



EIE EXPRESS

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

AROUND EUROPE

Issue 61, December 2014

Personnel in Ebola zones eye next task



The commander of U.S. forces deployed to an Ebola outbreak in West Africa says troops are finishing much of their work in the region and will expect new direction by month's end, Stars and Stripes reported Dec. 6.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civilian and military personnel deployed to Liberia in late October. The 13-member Forward Engineer Support Team-Advanced is providing technical expertise in the construction of Ebola treatment units for Operation United Assistance.

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Europe District strengthens SHARP stance

WIESBADEN, Germany – Europe District has placed renewed emphasis on the Army's Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention program in an effort to promote awareness and simplify reporting procedures at its headquarters, area and resident offices across the Continent. While SHARP remains a top priority, leaders say it's not enough to simply be mindful of the problem – all personnel should stand ready to intervene when situations dictate a response.



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Engineer officer boosts Romania team



WIESBADEN, Germany – Serving as an assistant project engineer on a \$134 million presidentially mandated ballistic missile defense facility isn't a typical company-grade officer assignment, but after being accepted into USACE's Technical Engineer

Competency Development Program in July, 1st Lt. Aaron Weatherly joined Europe District's project team in Deveselu, Romania.

As the resident office completes the critical Aegis Ashore complex, Weatherly is honing his leadership, technical engineering and project-management skills.

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Commander's Corner

A mission to promote peace, prosperity



Happy holidays! Regardless of your faith, Michelle and I extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to you and hope you enjoy this wonderful time of year. Moreover, we encourage you to take time to relax with family and friends.

As I have observed for the past six months, the pace of our district team and those that directly support our programs is simply intense, and I'm confident the opportunity to decompress a bit during the holiday season will be beneficial to all of you and our mission overall. Given that the majority of our team members work long hours and always throw their heart and soul into all we do, it's equally important to enjoy life outside of our formal careers.

As we look back at 2014, your pursuit of excellence has helped make this one of the most exciting years for Europe District, with a phenomenal workload supporting more than 65 strategic partners throughout Europe, Africa and Israel. Not only are we improving the lives of our military, Defense Department civilians and their families, we are also promoting peace and prosperity for a vast region. Although it would be difficult to measure complexity, I believe we have the most complex and challenging programs in all of USACE since we serve as the U.S. construction agent in 104 countries – with 29 field offices in 10 of them – and are actively managing over 600 projects in 40 nations. Amazingly, this will increase in 2015!

As always, I ask that you remember our teammates who are deployed in harm's way in Afghanistan or serving in more austere locations such as Liberia and Romania. We also must not forget so many of our service members, DOD civilians and colleagues from other nations who have made the ultimate sacrifice while supporting U.S., NATO and other globally strategic goals. Their efforts from years past and our work now truly play a significant role in making the world a better place.

As I close this month's column, I ask everyone to keep safety at the forefront of all you do. Whether engaging in winter sports, enjoying food and drinks at a holiday party, traveling to beautiful destinations or whatever the case might be, ensure you are being responsible and safe. Michelle and I want to see everyone in 2015 with their lives unharmed and their characters undamaged.

Army Strong ... Building Strong!

COL Matt Tyler

Congratulations to our recent Heroes of the District: Magda Castellanos, Glenn Adams and Oksana Strekha.

SPOTLIGHT on the Ramstein Resident Office



In June, construction began on a \$13.7 million dorm project at Kapaun Air Station in Kaiserslautern, Germany. When completed next fall, it will house more than 100 airmen.

The Ramstein Resident Office is Europe District's primary agent for Air Force construction in Germany. Members are stationed at Ramstein and Spangdahlem air bases, managing projects at both locales, as well as Kapaun Air Station, the Vogelweh military complex and its housing area. The team also supports construction activities on installations at Baumholder, Landstuhl and Miesau under U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz.

Like much of Europe District, Ramstein experienced significant turnover in 2014 with a third of the team rotating out and new personnel coming in. Among the "newcomers" is Lou Reagan, who previously worked for the district in Wiesbaden and Spangdahlem. He brings experience and knowledge of the ABG-75 process, the regulation covering U.S. military construction in Germany, and has proven himself a great asset to the office.

Ramstein has a diverse range of projects, from operations and maintenance and major construction with local LBB agencies to direct ventures at Landstuhl Army Heliport. The office's superb local national staff of Rudi Mehrmann, Bernhard Ochsenreither, Martin Ritzmann and Achim Guenther are essential in navigating the indirect-construction process and providing quality projects to district partners. They successfully work with three LBBs on technically demanding and high-priority projects such as Spangdahlem's new Child Development Center, a C-130 flight simulator on Ramstein, Air Force dormitories at Kapaun and Ramstein, and new flight-operations support facilities at the latter.

In addition, the resident office is set to construct over \$250 million in DODDS-Europe schools while building \$50 million in new communications facilities for USAG Rheinland-Pfalz.

"We're a fast-paced, highly motivated office," said Resident Engineer Shaun Frost, who's temporarily filling the same position for Europe District's Romania office. "We are proud of our work, and the impacts it has to the real-world missions currently occurring. We realize that our contribution can influence operations and quality of the U.S. military now and for years to come."

A few Ramstein staffers distinguished themselves in recent months:

- Rick Long from the Spangdahlem Project Office is in the Ebola fight. In October, he deployed to West Africa with the district's Forward Engineer Support Team-Advanced.
- Brandy Forbes, the office's new administrative assistant, has taken on the critical role of coordinating installation access for contractors at Ramstein. She's providing the same support to other resident offices within the district's Central Europe Area Office.
- Guenther was accepted into the organization's new Leadership Development Program class, continuing a trend of office members seeking opportunities to boost their skills and abilities in support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers mission.

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NAU in the News

- Stars and Stripes, Officials dedicate new SHAPE elementary and high schools — article
- Yankee Engineer, Corps of Engineers team deploys to West Africa (see Pages 4-5) — article
- Herald Union, Knowledge exchange focus at Wiesbaden Middle School — article

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WATCH: Army engineers build hospital for Ebola response

Operations Security

Enhanced force-protection measures

Due to the recent release of a U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee report on the CIA, everyone is reminded to remain vigilant for the possibility of anti-U.S. sentiment in its wake.

All personnel should follow these recommended guidelines:

- Have a cell phone at all times.
 - Notify someone of your intended destination and expected date of return.
 - Remain aware of the surroundings.
 - Avoid spontaneous gatherings and demonstrations.
 - Remain calm, avoid speaking loudly and leave the scene if encountering a demonstration.
 - Know emergency numbers and potential safe areas.
 - Stay away from trouble and avoid high-risk places.
 - Travel in small groups (when possible) and vary movements; use the "buddy" system.
 - Be inconspicuous.
 - Department of Defense military and civilian members must complete Antiterrorism Level I training annually. It's available at <http://jko.jten.mil>.
- For more information about antiterrorism awareness and protective measures, contact Otis Hawes, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District security specialist, at otis.hawes@usace.army.mil or DSN 570-2633.

Comments? Corrections?

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