



EIE EXPRESS

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

AROUND EUROPE

Issue 49, December 2013

District recognizes STEM essay winners



WIESBADEN, Germany – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District challenged Wiesbaden Middle School students to explain, in 500 words or less, why they are interested in pursuing science, technology,

engineering and math careers.

Pete Greig, Chuck Oliver and Isabella Lee emerged as the winners. To recognize their accomplishments and celebrate their interest in STEM, district leaders and subject matter experts hosted the trio here Nov. 19.

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Class aims for 'common understanding'

WIESBADEN, Germany – More than 20 project and program managers from Europe District learned about public involvement and strategies for overcoming challenges during a four-day Risk Communication Course.



It's designed to strengthen stakeholder relationships, bonds and rapport while striving toward transparency, awareness and partnership. Instructors say the concepts can lead to significant savings in time and cost.

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Event celebrates future Stuttgart schools



STUTTGART, Germany – Military and community leaders gathered Nov. 12 to break ground on the new elementary and high schools being built in Böblingen, near Panzer Kaserne.

With construction under way, the ceremony allowed representatives from U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, the German State Construction Office Reutlingen and Supreme Finance Department Karlsruhe, Europe District and Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe to celebrate the long-awaited projects coming to fruition.

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Message from the Commander

Taking care of People over the holidays



The holiday season is a time to give thanks, share joy, strengthen ties with family and friends, worship and help others. These are all key in taking care of People.

I would like to give my thanks to all Europe District team members and our partner organizations. Your dedication, teamwork and professionalism were indispensable delivering projects for our warfighters and families. The district could not be successful without People. From repair of a war-damaged school in Georgia to building a state-of-the-art Child Development Center in Botswana – and many points in between – our talented workforce has made a difference for our nation and allies.

I would also like to give my thanks to our deployed team members. The district's Forward Engineer Support Team-Advanced is deployed to Amman, Jordan, as part of a special task force set up to build the nation's capabilities and help provide aid for refugees pouring in from neighboring Syria. Other district team members are deployed to Afghanistan. They have all answered the nation's call to duty and are carrying out key missions. As you enjoy time with loved ones this holiday, take a moment to consider their sacrifices.

Connie French, who just retired after 39 years of government service, recently said, "People in Europe District come from all walks of life, but they take care of one another, and I have made lifelong friends." This camaraderie and family atmosphere is one of the district's great strengths. I hope you are able to share the joy of the season with one another in the Europe District family, and I hope to see you during our Winter Ball on Jan. 25.

People showed extreme generosity during the Combined Federal Campaign and Season of Giving Campaign. Organized by the district Holiday Planning Committee, the Season of Giving sponsored two families and 16 children with gifts and donations. Thank you for helping others.

My Vision Statement for the district includes team members being proud of their accomplishments, personally making a difference, growing to their full potential and taking good care of one another. Given the examples above, we are clearly achieving it. Happy holidays.

Building Strong! People, Partners, Projects

COL Pete Helmlinger

Europe District Heroes of the Battle are Jeff Jackson, Kenya Davis, Achim Guenther and Catherine Bingham. Congratulations!

SPOTLIGHT on the Ramstein Resident Office



From left: Sgt. Elizabeth Monge, Achim Guenther, Shaun Frost, Dave Scott, Cyril Sawyer, Doug Bonham, Edelin Magrata and Martin Ritzmann.

The Ramstein Resident Office is part of Europe District's Central Area Office in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

The office executes projects for the Army and Air Force at Ramstein Air Base, Spangdahlem Air Base, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Miesau Army Depot and U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder.

The team recently completed several high-visibility projects, including the \$42 million Ramstein Commissary renovation, the \$20 million Spangdahlem Physical Fitness Center and the \$17.5 million Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe multipurpose facility at Vogelweh.

Several new projects, such as a 112-person Kapaun Air Station dormitory and the Spangdahlem commissary, will be under way in 2014.

The office also supports design efforts for six DODDS-Europe projects, as well as an additional dormitory, dental clinic and temporary lodging facility.

Of special note, two Ramstein personnel — Capt. Shai-Lin Ynacay and Rick Long — are deployed to Amman, Jordan, with the district's Forward Engineering Support Team-Advanced unit.

Each Ramstein Resident Office team member faces many challenges — juggling projects, balancing workload, and understanding and attempting to meet customer needs. To tackle these challenges, the project engineers work together, stay flexible, and find solutions to client issues and deadline requirements.

Office secretary Edelin Magrata says she's thankful to be a part of this amazing group.

"They have welcomed me and made me part of the construction family," she said. "I learn a lot from each and every one of them. They take me to their construction projects so that I can understand our mission and better assist in fulfilling the mission."

Magrata has successfully coordinated base access for more than 600 contractors and subcontractors, according to resident engineer Shaun Frost.

"Without her efforts, projects would grind to a halt as contractor personnel could not perform their work," he said.

The newest member of the Ramstein team is Achim Guenther. He is responsible for more than \$82 million worth of construction and design projects.

Guenther said he's happy to be on the Ramstein staff.

"I feel I am building the future for Ramstein Air Base and the surrounding area," he added.

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NAU in the News

- Stars and Stripes, Work starts on new schools in Stuttgart — article
- 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs, Spangdahlem fitness center to be 'worth the wait' — article
- Herald Union, Whole Neighborhood Revitalization project 'right-sizes,' upgrades 84 apartments — article

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Operations Security

Stay vigilant over the holidays

North Atlantic Division's Security and Law Enforcement Directorate has no specific intelligence indicating a near-term plot by terrorist groups to conduct attacks against NAD assets or personnel during the 2013 holiday season. However, terrorist groups and homegrown violent extremists remain interested in conducting attacks against U.S. interests at home and abroad and may attempt to carry out an attack during the holiday season in order to capitalize on its cultural significance, as well as the increase in crowds, gatherings and public travel this time of year.

In this persistent era of conflict, terror groups will continue to seek innovative ways to conduct attacks worldwide. Communities must continue to maintain vigilance. As during other times of the year, security officials recommend being aware of your surroundings and reporting all suspicious activity to appropriate authorities and channels.

Terrorists have demonstrated the capability to evolve and adapt to a constantly changing security environment. They have been innovative in their attempts at circumventing U.S. security in order to conduct attacks and continue to seek out different ways to do so.

The Westgate mall attack in Nairobi, Kenya, suggests some possibilities for terrorist tactics in America and around the world. Coupled with the recent active-shooter incidents at the Garden State Plaza in Paramus, N.J., and near the Roosevelt Field Mall in Garden City, N.Y., Army personnel and families must remain vigilant of persistent threats to soft targets both overseas and in the U.S. homeland.

Comments? Corrections?

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