr Training Area. Although this was not a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project, it was part of the decade-long EB-G program. **Photos By Justin Ward**





SUSTAINABLE ENTERTAINMENT

In Less Than A Year, Army Officials Broke Ground And Cut The Ribbon At An Environmentally-Friendly Entertainment Center

Story By Carol E. Davis and Photos by Rachel Goodspeed

On April 29, the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District and Wiesbaden city officials were joined by hundreds of military community members – children and adults alike – to celebrate the completion and grand opening of the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center, which took only 11 months to construct.

“We at the Corps of Engineers are proud to have been an integral part of the team that brought this top-of-the-line entertain-

ment facility to the Wiesbaden community – where Soldiers can ‘spare’ some time to be with their families, or hang out with friends to keep them from feeling in the ‘gutter,’” said Maj. John Drew, deputy commander for the Europe District.

The center boasts 16 bowling lanes along with a Pro Shop, Strike Zone restaurant, video game room, Java Café, bar and lounge, dance floor, gaming area and meeting rooms that can be used for conferences or parties.

In fact, the center is only the

second of its kind to be built for U.S. military forces stationed in Europe, said Col. Jeffrey Dill, USAG Wiesbaden commander. The other is in Vicenza, Italy.

“The first week I was here, the Herald Union [newspaper] had a picture of the Lord Mayor and Col. [Ray] Graham [former garrison commander] digging in this bare site,” Dill said. “And today, I’m here to celebrate its opening with you. We couldn’t do something like this without all of our key players.”

According to Drew, the \$8.8

ABOVE: The new Wiesbaden Entertainment Center boasts 16 bowling lanes and is only the second of its kind at U.S. military facilities in Europe.

BELOW: Col. Jeffrey Dill, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden commander, Dr. Helmut Müller, Lord Mayor of the city of Wiesbaden, and younger members of the crowd cut the ribbon to officially open the entertainment center’s doors.





Maj. John Drew (right), deputy commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District, hands over the ceremonial key plaque to Col. Jeffrey Dill, U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden commander, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony April 29 commemorating the completion and grand opening of the Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center's Wiesbaden Entertainment Center.

million, two-story facility, completed on time and on budget, will be an important quality-of-life enhancement to the community.

"I am also very proud of the teamwork that has taken place between our host nation partners and our project delivery team," he said, adding that the center was built with a number of sustainable features incorporated into the facility per the Army's sustainable design checklists.

Dr. Helmut Müller, Lord Mayor

of the city of Wiesbaden, also praised Army officials for the building's on-time, on-budget delivery.

"This is a beautiful building," he said. "We build a lot in the city of Wiesbaden and I wish all of our projects could run this smoothly."

Located across the parking lot from the new lodge, expected to open in the fall, the entertainment center will not only serve the local housing community, but also lodge patrons who are within

walking distance to the center as well as the PX and Commissary.

"The center will provide Hain-erberg residents and future lodge patrons the ability to stay on post to eat and find entertainment – this is really important for the community," said Marlene Balzer, a recreation specialist with U.S. Army Europe.

Directly following the ceremony, the center's first patrons were invited to participate in grand opening celebrations including complimentary bowling, carnival

games, door prizes and Kinder-fest, a children's festival held in celebration of the Month of the Military Child.

"It was essential that the opening of the center coincided with Month of the Military Child," said Balzer. "This opening gave us an opportunity to honor our youngest members of our military families in a way they would understand and enjoy. It lets them know we recognize they are making sacrifices other children of non-military parents don't necessarily make." ■



ABOVE: An architect's design illustrates the size of the massive facility — the U.S. military's largest in Europe — which blueprints show to be roughly 250,000 square feet. **Graphic By Stefanie Poulsen, DLA**



LEFT: USACE, Defense Distribution Depot and Defense Logistics Agency officials break ground March 30 on the new DLA distribution center in Gernersheim. **Photo By Justin Ward**

U.S. military and German community leaders broke ground March 30 on a 250,000-square-foot logistics distribution center that seeks to consolidate under one roof the main logistics operations of the Defense Distribution Depot Europe.

When complete in 2012, the new warehouse and administrative center will replace several 1960s-era facilities that do not allow for high-rise, mechanized storage and are dispersed over a warehouse campus, meaning much of the work — including container stuffing and air-pallet building — is done outside, said Col. John Kem, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District, which will oversee the construction.

“This isn’t optimal because it could adversely impact the support to the warfighter,” Kem said. “We hear you, and we’re here to help.”

