



EIE EXPRESS

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

Issue 64, March 2015

AROUND EUROPE

ERI, EIC key themes at Partner Workshop



WIESBADEN, Germany – Top engineers have begun outlining steps they'll take in two major programs to bolster allies while streamlining U.S. forces and assets in Europe over the next several years.

Discussions about the European Reassurance Initiative and European Infrastructure Consolidation came during the 2015 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District Partner Workshop. About 90 representatives from more than 70 military agencies took part in the annual session.

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Women take on big engineering roles

WIESBADEN, Germany – Only 20 percent of Europe District's Engineering and Construction Division employees are women. While the branch is led by a female chief, the office – like many in the U.S. – still has a scarcity.



In honor of Women's History Month, *Engineering in Europe* speaks with three engineers here to find out how they chose their paths and continue to thrive in this male-dominated career field.

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District boosts wide array of programs



WIESBADEN, Germany – More than ever before, the United States and its allies throughout Europe, Africa and Israel called upon Europe District in 2014 for architect, engineering, construction, environmental, and

operations and maintenance support.

USACE had record-high quality construction placement in excess of \$610 million across the district in all programs ranging from Belgium to Israel, the Baltics to the Balkans, Eastern Europe to Africa, and at remote sites on both continents.

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Commander's Corner

Safety always – in life and work



Welcome to spring! Personally speaking, there is not a better time to reflect on the past year and look in anticipation at the months ahead. Contemplation seems to be an appropriate step as we all watch the world turn "green" again.

As I reflect on what we accomplished last year in Europe District, I stand in awe. We placed more than \$620 million in construction without a single major accident. In addition, the district is celebrating its "7th Year of Life," a stretch in which we've had no work-site fatalities since 2008. We also have one project in Romania that has logged over 1.6 million work hours without any time lost to an accident.

The district's award-winning safety record is something we can all take pride in, especially considering our diverse footprint in Europe and Africa, along with the fact there is no standardized safety list for the dozens of countries in which we work. Our experts in the field face the challenge of balancing USACE's rigid set of requirements with dozens of unique cultures and approaches to safety. When it comes to project safety, we have a workforce that's among the best in planning and execution.

This topic provides a great opportunity to tell you about the new version of USACE's Safety and Health Requirements Manual (EM 385-1-1). Released March 2, it's available at www.publications.usace.army.mil/Portals/76/Publications/EngineerManuals/EM_385-1-1.pdf.

Recently, we welcomed Sam Crispin as the district's new chief of safety and occupational health. He will no doubt continue our stellar performance and help keep safe practices in the forefront of all we do. However, it's important to remember that the responsibility for safety lies within each of us. Accidents on project sites have a devastating effect in completing our mission.

While workplace safety remains an essential element of our success, I ask that we all consider protective measures in the same way when we are at home or on vacation. After all, an accident at work could have a detrimental effect on your home life, and conversely, an accident at home likely would have a damaging impact on your professional life.

With that in mind, I ask you to take safety home with you – whether traveling on vacation, planting a garden or driving Europe's roads. Consider the effects an accident could have on your professional and personal life. Just as you do each day in the district... work hard, have fun and do it safely.

Army Strong ... Building Strong!

COL Matt Tyler

Congratulations to our Heroes of the District: LTC Preston Hayward, Emile Pitre, Doug Wesemann, CPT Ryan Carman, Joe Podwats, Oksana Strekha, Jennifer Aldridge, Cathy Brown and Rob Eldred.

SPOTLIGHT on the Contracting Division



The Contracting Division supports Europe District's mission with 20 contract specialists, three procurement analysts, a records manager and management assistant.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District Contracting Division in Wiesbaden is responsible for issuing solicitations; evaluating proposals; and negotiating, executing and administering construction, architect-engineer and environmental-services contracts.

Contracting on two continents throughout U.S. European Command and Africa Command areas of responsibility, the office has the unique challenge of teaching local contractors – in countries including Poland, Germany, Israel and various African nations – how to compete for U.S. government contracts. Its specialists host Industry Day events as a forum for information exchange and face-to-face interaction with prospective contractors.

Since 2011, the Contracting Division has averaged 1,700 contract actions resulting in \$725 million in construction placement annually.

During the extremely busy fiscal year-end each September, the branch lightens the office atmosphere with various festive dress days and an annual brisket cook-off. Winners are named for tastiest and spiciest.

"We have a great group in Contracting," said Jeff Harrington, a supervisory contract specialist. "We enjoy having a good time, cooking and eating together."

The division is also filled with active, adventure-seeking colleagues.

"Our team has competed in Tough Mudders and soccer games, and climbed to the top of the Zugspitze," said Jeff Ball, a contract specialist, who is training for the Lisbon Half Marathon later this month in Portugal.

The mission here is complicated, but it provides a lot of job satisfaction, said Jeff Holt, a contract specialist working on U.S. Army Europe support contracts.

"We are in the middle of Europe, and my kids see things other kids only read about in textbooks," he said.

Holt isn't the only team member taking advantage of his time in Europe.

"I have been to two World Cup soccer matches, a World Cup downhill event and an American football game in Berlin," said Harrington.

Back in the office, there's never a dull moment, says Sifa Kajiru-Edwards, the management assistant: "There's always something new to learn, and that keeps things interesting."

The 25-person office is comprised of professionals from diverse backgrounds, including a team of local nationals supporting projects executed in Germany.

"We have a very versatile and pleasant group to work with," said Sonia Buescher, a German contract specialist and expert in PD2 contract writing software.

The branch is actively recruiting six contract specialists to keep up with the heavy workload, including two to support European Reassurance Initiative and European Infrastructure Consolidation projects. Search www.usajobs.gov for contracting job opportunities in Europe District.

WORK WITH USACE

Maintenance, repair services
Throughout Europe
Solicitation number:
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Job Order Contract
Throughout Germany
Solicitation number:
W912GB-15-R-0010

Kindergarten, Community Center
Vukovar and Srb, Croatia
Solicitation number:
W912GB15R0021

*Click announcement or visit FBO.gov
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NAU in the News

- Hungary Today: President, defence minister hold talks with USACE general in Budapest – article
- Seabee Magazine, NAVFAC commander visits new base under construction in Romania – article
- Herald Union, Engineers prepare for return from mission in Liberia – article

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WATCH: Single ACP opens at USAG Wiesbaden

Operations Security

Beware of scammers

There are so many scammers out there because so many people fall victim every day. You can protect yourself by paying close attention to emails or telephone calls requesting your personal information.

The perpetrators might say they are from the IRS, a bank, law enforcement or any other official agency. Scammers will tell you that you owe money — or that you have some type of security flaw in your account — and then ask you to provide money, a login name or password information.

Be suspicious, as almost all official government agencies and reputable banking institutions will not ask for this over the phone or email. If you're in doubt, contact them directly using a verified method, not the one provided by the scammer.

Look at the email address or website, too. They may appear real, but most government agencies do not use a .com.

For more information about cybersecurity, contact Dave Farris of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District's Information Management Office at dave.farris@usace.army.mil or DSN 570-2530.

Comments? Corrections?

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