



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Transatlantic Programs Center

Fact Sheet

History: Deeply rooted service to our nation

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a rich history of support to our nation and its military forces in vital overseas regions. Corps organizations have functioned in the Middle East and Africa since the early 1950s with one constant mission: Provide engineering design and construction management services to support U.S. policy and defense objectives overseas.

- Mediterranean Division, 1952-1976
- Middle East Division, 1976-1986
- Middle East/Africa Projects Office, 1986-1991
- Transatlantic Division, 1991-1995
- Transatlantic Programs Center, 1995 to the present



Dhahran civil air terminal in Saudi Arabia.

The mid-1960s brought projects in northeastern Africa and the NATO countries of Southern Europe. Projects were accomplished for the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, with work completed in Greece, Turkey, Italy, Ethiopia, Somalia, Libya, and Saudi Arabia.

The division became increasingly involved in Saudi Arabia, with design and construction of a countrywide black-and-white television system and a radio station complex. The Engineer Assistance Agreement, signed in 1965 between the U.S. and Saudi Arabian governments, allowed for the Corps to assist the Kingdom with its military infrastructure development. This emerging work necessitated a major organizational change in the Corps of Engineers: military construction in the NATO countries of southern Europe was assigned to the Europe Division (formed in 1974), and a new division would replace the Mediterranean Division for the Saudi Arabian Program.

Mediterranean Division 1952-1976

The Corps was tapped to manage military construction projects on behalf of the U.S. Air Force in Turkey in 1952. The program expanded to include air base work in Libya, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco. As the U.S. government programmed aid to strengthen the military forces of select allies, the Corps constructed military facilities in Pakistan and Iran. U.S. programs provided economic assistance, resulting in non-military projects such as civilian air terminals in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Iran; a road system in Afghanistan; and port facilities in Somalia.

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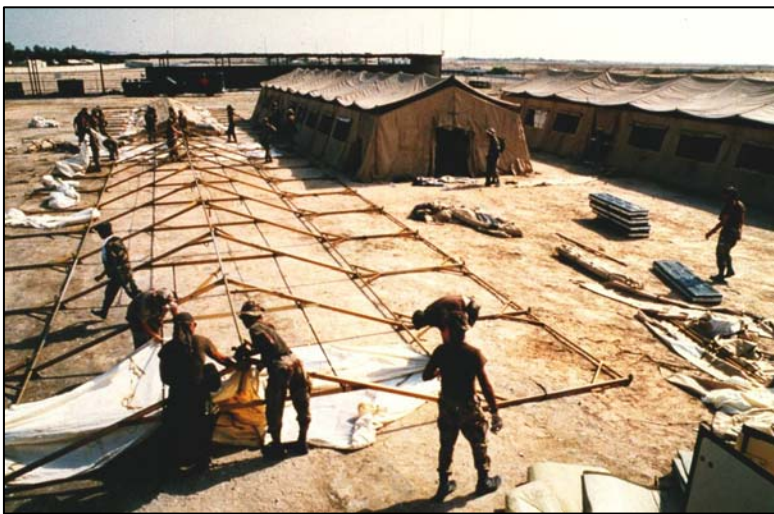
Middle East Division 1976-1986

The Middle East Division was activated on April 20, 1976. The unit was organized to meet the demands of the growing Saudi Arabian-funded engineering program:

- With its headquarters and full division staff in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- Three districts – Riyadh, Jeddah, and Al Batin, to supervise construction programs throughout the Kingdom

- An Engineer Logistics Command, responsible for directing and coordinating all logistics activities.
- An Ordnance Program Division that worked with the Saudi Arabian Army Ordnance Corps in operating and maintaining its logistics systems for wheeled and tracked vehicles.
- And a rear echelon near Winchester, Virginia, to manage the large volume of design work and award contracts.

The Corps assisted the Saudi Arabian government with a \$14 billion design and construction program that included military cantonments, headquarters complexes, housing, air bases, navy bases, port facilities, hospitals, military training centers and schools, and all associated utilities and roads. This construction formed a portion of the major infrastructure that supported U.S. military operations in Saudi Arabia during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990-1991.



Engineering support for Operation Desert Shield.

Middle East/Africa Projects Office 1986-1991

As the program in Saudi Arabia drew to its expected closure, the Corps reorganized to meet the changing workload. The rear echelon in Winchester evolved into a headquarters unit, serving customers throughout the Middle East and Africa. On September 30, 1986, the Middle East/Africa Projects Office (MEAPO) was formed as a district-level element of the South Atlantic Division.