The new facility will include a general-purpose warehouse with a cross-docking operations area and a 26-foot clearance for stacking. In addition to new features such as a hazardous material storage area, a dispatcher transport control area, a utilities room and administrative space for up to 124 employees, the facility will include new truck aprons and pavement, modern fire protection and communications systems and modern green building innovations and anti-terrorism/force protection measures.

“Yes, your days will still start at midnight and your work will still be demanding,” Kem said at the groundbreaking event to the distribution center employees, who provide support to all Defense Department activities on three continents. “But operations will be more efficient. They’ll be more reliable. And your work environment will be more comfortable. That’s our promise.”

Defense Distribution Center commander U.S. Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Peter Talleri said the facility will support U.S. European Command transformation plans by reducing the Department of Defense footprint by 40,000 gross square feet and will also result in several million dollars in savings because of an increased space for forward stock positioning and a unique, energy-saving design feature that includes a bio-mass heating system.

“The cost avoidance associated with the facility and its streamlined processes will ensure that DDDE is further able to provide seamless joint theater distribution and innovative support of DLA and service-managed materiel to all four service component warfighters serving throughout Europe, Africa and the Middle East,” said Talleri.

Construction of the facility will be executed through a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Landesbetrieb Bau Landau contract, which plans to employ local subcontractors to do much of the work.

“What’s special for us is that we’ll work hand-in-hand with LBB Landau to contract with some local construction firms to complete the work,” said Kem. “We don’t have a lot of projects in this part of Germany, so we’re excited to enhance the local economy in that regard.”

Breaking

more

than

ground

USACE Breaks Ground On
U.S. Military's Largest Distribution Center In Europe

By Justin Ward

GEARING UP IN

ISRAEL



With the completion of an \$8 million vehicle maintenance facility at Nachshonim Dry Storage Base in central Israel, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers finished the last of dozens of military construction projects originally ordered by the Wye River Memorandum, an agreement brokered to ease tension between Israel and the then-Palestine Liberation Organization.

The project, overseen by the Corps' Europe District, was the last of almost \$275 million in foreign military sales projects enacted with the 1998 memorandum, which, in part, sought to ensure the Jewish state completely redeployed its military from parts of the West Bank into

new facilities within recognized borders.

Although the memorandum was the reason the Europe District set up a few small offices in Israel, project delivery accomplishments in the early 2000s led to an increase in demand for military construction oversight services from the Israelis.

In fact, according to the district's deputy area engineer, Maj. Landon Raby, business is not only continuing after the Wye River projects, it's growing.

"We expect to see requests for our support on more and perhaps larger projects in the next few years than we've ever seen in the past," said Raby. "And we're looking forward to providing our allies with the same

high-level products and services that they've come to expect. It's just how we do business and it's the reason we're still here."

Since the late 1990s, USACE oversaw over half a billion dollars in complex, high-quality renovations and new construction, including constructing new command centers, training bases, intelligence facilities and simulators. Roughly a third of that was construction oversight support on projects at Nevatim Air Base, a former small desert outpost in southern Israel that has grown into one of the largest and most modern air bases in the country.

Already in early 2010, the office has handed over a \$30 million set of hangars at Nevatim Air Base and a \$20 million headquarters for the Israeli air force's most

elite squadron. And it is gearing up for its biggest year yet.

"We're getting ready to support the Israelis with a \$40 million renovation of a port in Haifa and a \$20 million in helicopter pads in Ramon Air Base," said Raby. "Our proud support to Israeli construction projects would not have happened without the belief of their government in the [U.S. Army] Corps of Engineers."

One of the office's most high-profile projects recently was to oversee the construction of several hangars at Palmachim Air Base in central Israel, which now houses the largest unmanned aerial vehicles in the world, the "Eitan," a 4.5-ton drone with an 85-foot wingspan that can remain airborne for more than 24 hours.



LEVEL

Army Engineers Complete Last Wye River Accord Project In Israel, Gear Up For Increased Workload

By Justin Ward



Another much-publicized project was the \$16 million Military Operations in Urban Terrain site at Ze'elim that, when constructed in 2007, was the largest in the world.

Raby said he is thankful for these projects not only because of the help they provide an important ally in the international community, but also because they represent America's practical and concrete steps in de-escalating tension between Israel and its neighbors while developing a proud partnership between USACE and the Israeli government.

