



Modern Lodges For Today's Military

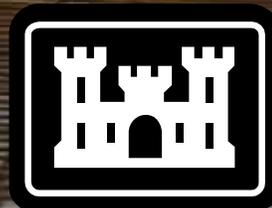


ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

SECURING BORDERS

RENOVATING INCIRLIK

BUILDING IN THE BALKANS



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Europe District

Vol. 8 • Winter 2010



THE COMMANDER



JKem

John S. Kem
COL, EN
Commanding

The recent disaster in Haiti was devastating. In fact, we had several Europe District employees who were personally affected, some even losing their family members.

But our response to the disaster was heartening, almost even inspiring. Within days of the event, we had about 20 volunteers ready to deploy on a moment's notice.

And it's in light of this response that I want to talk about our Europe District family – and our Europe District spirit.

The Corps of Engineers has a proud history of overcoming challenges by embodying a can-do spirit. While examples of this vary tremendously, the conclusion is always the same: Our team members have continually answered our nation's call by relying on their experience, their expertise, and their hearts.

Here in Europe District we're also facing tough challenges that require us to capitalize on this spirit. We're on schedule to execute our largest workload in our district's history, including projects on new frontiers. We're integrating smart planning and management initiatives like LEED and BIM to be able to provide our customers with modern structures provided quickly, flexibly, and with reduced operating costs. And we're developing our own internal systems like the PnA portal that allow us to collaborate more effectively to meet our customers' needs.

Simultaneously, we're also volunteering at our highest rate. Not only are our team members volunteering to deploy to Iraq of Afghanistan (in fact, we're 13% above our required deployment support to overseas contingency operations), but we're also seeing an increasing interest in other activities. We have a robust and capable FEST-A team, which has already made plans to support the U.S. Pacific Command during Alaska Shield 2010. And we continue to have a strong turnout of volunteers to support local efforts like Shadow Day and Engineering Week.

Even more telling, I believe, are our charitable contributions in our local communities. This past holiday season a number of our employees took the initiative to hold a stocking stuffer contest that distributed toys, blankets,

and other gifts to the Army Community Service's Children of Deployed Parents program and to senior citizens living at the Seniorenheim Clemenshaus, a home for the elderly in Wiesbaden-Biebrich.

Our organization also contributed over \$36,000 this year to the Combined Federal Campaign, making for the largest unit contribution in our garrison's footprint.

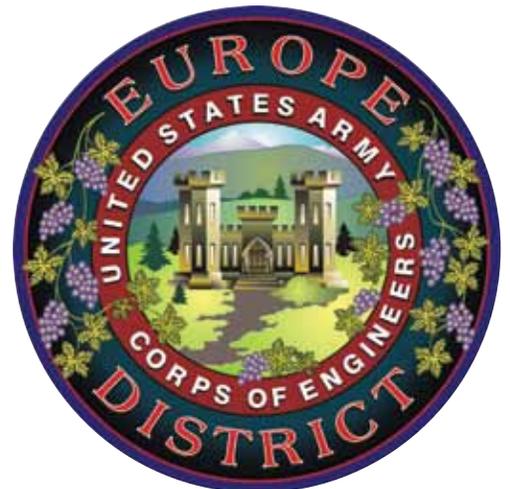
Why am I saying all this?

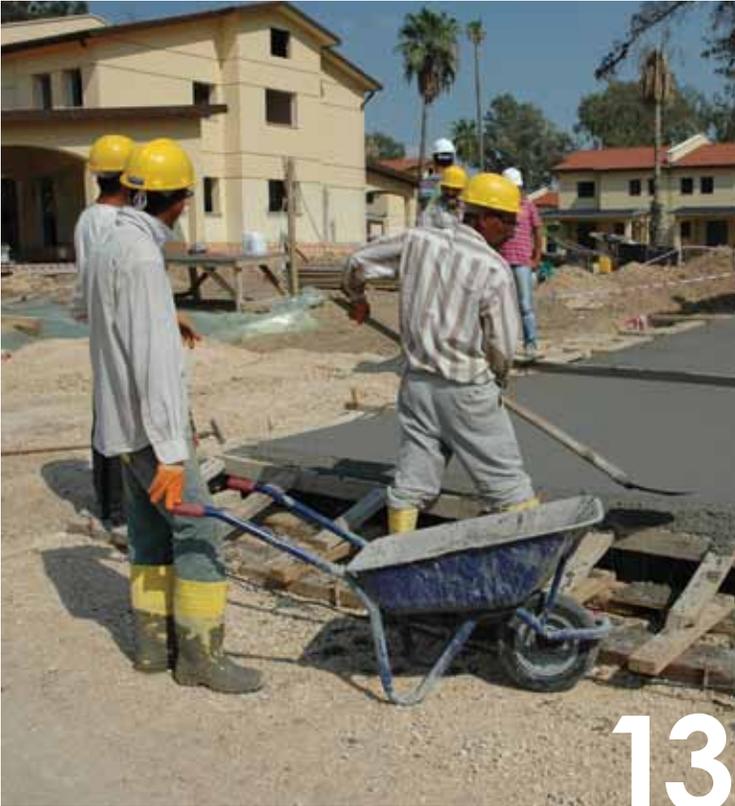
It's against this backdrop that I want to highlight our amazing employees – our greatest asset. I want to recognize our team members not only for providing innovative and effective products and services to our customers or for deploying to the frontiers of Europe and Africa to tackle new projects, but I also want to recognize them – you! –for your generosity, goodwill, and volunteerism.

