



EIE EXPRESS

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

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AROUND EUROPE

US partners address construction boom



WIESBADEN, Germany – As the U.S. military takes steps to reassure allies over concerns about a more aggressive Russia in the east, stakeholders and project-delivery teams are tackling the largest construction program in Europe

since the end of the Cold War.

Officials offered a snapshot during the sixth annual U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District Partner Workshop at Clay Kaserne. More than 100 engineer leaders from throughout EUCOM and AFRICOM attended the session.

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District team takes on special mission

WIESBADEN, Germany – Traveling about 100 workdays a year, members of the Special Projects Section under Europe District's Construction Branch are frequently out of the office visiting far-off locations from the Baltic coast to the Sahara Desert.



The team – made up of six project engineers, a construction representative and supervisory engineer – is managing more than 90 active projects in the district's 104-country area of responsibility, serving two combatant commands.

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Progress made on military hospital project



WEILERBACH, Germany – By far, the largest construction project being managed by Europe District is the \$990 million replacement of Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and the 86th Medical

Group Clinic with a new consolidated medical facility. Site preparation is underway, and the German Construction Agency here recently awarded a contract to the firm HDR TMK to complete the next design phase on the Rhine Ordnance Barracks Medical Center Replacement.

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Commander's Corner

Stay vigilant, stand united against violence



This past month has unfortunately provided several more stark reminders of how violent extremism can turn communities and everyday life upside down. Deadly attacks around the world – including Belgium, Turkey, Israel and other locations throughout Europe District's vast operational area – highlight the critical importance of maintaining a high level of vigilance and awareness of one's surroundings. Although terrorists try to wage a strategic war by instilling fear in our minds, we can take attentive and smart actions to ensure their cowardly efforts are unsuccessful. Moreover, as these groups attempt to tear alliances apart with indiscriminate violence, they actually make countries stronger and create even greater bonds of unity.

Through our own thoughtful and responsible actions, we can collectively make it more difficult for those attempting to place fear in the citizenry of our many nations. We all must exercise vigilance when in public places or using mass transportation. Be aware of immediate surroundings, exercise caution and report suspicious activity, especially during religious holidays and at large festivals or events.

Whether at home or traveling, you should always follow the instructions of local authorities, particularly during an emergency. Additionally, you should monitor media and local information sources, and factor updated information into personal activities and travel plans. It is important to remember to be patient with security procedures and prepared for additional security screening and unexpected delays. You should also stay in touch with family members and ensure they know how to reach you in the event of an emergency. Furthermore, U.S. personnel should register in the State Department's "Smart Traveler Enrollment Program" when traveling. These actions are but a few methods to help keep you safe.

While those responsible for the many terrorist attacks are attempting to use fear to achieve their religious, political, economic or social aims, the world becomes more and more determined to defeat the forces responsible for such senseless violence. The Belgium attacks have resulted in words of shock, empathy and overwhelming unity pouring in from around the world. A global society under threat is leading to international solidarity. One theme is pervasive: The world must stand together to fight the forces responsible for such indiscriminate violence.

Stay safe and, as always, thank you for your work in the district and to those we support.

Army Strong ... Building Strong!

COL Matt Tyler

Congratulations to our recent Heroes of the District: Melissa George, Belinda Dickey, Miguel Cedeno-Morales, Dave Farris, Lindsey Wetzel, Dieter Marbe, Andy Williams, Jason Dukes, Jim Glines, R.C. Markel and Drew White.

SPOTLIGHT on the Installation Support Branch



“In the Installation Support Branch, it never gets boring,” said Ekaterina Ruppe, a project manager. “I had never visited Europe before joining the district, and thanks to USACE, I am now living in a dream destination. Every weekend can be a mini-vacation; I go to beautiful historic cities, see monuments, eat traditional food and make my Facebook friends jealous.”

Europe District’s Installation Support Branch, based in Wiesbaden, Germany, supports and enables efficient base operations and maintenance across Europe by providing full-spectrum master planning, nonmilitary construction project management and logistical support for U.S. Army Europe forward operating bases. To manage the work, ISB is divided into three sections:

The five-member Planning Section assesses current and future installation mission and manning requirements, and creates a “playbook” of facility and infrastructure projects to be integrated into a master plan. These projects are sent forward to Congress for authorization and result in new facilities and infrastructure to support service members. The section also provides base and utility mapping, facility-utilization surveys, data migration, graphic information system support and other services installations need to improve operational efficiency through geographic information system technology. Working across Europe, section staff travel to installations from the Azores to Turkey, and many in between.

The Project Design Section provides cradle-to-grave project management primarily to Army Public Works directorates and European Command, Africa Command, USAREUR, Installation Management Command-Europe, the Defense Health Agency, Department of Defense Education Activity-Europe, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and others throughout Germany, Italy, Belgium, Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania. The section includes 17 project managers, along with architects, electrical engineers, mechanical engineers and drafters. In the past three years, it executed an average of \$100 million in work, with a focus on European Infrastructure Consolidation and European Reassurance Initiative projects.

ISB’s Support Section administers a \$50 million-per-year USAREUR Support Contract Program — overseeing services for contingency operations, military training and readiness exercises throughout the 51-country area of responsibility. The program includes operations and maintenance work, logistics services and unspecified minor military construction in support of up to 6,000 personnel in Kosovo, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey and other operations throughout Europe.

“Working in ISB is like wearing a badge of honor,” said Ekaterina Ruppe, a Project Design Section member. “In a fast-paced work environment, my colleagues remain supportive and available to provide guidance.”

ISB is the place to be, says Shenita McConis, a Planning Section project manager.

“A major bonus is life in Germany. There is always something going on — festivals, markets, concerts and theater events,” she added.

Joe Podwats of the Project Design Section also feels privileged to be here.

“Living and working in Wiesbaden is like living the European dream I never realized I had,” he said.

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NAU in the News

- **US Africa Command: AFRICOM, EUCOM host engineer workshop — article**
- **Amec Foster Wheeler awarded \$183M US Army Corps of Engineers contract — news release**
- **Herald Union, New construction projects to begin in Wiesbaden — article**

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WATCH: What is the US Army Corps of Engineers?

Around the District

A snapshot of upcoming events, activities and points of interest

- **Europe travel alert** — The State Department has issued a travel alert for U.S. citizens traveling in Europe after several terrorist attacks, including the March 22 bombings in Brussels claimed by the Islamic State. Terrorist groups continue to plan near-term attacks throughout the Continent, targeting sporting events, tourist sites, restaurants and transportation. This travel alert expires June 20. American citizens should exercise vigilance in public places or using mass transportation. Be aware of immediate surroundings and avoid crowded places. Exercise particular caution during religious holidays and at large festivals or events. For more information, go to <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en.html>.

- **Boy Scout 'STEM Wars' Camporee** — Volunteers are needed to assist with the Boy Scouts spring Camporee, set for April 29 to May 1 near Landstuhl Army Heliport in Germany. The event will include competitions and a fair built around science, technology, engineering and math. For details or to sign up as a volunteer, contact Lou Reagan of Europe District's Ramstein Resident Office at louis.c.reagan@usace.army.mil.

- **Women's History Month** — March is Women's History Month, and the Army joins in the annual celebration of female achievements and contributions to the nation and U.S. history. This year's theme is "Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government." The Army community honors the sacrifices and accomplishments of women who not only have helped shape the service but also the country. To read more about women in the Army, visit www.army.mil/women/?from=hp_spotlight.

Comments? Corrections?

Contact the Europe District Public Affairs Office at:

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