"We treasure our relationship because we know that it is a relationship of choice and trust," said Raby. "And we hope to preserve our relationship by continuing to support critical construction and engineering projects." 🇮🇱

LEFT: The dry storage base known as Nachshonim, located east of Tel Aviv, was one of several large design-build projects ordered by the 1998 Wye River Memorandum and completed through a partnership with a U.S.-Israeli joint venture firm. **Photo By John Rice**

ABOVE: Shomria, a basic training base in central Israel, was constructed through the Europe District. The district also recently finished a simulator project on the base. **Photo By Justin Ward**

MIDDLE: Construction continues on several projects at Nevatim Air Base, an Israeli air base in southern Israel the Europe District helped the IAF build up to be its new "mother base." The move has been called one of the largest and most important military projects in the history of Israel. **Photo By Justin Ward**

BELOW: During a recent visit to the Europe District, USACE North Atlantic Division Commander then-Col. Peter "Duke" DeLuca (far right) visited field offices around Europe, including the Israel Area Offices. **Photo By Keith Riddle**



USACE Engineering Week 2010

Army Engineers Partner With Schools For Week Of Engineering Activities

Stories and Photos By Carol E. Davis

DODDS STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SHADOW DAY

Most children don't know much about their parents' workday beyond seeing them grab a cup of coffee on the way out the door. But on Feb. 2 that changed for some Department of Defense Dependents Schools students in Europe when they headed out the door with their parents.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District hosted 36 students at the district's headquarters as part of "Shadow Day," an annual job-shadowing event sponsored by DoDDS.

"Shadow Day introduces young people to the workforce by shadowing their parent or a mentor," said Raelene Hampton, the district's equal employment officer and this year's Shadow Day coordinator. "Students get a firsthand introduction to the world of engineering and, hopefully for some of them, engineering will become a passion and possibly a career path."

Shadow Day is a fun and academically motivating day, Hampton said, when students not only see what parents do, but also see how math and science can be applied to everyday life.

For instance, an egg drop competition was one of the events of the day where students built devices to keep eggs from breaking when dropped from a height of 6 feet. For 9-year-old Liam Ziminske, the son of Environmental Branch Chief Mark Ziminske, the best part of the day was watching his egg drop.

"I used a parachute design I saw on the video from a previous year's event," said Ziminske. "I thought that might work, so I tried it and it

worked. My egg didn't break."

Christopher Ortiz, 9-year-old son of project manager Orlando Ortiz, also enjoyed the event.

"It was fun seeing all of the designs the other kids came up with and seeing them drop," said Ortiz. "There were a lot of scrambled eggs."

Not breaking their eggs may have been the goal for the students, but for Corps employees who volunteered to help out, the goal was much bigger.

"We wanted the students to see there are many aspects of engineering," said Neil Ravensbergen, a district resident engineer. "There is more to engineering than designing and constructing buildings."

Over the course of the day, the students also learned about geographic information systems, toured the world through Google Earth, listened to presentations about architectural design and toured the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center construction site.

But perhaps one of the most useful lessons from the day came after learning how biomimicry engineering brought the blockbuster movie "Avatar" to life.

"It was very exciting," said Ortiz. "I want to be a video game designer, and seeing the 'Avatar' video, I saw another aspect of engineering. I know engineering will help me with coding, room design and other things I would use as a video game designer." ■



USACE HELPS STUDENTS WITH CAN CONSTRUCTION

A small middle school geometry class with big minds is taking on a colossal construction challenge.

Four eighth-grade geometry students at the Wiesbaden Middle School accepted the challenge to plan, design and construct a sculpture completely from cans as part of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District-managed tin can construction project similar to the Society of Design Administration's Canstruction®.

"From the first time I heard about this program, I knew it was a great idea," said David Bruce, a geometry teacher at the middle school. "You can't pay for this kind of experience. It's not about the building of the structure – it's about the process. It's the real deal, it's real world."

The challenge kicked off March 1 when students officially entered into phase one, the initiation phase. With the guidance from Europe District volunteers, students learned about the five phrases of project management, which they will be using to bring their project to fruition.

Using the Corps' Project Management Business Process brochure, district project manager Kelley Grant outlined each of the stages of a real-world project and how these same principal steps will guide their tin can construction project from concept to reality.

"This project will require more than just math and science skills," said Bruce. "The students will have to use wit and ingenuity in each step

of the process. From deciding who the best person for each job is to whether or not the design is feasible, students will really have to think and work well together to complete this project."

Grant and other volunteers from the Europe District will guide the students throughout each of the five stages of the tin can construction: initiation, planning, design, execution and close out. "Working in a team, students will experience real life issues," said Grant. "They will really get to know each other. They will discover their strengths and weaknesses and hopefully they will learn to overcome team conflicts and learn to solve problems."

During the planning stage, students were asked to evaluate the potential problems, look for solutions, think about the size and design of the sculpture, consider the number of cans needed, make a project schedule and discuss team dynamics. And so far, the students have taken a vested interest in their project.