I am proud to serve with such a vibrant and talented team – one of the best in my career – and want to express clearly that I appreciate the hard work our team members do every day to accomplish our ambitious goals and that you have the foresight to see through these daily work demands and find the time to do what's really important – to lend a hand. To volunteer. To be kind.

For that, especially, you make me proud. Keep up the good work, Europe District!

BUILDING STRONG!® Essayons!





ON THE COVER

CONTRACTORS CONTINUE WORKING ON THE \$24 MILLION ARMY LODGE AT U.S. ARMY GARRISON GRAFENWOEHR, ONE OF FIVE NEW LODGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS MANAGED BY THE USACE EUROPE DISTRICT, WHICH WILL OFFER THE GARRISON ROUGHLY 136 UNITS. CONSTRUCTION IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETE IN 2011.

Photo by Justin Ward



04 USACE Marks Milestones

GROUNDBREAKING & RIBBON-CUTTINGS AROUND THE DISTRICT

06 Securing Coastal Borders

USACE BUILDS RADAR STATIONS ON BLACK SEA COAST

10 Modern Lodges

ARMY LODGE PROGRAM PASSES MILESTONE IN ANSBACH

13 Renovating Incirlik

ARMY ENGINEERS TO MODERNIZE OVER 300 HOMES AT INCIRLIK

15 Power Projection in Italy

USACE UPGRADES WWII-ERA WAREHOUSES FOR AMC

17 Building in the Balkans

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROJECT COMPLETED IN SERBIA

19 NAU UpClose

REACHING NEW HORIZONS | SHARING BLESSINGS IN WIESBADEN



Commander COL. JOHN S. KEM

Deputy Commander LT. COL. P. ANELA ARCARI

Public Affairs Chief JUSTIN WARD

Editor RACHEL GOODSPEED

Art Director ERYKA NEMATPOUR

Staff Contributor CAROL E. DAVIS

Staff Contributor REBECCA LIPPMAN

Staff Contributor DISEREE JOY ALCANTARA

Engineering in Europe is an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District, authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. The editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the Department of the Army. Engineering in Europe is a command information publication of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District. Circulation is 800 copies. Articles, photographs, and other contributions are welcome. The editor reserves the right to make changes to all material submitted. The submission deadline is the 1st of the month preceding quarterly publication. Send all submissions to: Editor, Engineering in Europe, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District, CMR 410, Box 1, APO, AE 09049. Details may be obtained from the PAO at (011) 49-611-9477-2847 or DSN 570-2847. Material may be sent via e-mail to: rachel.v.goodspeed@usace.army.mil. An electronic version of Engineering in Europe may be viewed on the Europe District Internet homepage at: www.nau.usace.army.mil



USACE Marks Project Beginnings, Completions, Around Europe



BREAKING GROUND ON ARMY BATTLE CENTER IN WIESBADEN

Story by Rachel Goodspeed

In about three years, Army engineers will transform a small parade field into the “nerve center” of mission planning, execution and communications for U.S. Army Europe.

Construction on the 89 million euro USA-REUR command and battle center, managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District, commenced with a groundbreaking ceremony January 19 at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield in Germany, hosted by the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden.

The 285,000-square-foot, three-story facility will allow the USAREUR command staff to oversee all aspects of unit operations anywhere in Europe, said Col. John Kem, Europe District commander.

“When complete in approximately three years, it will showcase clearly the importance of having the right equipment – and in this case the right building – to accomplish the mission,” he said. “It is truly an important

part of our Army’s transformation.”

The 21st Century consolidated operations center will be set up with the latest technology with up to 1,000 individual work stations and numerous collaborative work areas and conference rooms planned, Kem added.

In his speech during the ceremony, Col. Jeffrey Dill, USAG Wiesbaden commander, said the groundbreaking is a milestone for the future as the center will play a key role and serve as a command center for combat troops.

Not only will the theater-style center provide the latest communications, automation and planning tools, it will also be flexible enough to allow the staff to tailor the area for specific missions and monitoring functions.

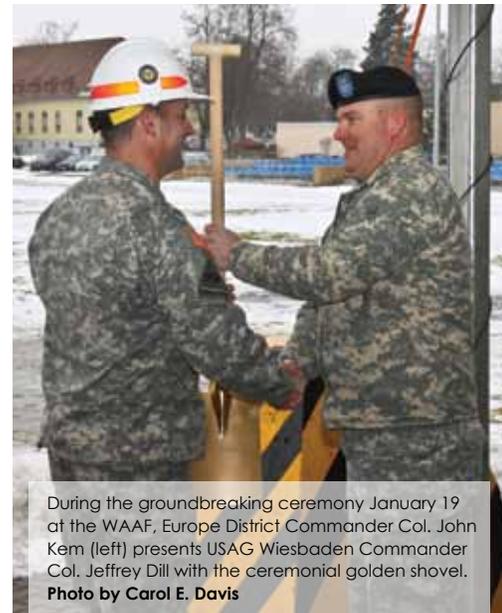
Environmental and energy conservation measures included in the design are expected to put the facility at Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver to ensure long-term energy efficiency and sustainability.

In addition, a three-story parking garage will be constructed nearby to provide parking for over 1,000 vehicles – a structure that is in high demand on the airfield, Kem said.

The command and battle center project is

one of several projects aimed at supporting Army consolidation efforts to improve operational capability and save millions of dollars in the future.

“I would like to take this opportunity to praise the excellent coordination and exceptional team effort among the USAREUR staff, Wiesbaden garrison and the host nation agencies in getting the construction of this command and battle center off the ground,” he said.