MEAPO had a large geographic expanse. In Oman, it managed the design and construction of \$300 million in facilities for use by U.S. forces, with permission of the Sultanate, at four locations.

Under the Defense Department's foreign military sales program, the organization supervised impressive military projects in Egypt, Bahrain, and Kuwait, with smaller projects in Sudan and Liberia. Under a U.S. security assistance program, the Corps' involvement in the Africa Civic Action Program began with technical and procurement services provided to host nation military forces engaging in beneficial projects for both military and civilian sectors of their populations.

Additionally, MEAPO served the Voice of America with its modernization program to upgrade broadcast stations overseas and the worldwide Defense Department asbestos abatement program. MEAPO was also instrumental in assisting Third United States Army with the development of the earliest LOGCAP (Logistics Civil Augmentation Program) services contracts and awarded the first package, for a petroleum distribution project in the Middle East.

Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm: Within days of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990, MEAPO began its deployment to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, to provide design, construction, and real estate services to support U.S. forces. Ultimately, the Corps designed and constructed facilities totaling approximately \$300 million and executed leases with private Saudi Arabian land owners and businesses, totaling \$135 million in annual rental fees.



Warehousing meets many needs on installations in the Middle East.

Transatlantic Division 1991-1995

International events in Europe and the Middle East prompted the Corps to realign the overseas elements serving these regions. In February 1991, the Transatlantic Division was formed with its headquarters in Winchester, Virginia, and its single district – Europe – in Germany. In addition to its established engineering missions, the first half of the decade brought tremendous

challenges to the Transatlantic Division:

- Assisting Kuwait's government with its recovery operations after it was liberated from Iraq. Civil repairs totaling \$330 million were made to electricity, water, and sanitary systems; public and state buildings, including the Parliament; and roads and transportation systems. Repairs were made to Kuwait's two air bases, with that work valued at \$131 million.
- Assisting with Operation Provide Comfort, providing relief to Kurdish refugees in Turkey and northern Iraq.
- Expanding its engineering support to U.S. Central Command, a major unified command, for its operations in the Middle East.
- Working in the former Soviet Union for programs ranging from embassy renovation to assisting with projects to reduce the threat of chemical and nuclear weapons.
- And developing, awarding, and administering the Army's first worldwide Logistics Civil Augmentation Program contract from 1992-1997, used to provide logistics and engineering services to U.S. forces deployed to Somalia, Rwanda/Zaire, Haiti, the Middle East, Italy, and the Balkans.

In 1995, the Transatlantic Division was renamed the Transatlantic Programs Center as a result of division restructuring in the Corps of Engineers. An organizational change in 1998 reassigned Europe District to the North Atlantic Division.



Transatlantic Programs Center 1995-The Present

Today, the Transatlantic Programs Center continues its tradition of service to the nation. The 1990s and the new decade have brought many changes to our nation and the world, prompting new engineering requirements for Corps operations abroad.

Continuing its focus on supporting U.S. military forces, the Transatlantic Programs Center has provided engineering services to U.S. Central Command for its operations in the Arabian Gulf.

The center has designed and built facilities for Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps

Command Centers support military operations.

operations under both peacetime and contingency conditions. Engineering operations were further expanded to meet the demands brought about as a result of the Global War on Terrorism and the Corps' support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Center also provides logistics services to U.S. forces deployed in the Balkans region, a mission performed on behalf of U.S. Army Europe. Contracted logistics services include base camp operations and maintenance, life support services (food, water, sanitation, and laundry), and maintenance and transportation.

In addition, the Transatlantic Programs Center supported a wide range of U.S. and foreign customers, including the U.S. Agency for International Development for projects in Africa; Egyptian defense forces and the U.S. Air Force Materiel Command for various foreign military sales projects in that nation; the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy with designing and building a nuclear storage facility in the Ural Mountains; initiating a program to build barracks and related facilities for graduating battalions of the Afghanistan National Army; direct support to the global war on terrorism with reachback to the Afghanistan Engineer District and Gulf Region Division; working with the Special Operations Command Central to build the King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Center in Jordan through the foreign military sales program; and helping the Millennium Challenge Corporation with projects for sustainable poverty reduction through economic growth throughout the world.

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The Transatlantic Programs Center and its predecessor organizations, serving the Army and the Nation since the 1950s, are proud of the engineering accomplishments that have contributed to the Corps of Engineers' reputation as a premier provider of public engineering services.