"I'm really looking forward to this project," said Wesley Moncrief, one of the students involved in the project. "It gives us chance to apply the knowledge we have now and gives us experience for the future."

"With a can budget or can limitation and a completion date requirement, the tin can construction project is as close to a real construction project as these students can get," said Grant.

Cans of various heights, colors and sizes are being donated by the



LEFT: School-aged children of Europe District employees participated in an egg drop competition during the DoDDS-sponsored Shadow Day Feb. 2 when children can follow their parents to work to see what they do.



RIGHT: Tammy Cinnamon (right), a district project manager, helps Wiesbaden Middle School students move into the next phase of the tin can construction project. The students spent their March 26 class period at the Wiesbaden Commissary deciding on can colors and sizes.



Wiesbaden commissary. After the completion of the tin can project, the cans will be returned to the commissary, unlike Canstruction® where the cans of food are donated to local food banks.

“Even though the food isn’t going to a food bank, the experience the students gain will be immeasurable,” said Katie Ergenekon, a Europe District program manager and volunteer. “If this year’s project goes well, maybe next year students will have an opportunity to participate in the actual Canstruction® competition.”



LEFT: During Engineers Week, Brian Ballweg, a district architect, conducted a mini-seminar Feb. 18 at the Wiesbaden High School explaining how architecture, engineering and mathematics work together to design some of the world’s monumental buildings.

just a few structures Ballweg used in his presentation to illustrate how engineers or architects used math to design and build monumental structures.

“Students sometimes have a hard time understanding why math and science are important, so presentations like these and Engineers Week in general are ways of demonstrating the importance of learning these subjects,” said Marcelo Maier, a civil engineer intern with the district.



RIGHT: Neil Ravensbergen, a district resident engineer, gives students a tour of the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center during the DoDDS-sponsored Shadow Day on Feb. 2, when school-aged children of district employees can see what their parents do.

THE MATH & SCIENCE OF ENGINEERING

More than 40 students from Wiesbaden’s middle and high schools participated in events hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District in support of National Engineers Week.

During Engineers Week, held Feb. 14-20, engineers and architects from around the district volunteered to help students interested in math and science realize where their interests can lead them, as well as spark an interest in other students.

“It’s important that students have an outlet for the math and science they are learning,” said David Bruce, a geometry teacher with the Wiesbaden Middle School. “One reason to introduce students to engineering fundamentals early in their academic lives is so they can understand where their passion for math and science can take them in the real world and make them more marketable.”

Some of that interaction came in the form of presentations on the practical applications of geometry in architecture.

“Engineering and architecture are exciting fields,” said Brian Ballweg, an architect with the district who gave a presentation to the students Feb. 18. “There are few fields where what you design can be a concept one day and part of a skyline the next.”

The San Francisco Bridge, Taj Mahal, and Tian’anmen Square were

In addition, students toured the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center construction site where they had the opportunity to see firsthand how math and science play an important role in construction.

“Seeing the presentation and having this tour, I’m even more convinced that I want to be a mechanical engineer,” said Zachary Cossou, an eighth-grade student at the middle school. “I really liked going behind the lanes and seeing the mechanics of the automatic reset machine.”

Advancing Interest

“THERE ARE FEW FIELDS WHERE WHAT YOU DESIGN CAN BE A CONCEPT ONE DAY AND PART OF A SKYLINE THE NEXT.”

- BRIAN BALLWEG

It’s initiatives such as Engineers Week that will form future innovators, researchers and policymakers, according to a February 12 statement made by President Barack Obama.

“Never has it been more important for America’s youth to consider careers in science, technology, engineering and math,” he said in the statement. “By helping our students discover the wonder and excitement of engineering, we instill in them a love of learning and expand their curiosity and creativity, which are the heart of innovation.”

BELOW: Building 6219 is part of the \$3.3 million renovation plan on McCully Barracks to make room for 5th Signal Command. The facility is currently home to the German Schleierteule, which Corps environmentalists are working to accommodate before renovations begin. **Photo by Carol E. Davis**

RIGHT, FAR BELOW: Pictured is the German Schleierteule, also known as the Common Barn Owl. **Courtesy Photos**



MCCULLY BARRACKS HAS GONE TO THE BIRDS ...LITERALLY



USACE Constructs New Housing Communities To Accommodate Avian Tenants

By Carol E. Davis

When McCully Barracks practically closed its gates a few years ago, the German Schleierteule, or Common Barn Owl, moved in.