During the groundbreaking ceremony January 19 at the WAAF, Europe District Commander Col. John Kem (left) presents USAG Wiesbaden Commander Col. Jeffrey Dill with the ceremonial golden shovel.
Photo by Carol E. Davis



LEARNING NEW SKILLS

Story by Rachel Goodspeed

Covered open-air maintenance bays, a fenced service yard and public car wash and vacuum stations are just some of the amenities the new Auto Hobby Shop brings to the Air Force community at Incirlik Air Base in Turkey.

To celebrate the grand opening of this new facility, constructed through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held January 5, hosted by the 39th Air Base Wing.

The \$1.2 million single-story facility took nearly one year to complete.

The construction of facilities such as the auto shop and housing units recently completed on the Eagle Housing area, as well as the consolidated community center currently in design, provide an immeasurable increase in the quality-of-life for the warfighters here, said Milton Ricks, the district's project manager.

"The end goal, obviously, is the well-being of our military families," he said. "We have a long history and strong partnership with the Air Force community here and we're proud to be a part of the team that is modernizing and transforming these facilities." 



Col. Eric Beene, the 39th Air Base Wing commander, opens Incirlik's new auto hobby shop. Photo by SrA Ashley Wood



USAG Benelux garrison commander Col. James Drago (center), Europe District Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Anela Arcari, Chievres Commissary director Sharryl Whitley, and DeCA officials opened the new Chievres commissary, January 20. Photo by Carol E. Davis

OPENING NEW DOORS FOR ARMY, NATO COMMUNITIES IN BELGIUM

Story by Rachel Goodspeed

In one day in January, Army engineers opened the doors to one facility while breaking ground on another in Belgium.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District and the garrison broke ground on a new youth center January 20 at the Sterrebeek Annex grounds in Brussels marking the beginning of construction on the \$6.4 million facility that will accommodate roughly 150 students.

That same day about 30 miles down the road, district representatives alongside Defense Commissary Agency and U.S. Army Garrison Benelux members celebrated the grand opening of the \$16 million Chievres Air Base commissary with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Previously, the commissary had been housed in alternate facilities such as an aircraft hangar and tent. Now, the 48,000-square-foot facility, nearly 13,000 square feet larger than the old facility.

"Commissary customers and employees alike have been great sports over the years," said Lt. Col. Anela Arcari, deputy district commander. "Starting today they will have a modern facility with wider aisles, larger display areas and more floor space to allow for a more extensive selection of goods."

Additionally, the commissary is within walking distance of the new Chievres Army Lodge, which opened in June 2009.



In a unique ceremony, Brussels American Middle School students marked the start of construction on a youth center with their own shovels. Photo by Carol E. Davis

"This new commissary is a huge quality-of-life boost to all of the Soldiers living in this community," said Sgt. Maj. Linda Ricker, DeCA senior enlisted advisor.

Another quality-of-life project, the youth center, will support the U.S. Army Garrison Brussels and NATO communities.

The new center will include a large open activity area, three activities rooms to accommodate a variety of activities to include arts and crafts, a computer lab/homework center, a large multi-purpose room, snack/kitchen area and a teen lounge.

"The Army community in Brussels is undergoing a huge transformation to their youth support facilities and we are helping set the state for that," said Dietmar Wittmann, the district project manager. "We are just one of the many dedicated teams that will bring this new youth center to the warfighters and their families."

"But the best part of this facility are the little things to ensure the children that are here will be safe," Wittmann added. 

SECURING GEORGIAN MARITIME BORDERS

USACE Builds Radar Stations on Black Sea Coast

Story by Justin Ward and Graphics by Rebecca Lippman



In this 2007 photo, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District personnel prepare to inspect a U.S.-funded radar station in Gonio, Georgia, which was just recently completed as part of an international assistance program aimed at helping Georgia protect its maritime borders. **Photo by Mark Nedzbala**



In this photo from 2007, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District personnel visited the completed Chakvi radar station. Photo by Justin Ward

In mid-January, the last of three U.S.-funded radar stations on the Black Sea coast of Georgia opened, marking the completion of a significant international assistance program aimed at helping a key U.S. ally protect its maritime borders, said James Kelly, chief of party for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Georgia Border Security and Law Enforcement assistance program.

"The radar stations are important because they permit the Georgian Coast Guard to monitor Georgia's maritime borders and identify vessels entering and exiting Georgian territorial waters," said Kelly. "It is very satisfying to be able to assist our allies in strengthening their capabilities and to be able to assist them in their reform and modernization efforts."

The station, located in Gonio near the Turkish border, cost about \$500,000 and took just over three years to complete, said Charles Samuel, chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District's Georgia Project Office that oversaw the design and construction contracts for all three radar stations. The other two stations, which had a similar construction and purpose, were built in Chakvi, half-way up the Black Sea coast

of Georgia for about \$600,000 and Anaklia, in the northern coastal area of Georgia, for about \$540,000.

Samuel, who also oversees infrastructure projects for the Georgian Border Police and Revenue Service as well as humanitarian assistance projects funded through the U.S. European Command, said he was excited to help the Georgian Coast Guard on such essential projects.

"It's really been wonderful to assist this nation with such projects," said Samuel, whose office is based out of the capital, Tbilisi. "Projects like this truly help Georgia develop and grow the capabilities of its own institutions, like its coast guard."

Kelly said that working with the District on these projects has been "a real pleasure."

"Charles Samuel and his team have been respon-

sive to our needs, accessible, and professional throughout the design and construction phases of each of the three radar projects," he said.

Taken into context, the facilities are just a few of the many examples in the region that illustrate the United States' support to regional border security objectives, Kelly said. These stations act as "enforcement tools that enhance Georgian capabilities to prevent, deter and detect contraband smuggling, illicit weapons trafficking, the illegal migration of aliens, and to ad-

dress terrorism threats."

