



# EIE EXPRESS

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

## AROUND EUROPE

Issue 38, January 2013

### USACE contractor teaches vehicle safety



MONS, Belgium- Student safety is paramount at NATO's Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe international school and on Nov. 9 a construction contractor, Wayss & Freytag Ingenieurbau AG, demonstrated

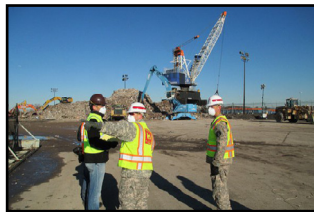
the dangers of vehicle and truck blind spots to more than 40 schoolchildren.

Belgian primary school students moved into temporary facilities in November to accommodate the construction of the future school campus.

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### Big national response to Sandy:USACE

NEWYORK-"She was wandering around mounds of debris along the waterfront at Breezy Point, New York, and the shock on her face was pretty powerful for me," said Jim Balocki, chief, Interagency and International Services, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



"Her name was Kathleen and she told me she had lost everything to Sandy and that she was grateful for everything we were doing to help her community," said Balocki.

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### Web conferencing brings engineers to class



WIESBADEN, Germany- A live video stream of eighth-grade physics students displayed on Jason Cade's computer screen. After a quick audio check, Cade, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe

District project manager and mining engineer, with the assistance of his colleagues, used face-to-face video conferencing to teach a lesson on roller coaster engineering to Wiesbaden Middle School students Dec. 19.

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### Message from the Commander

Celebrate our diversity



As we begin a new year, I would like to highlight the diversity of the Europe District workforce. Our diversity significantly contributes to our mission success. We provide premier engineering, construction, stability operations and environmental services throughout the U.S. European and U.S. Africa Command areas of operation. This mission could not be done well without openly embracing the best people and ideas.

The district workforce is 37 percent women and 63 percent men. We have 20 percent minorities, with 9 percent African-American, 6 percent Asian-Pacific Islander, 4 percent Hispanic and 1 percent Native American. We generally mirror the U.S. workforce, but we are underrepresented with women and some minorities. This makes the need to promote Advancing Minorities Interest in Engineering and other Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics outreach programs all the more important as we shape tomorrow's USACE workforce. We should all consider ourselves Equal Employment Opportunity recruiters.

Raelene Hampton, our district EEO officer, has returned to Germany after 18 months in Afghanistan. I am glad to have her back on board and thankful for the temporary EEO support provided by Francis Jones, Vincent Cotton and Karen Saunders. They helped the district achieve one of USACE's lowest rates of EEO and harassment incidents. However, continued success depends on you.

My top priority is to take care of people. This includes taking care of each other. Workplace harassment should never be tolerated. Harassing conduct in the workplace seriously impedes productivity and negatively impacts employee morale. Each team member has a vital role as we strive to be a model workplace. I expect each of you to contribute positively in this effort.

Our Special Emphasis Program team is planning many events to celebrate our diversity in 2013. Recognition is due to Yvette Teal, Andrea Faublas, Tawnya Coulter, Jason Cade, Darren Walls, Mia Burroughs-Grady, Andrea Revell, Taneisha Brown and others who plan events throughout the year. I thank them for their great work and encourage all team members, especially supervisors, to support these noteworthy events.

*Special Emphasis Program for 2013*

Jan. 21 - MLK; February - Black History Month; March - Women's History Month; April - Holocaust Remembrance Day; May - Asian-Pacific Islander History Month; Aug. 26 - Women's Equality Day (Right to Vote); Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 - Hispanic Heritage Month; October - National Disability Awareness Month; November - Native American Heritage Month

Building Strong! People, Partners, Projects

COL Pete Helmlinger

## SPOTLIGHT on the Hohenfels Resident Office



Back Row (L to R): Jim McPeak, Michael Gollasch, Steve Schluth, Ruediger Schroeter, Hans Hirschmann, Bill Lewis, Tom OBuckley; Front Row (L to R): Ursula Pfefferlein and Leanne Brown; *Not pictured: Matt McCullough, Landon Steuck, CPT Darby and Tom Tesm*

The Hohenfels Resident Office is part of the Bavaria Area Office located in Grafenwoehr, Germany. The office is responsible for projects in Ansbach, Bamberg, Garmisch, Hohenfels, Illesheim and Schweinfurt.

Hohenfels projects under construction include two new child development centers, an auto skills facility, a commissary and a gymnasium. Design is underway for the Ansbach Training Area firing range, Katterbach school extension, townhouses and a local clinic.

The team executes projects for customers such as Department of Defense Dependents Schools, Medical and Dental Activity, and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. In addition, the office works on force protection and metering projects.

The resident office consists of five local nationals and seven U.S. citizens. Leanne Brown, the management assistant, is the backbone for installation passes, contract files and office supplies. Ursula Pfefferlein, an administrative contracting officer, has expert knowledge of U.S. and German contracting laws and regulations and provides guidance to resident and project engineers. Jim McPeak, a project engineer, completed the 106-unit Urlas Townhome project in 2011 and is now managing vehicle maintenance facilities and child development center projects. McPeak appreciates the opportunity to live and work in Bavaria.

"I really enjoy working with valued German coworkers who are experienced and helpful," he said.

Husband and wife team Steve Schluth and Rosanna Alcantara, a project engineer and regional program manager respectively, are in Germany on their third tour. They like being centrally located and traveling to all parts of Europe.

Hans Hirschman, the resident engineer, leads the team and utilizes his decades of experience to manage the booming construction program.

Mike Gollasch, a 64-year-old project engineer, will retire this year.

"Working for the COE was the best decision I've ever made. The diversity of projects I handled in my career was tremendous. I will miss working with my American colleagues when I retire."

The Hohenfels team manages complex projects, a hefty warranty program and German/English language barrier during the day. After work, they take advantage of the world-famous biergartens and Bavarian culture surrounding them.

## WORK WITH USACE

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## NAU in the News

- The Herald Union, USACE supports Wiesbaden Middle School Math Night- article
- The Herald Union, New behavioral health center- photo
- Ziare.com, US government awards task order to Romanian company for missile defense site- article

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## WATCH: USACE team supporting Sandy recovery efforts

### Operations Security

#### Terrorism in Cyberspace—The Cyber Threat

The increased physical security measures in place at government and military facilities following the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the success of counter terrorist operations at home and abroad, have hindered opportunities for conventional terrorist attacks in the physical realm.

Cyberspace may actually become the terrorists preferred battle space because it offers a target rich environment; certain cyber targets may be critical nodes necessary for the conduct of operations in the traditional war fighting domains; and probably most importantly, cyber attacks can be conducted from remote or sanctuary locations anywhere on the globe, where attribution and counter strikes may be very difficult to achieve.

Cyberspace is an environment where actions can occur at light speed. It is a densely populated battle space where adversaries can converge instantly from anywhere within a globally dispersed grid. The creation of U.S. Cyber Command and the establishment of the service cyber component commands was a crucial first step in DoD preparedness for dealing with the complexities of cyber warfare today and the future.

We must continue to build on our cyber capabilities and capacity in order to maintain an edge in cyberspace. Cyberspace is a highly contested environment, where DoD networks are currently under attack 24/7 and where it is very possible that threats can evolve faster than our ability to develop countermeasures.

Our military has a key role in protecting cyberspace but an effective response to the emerging cyber threat requires cooperation and participation across all of the DoD, Federal, State, local governments, academia, and the private sector. The stakes are high with respect to protecting our economy, civil infrastructure, public safety, and national security.

### Comments? Corrections?

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