



EIE EXPRESS

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

AROUND EUROPE

Issue 41, April 2013

District claims NAD safety award for 2012

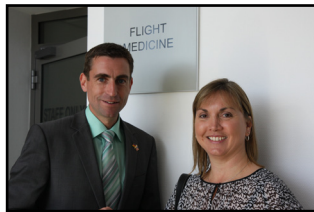


WIESBADEN, Germany – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District boasted the top safety record, practices and procedures in all of North Atlantic Division last year. The organization was recognized for its “creative, effective and tireless efforts” to save lives and families within a broad and varied area of responsibility, according to a citation received in the fiscal year 2012 USACE Chief of Engineers Awards for Safe Performance. Brig. Gen. Kent Savre, the division commander, was expected to present the award during his visit here in mid-April.

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USACE women take on big roles in STEM

WIESBADEN, Germany – Women of different race, educational background and age make the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District a diverse and colorful workplace. These women use their intelligence, imagination and tenacity to contribute to and further the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM. During Women’s History Month in March, the nation celebrates the advancements of women past and present.



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NAU design chief handles heavy workload



WIESBADEN, Germany – Colleagues and customers alike regard David Muellerleile as a stalwart ally when it comes to meeting the needs of garrisons and bases across Europe.

The Project Design Section chief for Europe District’s Installation Support Branch guides a team of 22 project managers, engineers, architects and technicians that supports IMCOM-Europe by developing and awarding design and construction ventures unique to each garrison’s Directorate of Public Works and their tenants.

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Message from the Commander

Quality, Performance and Improvement



Europe District is made up of talented and diverse people who bring unique experiences and processes to their jobs. However, in most years, 20 percent of that workforce turns over, creating a loss in continuity and efficiencies. To reduce this overseas assignment turbulence, it is imperative that hard-earned knowledge be documented and best practices standardized, easily understood and continuously improved.

The USACE process for doing this is Quality, Performance and Improvement. It has a variety of associated tools, including Quality Management System, Continuous Process Improvement, Enterprise Lessons Learned, after-action review and Lean Six Sigma. Collectively, they are part of the USACE Campaign Plan objective to “streamline the USACE business and governance process” with the goal to “prepare USACE for tomorrow.”

These tools will not only minimize turnover effects but ultimately lead to better business processes, quality products and customer satisfaction. District team members will soon attend QPI training organized by Shari Valente, QPI manager, to learn about these processes and how they contribute to our success.

Using QPI, we now have a way to communicate our ideas and formulate common methodologies. This will reduce inconsistencies, probability of error and delay of final products. We can improve efficiency, produce quality products and services on time and within budget, and meet or exceed customer requirements and expectations.

Brig. Gen. Margaret Burcham, LRD commander, shared a recent success story in which a district reduced the time to award small projects by significantly reducing steps in the process. This improved award time by 78 percent with an annual cost avoidance of \$442K!

Here in Europe District, after identifying issues with obligation delays, a Project Delivery Team comprised of Contracting, E&C, PPMD and RM developed a successful standard PR&C process, which has proven to save time and money.

There are many other success stories out there, and I want each of you to be part of one. District team members should be engaged in QPI, QMS, ELL, AAR, CPI and LSS. Use the processes published in QMS, get involved in developing new processes and engage in improvement activities. Help make the transition of incoming people a great experience, and leave a legacy of your hard work.

Together, we can achieve my vision of making Europe District one of the best in USACE at project delivery.

Building Strong! People, Partners, Projects

COL Pete Helmlinger

Congratulations to Carmen Diaz, Lawrence Carabajal, Rich Gifaldi, Brit Rockafellow, Jim Hogenson, Betsy Walls and Jim Glines, our recent District Heroes of the Battle!

SPOTLIGHT on the Bulgaria Project Office



Seated: Magdalena Rabina, administrative assistant.
Standing, from left: Engineers Todor Dimitrov, Ronald Rhea, Plamen Marinov and Petar Kopankov.

Europe District's Bulgaria Project Office was established to construct the Permanent Forward Operating Site, or PFOS, Novo Selo. The training facility, located near Mokren, was contracted by U.S. Army Europe to conduct joint training with Bulgarian military and demonstrate a continued peaceful relationship with the partner nation.

The project office is currently manned by Ronald Rhea, a U.S. project engineer, and three contracted Bulgarian engineers — Petar Kopankov, Plamen Marinov and Todor Dimitrov. The office's administrative functions are accomplished by Magdalena Rabina, a contracted Bulgarian administrative assistant.

Kopankov said a big challenge of working on the Novo Selo project is dealing with contractors who bring an assortment of cultures and backgrounds to the job sites.

"There were at least six different countries represented on the [Bulgaria PFOS] job site at one time," Kopankov said. "Trying to enforce both U.S. and European norms became very challenging since each country had slightly different standards."

Construction on the training facility was completed in December, and the then-resident office was downsized to a project office. It now falls under the TUSEG Resident Office at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

In addition to overseeing the correction of punchlist items and preparation of closeout paperwork on the main PFOS project, the staff is administering contracts to provide a medium voltage connection point, main waterline connection and a small contract to refinish the interiors of seven PFOS buildings. There are future plans to use the Bulgaria Project Office to administer building renovations in the capital of Sofia for the Joint Drug Task Force Administration.

"The best part about working here is working with a group of talented professionals. The office staff is excellent at getting the job done," Rhea said. "The weather isn't bad, either, and the frequent trips to Burgas, sitting on the Black Sea, are a definite plus."

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NAU in the News

- www.army.mil, Groundbreaking signals changes for Rose Barracks — article
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Comments? Corrections?

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