



# EIE EXPRESS

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

## AROUND EUROPE

Issue 74, February 2016

### USACE tackles Benelux transformation



WIESBADEN, Germany – As part of European Infrastructure Consolidation, U.S. Army Garrison Benelux has the unique mission of realigning its footprint in two countries – Belgium and the Netherlands.

With help from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District and the Dutch Ministry of Defense, the garrison will execute a \$122 million transformation program. Upon completion in 2022, three sites will close and be relocated to Chievres Air Base, Sterrebeek Annex and JFC-Brunssum.

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### Europe District gets new civilian leader

WIESBADEN, Germany – USACE recently bid farewell to its longtime deputy district engineer in Europe, and a familiar face is back to take over the organization's top civilian leadership post.



In late January, Mark Roncoli retired after 37 years in federal service, the past decade coming at Europe District. John Adams steps into the position after 12 years at Norfolk District, where he was chief of Military Programs.

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### AFRICOM hosts open house for new JOC



STUTTGART, Germany – U.S. Africa Command hosted an open house for staff and families Feb. 5 at its new Joint Operations Center.

Europe District managed construction of the new

25,000-square-foot facility at U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart. It became fully operational in December. The JOC will support AFRICOM's ever-increasing operational requirements by providing a centralized state-of-the-art collaboration center for many years to come.

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### Commander's Corner

Small organization with big impacts



As I see news for the vast region covered by Europe District, I'm reminded of how vitally important our work is. Across a rapidly changing security environment and dynamic geopolitical landscape in both Europe and Africa, the efforts of our district help achieve strategic effects that preserve regional stability, save lives, and create hope and prosperity for future generations.

Gen. Philip Breedlove, NATO's supreme allied commander Europe and head of U.S. European Command, recently said: "Looking back, 2015 was undoubtedly one of the busiest years for EUCOM since the end of the Cold War. During the past year, a perpetually increased demand was placed upon the EUCOM personnel who help provide stability for the European security environment. [EUCOM] has done an outstanding job balancing its focus between a revanchist Russia, mass migrations from other regions and foreign terrorist fighters transiting through Europe, while maintaining our commitments to our NATO allies and partners."

This increased effort of our partners throughout Europe means an increased effort for the district, too. We are seeing more requirements in Eastern Europe "ZIP codes" as the U.S., NATO and other allies work to counter a Russian attempt to reclaim territory lost at the end of the Cold War. To achieve the desired strategic effects of deterring Russian aggression, we are doing our part by providing infrastructure that enables U.S. military forces to train and exercise more closely and in larger numbers with nations on the doorstep of Russia. Additionally, to further boost regional security, we provide critical operational and support facilities, and other engineer-related services throughout our traditional enduring European locations and even in many new areas where this work makes a positive difference for the goals and objectives of the U.S. and our allies.

In some ways, Africa's challenges are Europe's challenges. The instability of many African nations has led to a European migration that strains the resources of more developed countries. Those same fragile nations with equally fragile government institutions provide an environment ripe for extremism that promotes violence and terror to accomplish goals.

Our support of U.S. Africa Command's efforts in East Africa to degrade al-Shabab; in North Africa to counter the Islamic State group in Libya; in Chad, Niger and Nigeria to defeat Boko Haram; in West Africa to combat narcotics trafficking; and in over a dozen African nations to build government capacity is strategically important to so many.

Simply stated, our organization of about 450 employees and the many contractors working for us help make an amazing difference for this part of the world. Keep up this great and important work!

Army Strong ... Building Strong!

COL Matt Tyler

## SPOTLIGHT on Logistics Management Office



Based in Wiesbaden, Germany, Europe District's Logistics Management Office provides direction, coordination and technical guidance through value-added worldwide logistics policy, plans, and programs for all command logistics functions and business processes. It covers supply, maintenance, readiness, materiel, transportation, travel, facility management, integrated logistics, management controls and strategic planning in support of more than 600 construction projects in 10 different countries.

The LM team is involved in the full spectrum of logistics. Its personnel ensure the district is postured to meet objectives within the USACE Campaign Plan, as well as the commander's vision in support of U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command, and a multitude of other partners during peacetime and contingency or wartime operations. In 2014, Logistics Management planned, coordinated and executed a timely mobilization, deployment and return of the district's Forward Engineer Support Team-Advanced to Liberia for Operation United Assistance, the U.S.-led effort to stop the spread of Ebola in West Africa.

"Whether it's a Post-it on your desk, a hard hat on your head, a steering wheel in your hand, a certified travel order in your pocket, or adequate office space and working environment, no other branch can boast the many ways in which their support has a direct impact on a daily basis to the success of each individual employee and the overall mission," said LM Chief Todd Hasbrouck.

Off duty, staffers say they love the adventure afforded by living in Germany.

"In the beginning, even going to REWE or a doctor's appointment is a new cultural experience," said Lindsey Wetzel, the district's facility manager. "But after the PCS pain subsides, there are a lifetime of places to visit and adventures to seek within a five-hour travel radius. ... I love the daily differences, too — dogs under the tables at restaurants; autobahns with no speed limits; 15 kinds of mineral water available, even in small stores; restored and crumbling castles in every landscape; amazing and affordable food and drink options."

Wetzel lives in Schlangenbad-Wambach, which is "just fun to say," she quipped. This winter, she discovered a small ice rink in nearby Bad Schwalbach, where she spent six weeks teaching youth hockey Saturday mornings and playing pickup games with the older crowd on Sundays.

After 27 years in the Army, landing a job in LM was "like winning the lottery," said Property Book Officer Wes Lemarr.

"I was worried about being able to transfer from the military to civilian lifestyle," he recalls. "The LM Office was very supportive due to the fact that everyone was either prior service or married to a Soldier. We have a family atmosphere that works very well within our office."

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### NAU in the News

- HDR selected selected to design new military hospital project in Germany — news release
- Ramstein Air Base, Energy-efficient dorm opens on Kapaun Air Station — photos
- U.S. Embassy Georgia: Embassy, EUCOM mark completion of refugee-assistance project — article

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## WATCH: USACE National Engineers Week 2016

### Around the District

A snapshot of upcoming events, activities and points of interest

- **Black History Month** — Each February marks the annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role African-Americans played in U.S. history. This year's theme is "Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African-American Memories." The event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African-Americans. Since 1976, every president has officially designated February as Black History Month. To read more about the history of black Soldiers in the Army, visit [www.army.mil/africanamericans/?from=hp\\_spotlight](http://www.army.mil/africanamericans/?from=hp_spotlight).

- **Overseas tour extension survey** — U.S. Army Europe's inspector general's office is conducting an online survey for its civilian workforce, seeking feedback on employee experiences and perceptions of overseas tour extensions. Europe District personnel are eligible to take part through Feb. 29 via the home SharePoint portal at: <https://nauportal.nau.ds.usace.army.mil/OTEX/default.aspx>. Officials say input is valuable and could lead to process improvements.

- **German lessons** — The University of Maryland University College plans to hold its Elementary German Language Course at the Amelia Earhart Center in Wiesbaden, Germany, from March 14 to May 8, but only if at least 15 students sign up. Personnel must register by March 2 for the class, which will meet from 6-9 p.m. either Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday. The course is open to family members. Tuition is \$660 but could be reimbursed if approved by a supervisor. If interested, apply to UMUC at: [www.europe.umuc.edu](http://www.europe.umuc.edu). For more information, contact UMUC Education Coordinator Joshua Mann at 0611-705-5917.

### Comments? Corrections?

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