



# EIE EXPRESS

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

## AROUND EUROPE

Issue 52, March 2014

### FEST-A earns 'high praise' for Jordan tour



WIESBADEN, Germany – The eight remaining members of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District's Forward Engineer Support Team-Advanced are back on German soil after a highly successful deployment to Jordan.

The team of Soldiers, Army civilian volunteers and augmentees returned Feb. 26 following a six-month mission that included infrastructure, environmental, and airfield assessments and expansion planning to build the ally nation's capabilities.

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### Architect hits her marks in weightlifting

WIESBADEN, Germany – At 5-foot-2 and a shade over 115 pounds, Martha Manuel hardly looks like an imposing figure. But appearances, as they say, do deceive on occasion. This little lady is a real beast in the weight room.



As the only female member of Team ASC Zeilsheim, a local weightlifting club, Manuel has set a handful of records in the women's 53-kilogram classification this winter at competitions around the German state of Hessen.

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### Spangdahlem commissary work begins



Europe District and its partners have embarked on the next phase of an "Evolution" at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

Leaders from the 52nd Fighter Wing, USACE and local community took part in a

groundbreaking ceremony Feb. 21 for the installation's new \$25 million commissary. It represents the latest quality-of-life upgrade at this combat air power and mobility hub in the country's Eifel region. The base has a population of 7,500 service members, civilians and family members.

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### Message from the Commander

Strategic Management System



The Chief of Engineers' priorities can be summed up in 12 words: Support the Warfighter, Transform Civil Works, Reduce Disaster Risk, Prepare for Tomorrow.

These four goals support the USACE vision of "Engineering solutions for the nation's toughest challenges." To accomplish them, the USACE Campaign Plan has designated 16 objectives and 47 actions. These actions — and the full campaign plan — can be found at [www.usace.army.mil/About/CampaignPlan.aspx](http://www.usace.army.mil/About/CampaignPlan.aspx). To measure and guide our progress in support of the campaign plan, Europe District reports the status of its 47 actions through the Strategic Management System.

For fiscal year 2014, USACE and NAD have designated 12 actions as priorities for Europe District. They include:

1. Integrate USACE and its capabilities in EUCOM, AFRICOM, USAREUR, USARAF and USAFE
2. Establish a military construction life cycle management framework
3. Improve USACE partnerships with the operating force and 15th Engineer Battalion
4. Improve MILCON delivery methods
5. Improve agencywide workload-workforce balancing
6. Maintain and improve readiness with contingency capabilities utilizing our Forward Engineer Support Team
7. Apply USACE capabilities in interagency planning, requirements and strategic objectives
8. Improve knowledge creation/sharing and technology transfer
9. Improve integrated strategic engagement and communication with key stakeholders
10. Improve USACE governance processes and systems
11. Shape the future workforce
12. Increase STEM and wounded warrior outreach initiatives

We have formed project delivery teams, called objective networks, to analyze, improve and report our progress on these priorities. This continual process improvement will help shape the future success of Europe District and USACE.

If you would like to contribute to these priorities, contact Shari Valente, the district's SMS program manager, or one of our objective network points of contact, including Wayne Uhl, LTC Andy Hemphill, Jim Noble, Greg McMillan, Lalit Wadhwa, Frank Bauer, Alex Tomosieski and Brian Temple.

I would like to thank everyone in the district for helping make USACE a success, and reporting those successes through SMS.

Building Strong! People, Partners, Projects

COL Pete Helmlinger

Congratulations to our recent District Heroes of the Battle: COL Mike Crader, Rey Nieto, Jeff Ball, Susan Kil, Dan Gilstrap and Jenna Jones.

## SPOTLIGHT on the Caucasus Project Office



From left: Shalva Khvadagadze, quality assurance engineer; program coordinator Nana Kacheishvili, project engineer Gwendolyn Nelson; George Shikhiashvili, driver and clerk; and quality assurance engineer Levan Imedadze. *Not pictured:* Gia Narimanidze.

The members of Europe District's Caucasus Project Office live and work in a nation that boasts a young and vibrant economy, growing ties with the United States, and an abundance of unique cultural, recreational and travel opportunities.

They work alongside the U.S. Embassy staff in Tbilisi, Georgia. The office manages projects throughout the host republic, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Caucasus partners include the Office of Defense Cooperation, U.S. Agency for International Development, Export Control and Border Security, and State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

In November, the team completed a major renovation of the primary school in Nikozi, which was heavily damaged during the war between Georgia and Russia in 2008. European Command funded the humanitarian-assistance project. Today, the new state-of-the-art school accommodates nearly 100 students. The building also can be used as a community center and voting station.

Last summer, the project office finished the overhaul of a special school for disabled children in Yerevan, Armenia. It's the only government facility in that country for children with severe mobility problems. The \$325,000 refurbishment project was completed a month ahead of schedule.

"In order to be successful in project implementation, a person should use not only their engineering skills but also have a sense of compassion and respect for the people and history here," said program coordinator Nana Kacheishvili. "We have experienced engineers with dedication and love to children for whom the schools and orphanages and clinics are renovated or built. That makes all the projects worthwhile."

About 80 percent of those projects are in remote locations, requiring a drive of five or six hours just to reach the work site, according to Kacheishvili.

"We have good teamwork," she added. "That helps us achieve our goals in life and makes other's lives better and brighter."

Georgia features tons of natural beauty with a combination of high mountains, hills, rivers, springs, valleys and fields. The Guaduri and Bakuriani ski resorts attract tourists from neighboring countries each winter, while summer brings surfers to the Black Sea on the nation's western edge.

Tbilisi, founded in the fifth century, sits on the banks of the Kura River. It has stood as Georgia's capital for nearly 1,500 years and represents a major industrial, social and cultural center in the country. The city's location on the southeastern edge of Europe makes it a vital transit route for global energy and trade.

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### NAU in the News

- Franconian News, USAG Ansbach breaks ground for new health, dental clinic – article
- 52nd Fighter Wing, Construction for new commissary begins – article, photos and video
- Stars and Stripes, Site work begins on \$990 million replacement for Landstuhl hospital – article

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## WATCH: Spangdahlem commissary groundbreaking

### Operations Security 'The Evolving Threat'

Terrorism is an enduring, persistent, worldwide threat to the Army and nation. Our military must be capable of identifying, deterring, preventing and defending against the full range of terrorist tactics.

Terror tactics, techniques and procedures are constantly evolving. Although larger groups continue to plot attacks, the trend has shifted toward threats from smaller factions and individuals who are radicalized to take independent action, as opposed to direction from the more organized entities.

As the second quarter of fiscal year 2014 comes to an end, antiterrorism officials look to highlight new or changing threats and increase local awareness via "The Evolving Threat" theme. Some key focus areas include: 1) understanding how terrorist and related threat tactics are evolving to include homegrown violent extremism, insider threat, active shooter and cyberattacks; 2) the importance of refining intelligence requirements based on threats that are less prone to intelligence gathering and analysis; 3) promoting antiterrorism awareness through suspicious-activity indicators and proper reporting procedures; and 4) emphasis on the use of eGuardian, iWATCH Army and iSALUTE as systems for reporting suspicious activity to law enforcement.

The entire Army community must remain vigilant, given the persistent threat of terrorism and rise in incidents by independent threat actors, such as the Boston Marathon bombing, Washington Navy Yard active shooter and numerous school shootings. Commands are encouraged to promote active iWATCH efforts and urge community members to report suspicious activity and indicators of high-risk behavior.

### Comments? Corrections?

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