



# EIE EXPRESS

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

## AROUND EUROPE

Issue 76, October 2016

### ERI projects on track in Estonia, Europe



**TAPA MILITARY BASE, Estonia** – While Estonian soldiers exercise in one corner of the base, construction workers pour concrete in another. Dump trucks and bulldozers rival the number of tanks and combat vehicles here.

Twenty-two European Reassurance Initiative infrastructure and construction projects managed by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District at Tapa are nearly complete, and will support an influx of U.S. and NATO forces as heel-to-toe rotations begin in early 2017.

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### International School takes 'SHAPE'

**MONS, Belgium** – Ten years ago, SHAPE International School was short on space. The school was growing and existing buildings were aging, so NATO members decided it was time to invest in the future and build a new campus.



After a decade of planning and design, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District awarded a \$30 million bid-build contract to Galere SA - Wayss & Freytag Ingenieurbau AG in March to construct three new school buildings at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe near Mons.

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### District continues to build DoDEA schools



**KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany** – After a redesign for the Kaiserslautern High School to incorporate 21st-century learning criteria, the school's construction was one-third complete in late September.

The Department of Defense Education Activity defines 21st-century learning facilities as collaborative, flexible and dynamic. The 21st-century schools will support student-centered learning and provide continuity to military children worldwide.

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### Commander's Corner

Building Strong for our nation and others



Europe District closed the books on another amazing fiscal year in support of a vast array of military commands, other Department of Defense organizations, U.S. government agencies and foreign governments within the U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command areas of responsibility. In an extremely dynamic and evolving security environment, our efforts supported missions ranging from deterring Russian aggression in Eastern Europe to combatting terrorism and violent extremism throughout our entire region, and from humanitarian assistance projects to strengthen countries to ballistic missile defense to strengthen NATO security. Furthermore, our work at dozens of military installations provided quality-of-life improvements to more than 200,000 service members, DoD civilians, local national employees and families.

In delivering Europe District's FY16 program, our team, with a bit of temporary support from a few other districts, achieved some of the most noteworthy accomplishments within North Atlantic Division and USACE overall. For example, the district awarded 2,140 contracts, the seventh highest number of awards of 53 districts, labs and centers within USACE. Even greater, the over \$981 million value of those actions was the third highest in USACE, with only Huntsville Engineering & Support Center and Omaha District having greater total dollar values.

Moreover, Europe District worked in 40 countries in Europe and Africa, to include Israel during FY16, and accomplished over \$588 million in physical construction. With more than 7 million man-hours worked on district projects, we had one of the very best safety records in all of USACE. The district's construction placement was the highest in North Atlantic Division coming in at \$3 billion above Baltimore District while earning the Division Commanding General's Award for Excellence in Safety. As we start the new fiscal year, our construction placement for FY17 is projected to achieve \$700 million. Given that massive total, safety will be paramount as always.

Even more meaningful and amazing is the district's workforce of dedicated and hardworking professionals. Nothing highlighted above was possible without the district's military service members, civilians, local national employees, contractors and especially the stakeholders representing the organizations we support. Military members and civilians from across USACE also provided critical support to Europe District, which reinforces that it truly takes a "team of teams" to be successful. Furthermore, the district delivered our program with only 422 full-time equivalent employees with over 100 of these employees being new to the district in FY16. This shows the tremendous efforts required by our organization to deliver the district's program.

Thank you for a job well done and for "Building Strong in Europe, Africa and Israel."

Army Strong ... Building Strong!

COL Matt Tyler

## SPOTLIGHT on the Employee Support Office



Lisa Kendrix, Thomas I. Krueger, Coretta Parks, Aurora Williamson, Carlos Reyes and Babu A. Azad give newcomers a hand with relocation and sponsorship. All U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees benefit from their assistance with travel support, training and development and human resources. Not pictured are Giuseppe D'Urso and Sidney White.

Based at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany, the Employee Support Office offers support to all employees through the office's four sections: Relocation and Sponsorship, Travel Support, Training and Development, and Human Resources.