"A lot of species use old buildings as a location they can hibernate or raise their young in," said Alexander Sabais, a natural conservation media manager with CDM Consult GmbH. "This particular bird is a bird of prey and all birds of prey are protected by Germany law."

McCully Barracks is getting a \$3.3 million overhaul to accommodate the U.S. military units moving to the Wiesbaden military community over the next few years as well as those units that may be displaced by the transition of U.S. Army Europe to Wiesbaden.

"With the number of Soldiers expected to increase in the Wiesbaden area, vehicle storage, warehouses, office and administration spaces are in high demand," said Tammie Stouter, a regional program manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District, which is managing the renovations.

The McCully Barracks project includes renovating three hangars built in the 1910s and two warehouse facilities to make room for 5th Signal Command employees.

"The garrison is looking for the highest capacity and the best use of the space," said Philip Cohen, planning section chief for the district. "Ultimately, other industrial operational facilities are going to be closed and relocated to McCully, and McCully Barracks will trans-



WACKERNHEIM, GERMANY

form into the McCully Support Center.”

But before the Army moves back into McCully, the birds will have to be transferred to new homes.

“Before any construction or renovation project can start, there are a number of environmental surveys run,” said Sibylle Ballnath, a district project manager. “Anytime an animal is found nesting or roosting, it must be studied for one life cycle. This will determine whether the animal is in good condition and whether it’s breeding to determine what steps to take next.”

Since the late 1990s, the Schleiereule has been on a protected species list, so plans now include funding to relocate the owls, said Ballnath.

“New measurements or accommodations must be in place for the Schleiereule before work begins,” said Ballnath.

The Schleiereule is a larger owl with a distinctive heart-shaped face dubbing it the “monkey-faced owl,” among other names. It is about the size of a small cat but weighs only 1 pound. Its wingspan is 43 to 47 inches.

Those new accommodations will be owl-friendly shelters placed on poles about 20 feet high outside of Building 6217. If transplanting the owls is successful and they accept their new habitat, there will be no need to relocate them off McCully Barracks, said biologist Mark Mann, a district project manager.

“It’s our obligation to relocate these owls,” said Mann. “In fact, U.S. regulations for these species are very similar to German ones, meaning we have to accommodate these owls rather than forcing them to adapt to our presence.”

And the Schleiereule is not the only bird being relocated to a new nest.

During environmental surveys for an \$18 million townhouse project at Wetzel Kaserne in Baumholder, House Martins, a protected migratory bird species, was found roosting in the existing housing community.

And when it comes to relocating animal inhabitants, especially endangered or protected species, biologists must be consulted about any proposals, said Mann.



“Roosting simply means that the bird is sleeping or living in the facility,” said Mann. “While nesting means they’re breeding in the facility. That’s a completely different situation with a whole new set of regulations and requirements.”

The House Martin, a relative of the swallow, is found across Europe and northern Asia. It is known to roost and nest on the outside of man-made structures such as



ABOVE: Building 6290 is part of the \$3.3 million renovation plan on McCully Barracks and currently home to the German Schleiereule. **Photo by Carol E. Davis**

BELOW: Building 6217, an old hangar built in the 1910s, will be used as a warehouse by 5th Signal Command after renovations are completed on McCully Barracks. **Photo by Carol E. Davis**

BOTTOM LEFT: House Martin nests can be found around the existing housing community at Wetzel Kaserne in Baumholder. **Courtesy Photo**



bridges and houses.

Unfortunately for the House Martin, the stairwell housing units they are currently living in are scheduled to be replaced by 38 new townhouse-style units, meaning more than 240 nests will have to be relocated.

The solution: A new community of “houses” will be constructed to accommodate the avian tenants.

“Constructing the new housing community is completely necessary to improve the quality-of-life for military families; so building the swallow houses will serve as a compensation measure in which the birds can be relocated,” said Nathan Edwards, a district environmental project manager. “The really awesome and unique thing about these houses, besides being the first of their kind, is that they will look exactly like the houses in the community except they will be on 30-foot poles.”

As in the case of the Schleiereule and all species relocated by construction projects, the House Martin will be receiving an improved habitat.

“If successful, it is a win-win situation for the owl and McCully Barracks,” said Edwards. “The Barn Owls get new, safe and structurally-sound homes and McCully Barracks get natural, environmentally-safe rodent control.” **■**

BUILDING DIALOGUE

USACE-German Partnering Conference Focuses On Effective Communications

Story and Photo By Carol E. Davis

Whether in a marriage, friendship or business partnership, communication can often be challenging.

To minimize these communication challenges, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District hosts an annual partnering conference with senior district leaders and representatives from German state and federal ministries as well as local construction agencies.

