



# EIE EXPRESS

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

## AROUND EUROPE

Issue 63, February 2015

### Life in Liberia: Challenges, high rewards



After turning over the last of 10 Ebola treatment centers in January, U.S. military task force members have begun withdrawing from West Africa as new cases of the disease tail off to virtually zero in Liberia.

By all accounts, however, it's been a deployment unlike any other for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District's Forward Engineer Support Team-Advanced. Liberia isn't the war zone some members saw in Iraq and Afghanistan, but it's still a rugged environment.

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### Army opens unique gate at Clay Kaserne

WIESBADEN, Germany – The Clay Kaserne Access Control Point is the first Department of Defense project worldwide to employ a new active vehicle barrier safety scheme, known as High Efficiency Presence Detection.



U.S. and German leaders, representing key military and civilian agencies involved in the effort, officially opened the \$6.3 million ACP with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Jan. 28.

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### Partners stage Industry Day in Poland



WARSAW, Poland – Europe District – in conjunction with the Missile Defense Agency, U.S. European Command, the Navy and Polish Ministry of Economy – hosted U.S. Industry Day here Feb. 11-12.

The two-day event was designed to help provide information on the general scope of work, required infrastructure and facilities, and potential construction and services opportunities to support a planned U.S. missile defense asset deployment in Poland.

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### Commander's Corner

Let's build bridges, not walls



What better topic to communicate than communication itself. We know effective workplace communication is vital to an organization's success, and every day, this becomes even more evident as the speed of transmitting and processing information gets faster and faster. With workplace communication being so essential to our productivity, efficiency and ability to maintain relationships, it's important we are reminded how to best communicate and also overcome challenging communication barriers.

In my view, a significant portion of frustrations within organizations and with those they support are manifested in poor communications. Whether experiencing "stovepipes," information "vacuums," or language and cultural differences, professionals must recognize and avoid these barriers. I do my best to recognize these challenges and always push myself to better communicate within our district and with our many partners and stakeholders.

Below are just a few thoughts on the subject:

**Teamwork:** Effective communication helps employees and supervisors form highly efficient teams. Employees are able to trust each other and management. The result of a team that works together is higher productivity, integrity and responsibility. If leaders and supervisors cannot communicate organizational goals and requirements to the workforce, and employees cannot communicate their needs back to management or amongst each other, the organization and its offices will not be a cohesive team. This concept is only compounded when external partners and stakeholders enter the mix.

**Diversity:** The vast diversity within our workforce, partners and stakeholders makes effective communication essential in our ability to reduce the barriers commonly created from language, cultural, generational and personality differences. How people think, react and see the world varies greatly and we must recognize how this impacts communication. People's differences are also part of how they all bring something unique to the team.

**Morale:** Effective communication results in improved organizational morale. The workforce appreciates good communication coming from management and recognizes the healthy work environment created. When employees are satisfied with their jobs, they are able to efficiently perform their duties with a more positive attitude. Failing to communicate effectively in a workplace leads to frustration and confusion among employees.

With the importance of Europe District's mission and the significant diversity among our workforce and partners, it is imperative that we are all good communicators, internally and externally.

Army Strong ... Building Strong!

COL Matt Tyler

## SPOTLIGHT on the Executive Office



From left: Mark Roncoli, MAJ Ed Kim, COL Matthew Tyler, Europe District commander, Kellie Sadler and LTC Andy Hemphill.

The Executive Office houses Europe District's command group in Wiesbaden, Germany. It provides guidance and assists district personnel as they accomplish the mission of delivering high-quality projects on time and within budget across European Command and Africa Command's large operational areas.

Office leadership consists of COL Matthew Tyler, district commander; LTC Andy Hemphill, deputy commander; and Deputy District Engineer Mark Roncoli, who serves as Program and Project Management Division chief. MAJ Ed Kim is the district executive officer, while Kellie Sadler handles executive secretary duties.

COL Tyler, who's been on the job almost nine months, frequently visits field offices and major project sites around Europe as the district's senior military representative. Delivering innovative solutions to the toughest engineering challenges facing the U.S., its closest allies and partners, and other organizations within EUCOM and AFRICOM is a critical part of the commander's vision.

Many might not know he's also a self-professed "news junkie" and avid runner who's competed in marathons around the globe. His office features a display case containing finisher's medals from major events in Boston, Paris, New York and Israel — just to name a few.

As COL Tyler travels the district, LTC Hemphill oversees daily activities at the Amelia Earhart Center as General and Administrative Division chief. He manages support staff, functions and programs ranging from personnel and Public Affairs to the Office of Counsel and logistics. In spare time, the deputy commander and Georgia Tech graduate loves chatting about Yellow Jackets football and basketball — he also follows the Atlanta Falcons, Hawks and Braves, rarely missing a game on AFN, unless it's a 2 a.m. live start. Then, a replay the next day works just fine.

Sadler is set to return to Texas later this year with her family, but working and living in Germany the past three years has been highly rewarding.

"It's nice because of the opportunity to travel to many different places that are so close. You can just go for the weekend," she said. "We enjoy being able to hop in the car and travel to places like Amsterdam and different cities around Germany. There are so many things to see and do here."

Off duty, MAJ Kim and his wife, So Young, head up an all-volunteer orchestra called the Milal Missionary Choir. The Kims established the local branch in 2007 with eight members. They now have 130 singers and musicians all over Germany and expanded into Italy four years ago. The group conducts community outreach and stages free concerts twice a month at nursing homes, hospitals, chapels and homeless shelters. Milal also performs annually at Carnegie Hall in New York.

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### NAU in the News

- The Gazette, See inside new SHAPE American High School at open house (see Page 3) — article
- Yankee Engineer, USACE team eyes mission's next phase as ETUs completed (see Pages 4-5) — article
- Herald Union, New Wiesbaden access control point operational — article

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### Operations Security

Italy fears ISIS invasion from Libya

As ISIS makes inroads into Libya, Rome officials are panicking about an Islamic State group just across the Mediterranean Sea — but they're perplexed about how to combat the crisis, The Daily Beast reported Feb. 17.

As the threat of ISIS in Libya hit home with a new video addressed to "the nation signed with the blood of the cross" and the warning, "we are south of Rome," Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi shuttered the Italian embassy in Tripoli earlier this month and threatened military action. Meanwhile, the Italian government said it's prepared to deploy 500 special antiterrorism police to protect sensitive tourist sites in Rome.

Whether the time is right or not, a palpable tension exists in Italy over the ISIS threat — Libya is just 109 miles away from Lampedusa island and 300 miles from Sicily — made worse by a 64 percent increase in illegal migrant arrivals by sea since last year. In all of 2014, more than 170,000 people arrived from Libya and Turkey, the highest number ever recorded.

As the embassy staff made its way to Italy on a mercantile ship, 2,164 migrants left the same Libyan shores en route to Sicily. The week before, more than 300 people were lost in the same seas as their rickety fishing boats capsized before rescuers could save them.

Anti-immigration politicians have argued it would take little for jihadi fighters to infiltrate a migrant boat and effectively end up taxied into Italy by rescue ships and the Italian navy. The Office of Migration in Rome says there could be up to half a million people in camps waiting to come to Italy and the unrest will push them out faster.

Visit [www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/02/17/italy-fears-isis-invasion-from-libya.html#](http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/02/17/italy-fears-isis-invasion-from-libya.html#) to read more.

### Comments? Corrections?

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