In the nine months Lisa Kendrix has been chief, there have been quite a few changes in ESO, including building a new team that is more than one deep, cross-trained on each other's jobs to strengthen the support provided to the district. Working with her are Thomas I. Krueger, Coretta Parks, Aurora Williamson, Carlos Reyes and Babu A. Azad (pictured above). Not pictured are Giuseppe D'Urso, a local national who has been with ESO since September 2015 as an administrative support assistant (relocation), and Sidney White, the human resource liaison. White, after a little more than five months, is out processing to move to Quantico, Virginia, in mid-November with her husband.

Eric Hawkins, currently the lead of the USACE Civilian Personnel Advisory Center human resource support team, will take over for White as the HR liaison. Another change occurred in May when the customer support representative position was moved from ESO to Resource Management.

Kendrix attended Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, on a full-ride track and field scholarship, and hard work has shaped the leader she has become. Her motto for the office is doing the right things, the right way, for the right reasons.

She said the diversity of her office has helped to build a solid workforce that will progress beyond expectation.

"We're a very close team – more like family," she said. "Everyone truly cares for one another. We lean on each other to get through the rough days, and work hard to make a positive difference."

Resiliency is a keystone for Krueger, who retired from the Army after 26 years. Living in Germany since 2004, the Texas native is the office support assistant and said he is looking forward to the German hunting and fishing seasons.

Parks, a travel support assistant, has lived in Germany for three years with her husband and two children. She has worked for the Corps for six months.

"This position is quite rewarding," said the Clinton, North Carolina, native. When not working, she said she enjoys traveling and gardening.

Like most of the staff, Williamson has been working in the ESO for about six months as the training and development coordinator. The Army Reserve officer has worked for the Corps for four years.

Reyes, also a travel support assistant, is from Puerto Rico. He retired from the Army in May 2015 after serving for 23 years. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling with his wife and their beautiful daughters.

Azad accepted a temporary assignment with the ESO team in September. Originally from Bangladesh, he started working for the Corps in 1984 with a break in service in 2008. Heidelberg is where he hangs his hat when not in Wiesbaden.

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### NAU in the News

- **Building Strong**, features Europe District's support to Department of Defense Education Activity. Read the full article on pages 46-49.
- **Sembach evolves as home to several European unit, activity headquarters** – article
- **The Ansbach Hometown Herald, Gesundheit! New Ansbach Health and Dental Clinic opens** – article

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## DISTRICT PEOPLE



Kaiserslautern High School

## DISTRICT PARTNERS



Chief visits DoDEA construction


## DISTRICT PROJECTS



ERI in Estonia

## AROUND THE CORPS

Congratulations to Karen Baker for her promotion to Senior Executive Service! [Click here](#) for her bio.

USACE computer model critical to the Corps' Hurricane Matthew response [... Read More](#) 

Former 10th Mountain Soldiers now leading USACE Great Lakes Region [... Read More](#) 

## AROUND THE ARMY

Iraq, Syria make strides countering ISIL, press secretary says

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Army tests new warfighting tech at Army Warfighting Assessment

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## AROUND THE DOD

Defense chiefs discuss counter-extremism strategy

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DOD decides to continue funding critical OCX satellite program

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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

- **Combined Federal Campaign** — CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign. Each year the Combined Federal Campaign raises millions of dollars to support the life-enhancing and the lifesaving work of more than 20,000 charities. The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all. This year's theme is "Show Some Love." The campaign runs through Dec. 2. Last year's contributions exceeded \$180 million to charities around the world. For more information, go to [www.opm.gov/combined-federal-campaign/](http://www.opm.gov/combined-federal-campaign/)
- **Kastle Keepers** — Save the date — the Europe District Winter Ball is 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Jan. 21.
- **Safeguarding readiness during winter** — It's an annual ritual: With fall and winter approaching, the days get shorter and the temperature slowly drops. As cooler weather approaches, it's crucial that people understand the importance of protecting themselves to avoid becoming a cold weather injury statistic. To read about preventing cold weather injuries, visit [www.army.mil/article/176540/safeguarding\\_readiness\\_during\\_winter](http://www.army.mil/article/176540/safeguarding_readiness_during_winter)

### Comments? Corrections?

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