



photo by Andreas Meyer

Jack Gates, vice president of Marketing and Business Development for SKE said the project posed a number of challenges as floors in several areas had to be replaced with floors of greater load-bearing capacity for the new occupants. "... [This project] was particularly difficult because of all the structural problems that we had within the facility that really had to be fixed. Some were unknown and uncovered by demolition," he said.

Gates said structural engineers from SKE and Europe District found solutions to the concerns. "It was a great teaming effort," he said.

Nordsiek applauded the Corps of Engineers and the contractor. "The reason we've had so few changes and bumps in the road as we go along is because the Corps has done such a wonderful job in preparing and leading us to this," she said.

Kunz added that gutting the interior on multiple levels had to be done carefully in the century-old structure. "We took a lot of care to safety and had, thank God, no accidents ..." he said. With the demolition completed and roofing and floors replaced, the job site is abuzz now with close to 100 workers doing interior work from wiring to plaster and painting.

DFAS employees are excited about the coming completion of the building, according to Director DFAS-Europe Joan Causey. "They're biting at the bit to come over here. ... We've been promising this building since DFAS capitalized the Army and Air Force workforce here in Europe in 1999," she said. "To us it means bringing together all of our accounting operations into one facility. All our [local area network] support will be right here ... our storage of our original vouchers will be here in this building, so everything will be self-contained, which is going to be nice."



Other Project Delivery Team members: Kaiserslautern Resident Engineer John Moreno, Project Engineer Thomas Kies, Construction Representative Peggy McBride, Project Manager Lalit Wadhwa, and Program Manager for DFAS from USACE Louisville District, Mark Ringenberg. Photo by Andreas Meyer.



Work is on schedule and halfway to completion on Kleber Kaserne's Building 3200, the future home for the Defense Finance Accounting Service – Europe, in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Construction contractors, DFAS representatives and

CLOCK

Europe District engineers met in November to iron out finishing details and to review progress on the \$7.7 million project to be finished in August.

"Today's visit is a partnering session between DFAS, the Corps of Engineers, and the construction contractor to make some of the final decisions as we move forward," said Jan Nordsiek, DFAS project manager, at the Nov. 20 meeting.

Directly managed by Europe District, the complete renovation of the 122,000 square foot building is one of the largest projects prime contractor SKE GmbH has ever had, said Klemens Kunz, the firm's branch manager from Mannheim.

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T I K ON SCHEDULE



Lalit Wadhwa, Europe District Project Manager (center right), looks at plans with DFAS-Europe Director Joan Causey (center left). Photo by Grant Sattler.

by
Grant
Sattler

"It's a very big building, an unusual building," Kunz said. The three-story historic structure has an imposing three-block-long front with a clock tower in the center and two wings with cobblestone courtyards. Originally built to house the Kaiser's troops, it has served as a French garrison, a prison for Italian soldiers in the second World War and most recently, a contingency barracks for U.S. troops during the Gulf War.