With a coastline of almost 200 miles – a large slice of the Black Sea – and borders with Russia and the Middle East, Georgia has historically been a main

thoroughfare for illegal trafficking. The aim of GBSLE assistance program, Kelly said, has been to give Georgia the capability to control the movement of people and goods across its borders to reduce the threat of weapons smuggling and other illicit trafficking





GONIO, GEORGIA

“Such projects enhance Georgia’s status as a sovereign nation and assist them in becoming a self-sustaining country, which is less dependent on long-term foreign assistance,” Kelly said.

The facility is the latest of 18 Corps-managed facilities including several border-crossing stations funded under the GBSLE assistance program.

Future Europe District projects under the GBSLE program include the construction of a \$700,000 customs training facility in Lilo and a \$300,000 language lab for the Georgian Coast Guard in Batumi, the dredging of a section of Georgia’s main commercial and military port in Poti, and renovations to a boat and machine shop also in Poti.

The latter two projects will be funded through a new U.S. assistance initiative called the Export Control and Border Security (EXBS) program, managed by the State Department’s Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation. ■



In this photo from 2007, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District personnel visited the completed Chakvi radar station.
Photo by Justin Ward

MORE ABOUT THE RADAR STATIONS

Anaklia

The Anaklia radar station, located near the border with Russian-occupied Abkhazia, opened in November 2007, but was damaged from a bomb explosion during the Russian incursion into Georgia in August 2008 and needed minor repairs before it could be used again. The facility cost about \$400,000.



ANAKLIA, GEORGIA

Opened: November 07

Cost: \$373,000

Fact: Damaged from bomb explosion during Russian incursion in 2008

Chakvi

The Chakvi radar station, half-way up the Black Sea coast of Georgia, was constructed through oversight of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District. The \$600,000 facility, which will serve both the commercial and military port, was opened in July 2007.



CHAKVI, GEORGIA

Opened: July 07

Cost: \$595,000

Fact: To serve commercial and military port

Gonio

Located on the Turkish border, the \$500,000 Gonio radar station is the last planned facility for the Georgian Coast Guard funded by the Department of Homeland Security. It opened in January.



GONIO, GEORGIA

Opened: January 10

Cost: \$502,000

Fact: Located on the Turkish border



MODERN LODGES FOR TODAY'S MILITARY

Army Lodge Program passes milestone with Ansbach Lodge groundbreaking

Story by Justin Ward and Graphics by Rebecca Lippman

Construction broke ground on an \$8.8 million, 26-room Army lodge at the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach's post in Urlas recently, marking the midway point in the largest Army lodging initiative in Europe, ever.

In one large push in 2005, the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command funded five new Army lodges through non-appropriated funds at a cost of about \$112 million, bringing 639 new hotel rooms to garrisons in Europe.

The smallest of the five FMWRC-funded

lodges, the Ansbach lodge, which is expected to be completed in summer 2011, is the last of these five to begin construction.

"It is great to see this project awarded and about to start construction," said Francisco Torres, the Ansbach lodge project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District, which is overseeing the design and construction of all five lodges. "This Army Lodge will be a great addition to the Ansbach Army Community providing new and upgraded accommodations to Soldiers and families."

The five lodges – at U.S. Army garrisons in

Ansbach, Chievres, Grafenwoehr, Stuttgart, and Wiesbaden – were chosen by FMWRC based on assessments of which existing lodging facilities at enduring installations would not meet the predicted future needs.

Chievres Lodge

The first lodge to break ground was the \$16 million, three-story lodge at the U.S. Army Garrison Chievres, Belgium, which started construction in June 2007. The 94-room facility, which replaced the commercially-leased Hotel Le Maisières, opened its doors to the public June 23 and puts patrons within walking distance to the BX/PX, the bank, the gym,



and other on-base facilities that were once a car or shuttle ride away.

Wiesbaden Lodge

Next was the \$33 million, 164-room Wiesbaden Army lodge, which broke ground in October 2007. When it opens in spring 2010, the four-story lodge – the largest of the five – will replace the American Arms Hotel and put patrons closer to the PX and commissary and literally across the street from a new entertainment center.

Stuttgart Lodge

Next was the seven-story, \$31.5 Stuttgart lodge on Panzer Kaserne, which broke ground in January 2009 and is expected to open in fall 2010. The 218-room hotel will be the fourth for the Stuttgart military community, which also has hotels at Patch, Kelley and Robinson barracks. The additional rooms help minimize the need for people to take up residence at costly city hotels.

Grafenwoehr Lodge

The fourth lodge – a three-story, horse-shoe-shaped facility at Grafenwoehr – broke ground in March 2009 and is likely to be open in fall 2011. The 136-room, \$24 million facility – built next to a Burger King restau-

Wiesbaden Lodge

UP CLOSE:
Cost: \$33M
Construction completion: Spring 2010
Size: 164 units
Interesting fact: Ultra-modern design

rant and a bowling alley – will replace the century-old Tower Inn hotel.

All lodge rooms will include high-speed Internet access, microwaves and refrigerators, a coffee pot, and a television. The lodges will all have on-site laundry, an exercise room, a complimentary breakfast, and a section of rooms with kitchenettes. They are also all compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and current anti-terror force-

protection regulations.