In the past, said Col. John Kem, district commander, these partnering conferences introduced new initiatives to U.S and German participants and provided a platform for discussing ongoing projects.

However, for this year's conference, held Feb. 23 and 24 in Nuremberg, organizers focused on addressing potential communication issues between U.S. and German counterparts to avoid misinterpretations and ensure lines of communication remained open and clear.

"Every year there's an agenda that tries to look at known problem areas," said Kem. "This year, we're going to try to focus on the problems in a positive way. Instead of looking at current issues, we decided to focus on how we can communicate better so when problems do arise, we can get to the solutions faster."

The briefings, discussions and breakout sessions were all geared toward one thing: improving communication. In fact, for some German participants, this was the first time they communicated with their U.S. counterparts face to face.

"I'm new in this field, in this job," said Matthias Vollmar from the German Federal Ministry of Traffic, Construction and Urban Affairs. "But I think the conference is very good for both sides, the U.S. and the German, because they can come together and discuss the problems and challenges of construction projects."

According to Jakoba Schempp, the district translator for the conference, communicating through translators did not hinder the frank, open discussions during presentations and breakout sessions.

"Both sides were eager to listen and be heard," she said.

The conference was like marriage counseling for the district, said Jason Price, a project manager with the Europe District.

"The whole conference is about improving the process of communication," he said. "We discuss what we're doing right and what needs to be tweaked. Then we have a whole year to work it out."



HELLO
my name is

The Europe District hosted its annual U.S.-German Partnering Conference Feb. 23-24 at the Mariim Hotel in Nuremberg. The conference, themed "Partnership through improved communication," aimed at creating a better understanding between partners and synchronizing joint efforts.

Other presentations included Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, better known as LEED, management of funds, conception of the public-private partnership, communication best practices and Building Information Modeling.

"This conference is very important," said Yazemin Büyükkilic, a program manager from Nuremberg. "For me it is not just about the presentations. It's about the contacts and [about] meeting people I work with on projects. Having the opportunity to get to know them in this setting is so important in working out problems when they arise."

Another unique approach to communicating more effectively added to this year's agenda was a tour to the Documentation Centre Nazi Party Rally Grounds museum. Nearly 130 U.S. and German participants took the opportunity to interact with each other in an informal environment while sharing the experience of stepping back in Germany's history.

"The purpose of the tour is to have participants interact in a social setting," said Kristopher Hurst, conference organizer and chief of the district's Project Management Branch. "The hope is by breaking the communication ice in a casual setting, when we have to communicate with each other professionally it will go much smoother. Isn't that the point of the conference?" 



ENHANCING WATER SECURITY

It's A Different Continent With Different challenges, But Robert Pace Is Not A Fish Out Of Water

By Rachel Goodspeed

From rivers, wetlands and forests on the eastern coast of the United States to lowlands, deserts and oases of Africa, Robert Pace is ready for the new challenges awaiting him.

Pace, a strategic water resources planner from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers North Atlantic Division, is assigned to support the U.S. Africa Command to help develop the command's water security program – a core element to their overall environmental security program, he said.

"The Corps' work in support of AFRICOM is integral in helping our African partners develop economic stability and security," Pace said. "It has become apparent that the whole concept of water and water security is an important component of a stable Africa in the future."

Art Kolodziejski, who runs the Environmental Security Branch within the Engineering Division of AFRICOM's Operations and Logistics Directorate, welcomes Pace as a staff addition during 2010.

"There are many environmental and water-related challenges in AFRICOM," he said. "I look to Robert to support many of the ongoing and potential future efforts that will require his expertise and experience."

Pace is responsible for helping the relatively new command integrate water resource solutions to support the defense, diplomacy and development approaches that AFRICOM is taking on throughout the continent.

"Africa's water issues are so diverse and widespread, we want to make sure the solutions developed are focused on the right issues and address the inter-related nature of water issues," he said. "They must also enable African countries to sustain themselves and contribute to capacity-building. We want to make sure we're investing in the right things."

Pace hails from the Baltimore District where he was chief of the Planning Division for civil works projects for flood risk reduction, water supply, navigation and ecosystem restoration. In particular, Pace managed investigations of water projects for the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac and Susquehanna rivers – three high-visibility bodies of water among federal agencies.

"My experience working with the Bay Program consisted of leveraging different programs and agencies – private, state and federal – to solve a common problem," he said. "In AFRICOM, you have various agencies that have interests in Africa who work together toward a common goal."

AFRICOM is a multi-agency command and Pace said he is here to bring another component to the table.

