



# EIE EXPRESS

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

## AROUND EUROPE

Issue 39, February 2013

### District projects taking SHAPE in Belgium



MONS, Belgium – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is managing a major push into upgrading decades-old buildings on the NATO base here as part of an endeavor that will have a lasting impact on the culture and mission of Supreme Headquarters

Allied Powers Europe, military and education leaders say.

The centerpiece is a multinational-funded, \$146 million construction project at SHAPE International School, the largest under way within USACE Europe District. It's expected to be fully operational by the summer of 2018.

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### Ansbach opens 'greenest' commissary

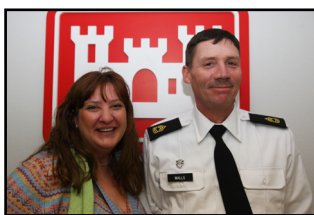
ANSBACH, Germany - Representatives from Defense Commissary Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District, Installation Management Command-Europe and the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach community attended the grand opening of a new commissary Feb. 5 in Urlas, Germany.



The 46,000-square-foot facility incorporates many sustainable design and energy-saving features.

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### At USACE, some jobs are a labor of love



WIESBADEN, Germany - Some say the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District is like a family. Being in Europe, far from home brings employees together to experience and enjoy life overseas.

But for 34 employees here, one of their colleagues actually is family -- their spouse. USACE Europe District is home to 17 married couples.

In honor of Valentine's Day, five brave husbands and wives discuss what it's like to call their spouse a co-worker.

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### Message from the Commander

#### Fiscal stewardship



In these fiscally uncertain times, with potential sequestration approaching, many people want to know what it all means and how it will impact Europe District and our partners?

Our bottom line is that we must be good stewards of our nation's resources.

For those not familiar with U.S. fiscal law, sequestration will trigger \$500 billion in across-the-board defense spending cuts over the next decade, on top of \$487 billion in already-planned cuts, unless Congress identifies equivalent savings by March 1. At the district level, this would substantially reduce sustainment, restoration and modernization funding for installations across Europe, and could cancel any MILCON project not already awarded.

Nobody knows how sequestration will play out. If it is implemented, the effects will be noticeable. If it is averted, our workload and workforce will remain stable, but we must still recognize we are in an era of increasing fiscal austerity.

For now, in accordance with deputy secretary of Defense guidance, USACE is continuing normal operations, except where otherwise advised. We are hiring only for key and essential positions on a case-by-case basis as approved by USACE headquarters, and we have canceled all non-mission essential travel. However, we will continue to provide value and not interrupt services or project delivery for our customers.

USACE has demonstrated financial stewardship, and will continue to do so. In fact, USACE is the only major activity in DOD with clean audit opinions over the past four years. These unqualified opinions are a testament of USACE's sound financial practices and stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

On a solemn note, we were saddened this month by the passing of Mr. John Curtis, former Europe District chief of Construction, at his home in Texas. John struggled with a rare and fast-moving form of Lou Gehrig's disease that took his life at the age of only 54. He dedicated his professional life to the Corps of Engineers, with 31 years of service, including stints in Wiesbaden, Belgium and Galveston. John was a talented civil engineer and a highly respected member of the Europe District team. He deeply touched many lives, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have served with him.

Building Strong! People, Partners, Projects

COL Pete Helmlinger

Congratulations to Europe District's most recent Heroes of the Battle: Steve Mahan, Jason Dukes, Tommy Rose, Victoria Alimbuyao, Lalit Wadhwa, and Rachael Raposa. Well done!

## SPOTLIGHT on the K-Town Resident Office



From left: Bettina Reinhard, Martin Rothhaar, Dennis McEleney, Dan Wentzel, Gabrielle Lauer, Kevin Anderson, Catherine Nilsen, Siegfried Schaefer, Kaitlin Karnath, Rennee Edwards, David Nichols and Markus Kessler.

The Kaiserslautern Resident Office in Germany is part of the Central Europe Area Office. It's responsible for executing projects in Baumholder, Landstuhl, Kaiserslautern, Sembach, Ramstein, Pirmasens, Gruenstadt and Germersheim.

"This is one of the few field offices remaining from the days of the old Europe Division," said Kaiserslautern Resident Engineer David Nichols. "We are a team of 10 construction-savvy folks."

Kaiserslautern projects under design or construction include a new Rhine Ordnance Barracks, dining facility, confinement complex and Child Youth Services Center. Martin Rothhaar, a project engineer, said solid cooperation with partners LBB Kaiserslautern and Idar-Oberstein -- and a fair atmosphere for local contractors -- has led to an exceptional track record in project delivery.

"In this office, there are no problems, only challenges to be accepted and solved," he added.

Dan Wentzel and Kevin Anderson, civil engineering and construction inspection technicians, respectively, are covering a heavy load of Job Order Contracting tasks in Baumholder, while project engineer Markus Kessler will soon begin renovation of the Rheinlander Club with LBB Idar Oberstein.

Siegfried Schaefer, another project engineer, handles the large renovation work at Landstuhl, where Rothhaar heads up the new youth center and Rhine Ordnance Barracks complex under construction.

Other team members, including Dennis McEleney, Kaitlin Karnath and Bettina Reinhard, are engaged in Sembach, preparing infrastructure inherited from the Air Force for new occupants after the closure of U.S. facilities in Mannheim and Heidelberg. This includes an overhaul of offices for Installation Management Command-Europe and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, refurbished Army band facilities, AFN studios and the new confinement facility.

The Kaiserslautern Resident Office is in a region renowned for its natural beauty and fertile landscape. City dwellers often come here for hiking, fresh air, recreation and the famous Elwetritsch hunting.

Ramstein Air Base is a major economic influence in the area.

"The future is bright for the office with more construction work expected," Nichols said.

### WORK WITH USACE

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Maintenance services  
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### NAU in the News

- LBB newsletter, 21st-century school building concept - article
- Army Engineer, FEST team trains above and beyond - article
- Stripes Spotted, DeCA opens greenest store worldwide - photos

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## AROUND THE DOD

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## WATCH: AFN's look at USACE-led SHAPE school project

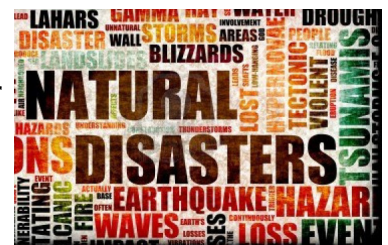
### Operations Security

#### USACE Army Emergency Management Program

The purpose of the USACE Army Emergency Management Program is to prepare for, respond to and recover from all hazards, including manmade and natural incidents, in order to mitigate the effects on the organization's people, equipment and property.

The Army Emergency Management Program serves as the single integrated program for planning, execution and management of response efforts to lessen the effects of an all-hazard incident. It facilitates alignment of the Army with Department of Defense policy and guidance from Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5, or HSPD 5. The program's goal is to prepare installations and facilities for multiagency, multi-jurisdictional emergency response; provide comprehensive protection for personnel and resources from all natural, technological and terrorism hazards; sustain critical operations during incidents; and maintain or restore critical operations, resources and services after the incident.

For more information about this program, contact the Operations, Plans and Security staff at DSN 570-2633 or 0611-9744-2633.



### Comments? Corrections?

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