“There are really two great things about all these lodges,” said Torres. “One is that they put the Soldiers and Families who will stay there closer to the facilities they need to make PCSing smoother. If you’ve ever PCS’d, you’ll know how important that is. The second is that the modern in design and construction of these lodges means that they’ll offer new amenities, new services, and

Chievres Lodge

UP CLOSE:
Cost: \$16M
Construction Completion: Summer 2009
Size: 94 units
Unique fact: Largest Corps project on base



Ansbach Lodge

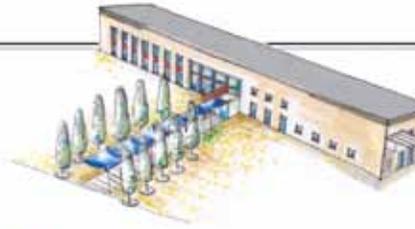
UP CLOSE:

Cost: \$8.8M

Construction completion: Summer 2011

Size: 26 units

Unique fact: First of several projects at Urlas



clude a \$5 million child development center, a \$16.5 million physical fitness center, a \$16.5 million renovation to the vehicle maintenance center there, a \$21 million commissary, and a \$36.4 million health facility.

Envisaged projects include new barracks; renovations to existing family housing, including new roads, landscaping, parking areas and redesigned family housing units; and a pedestrian-only community center.

In total, the former training range will see about \$200 million in new construction in the next five years, say planners.

Although the garrison won't grow in population, the reform represents its increased importance and justifies a building expansion unparalleled in Ansbach's history.

they'll be more environmentally friendly."

Ansbach Lodge

The Ansbach lodge is one of the latest District-managed construction projects to crop up in Urlas.

Until about two years ago, the former training range, located on Katterbach Kaserne, was filled with fallow grassland and

storage bunkers. Soil first turned in mid-2008 in anticipation of 206 new townhomes constructed as part of a \$106 million Army Family Housing program that is expected to accommodate Soldiers from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade – the only U.S. aviation brigade in Europe – by summer 2010.

In good company

Other proposed projects at Katterbach in-

"At enduring installations across Europe, we're seeing commitments to revitalize some existing facilities and, in many cases, build new facilities – operational and quality-of-life – that meet contemporary standards," said Matthew Ludwig, the District's Regional Program Manager for Stuttgart and Ansbach. "This is an important part of our military's transformation because it expresses in deeds, and not just words, that we care about their well being of our warfighters and their families." ❧

Stuttgart Lodge

UP CLOSE:

Cost: \$31.5M

Construction Completion: Fall 2010

Size: 218 units

Interesting fact: Seven stories



Grafenwoehr Lodge

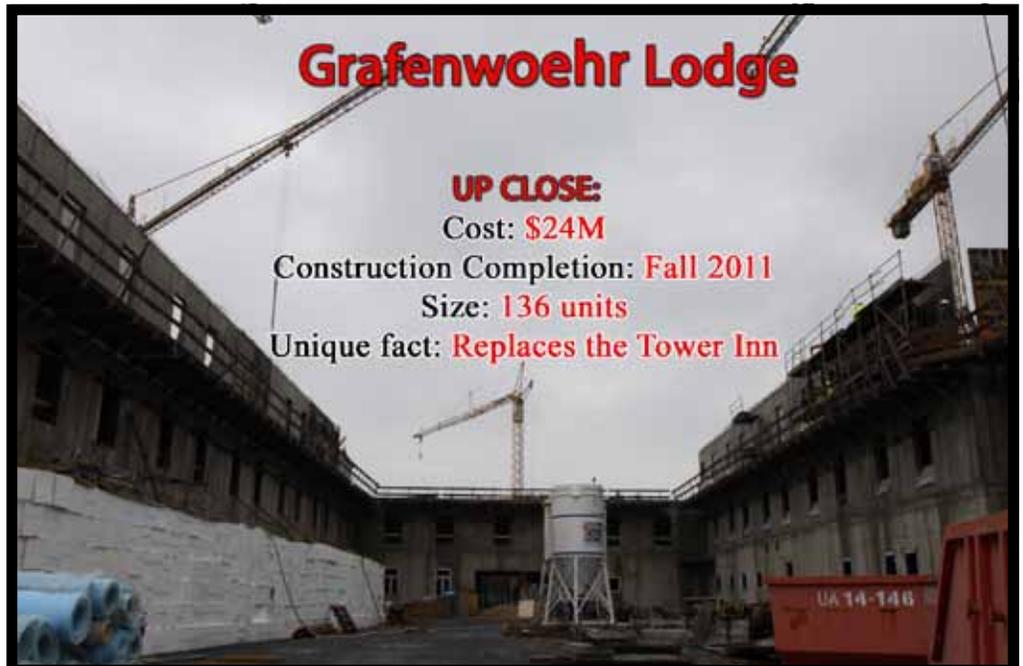
UP CLOSE:

Cost: \$24M

Construction Completion: Fall 2011

Size: 136 units

Unique fact: Replaces the Tower Inn





Stay connected!

