

EIE EXPRESS

The Monthly e-Newsletter for USACE Europe District's *Engineering in Europe* Magazine

AROUND EUROPE

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District among top programs in FY2015



WIESBADEN, Germany – As the fiscal calendar hits 2016, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District is looking back at another strong year supporting its many strategic partners in two theaters.

With more than \$668 million in construction placement and over 6.5 million employee hours on project sites, the district had one of the three largest military construction programs in all of USACE. It also ranked among the top five districts in dollar value of contract obligations for fiscal year 2015, which ended Sept. 30.

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Longtime ESO chief leaves indelible mark

WIESBADEN, Germany – Marylou Benner has been a constant here for more than seven years, and her door was always open. As Europe District's Employee Support Office chief, she guided a team that grew to become the nerve center for all things tied to sponsorship, personnel and travel.



After a 32-year federal career, Benner retired Sept. 30, drawing praise for her commitment to take care of people.

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Albania telemedicine fully integrated



TIRANA, Albania – Albania's telemedicine network is completely functional following a large-scale effort by U.S. and Albanian partners to overhaul a dozen facilities around this small country in southeastern Europe.

Europe District, in partnership with U.S. Embassy Tirana's Office of Defense Cooperation and U.S. Agency for International Development, managed renovation of 12 telemedicine centers over five years in a \$1.9 million venture funded through EUCOM's humanitarian-assistance program.

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Commander's Corner

Don't be a stranger



Over the past year, Europe District welcomed more than 130 new employees to our district family, and this doesn't even count the dozens more who served or are serving with us in a TDY or TCS status. We have hailed Department of the Army Civilians, military officers and NCOs, German local nationals and other host-nation team members serving throughout the district footprint. With so many new colleagues, it is fundamentally important we do our best to get to know one another. Although we used our recent Castle Call as an opportunity to introduce the new Wiesbaden-area personnel, I encourage everyone to take a moment to meet one of our many, many new co-workers you may not yet know. Similarly, newcomers should not hesitate to introduce themselves to colleagues they have seen, but not met.

Our newest co-workers bring experience from every division within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and almost every district, too. We also have colleagues who joined us from the Navy, Air Force, six different non-DOD agencies and the private sector. A number of employees came on board as military-spouse and family hires. Overall, we have a tremendous amount of new talent ready to bring their unique passion, presence, perseverance and partnership in support of Europe District's strategically important work. Recognizing the arrival of so many new employees reminds us how important it is to properly welcome and integrate our new colleagues onto our team and into the support we provide our partners.

To put this peak transition time in perspective, there were several summer months where we had more new employees join Europe District in a single month than most stateside districts would see in an entire year. More than 30 percent of our current district workforce arrived within the past 12 months, and the average time serving in Europe District for Department of the Army Civilians is 3.1 years.

Having this level of transition within an organization is just one of the many distinctive aspects that makes Europe District so unique. And it highlights the importance of not being a stranger within the district.

Army Strong ... Building Strong!

COL Matt Tyler

Congratulations to our recent Hero of the District: Juergen Knura.

SPOTLIGHT on the Environmental Branch



The Environmental Branch, comprised of Army civilians and local national employees, includes project managers and specialists such as geologists, biologists, engineers and chemists. From left: Shawnie Peters, Chris Gandy, Aaron White, Tom Krueger; Jill Tefts, the Environmental Branch chief; Erika McCormick, Sandy Baldwin, Daphne Ross, Iwona Jeanbaptiste, Hollie Eljizi and Tom Downing. Not pictured: George Bock, Lenny Gunnell, Jessica Ratchford, Thomas Gibson, Sal Van Wert, Juergen Knura, Klaus Fiedler and Vanessa Pepi.

The Environmental Branch — based in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District headquarters at the Amelia Earhart Center in Wiesbaden, Germany — represents a broad range of technical disciplines that bring expert solutions and project-management support to a variety of projects. The branch manages environmental remediation, soil disposal and natural resources for military partners and stakeholders.

The Environmental Branch's diverse technical staff assists combatant commanders with environmental compliance requirements in Europe and Africa. The district awards between \$25 million and \$35 million of environmental work annually and has up to 300 active projects, ranging from studies and design to remediation and small construction. The work is performed through USACE staff and contractors.

Project managers and environmental specialists such as geologists, biologists, engineers and chemists lend the branch a wide range of backgrounds and experience. The team includes Army civilians and local national employees.

Services and support are provided to U.S. Africa Command, Installation Management Command-Europe, Army garrisons, U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa, Defense Logistics Agency, U.S. Army Europe's Integrated Training Area Management program and the Missile Defense Agency. The branch also supports district project managers who identify environmental issues during the development, design or construction phases.

The staff works with USACE colleagues and other agencies in an extremely fast-paced environment to efficiently and effectively execute projects.

In order to thrive at this challenging tempo, the team strives to balance the workload by maintaining personal interests outside the office, said Iwona Jeanbaptiste, the branch management assistant.

"[You can't] miss out on the fun things to do outdoors; being outside is great stress-relief therapy," she said.

Personnel also took part in a recent bowling and staff farewell event. It was well attended and highly competitive, said Jill Tefts, the Environmental Branch chief.

Chris Gandy, a project manager, participates in a local Stammtisch, or "regulars table," to stay connected to the community. His Stammtisch group meets every other week to socialize. He says the gatherings provide Americans and Germans a chance to forge lasting friendships and share cultural knowledge.

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NAU in the News

- The Stuttgart Citizen: IT upgrades, sustainability are hallmarks of campus project — article
- ACT media, Anti-missile shield facility in Deveselu to be operational by year's end — article
- MarketWatch, KBR awarded two worldwide contracts for Department of Defense partners — article

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WATCH: USAG Wiesbaden tests response to terror 'attack'

Around the District

A snapshot of upcoming events, activities and points of interest

- A downside of fall is it usually comes with cold and flu season. Flu shots will be available to USACE team members and families 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 26 in the Amelia Earhart Center break room. Adults should wear attire to allow shoulder access. Children should wear clothes allowing shoulder and thigh access. Officials say a flu vaccination is much better than coming down with the flu, which can linger for weeks and even be fatal, in some cases.
- Kastle Keepers will host its annual Halloweenie event Oct. 29 in the AEC break room. Festivities kick off at 11 a.m. with a costume contest. A panel of judges will choose one overall winner. After the judging, enjoy a hot dog lunch featuring the Frankenstein's Plate or Witch's Plate. Wear a costume and receive \$1 off. Proceeds benefit the Children's Holiday Party in December, sponsored annually by Kastle Keepers.
- October is Fire Prevention Month, which provides an opportunity to review safety tips for work and home. According to National Fire Protection Association statistics, half of all U.S. home fire deaths occur at night between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when people are most likely to be sleeping. A working smoke alarm in the home cuts the risk of dying in a fire in half. For more information, visit www.nfpa.org/safety-information/fire-prevention-week.
- Need a passport, visa or ISOPREP photo? The PAO team can help district personnel and family members. Walk-in hours are 1-3 p.m. every Friday in the Public Affairs Office, 8th floor — B wing. No appointment necessary.

Comments? Corrections?

Contact the Europe District Public Affairs Office at:

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