



EIE EXPRESS

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

AROUND EUROPE

Issue 46, September 2013

District engineer team deploys to Jordan



WIESBADEN, Germany – After a swift training stint and buildup this summer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District's Forward Engineer Support Team-Advanced is on the move again.

The 16-member unit recently left for a six-month deployment to Amman, Jordan, where it's part of a special U.S. task force set up to build the nation's capabilities and help provide aid for thousands of refugees pouring in from neighboring Syria, which remains locked in a civil war that's claimed more than 100,000 lives.

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Senegal army training center upgraded

DODJI, Senegal – The sound of construction progress will soon be replaced by the voices of Senegalese soldiers at Dodji Peacekeeping Operations Training Center.

The existing PKO training camp is being upgraded to include eight new barracks, a dining facility, shower and latrine facilities for men and women, septic tanks, a water treatment plant and well. The turnkey facilities will accommodate and supply 1,000 soldiers upon completion in mid-September.



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Local resources key to Ghana project



GRUMESA, Ghana – African mahoganies stand regally above the natural tree line here. Reaching heights of 140 feet, the trees rise above the jungle canopy, enjoying unobstructed sunlight.

Similar to the noble stature of mahoganies in the rain forest, the construction industry holds mahogany lumber in high regard. Chosen for its durability, integrity and availability, mahogany was one of many local materials used to construct the Grumesa school project.

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Message from the Commander

End of fiscal year teamwork



The end of fiscal year is here once again. For Europe District, this is our Super Bowl. It is our opportunity to demonstrate premier support to warfighters while meeting the tight fiscal and time constraints of our customers.

Our success during this annual surge is measured in our ability to obligate operations and maintenance funds for critical but previously deferred construction and environmental services for U.S. Army garrisons, contingency bases, and Air Force installations across Europe and Africa. Our success also is measured down the road by avoiding project cost and time growth after award. This can only be done with sufficient planning and reviews during the project development phase to avoid future modifications. Meeting our customer funding-obligation time limits while delivering quality projects on schedule is complex and challenging, but it is our expertise. It requires the full teamwork of all our Project Delivery Team members.

Our partners rely on us to deliver innovative, resilient and sustainable solutions, year-round. The end of fiscal year is complicated by its unpredictable nature. In an ideal world, we would receive funds and award projects evenly throughout the year. However, Directorate of Public Works leaders and base civil engineers understandably defer construction work until their available funding is clear. This results in an end-of-year surge to obligate installation-support projects that may not have an opportunity for funding in future years.

Last September, we conducted 535 contract actions valued at \$213 million. That amounted to 20 percent of our workload for the entire fiscal year. This year, due to sequestration, we anticipated a reduction in our installation-support workload. We also worked with our partners to start many actions early – in June – before implementation of scheduled furloughs. However, for this end of fiscal year, we still have a significant workload before us.

To all Europe District team members, thank you for your commitment during this intense period. I know your game faces are on. This is our Super Bowl! Our continued success depends on teamwork. I am confident this year will result in another big win-win for Europe District and our partners.

Building Strong! People, Partners, Projects

COL Pete Helmlinger

NAU's FEST-A deployed recently to Jordan. Please share your support and encouragement with these volunteers. You can email them at DLL-CENAU-FEST@usace.army.mil or send correspondence to: Team member name, CENTCOM Forward Element, APO AE 09315.

Congratulations to our recent Heroes of the Battle: Matthias Berg, Solomon Zerihun, Darren Walls and Gary Lopez.

SPOTLIGHT on the Benelux Resident Office



Team members (from left), seen recently at the DODDS-Europe construction site on the SHAPE installation in Mons, Belgium: Jonathan Carr, Michael Oliver, Stephen Mahan, Jennifer Baker, Rick Enriquez, Paul Vanacker and Pascal Peerlings. Not pictured: Dennis Mayer and Paul Farley.

The Benelux Resident Office is based at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Mons, Belgium. SHAPE serves as the military arm of NATO. Benelux is a regional union of European states consisting of Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

The office recently completed two brand new Child and Youth Services centers for the Benelux community. The first was a combined Child Development, School Age Services and Youth Center at Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, Netherlands. The second is a combined Youth and School Age Services Center in Brussels. The centers have greatly enhanced the quality of life for military families.

Last December, the Benelux office handed over a new NATO Special Operations Headquarters at SHAPE.

Jessica Reath served as project engineer for the CYS Center in the Netherlands.

"Brunssum is a picturesque town with well-maintained streets, sidewalks and bike paths," she said. "The people are very friendly, and there are lots of open fields that make great places to let the dogs run free."

The small town is a quick train ride from Maastricht (Holland) or Aachen (Germany) and ideally situated between Amsterdam, Brussels and many other German cities, Reath added.

At SHAPE, the team is working on new Department of Defense Dependents Schools elementary, middle and high schools. The package elementary and middle school project is set for completion next summer, while the high school should be wrapped up by December 2014. The resident office also continues to support the new school designs for other NATO nations. The project offers the unique opportunity to construct three school buildings that will house classrooms for seven different countries.

"Working in Belgium is a great challenge," said Stephen Mahan, a project engineer. "Constructing an important facility for a U.S. client under a combination of U.S. and European technical standards, administered by Americans, constructed by a Belgian firm, employing multiple European subcontractors, does lead to many discussions over exactly what needs to be done. Working through these issues can be fascinating."

It can be a great place to live as well, added project engineer Michael Oliver: "My experience here in Belgium has been great. The food, beer and chocolate — I will miss [that] when I go back to the states."

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NAU in the News

- The Gazette, New Brussels youth center opens — photos
- SHAPE Community Life, Officials eye 2014 opening of U.S. schools in Belgium (see Pages 32-33) — article
- Navy News Service, Secretary of the Navy reinforces US-Ghanaian relationship — article

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Operations Security

Turkey travel advisory

The State Department warns U.S. citizens traveling to or living in Turkey that the U.S. Consulate General in Adana has been authorized to draw down its non-emergency staff and family members because of threats against U.S. government facilities and personnel. It recommends that American citizens defer non-essential travel to southeastern Turkey.

The department permitted the drawdown Sept. 6, the warning states. U.S. citizens looking to depart Turkey are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. There are no plans for charter flights or other U.S. government-sponsored evacuations.

Americans traveling to or residing in Turkey should be alert to the potential for violence. The State Department strongly urges U.S. citizens to avoid demonstrations and large gatherings. Even rallies intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. There have been no direct attacks on U.S. citizens.

Review your personal security plans, remain aware of your surroundings — including local events — and monitor news media for updates. Maintain a high vigilance level, take appropriate steps to enhance personal security and follow instructions of local authorities.

For more information about the advisory, go to http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_6066.html.

Comments? Corrections?

Contact the Europe District Public Affairs Office at:

dll-cenau-pa@usace.army.mil

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