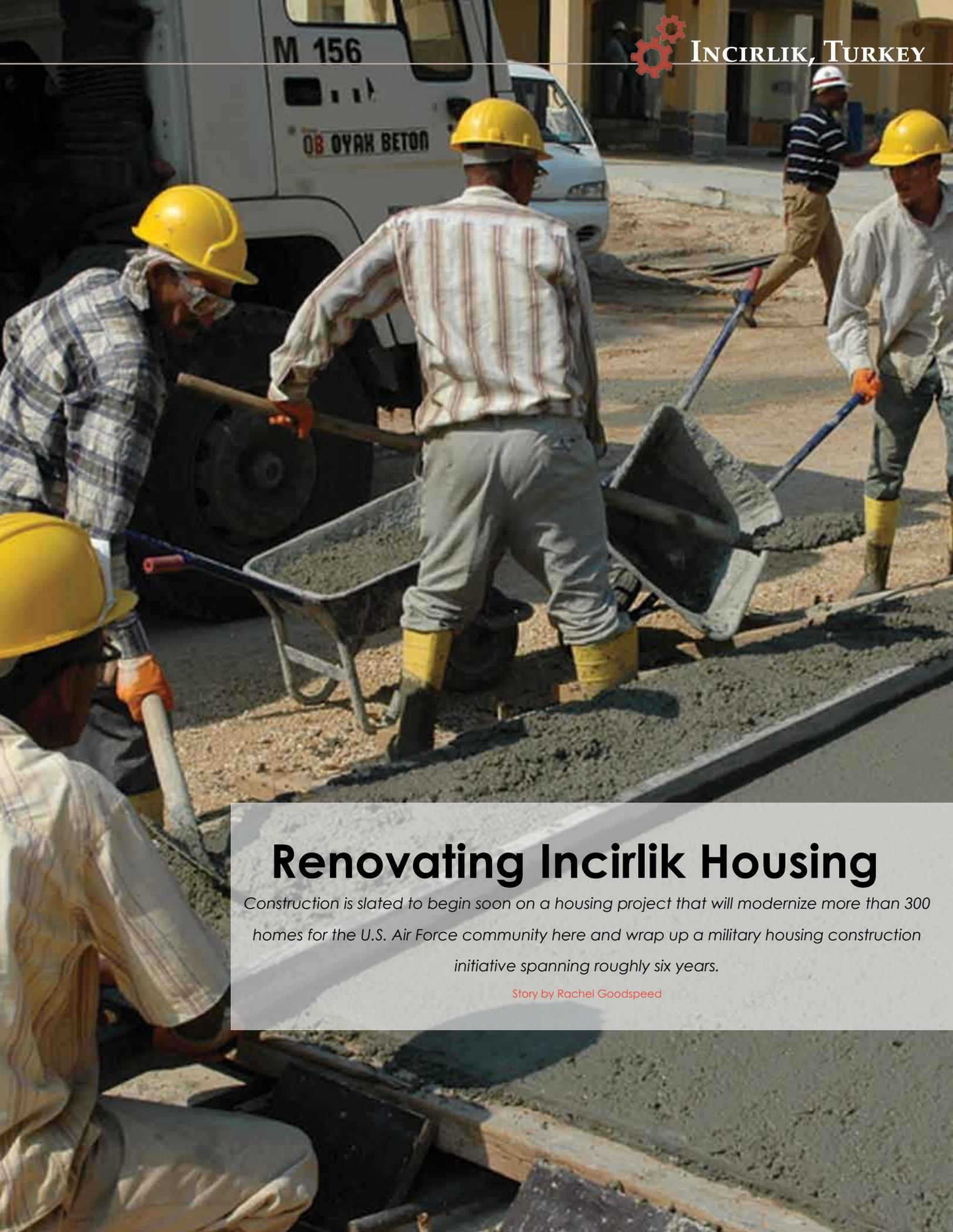
In response to suggestions made in our 2009 readership survey, we're proud to announce the distribution of *EiE Express*, our new monthly, digital newsletter about Engineering in Europe.

Inside you'll find:

- ✓ Stories from around the District, Corps of Engineers, Army and DoD
- ✓ Links to stories from outside media outlets about the District
- ✓ Videos and photos
- ✓ Job and solicitation announcements
- ✓ And much more ...

Subscribe today!

If you'd like to receive the latest and greatest from around the Europe District every month, e-mail us at dll-cenau-pa@usace.army.mil. You can also find it on our Web site at <http://www.nau.usace.army.mil>.



Renovating Incirlik Housing

Construction is slated to begin soon on a housing project that will modernize more than 300 homes for the U.S. Air Force community here and wrap up a military housing construction initiative spanning roughly six years.

Story by Rachel Goodspeed



THIS & PREVIOUS PAGE: While construction continues on the final phase of homes in the Eagle Housing Project on Incirlik Air Base in Turkey, construction is slated to begin soon on the Phantom and Falcon Housing areas. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District is managing both projects. Photos by Mark Nedzbala

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District, awarded a \$47 million contract, September 30, to provide interior and exterior modernization and renovation of 336 housing units in the Phantom and Falcon Housing areas, said Alex Tomosieski, the District's project manager.

The new homes will have improved floor plans, see upgrades to utility systems and community areas, and provide increased energy efficiency throughout, said Milton Ricks, a construction manager oversees the project.

"These new facilities will enhance the community's quality of life away from the states with modernized and safe playgrounds for children, state-of-the-art data ports in homes, and covered porches," he said.

The project, to be managed from the Turkey resident office on Incirlik Air Base, will consist of four phases with phase one including roughly 66 units. The following phases are expected to contribute 85 units, 112 units and 73 units respectively.

"The Air Force and the 39th Air Base Wing believe that quality of life is important," said Col. Eric Beene, 39th ABW commander. "The newly renovated Phantom and Falcon Housing units and those under renovation are one way we're putting our beliefs to action. These units will provide a more modern feel with more storage and living space to make families more comfortable and ultimately make an assignment to Incirlik more enjoyable."

Although the project was anticipated to take 4.5 years, engineers were able to pare it down to roughly 2.5 years,

which saved some money, Tomosieski said.

With construction on Eagle Housing almost behind them, Ricks said the project delivery team has taken as many lessons learned as possible and shared them with the new contractor, Ricks said.

"We've also placed an emphasis in areas that we anticipate would make the project even more successful – a strong project schedule along with an experienced construction and design team," he said. "It also helps that the Air Force is a participating customer with representatives who are engaged in all aspects of construction that requires their input."