"All the agencies supporting AFRICOM bring something to the table – the Corps brings planning, design and construction, as well as reach-back capability in terms of water resources planning and management."

Additionally, Pace worked for USACE for 13 years before moving into the private sector for 10 years, when his work moved onto an international level.

"Each job experience builds upon the next. This is a good time for me to take all of my experiences, putting it all back together and applying it on an international scope," he said. "It's being able to take that experience and use it constructively to solve a larger problem." ■



Art Kolodziejski (left), Environmental Security Branch chief within the Engineering Division of AFRICOM's Operations and Logistics Directorate, stands with Robert Pace, the USACE strategic water resources planner to AFRICOM, in front of the U.S. Africa Command Headquarters in Stuttgart. **Courtesy Photo**

Together alongside Kornell Rancy, the Europe District AFRICOM program manager, and Hugh Denny, USACE Headquarter's liaison officer to AFRICOM, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is ensuring the command has the resources it needs.

"We have the ability to put our heads together to make sure we are best positioned to support AFRICOM in all ways possible," Pace said. "By working together, and in close collaboration with other AFRICOM staff, we can contribute more than by working singularly."



TROOP 107 CLEANS UP EPPSTEIN CASTLE

For most Boy Scout troops, community service projects are usually dreaded affairs involving cleaning roadsides or clearing trails.

This was not the case for Troop 107 in Wiesbaden, which, on Feb. 27, completed a community service project at a 10th century castle.

The purpose of the project was to restore and clear an area on the grounds of Eppstein Castle, a historic fortification 17 miles from Frankfurt. To reinstate the historical use of the spot, tasks included clearing out brush and briars, marking the locations for grape vines and repairing the stairs leading up to the castle entrance that, officials say, were

so rundown they had become hazardous.

"They removed the stones, leveled the ground for each step and reinstalled them with a lot of back-breaking effort so that the occupants and guests to the castle will now have unimpeded and safer access," said Neil Ravensbergen, a resident engineer at the Wiesbaden Resident Office and father to Carl, a scout in Troop 107.

Other Europe District parents of Troop 107 scouts include Maj. John Drew, district deputy commander, and Col. John Kem, district commander.

"The scouts had fun and worked hard," said Ravensbergen, who added that the scouts

later received a tour of the castle museum and camped out overnight on the castle grounds, grilling steaks over a campfire. "Great thanks go out to the Eppstein Castle preservation foundation for sponsoring Carl's project."

Benjamin Peschke, Wiesbaden Area Office construction representative, helped set up the event as a member of the Eppstein Castle historical preservation foundation.

"I was happy to help the scouts in such a worthwhile project," said Peschke, who participates in many events at the castle, including living history events where he plays a medieval knight. "It's wonderful that they had fun and we got some free help." ■



Europe District employees with their sons and other local Boy Scouts from Troop 107 work at Castle Eppstein to remove overgrown brush and replant a vineyard to restore historical use to this area of the castle. **Photo By Maj. John Drew**

HQ BUILDING TURNED OVER TO 5TH SIGNAL COMMAND

With a snip from three enormous scissors Feb. 26, 5th Signal

Command moved into its new headquarters in the newly-renovated Building 1007 at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield.



From Left: Command Sgt. Maj. Marilyn Washington, 5th Signal Command, Col. Jeffrey Dill, commander of the Wiesbaden Garrison, Mrs. Smith, Col. John Cox, 5th Signal Command, Herr Heinz Kronenberger, Kronenberger Firm, and Col. John Kem, commander of the Europe District snip the ribbon, officially turning over Building 1007 to 5th Signal Command. **Photo by Carol E. Davis**

Although the 5th Signal Command officially relocated from Mannheim in late October 2009, portions of the command group have been conducting business out of a temporary facility since then. The move was part of the first phase of relocation, which included approximately 125 Soldiers and civilians along with their family members. The remaining staff in Mannheim will move directly into Building 1007 along with the rest of the command group in the spring.

During the ceremony, Col. John Cox, 5th Signal acting-commanding general, praised the cooperation between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District, which managed the renovations, the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden, the German construction firm and others who dedicated their time

and efforts to bring this facility to 5th Signal Command.

"It took a lot of smart people dedicating tons of time and effort to prepare a building of this size," said Cox. "We are looking forward to moving into this building and hopefully adding to the great lineage that has passed through this building."

