



# EI E X P R E S S

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

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## AROUND EUROPE

### Engineers bring STEM lessons to classroom



WIESBADEN, Germany – In honor of National Engineers Week, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District employees presented structural engineering, alternative energy and fire-protection concepts to Department of Defense Dependents

Schools-Europe students Feb. 19-21 at Wiesbaden Middle School. The district collaborates with the school to engage students throughout the year. At USACE, it's a priority to attract students to science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, through outreach programs.

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### CQM course builds trust with contractors

WIESBADEN, Germany – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District has kicked off its 2013 slate of Construction Quality Management courses, conducted quarterly for contractors awarded projects requiring this certification.



The first session took place Feb. 25-27 at the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center on the Army installation in Hainerberg. About 25 students attended.

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### US, German leaders gather for annual forum



FREIBURG, Germany – Senior leaders from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District, along with representatives from German federal and state construction ministries, came together last month to discuss

progress, tighter collaboration and new initiatives during the 2013 Bauamt Partnering Meeting.

The annual gathering, first held in 1992, is aimed at building a stronger understanding between the partners, better coordination and highlighting developments.

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### Message from the Commander

#### Partnership



Europe District is committed to supporting our partners, customers and stakeholders, and helping them find solutions to their engineering challenges. My vision is for Europe District to be one of the best in USACE at project delivery, as measured by customer satisfaction. We recently completed three key events to build upon that commitment to support our partners.

Our annual MILCON Customer Survey was completed last fall. We received an 86 percent response rate, the highest in USACE. I would like to thank our many customers for their valuable feedback. Our highest strengths to sustain were "end-user satisfaction with facilities" and "treating customers as important team members." Our two biggest areas to improve are "cost" and "timely completion." While we take great pride in delivering quality and value, our customer concerns are understandable based on their reduced resources and rapid mission requirements.

Our third annual Customer Workshop was held in January, when we reviewed feedback in detail with Directorate of Public Works officials and other key customers from across Installation Management Command-Europe and the Air Force Civil Engineer Center. During the workshop, we also held breakout discussions on construction oversight, year-end and small projects, scope definition and environmental services. Our goal is to tailor our services to best meet customer needs. The event was praised by IMCOME representatives as the "best forum for reaching across the engineer community in Europe."

Our annual Partnering Meeting with leadership from the German Federal Ministry of Construction and state Baumanter from Baden-Württemberg, Rheinland-Pfalz, Hessen and Bayern was held in February. The event was an important forum to resolve challenges in the indirect construction process, as required by the ABG-75 supplementary accord to the NATO Status of Forces Agreement. Meeting highlights included focused working groups on fire protection, contract closeout and construction scheduling. Groups also reviewed initiatives for LEED implementation, project commissioning and sustainable planning.

All of our partnering events, workshops and surveys help develop a synergistic relationship. They promote commitment, teamwork and trust to build upon our shared values and mutual goals. We can't be successful in USACE unless our partners are successful. Together, we can all win.

Building Strong! People, Partners, Projects

COL Pete Helmlinger

Great job by our recent Europe District Heroes of the Battle! They are Brian Trzaska, Carlos Collins, Sarah Downs and Nathalie Watsek.

## SPOTLIGHT on the Caucasus Project Office



From left: Joseph Barr, project engineer; Nana Kacheishvili, program coordinator; Shalva Khvadagadze, quality assurance engineer; and George Shikhiashvili, driver and administrative assistant. *Not pictured:* Thomas Rose, Levan Imedadze, Gia Narimanidze.

Europe District's Caucasus Project Office is collocated at the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi, Georgia. It covers Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The Caucasus region's central office, established in 2002, is staffed by five local nationals and two Americans. Current projects include the Nikozi war-damaged school construction project near the South Osetian Conflict zone that was heavily bombed during the 2008 Georgia-Russia War. The school's reconstruction will hopefully bring teachers and families back to the region, said program coordinator Nana Kacheishvili.

The team also is managing a special school project for disabled children in Yerevan, Armenia. Helping local children provides a little extra motivation to the Caucasus team, Kacheishvili said.

"It's fulfilling to see the appreciation and happiness of people occupying the buildings," she added.

The office recently completed a pathology laboratory project in Tbilisi. The renovation provided Georgia's forensic pathology lab with a modern building for accurate pre- and post-mortem examinations. The lab results may then be used as evidence in the investigation and prosecution of violent crimes.

Caucasus customers include the ODC, EXBS and INL. The office executes projects that are not enormous in size, but bring unrivaled benefits to the local community. The team is fulfilled seeing the appreciation and happiness of the people occupying the buildings it delivers, Kacheishvili said.

Tbilisi is the capital and largest city in Georgia, lying on the banks of the Kura River. Founded in the fifth century, Tbilisi has served as Georgia's capital for nearly 1,500 years and represents a significant industrial, social and cultural center in the country.

Located near the southeastern edge of Europe, Tbilisi's proximity to lucrative east-west trade routes often made the city a point of contention between various rival empires throughout history. To this day, the city's location ensures its position as an important transit route for global energy and trade projects. Tbilisi's varied history is reflected in its architecture – a mix of medieval, classical and Soviet structures.

Historically, Tbilisi has been home to people of diverse cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds, though it's now overwhelmingly Eastern Orthodox Christian.

Georgians are proud of their wine and natural surroundings. The very colorful country is reflected in the nature of friendly and hospitable local people.

### WORK WITH USACE

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### NAU in the News

- Franconian News, USAG Ansbach breaks ground on \$12.5 million fitness center – article
- Herald Union, Army engineers bring STEM to the classroom – article
- 39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs, Ground broken on Consolidated Community Center – article

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NAD commander gets star

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National Engineers Week

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### Operations Security Worldwide travel advisory

The State Department issued an updated Worldwide Caution on Feb. 19 for the continuing threat of terrorist attacks and violence against U.S. citizens and interests around the world. Americans are reminded to maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness.

The latest information suggests al-Qaida, its affiliated organizations and other terrorist groups continue to plan attacks against U.S. interests in multiple regions, including Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. A wide variety of tactics could be employed, including suicide operations, assassinations, kidnappings, hijackings and bombings.

Extremists may elect to use conventional or nonconventional weapons, and target both official and private interests. Examples of such targets include high-profile sporting events, residential areas, business offices, hotels, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, schools, public areas, and other tourist destinations both in the United States and abroad where U.S. citizens gather in large numbers, including during holidays.

Americans are reminded of the potential for terrorists to attack public transportation systems and other tourist infrastructure. In the past, extremists have targeted subway and rail systems, aviation and maritime services, carrying out these types of attacks in cities such as Moscow, London, Madrid; Glasgow, Scotland; and New York. For more information about the advisory, visit [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/pa/pa\\_4787.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_4787.html).

### Comments? Corrections?

Contact the Europe District Public Affairs Office at:

[dll-cenau-pa@usace.army.mil](mailto:dll-cenau-pa@usace.army.mil)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District

Attn: Public Affairs

CMR 410 Box 1, APO AE 09049-0001

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**Commander** COL. D. PETER HELMLINGER  
**Deputy Commander** LT. COL. MICHELLE GARCIA  
**Public Affairs Chief** BRIAN TEMPLE  
**Editor** VINCE LITTLE  
**Staff Contributor** JENNIFER ALDRIDGE  
**Staff Contributor** DONALD C. SHEPPA