The District anticipates construction completion around the end of 2012.

The Phantom and Falcon

Housing construction project is the final portion of a larger base housing construction initiative that renovated and constructed 446 housing units for the U.S. Air Forces in Turkey that included new construction in the Eagle Housing Area.

Tomosieski said bringing modern facilities is a great way the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers supports the military families who reside at Incirlik and their efficiencies make maintenance easier for the Airmen to focus on their missions.

"These units are a home away from home for the military community here and we want to make them as comfortable as possible," Tomosieski said.

"We've developed a great partnership with the Air Force community here and we're looking forward to delivering another successful project." ■



POWER PROJECTION IN LIVORNO

USACE upgrades World War II-era warehouses for AMC

Story by Justin Ward and Photos by Carol E. Davis

Nowhere else in the U.S. European Command does the term “Power Projection” mean more. As the U.S. Army’s only location in Europe with prepositioned stocks of heavy equipment and material, Leghorn Army Depot is literally overrun with rows of warehouses and maintenance shops where workers store, maintain, issue, and “reset” billions of dollars in military equipment and supplies.

Yet according to base officials, the World War II-era warehouses that are now storing and maintaining the Army’s most modern armored vehicles have only received a minor facelift in 60 years, leaving most of them unventilated, without climate and humidity controls, and without the proper mechanical lift/storage and distribution systems.

Until now.

“Starting this year, the local DPW and I got together with the Army Materiel Command and started renovations on some of the warehouses,” said Linda Eckley, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District project engineer. “It was definitely time.”

Most of the renovations overseen



Renovations to repair overhangs, downspouts and drainage system on warehouse storage buildings continue at Camp Darby Depot.

by the District - including to facilities 5030, 5040, 5060, 5070, 5080, 5090, 5110 and 5120 - will be complete before the end of the year, with some minor modifications taking place in early 2010.

Work on the projects, totaling just over \$1 million, has ranged from minor repairs to the water, lighting, and electrical systems to complete refurbishment to floors, bathrooms, office space, and mechanical and communication rooms.

One of the most important upgrades to all the warehouses, said Eckley, were the fire protection systems, including internal and external sprinkler systems upgrades, general fire-proofing of the tie rods, and replacing external fire stairs.

"The emergency exit stairs on some of these facilities were basically unusable," said Eckley. "For the people that worked in the mezzanine area above, there was no safe exit."

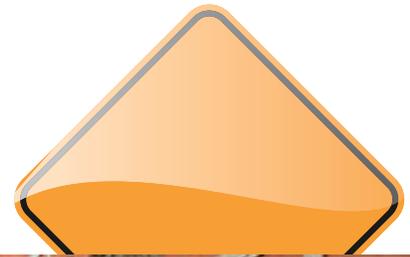
Most important, officials say, is the reliability of the equipment in the facilities. Because prepositioned vehicles and materiel are the first to fight, having old warehouses unable to provide proper storage and maintenance is a hazard on the battlefield as it puts Soldiers at unnecessary risk by delivering less-capable equipment than required.

"This is a strategic deployment hub for the Army," said Eckley. "And our job here is to help the AMC ensure that the infrastructure is modernized and maintained as best as possible to keep the materiel in a high state of readiness. I think we've been working very well together."

Some of the District's other projects in Livorno include repairs to a security gate, sandblast and paint booths, and a pressure washer, improvements to landscaping for Building 5861, installation of a few humidity monitors, exhaust systems, and oil/water separators, and the laying of pavement at a wash rack, test track, and in front of Building 5881. 🏗️



THIS PAGE: Renovation continues on warehouse 5080 at Camp Darby Depot. The renovation is to include the warehouse floor, bathrooms, office space, mechanical and communication room on the grounds floor. The lighting system, internal and external, sprinkler systems upgrades, internal racking system installation, external fire stairs replacement, and external drainage system replacement. The estimated cost of renovation is about \$900,000.





Building in the Balkans

District completes humanitarian assistance project in Serbia

Story by Carol E. Davis



By Western standards, the \$444,000 special needs community center may seem pretty ordinary. But to the local community – and especially the children who go to the center – it is anything but.

“Facilities like this are why I come to work,” said Darrell Cullins, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District project engineer.

“These kids, and this community as a whole, had nothing. So this center is a big help.”

The one-story school for children with special needs, completed in early December, was constructed in association with the “Right to Smile” association, a Belgrade-based non-governmental organization for parents of children with special needs. It will provide an “inclusive education” model in which students with special needs are educated in regular classes as much as possible.

“Before this facility, we did not have a facility for children with disabilities,” said Varvarin Mayor Zoran Milenkovic. “And children with disabilities were deprived of any daycare center. ... We are very glad that the children are going to have a place where they can spend their days.”

The project is one of several District-managed construction and renovation projects in the Balkans funded by the U.S. European Command humanitarian assistance program. It serves to help the community recognize that the United States is a friend and partner, said Charles Brady, EUCOM’s HA program manager.

“Our focus here – like our focus for all our HA projects – is to build friendships, stability, and capacity for this country to take care of its own,” Brady said.

The center, which took just over a year to complete, provides several work rooms,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District recently completed a community center for children with special needs in Varvarin, Serbia. The \$444,000 project is one of several District-managed construction and renovation projects in the Balkans funded by the U.S. European Command Humanitarian Assistance Program. **USACE Photo**



The center, which took just over a year to complete, provides several work rooms, classrooms, bathrooms and sleeping areas for the children. The building also provides a kitchen, dining room and gymnasium as well as office space for the association, a laundry room, and a small storage room. **Photo by Carol E. Davis**



classrooms, bathrooms and sleeping areas for the children. The building also provides a kitchen, dining room and gymnasium as well as office space for the association, a laundry room, and a small storage room. It is slated to be furnished by late January and turned over to the local school district shortly thereafter.