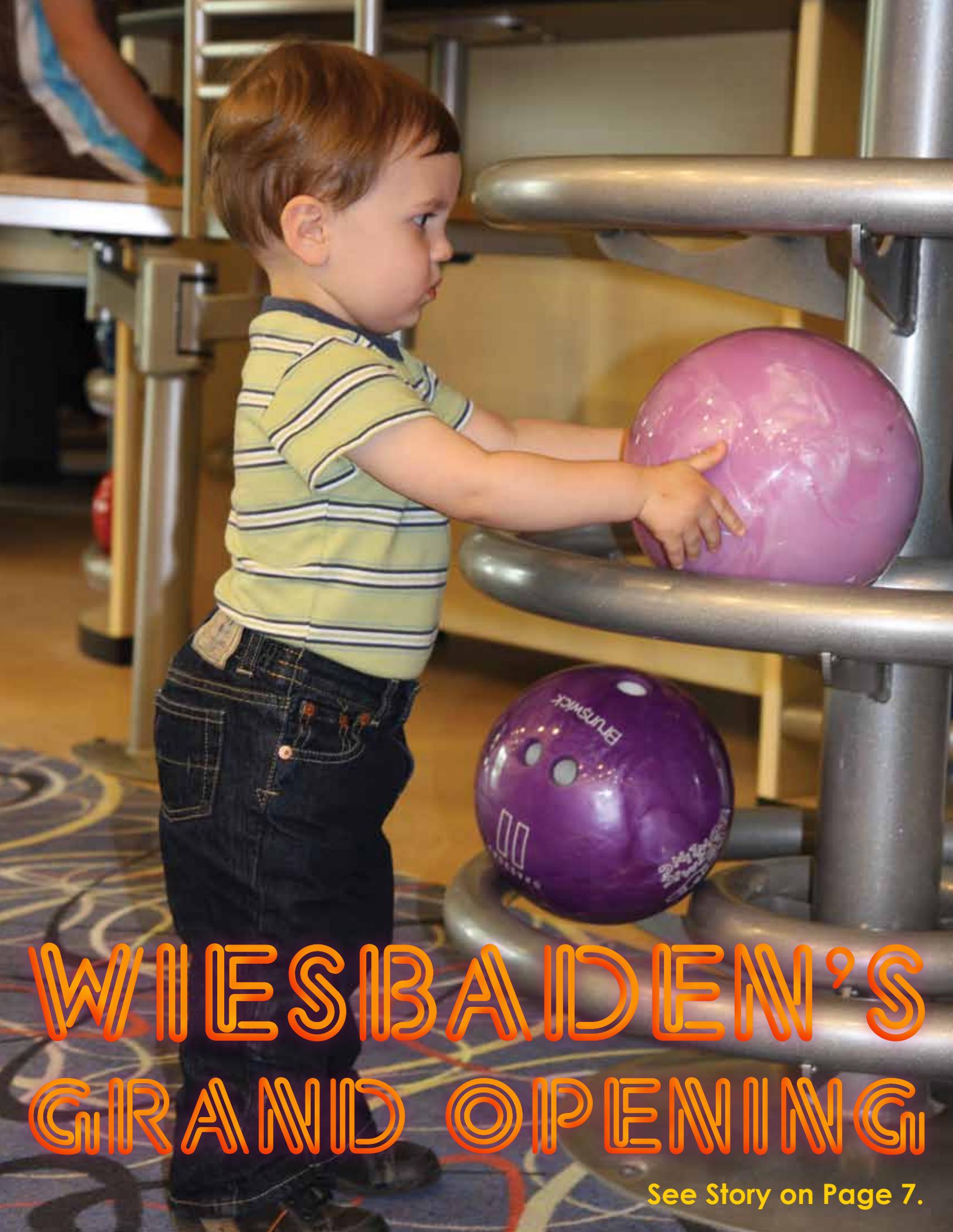
Back when the airfield was Fiegerhorst Wiesbaden, Building 1007 served as an important part of the German Army's history in the area. The building housed an American infantry battalion in the 1970s, and in the early 1990s it was the home of the 3rd Corps Support Command headquarters.

"New construction is great, but anytime we can renovate an existing building we save re-

sources, preserve the historic feel of the airfield and still provide the garrison with a state-of-the-art facility," said Col. John Kem, Europe District commander.

The 10 million euro renovation included a new fire protection system, new communication and electrical systems and new heating and ventilation upgrades. In addition, the building houses a computer network, storage vaults, training rooms and administrative offices for more than 375 people.

"This relocation for 5th Signal is a part of an even greater effort to centralize the Army in Europe, and this building marks a new chapter in our history," said Cox. "A lot of great people have passed before us and we are honored to be a part of this team." ■



WIESBADEN'S GRAND OPENING

See Story on Page 7.