



EIE EXPRESS

The Monthly eNewsletter for USACE Europe District's *Engineering in Europe* Magazine

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AROUND EUROPE

NATO Special Operations HQ unveiled



MONS, Belgium – U.S. and international military officials have cut the ribbon on a state-of-the-art facility constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District.

Leaders from SHAPE, 26 member nations and three non-NATO partners, and USACE gathered here Dec. 12 for an opening ceremony, heralding the NATO Special Operations Headquarters as a significant achievement in engineering expertise, modernization and sustainable construction.

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From typewriters to tranquility

WIESBADEN, Germany - Ash Batavia just wrapped up a 37-year career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District. His work with the Army goes back to 1971, when he took a job as a procurement assistant on a post in Frankfurt. District leaders said his professionalism, stability and peaceful demeanor transcended the workplace. He was honored Nov. 30 during Europe District's town hall meeting.



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USACE explores LEED options overseas



WIESBADEN, Germany - Think global, act local. The phrase, popularized in the 1970s on the back bumpers of hippies' Volkswagens and on the front of their T-shirts, has evolved through the years

and taken on a wider meaning. The slogan is used by urban planners, environmentalists, government officials and business executives to describe a global mindset with a local focus.

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Message from the Commander

People and the Holidays



A year ago, I wrote about my top priority: taking care of people. During this holiday season, it seems appropriate to re-emphasize that commitment. Maj. Gen. Todd Semonite, USACE deputy commanding general and former NAD commander, visited the district this month and shared that the people in Europe District are special. We have stronger bonds and are more closely knit than most stateside districts. Perhaps it's the fact that most of us are away from home and extended families, or perhaps it's because we have a motivated, adventurous workforce willing to try new experiences. The result, however, is that we have a strong, competent and trusting team capable of producing extraordinary results. People are the heart of the district, and we rely on each and every member to contribute through project delivery teams to meet our customer needs.

To me, taking care of people means empowering our workforce to perform at its best. It includes ensuring we effectively communicate and individuals have the proper training and resources to accomplish the job. It also means we work in a safe climate free of harassment and discrimination, and our families are secure and informed. I want our team members to be proud of their accomplishments, personally make a difference, grow to their full potential and take good care of one another.

This is the season of giving, and it is apparent we take good care of others as well. Our employees donated almost \$35,000 to the Combined Federal Campaign and participated in the 'Thanks for Thanksgiving' program to provide turkey dinners to local families through the USO. Also, we are sponsoring families in need, a homeless shelter and nursing home during the holidays. These are a few of the wonderful deeds of our EUD family. I thank you for your generosity and for taking care of people. For information on how to donate, please see one of our volunteers: Isabel Howard/Susanne Kelly/Tawnya Coulter/Amanda Boucher/Mary Grace Abdon/Martha Manuel/Taneisha Brown/Yvette Teal/Xolani Santos/Andrea Faublas/Chanell Collins/Betsy Walls/Q Blankenhorn/Raymond Sullivan/Amanda McMaster.

I would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a blessed New Year.

Building Strong! People, Partners, Projects

COL Pete Helmlinger

Congratulations to our most recent Europe District Heroes of the Battle: David Friedt and Alex Kotovski. Well done!

SPOTLIGHT on the Ramstein Resident Office



Front (from left): Cyril Sawyer, Capt. Shai-Lin Ynacay, Shaun Frost and Edelin Magrata.

Back (from left): Doug Bohnam, David Scott and Bernhard Ochsenreither.

The Ramstein Resident Office is part of the Central Area Office in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Major projects at Ramstein include the \$50 million commissary renovation, concrete staging area for C-130 aircraft called Ramp One, Air Operations Center, 128-person dormitory facility and the Air Freight Terminal.

Outside of Ramstein, the office has been busy with the Germersheim Army Depot DLA distribution center, Vogelweh Elementary School and Kaiserslautern High School.

The office supports the Air Force and Army in smaller operations and maintenance projects. The team executes many force-protection projects for the Air Force. On the Army side, USACE completes O&M work on Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

These projects are expertly managed by the Ramstein team, which includes Bernhard Ochsenreither, a local national who has worked on indirect projects in construction totaling approximately \$83 million. The office would not get along as smoothly as it does without Edelin Magrata, the office secretary. Since her arrival, the office has run more smoothly. She handles document organization and contractor installation passes with a happy smile and a positive attitude that's contagious.

Each team member faces many challenges -- juggling multiple projects, balancing workload, and understanding and trying to meet customer operational needs. To combat these challenges, the office engineers work together, stay flexible and find solutions to customer issues to meet deadlines and deliver projects successfully.

Overall, this office stands united and takes a cohesive approach to meet the mission, and customer satisfaction proves it. It starts with the solid leadership of both the resident engineer, Shaun Frost, and area engineer, John Steinbeck, the team members say. That makes it easy to work at Ramstein.

Steinbeck also is impressed by his staff. "These are well-qualified individuals who have good work experience and are happy to be employed -- that translates into a very dedicated employee," he said.

Capt. Shai-Lin Ynacay, a project engineer, agrees.

"Here at the Ramstein Resident Office, we are motivated by the people we work for, happy to work alongside each other and dedicated in providing customer satisfaction," she said.

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NAU in the News

- **Cleantechnica, USACE gets new LEED office building - article**
- **U.S. Embassy in Georgia, Water wells renovated in Kvareli - article**
- **SELEC, Inauguration ceremony of the Training & Conference Center - article**

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WATCH: Europe District holiday message 'shout-outs'

Operations Security

Threat Awareness

Al-Qaeda and its affiliated organizations remain committed to attacking the homeland, with a likely objective of striking prominent political, economic and infrastructure targets to produce mass casualties, visually dramatic destruction, significant economic aftershocks and fear.

The death of Osama bin Laden marked an important victory in the long war on terrorism, but the war is not won. According to the Heritage Foundation, at least 53 attempted terrorist attacks against the U.S. have been foiled since 9/11 — of these, at least 43 could be categorized as homegrown plots. Since February 2010, al-Qaeda has contemplated large attacks on symbolic dates and specifically identified Christmas and other prominent American holidays. The FBI and DHS aren't sure how widely al-Qaeda's interest in timing attacks around key dates has been shared within the group or its affiliates.

Through the New Year, large crowds will frequent holiday celebrations, sporting events, parades, religious activities, retail centers, shopping malls, airports and public transportation systems. The significant increase in travel, mass gatherings and special events over the holidays will require heightened attention and vigilance.

Comments? Corrections?

Contact the Europe District Public Affairs Office at:

dll-cenau-pa@usace.army.mil

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District

Attn: Public Affairs

CMR 410 Box 1, APO AE 09049-0001

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Commander COL. D. PETER HELMLINGER
Deputy Commander LT. COL. MICHELLE GARCIA
Public Affairs Chief BRIAN TEMPLE
Editor JENNIFER ALDRIDGE
Staff Contributor VINCE LITTLE
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