“Our intent is to support the U.S. European command and the U.S. Embassy here in building friendships by providing facilities that offer stability,” said Cullins. “We’re providing opportunities for these kids that they wouldn’t have otherwise.”

Maj. Devin Braun, Bilateral Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, was part of the local team that advocated for EUCOM humanitarian assistance funds to be used in Varvarin. This central Serbian town of 2,200, located 65 miles south of Belgrade, is known throughout the Balkans for being a poor and

vulnerable community.

“We look at communities of society where U.S. support and dollars would provide the most stability, security and friendship,” said Braun. “And then they see what project would benefit them most appropriately. In this community, they needed this facility. They really did.”

The city was the site of a 1999 NATO bombing campaign that destroyed a bridge over the Great Morava River. The bombing was part of the military operation against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia during the Kosovo War to destroy military infrastructure as well as bridges, government facilities and factories.

“We want to thank the embassy of the United States for this project,” said Milenkovic. “Without such assistance it wouldn’t be possible for a municipality such as ours

to have adequate resources to build such a day care center for children who have such a huge need for such an establishment. And therefore we are grateful that the United States has been able to provide us such a capacity.”

The school is one of 16 ongoing HA projects – valued at roughly \$5 million – the District is managing for EUCOM, including sites in Albania, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia and Moldova. The District is also managing 12 projects for the U.S. Africa Command – valued at roughly \$4 million – in sites in Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Zambia.

The majority of the District’s HA projects are to construct simple, cost-effective facilities that provide an allied nation the ability to become more self reliant, said Cullins, who oversees the majority of the projects in Eastern Europe. Typical projects include schools, wells and health facilities. ■



FEST-A REACHES NEW HORIZONS

Eighteen Europe District members will be prepared to deploy this spring as part of the District's Forward Engineer Support Teams-Advance program, the most in the District's history.

Deployments will take the team – or parts of it – around the globe, with exercise-support deployments already booked for Alaska in the spring and future contingency support expected in Afghanistan in the summer or fall.

In Alaska, Europe District FEST-A volunteers will provide civil, electrical and structural engineering support to the U.S. Pacific Command during Alaska Shield 2010, a state-wide, full scale exercise that serves to

validate Alaska's ability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to and recover from a major event that disrupts its supply chain with additional widespread consequences affecting response and recovery.

Later in the year, current plans call for a team to deploy to Afghanistan in support of the Transatlantic Division as the Afghanistan Engineer Districts North and South begins work on a \$1 billion program.

To prepare for the deployments, the members attended training at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Readiness Support Center in Mobile, Ala., where the teams became equipped to deliver engineering solutions in their respective environments and situations, said Maj. Andrew Olson, this year's FEST-A

leader who is currently a project engineer at the District's Ansbach Project Office.

"Not only do these team members have tremendous professional qualifications, they all share a strong commitment to serve our nation," he said. "I am honored to be a part of this talented and dedicated team and I'm looking forward to what's ahead of us."

Europe District Commander Col. John Kem said in a commander's column in 2009 that he is proud of Europe District's deployable engineering teams and added that the team's high numbers of volunteers proves that the District follows through



PICTURED: Members of the 2008 USACE Europe District FEST-A in Afghanistan. Photo by USACE

with the Corps' mantra of "Building Strong."

"I encourage everyone to look to these members as leaders, ready to provide support to any contingency operation with their variety of talents," he said. "Through their beliefs and actions, I know they will inspire others to join them on the road to success." ■

SHARING BLESSINGS IN WIESBADEN

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees in Europe got into the holiday spirit this season by sponsoring a "Stuff-a-Stocking" contest to donate goods to the local community.

Stockings were distributed in time for Christmas to the Army Community Service's Children of Deployed Parents program and to senior citizens living at the Seniorenheim Clemenshaus, a home for the elderly in Wiesbaden-Biebrich.

"The contest received positive responses from around

the district," said Karen Wolfe, a district budget analyst who managed the contest and donations.

"The heartfelt gifts were donated by volunteers during the stocking contest," Wolfe said. "We were able to stuff the stockings with toys and sweets for the children and winter stockings, hats, slipper socks and playing cards to keep the adults warm and occupied for the winter."

Betsy Walls, a district management assistant who helped coordinate the distribution

to Clemenshaus said the gifts were well-received. "When we dropped off the donations, we could see the need and joy in these people's eyes. They thought they have been forgotten and just left behind," Walls said.

"This was the first time the district has participated in giving to local elderly home and the ACS children," Walls said.

"When we gave them their presents, we knew we made a difference," Walls said. "We wanted to celebrate this Christmas not only with the Ameri-

cans, but also with our host nation"

For the 2010 holiday season, Wolfe said she hopes the district will continue look for opportunities such as these to continue building a strong community connection.

"Each year, the district looks for various ways to keep up this motion of generosity and goodwill to reach out to those in need within our community," Wolfe said.

"That's what Christmas is all about." ■

SHADOW DAY



Roughly 36 school-aged children participated in an egg-drop activity during the Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe-sponsored Shadow Day on February 2 at the Amelia Earhart Center in Wiesbaden, Germany. The students also received presentations on Geographic Information Systems and architecture. During Shadow Day, which takes place annually, students follow their parents to work to see what they do. **Photo by Carol E. Davis**

IP-EOC