



EIE EXPRESS

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

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AROUND EUROPE

Be prepared: Active-shooter drill staged



WIESBADEN, Germany – Throughout the Amelia Earhart Center, instructions blared over the intercom system: “All personnel proceed to seek shelter.” This alerted U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District and tenant agency

employees that the first-ever active-shooter exercise was in progress here Sept. 18.

It was held in conjunction with a large-scale U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden drill. The goal is to make sure personnel know where to go and what to do in case of a “lone wolf” attack.

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Stuttgart marks opening of US schools

BOEBLINGEN, Germany – Students across U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart went back to school in early September. The community recently returned to dedicate the two newest marquee facilities in Department of Defense Education Activity-Europe’s inventory.



U.S. and German military and civilian leaders formally cut the ribbon on the new Stuttgart elementary and high schools during a ceremony Sept. 18 on Panzer Kaserne.

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Ramstein unveils C-130J flight simulator



RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany – The 86th Airlift Wing hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony Aug. 24 to celebrate completion of the new C-130J Super Hercules flight simulator.

Europe District engineers managed construction of the new facility, which is expected to save U.S. Air Forces in Europe approximately \$250,000 a year in temporary-duty costs as it alleviates the need for pilots to be sent back to the United States for training on simulators.

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Commander's Corner

Ringing in the new fiscal year



Happy New Year! Of course, I’m talking about our new fiscal year – FY2016. And what a fantastic fiscal 2015 we had! Europe District continues to be one of the most relevant and strategically important districts in all of USACE. Our engineering, construction, and environmental support within the European Command and Africa Command areas of responsibility (consisting of 104 countries) truly supports regional and global security goals. As many of you have heard me say, Europe District helps enable U.S. policies abroad and assists the security goals of our closest allies and partners.

Despite past reductions of U.S. military personnel in Europe and annual budgetary battles that impact funding for many strategic partners we support, our district workload remains as strong as ever. In addition to programs that prove to be traditional business lines for us year after year, we have seen new programs such as the European Reassurance Initiative and European Infrastructure Consolidation materialize in fiscal year 2015. Combined, ERI and EIC bring hundreds of millions of dollars in new work to the district spread over multiple years. Along with new programs like those two, we have seen huge growth in areas throughout the region that include Defense Logistics Agency-Energy, architect-engineer task orders, operations and maintenance on garrisons and air bases, and work in Israel and the Foreign Military Sales program overall.

In the fourth quarter alone (July through September), Europe District completed over 1,000 contract actions valued at more than \$500 million, putting us on track for FY2015 totals to exceed 2013 and 2014 dollar amounts by over \$200 million. Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes our entire district to deliver the engineering and construction services we provide. I know it was an amazing team effort from within the whole organization to achieve so much this past fiscal year. Recognizing how complex our work is, I truly thank you for the passion, presence, perseverance and partnership you embody to personally succeed – and help make Europe District and those we support so successful, too.

Again, happy New “Fiscal” Year and many, many thanks to everyone for making FY2015 a tremendous success. I am confident the district will achieve even greater heights in fiscal year 2016.

Army Strong ... Building Strong!

COL Matt Tyler

Congratulations to our recent Heroes of the District: Iwona Jeanbaptiste, Otis Hawes and Greg McMillan.

SPOTLIGHT on Construction Support Services



From left: Jose Gonzalez, Sharon Thomas, Aaron Edmonson, Construction Support Services Section chief, Daniella Yi, Oscar Pagan-Santana and Andy Dutil.

Within Europe District's Engineering and Construction Division, there is a small section known as Construction Support Services. CSS delivers a wide variety of services that may go unnoticed, but are vital to district operations.

CSS supports construction field offices, contract administration and quality assurance. It provides technical expertise related to the district's Resident Management, Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting, and Design Review and Checking systems, along with oversight of Engineering and Construction programming and budgeting. The team also coordinates Biddability, Constructability, Operability and Environmental reviews; facilitates the Construction Quality Management course for contractors, and schedules and processes construction contract claims.

CSS personnel hold degrees in architecture and civil and electrical engineering. Most have professional engineer licenses and Project Management Planning certificates, as well as Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act contracting and facility management certifications. They bring experience from various U.S. Army Corps of Engineers districts such as Jacksonville, Savannah, Alaska, New Orleans, Fort Worth, Wilmington and Japan. Local national employees round out the rest of the team.

Residing on the top floor of district headquarters at the Amelia Earhart Center, often called the "penthouse," CSS enjoys the great view of Wiesbaden this vantage point has to offer.

CSS staff get an opportunity to travel across Europe, providing local support and acting as a vital district link to various field offices in countries including Germany, Israel and Romania. The section works with each district branch to ensure the mission is accomplished.

Team members say they truly enjoy living and working in Europe — especially the travel and festivals. All the activities and unique locations in close vicinity to Wiesbaden are exciting to Oscar Pagan-Santana, a civil engineer.

"My family and I love to travel as much as possible to see all of the cultural and historical places throughout Europe," he said. "I have also enjoyed traveling to the various field offices and working with them on a daily basis to provide support to work through the more difficult tasks they have."

Various fests in the local area also are a big attraction.

"Being able to take my family and meet up with friends and colleagues at the local wine fest is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Jose Gonzalez, also a civil engineer in the section.

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NAU in the News

- Stars and Stripes, Stuttgart officials open 'green' schools — article and photos
- Bavarian News, Vilseck Army Health Clinic cuts ribbon on clinic addition — article
- Stars and Stripes, Ramstein is 1st overseas base to get C-130J flight simulator — article

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WATCH: AFN Stuttgart coverage of new DODEA schools

Operations Security ISIS exploiting refugee crisis?

The ongoing Syrian refugee crisis has renewed concerns Islamic State fighters could be slipping into Europe amid the greatest wave of refugees to the Continent in decades, according to a Sept. 8 report in the International Business Times. But experts say borders into Europe have always been porous, and refugees from Syria and elsewhere fleeing political turmoil have made their way here en masse for years.

The brutal civil war in Syria, which displaced some 11 million people, has sent more than 360,000 refugees fleeing across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe this year, the U.N. refugee agency estimated. Several Eastern European nations, particularly Austria and Hungary, have sought to prevent refugees from entering their borders, while German leaders have said they would be willing to welcome 500,000 refugees a year.

The surge in recent months has left European authorities struggling to take control of the security situation, prompting fear extremists could slip into Europe under the radar. In January, an ISIS operative told BuzzFeed the terrorist group already had sent about 4,000 fighters into Europe, who were waiting quietly to stage attacks. Smugglers reportedly confirmed the ISIS operative's assertion and admitted to smuggling militants across waters in the very same boats used by hundreds of thousands of refugees.

"It's a real threat for sure," said Tom Sanderson, director of transnational threats at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

To read more, click here: www.ibtimes.com/isis-exploiting-refugee-crisis-europes-islamic-state-threat-requires-boosted-security-2087164.

Comments? Corrections?

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