



# EIE EXPRESS

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

## AROUND EUROPE

Issue 34, September 2012

### Building strong through mentoring



WIESBADEN, Germany— Brian Trzaska, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District civil engineer for special projects, is teaching, training, coaching, counseling and transferring knowledge to Marcelo Maier, a fellow district civil engineer and Trzaska's mentee.

A year ago, Maier rotated into the Engineering and Construction Branch as part of the Department of the Army intern program and was assigned his first humanitarian assistance project.

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### "Iron" strong USACE employees

WIESBADEN, Germany – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District Logistics Management employees Dale Free and Heath Drako recently competed in Ironman Germany triathlons. The Ironman, organized by the World Triathlon Corporation, is a premier long-distance sports competition of swimming, biking, and running for athletes in peak physical condition. Free completed the half-Ironman on August 12 in Wiesbaden.



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### USAREUR green building achievements



WIESBADEN, Germany – Green has always been a purposeful color in the U.S. Army. Vehicles are painted green, Army combat uniforms are stitched with green thread and official Army history is captured in the

Green Books. Today, Army installations throughout the world are linked through the implementation of green building practices to collectively achieve overarching sustainability goals.

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### Message from the Commander

#### End of Fiscal Year

The weather is cooling off, kids are in school, traffic is back to normal and people are watching football all night on AFN. This can only mean one thing: the End of Fiscal Year is upon us.



As a construction contract agency supporting installations, environmental programs, and international and interagency engineering across Europe and Africa, End of Fiscal Year (EOFY) is our Superbowl. Our partners rely on Europe District to efficiently obligate their remaining funds for maximum benefit. Our ability to do this during the EOFY surge period is a great value to our customers.

Last September, the district completed 550 contract actions, valued at \$300 million. This means 32% of all contract actions for the year, and 45% of the annual budget were executed in one month. That required a huge effort, and this September will be just as busy.

Success in EOFY is not just the obligation of funds or total number of contracts awarded, but the successful delivery of projects down the road (delivering quality, on-time, on-budget, safely and transparently). Historically, contracts awarded during EOFY required more modifications, resulting in increased costs and delays. Customers are not likely to remember any special circumstances in which a project was awarded, and therefore, as members of project delivery teams, we must do our best now to ensure EOFY contracts are awarded to high standards the first time. Our customers deserve nothing less.

EOFY requires a team effort by all members of the district, and I thank you in advance. Many long evenings and full weekends lay before us, but I am confident we will succeed once again in meeting our partners' needs.

I applaud the Air Force's initiative for Total Asset Management to avoid end-of-year surges and provide a more even distribution of work and funds throughout the year. Starting in FY13, all Restoration and Modernization (R&M) and Sustainment requirements exceeding \$5 million will be prioritized and funded by Air Force HQ and approved by the Air Staff. This effort will prevent migration of R&M and Sustainment funds at the beginning of the fiscal year, which would otherwise lead to replenishing accounts at year-end and late project execution.

Building Strong! People, Partners, Projects

COL Pete Helmlinger

Congratulations Europe District Heroes of the Battle: Siegfried Schaefer, Pat Brady, Jorge Pachas and Jeanine Molloy!

## SPOTLIGHT on the Italy Resident Office



Left to Right: John Curtis and Howard Mosley visit construction sites in Longare, Italy. Not pictured: Mark Nedzbal, Rob Eldred, Michael Pfaff, Laura Berto, James Alexander, James McMullen – Livorno Office and John Thomas – Aviano Office

The Italian resident offices, located in historic Vicenza and on Aviano Airbase, provide construction oversight for Caserma Ederle, Livorno, and the Aviano Airbase communities.

The offices recently completed several projects including a road repair and improvements to the Access Control Point project at Camp Pluto in Longare, a MET trainer facility and obstacle course in Vicenza, and a Pistol Qualification Course in Aviano.

John Thomas, who's worked at the Aviano Project office since June 2004, stays busy by balancing numerous projects as a one-man team.

"I'm currently managing AT/FP upgrades to the gates, structural work to munitions storage igloos, and the recently completed airfield pavements project which constructed new fighter aircraft parking pads and converted deteriorated asphalt taxiways to concrete surfaces" said Thomas.

Working in Italy poses unique challenges but partnering with Italian contractors offers the opportunity to not only work with Italian contractors but also learn from them.

"Working with Italian engineers, architects, and construction workers and resolving issues is rewarding. We're learning the diverse cultural methods of construction," said Howard Mosley, a project engineer.

Collaboration with the DPW, regional training support division (RTSD), Italian safety coordinators, and the cohesion of the resident office also contributes to project success.

"We have excellent contractors and partners who make my life easy and strive to maintain a good working relationship." says Thomas. "And you can't beat the mountain view from work and home."

"Once you adapt to the hours and traditions, you begin to see things are not that different than the States," says Thomas, who has lived in Italy since 1983 and is an avid American Classic Car collector. "I participate in events all over Northern Italy and drag race on a regular basis at the American Car shows."

Mosley also enjoys Italian life.

"I really love the proximity to the rest of Europe, the scenery, and the Italian wine and food. And, of course, the challenge to learn Italian."

## WORK WITH USACE

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Tallinn, Estonia  
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*Click announcement or visit [FBO.gov](http://FBO.gov)  
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## NAU in the News

- **Bavarian News, Soldiers begin using high ropes course designed by USACE - article**
- **U.S. Green Building Council, USACE earns first LEED certification in Germany - NAU press release**
- **USAG Benelux Gazette, USACE introduces cadets to European engineering - NAU article**

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**WATCH:** Twenty Wound Warriors participate in the 2012 London Paralympic Games

## Operations Security

Get a kit; Make a plan; Be informed



Emergencies affect hundreds each year. One may hit our installation or community without warning and when emergencies do occur, military and civilian organizations respond. But it takes time to mobilize response efforts. Thus the Ready Army program is meant to be a “proactive campaign” increasing the resilience of our Army community and enhancing the readiness of the force by informing Soldiers, their Families, Army civilians and contractors of relevant hazards and encouraging everyone to: Get a kit, Make a plan and Be informed. By creating a culture of preparedness, we can save lives, strengthen the nation and remain Army Strong. [www.ready.army.mil](http://www.ready.army.mil)

Comments? Corrections?  
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