



EIE EXPRESS

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AROUND EUROPE

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USACE boosts European reassurance effort



WIESBADEN, Germany – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District will manage more construction in Eastern and Central Europe this year than it has in the past four decades combined.

Over the next three years, the district will award up to 145 military construction and facilities, sustainment, restoration and modernization projects in Poland, the Baltics and Balkans as part of the \$1 billion European Reassurance Initiative to support NATO allies and U.S. partners in the region.

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US, German engineers strengthen ties

TRIER, Germany – U.S. and German engineers gathered here recently to highlight progress, iron out differences and build tighter collaboration within the Army and Air Force construction programs during the 2015 Partnering Conference.



European Infrastructure Consolidation and refining the ABG-75 process were among top agenda items. The annual forum took place April 15-16.

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New fitness center opens at Ansbach



ANSBACH, Germany – U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach hosted a grand opening of the new Katterbach Fitness Center in early April. At 42,000 square feet, it's nearly twice the size of the old facility, which was

housed in a World War II-era hangar. "This facility is a tangible reminder of the Army's commitment to the ongoing health and well-being of our Soldiers and families," said Michael Formica, Installation Management Command-Europe's regional director.

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Commander's Corner

Honoring our commitments



In mid-April, I had the opportunity to be the keynote speaker for the 2015 American Society of Military Comptrollers Workshop, a terrific event hosted by the resource management and comptroller community in Europe. Although the event's theme, "Building a Future through Service and Support," was the focus of my words, it was a question from Europe District attendee Sandra Moschetti that inspires this month's *Commander's Corner*. At the end of my presentation, Sandra simply asked, and I'm paraphrasing: With so many strategic partners supported by Europe District, how do I ensure the district is appropriately engaged with each of them?

The easy and technically correct answer is that we align project managers both regionally and functionally to ensure sufficient coverage, along with our engineering and construction staff, which also engages district partners. In addition, we hold recurring program and project reviews for our most strategic activities and do so at multiple levels. Finally, we use our annual Partner Survey and workshop to get a quantifiable assessment of stakeholder satisfaction and discuss ways we can improve.

However, the subjective answer is far more difficult to assess. Essentially, do we really know how well we are doing for our many partners? This is where the science of engineering and construction becomes more of an art — an art on how we communicate with our partners. Foremost, we must understand our partners and their needs. This means knowing what is most important to them and what information from us they view as most essential to understanding the program or project.

Next, we must communicate regularly throughout all levels with our partners and, equally as important, we MUST share bad news just as openly as we share the good. In most cases, we should share the bad even faster and wider. Although we may have thousands of positive actions within a program or project, it is that one piece of not-so-positive news we delay or fail to share that erodes the trust our partners have in us.

Finally, we must simply honor our commitments. When we tell partners what we're going to do, we must follow through. When we fall short, we must accept responsibility if it's ours to own. Moreover, if external factors prevent us from meeting our commitments, we must clearly, accurately and rapidly explain the situation to our partners.

Following that concept helps ensure our many partners are truly satisfied with support provided by the Europe District team.

Army Strong ... Building Strong!

COL Matt Tyler

Congratulations to our recent Heroes of the District: Dennis Mayer, Stephen Mahan, Sarah Galas and Jennifer Aldridge.

SPOTLIGHT on the Ansbach Resident Office



Rosanna Alcantara, regional program manager, and Resident Engineer Hans Hirschmann represent Ansbach earlier this month at the U.S.-German Partnering Conference in Trier.

The Ansbach Resident Office is situated in the Franconia region of Bavaria, Germany, and primarily supports U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach.

The office currently manages about \$70 million in design, construction and environmental projects across central and south Bavaria at several Army installations, including: Katterbach, Bismarck Kaserne, Urlas, Barton Barracks, Shipton Kaserne, Bleidorn, Oberdachstetten Training Area, Storck Barracks, Hohenfels and Garmisch. Four local nationals and four Americans manage the diverse workload, providing new state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly projects to the communities they serve.

In April, the staff celebrated completion of the \$16 million Katterbach Fitness Center project. The 39,000-square-foot facility features two basketball/volleyball courts, a free-weight room, group exercise rooms, racquetball court, combatives training area, parent-child area and juice bar. It provides community members an opportunity to build strength, get rid of stress and enjoy group activities.

The fitness center design incorporated energy-saving and sustainability measures aimed at increasing the facility's life span and reducing taxpayer expense. The center will help preserve environmental resources through the use of natural lighting; sun-shading blinds to reduce summer heat, and thus, air conditioning use; and thermal insulation to save on winter heating.

Elsewhere, the Ansbach team is tackling a vehicle maintenance facility, combined middle and high school, firing range renovation and modifications to 17 Army family housing apartments at Storck Barracks in Illesheim by 2018.

When staff members aren't on the job, they can be found enjoying the culture and history of the surrounding area.

Yelena Oselskaya, a project engineer, enjoys the proximity to skiing, her favorite sport: "I love mountains and having the Alps just a couple of hours away is awesome," she said.

Oselskaya is also fond of the lush, green forests and fields around her home in Ansbach and work in Hohenfels.

"I have projects requiring me to drive through the wilderness of the Hohenfels Training Area, which almost feels like a paid vacation on a German safari," she added.

Landon Steuck, also a project engineer, says there are a multitude of hiking and biking trails to explore the Bavarian countryside – but hitting the autobahn can be an even more thrilling experience.

"I can go more than 100 miles per hour, when there are no traffic jams, of course," he said.

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WATCH: Katterbach Fitness Center grand opening

Operations Security

LinkedIn security concerns

LinkedIn is a social media site used mainly for building professional networks and developing business associates. Users create contacts for information exchanges, job searches and opportunities. If you are on LinkedIn, it's because you want to be identified as a professional and let others know about your professional background.

Adversaries know this as well, and utilize LinkedIn to identify possible targets for exploitation. Regardless of how effectively and completely you control LinkedIn settings, there is no way to completely hide yourself on the site. You can reduce your exposure, but you cannot be invisible.

Here are a few LinkedIn security tips:

- Do not include in your profile that you have a security clearance.
- Exercise appropriate skepticism when contacted by someone unknown to you, regardless of how credible their LinkedIn presence appears. Not everyone on the Internet is who they say they are.
- Be cautious when considering whether to accept a connection request from those you do not know.
- Seek and accept connections that add quality to your professional network, and consider the ramifications of accepting connections that do not.
- Do not accept connection requests based entirely on the requestor's network strength. People sometimes build false networks and leverage their sham credibility to more easily facilitate social engineering.

Comments? Corrections?

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