



EIE EXPRESS

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

AROUND EUROPE

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DODDS, USACE take aim at aging schools



WIESBADEN, Germany – DODDS-Europe and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District are engaged in a robust military construction program designed to revitalize dilapidated schoolhouses, some of which were built in the post-World War II era.

It's part of a multibillion-dollar effort by the Department of Defense Education Activity to replace or renovate more than 130 schools worldwide based on age or failing conditions.

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District engineers drive STEM initiative

WIESBADEN, Germany – Did you have a mentor growing up? Perhaps you can recall a role model, adviser or volunteer who helped steer you toward the career you have today.



Last year, more than 20 Europe District volunteers spent time with local students – helping them understand the practical applications of science, technology, engineering and math; set education and career goals; and communicate better with adults.

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New Spangdahlem fitness center opens



SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany – Spangdahlem's new fitness center officially opened its doors during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Jan. 13. Europe District managed the \$23.5 million project. Construction of

the 70,000-square-foot facility began in July 2011. "Our new fitness center demonstrates just how much the Air Force values physical fitness and its direct link to generating and maintaining resilient Airmen," said Maj. Elizabeth Johnston, the 52nd Force Support Squadron commander.

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Message from the Commander

Support to warfighters in Europe



Europe is a critical pillar of U.S. national security. Despite the shifted focus of American defense strategy on the Pacific, U.S. forces in Europe remain essential. This is because of the collective security provided through our NATO partnerships and the strategic access Europe provides to three combatant commands. U.S. troops and installations in Europe are becoming leaner to maximize effectiveness, but their mission remains as important as ever. With that change come tremendous engineer challenges, and great opportunities to **Support the Warfighter**.

World-class facilities such as the 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command Center allow U.S. forces in Europe to stay engaged and train side by side with our NATO allies. Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recently said that every time we have gone to war, some of our NATO allies have gone with us. He added, "We can talk about building other partnerships, but we have to maintain the partnerships we have." In December, Europe District completed construction of the JMTC Convoy Live Fire Course at Grafenwoehr Training Area. This is just one of many examples of USACE's ability to provide tailored engineering solutions for our partners in support of national security.

U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Air Forces in Europe are completing transformations that have reduced combat power presence to 30,000 Soldiers on seven garrisons, and 25,000 Airmen on six bases. Between both service component commands, this is only 18 percent of their strength at the end of the Cold War. What remains is an efficient and capable force, vital to NATO and U.S. interests for global security. Europe District continues to provide solutions to assist these warfighters to maintain a high level of readiness and quality of life.

Major engineering opportunities in Europe include sustainment, restoration and modernization and environmental support for enduring installations, energy initiatives, combatant command theater security cooperation programs, and military construction supporting the Missile Defense Agency, Medical Command and Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe.

Building Strong! People, Partners, Projects

COL Pete Helmlinger

Congratulations to our District Heroes of the Battle: Jason Dukes, Jim Glines, Alex Kotovski and John Rice.

SPOTLIGHT on the Ansbach Resident Office



From left: Landon Steuck, Hans Hirschmann, Tom O'Buckley, Jim McPeak, Rosanna Alcantara, Melodee Burgess, Rudiger Schroeter and Steve Schluth. Not pictured: Ursula Pfefferlein.

The Ansbach Resident Office in Germany, which falls under the Bavaria Area Office, is nestled in the Franconian region of Bavaria and supports U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach, home of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade. It was recently elevated from project office to “resident” status after a bulk of the workload shifted over from Hohenfels.

The staff currently oversees about \$200 million in design, construction and environmental projects across northwestern Bavaria at several Army installations: Katterbach, Bismarck Kaserne, Urlas, Barton Barracks, Shipton Kaserne, Bleidorn, Oberdachstetten Training Area, Storck Barracks, Bamberg and Schweinfurt. A team of three local nationals and six Americans manages the diverse workload, providing this military community with new state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly buildings that began popping up in 2010.

“This may be a small office in Europe District, but we work well with our LNs – Hans Hirschmann, Ursula Pfefferlein and Rudiger Schroeter – [the Directorate of Public Works] and the Bauamt to make big things happen in Ansbach, such as the development and construction of the new Army installation at Urlas,” said Rosanna Alcantara, the regional program manager.

Urlas has the Army’s first eco-friendly PassivHauses, buildings that provide comfort while using very little energy for heating and cooling. It also boasts the Defense Commissary Agency’s “greenest” store in the world.

Elsewhere, the Ansbach team is tackling a new Army lodge, two child development centers, an auto skills facility, health and dental clinic, vehicle maintenance facility and two new barracks. Other projects on the radar include a high school gym addition, renovation of a firing range and modifications to 17 Army family housing apartments at Storck Barracks in Illesheim by 2018. The latter venture is intricately phased so people can move into a building and vacate another as each gets finished. The first apartment is nearing completion.

Bavaria offers plenty of leisure opportunities and good quality of life as well.

“I’m from New York City,” said project engineer Tom O’ Buckley II, “so I love that there is no traffic here in Ansbach.”

Steve Schluth, also a project engineer, likes hitting the road with his family for the attractions, sites and culture: “There are so many opportunities to travel throughout Europe and see the history we learned about in school.”

The local restaurants and pubs aren’t too bad, either, said project engineer Jim McPeak.

“Bavarian food is outstanding,” he added, “and the beer is pretty good, too.”

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NAU in the News

- Franconian News, USAG Ansbach opens new School Age Center, CDC at Katterbach – article
- Herald Union, Engineering the future, in 500 words or less – article
- Stars and Stripes, New US Army convoy live-fire training course inaugurated – article

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WATCH: A look back at the 2013 children's holiday party

Operations Security

Antiterrorism and the 'Evolving Threat'

The Army antiterrorism theme for the second quarter of this fiscal year, which runs through March, is the "Evolving Threat." As the U.S. and allies continue to pressure al-Qaida, its affiliates and other major terror organizations, attacks from individual actors and smaller groups have evolved as the predominant threat to Army installations, stand-alone facilities and units. These emerging players have changed in recent years to include homegrown violent extremists, active shooters and insider threats.

Antiterrorism officials are focused on a number of areas this quarter, such as:

- Understanding how terrorists and related threat tactics are evolving to include homegrown violent extremism, insider threat, active shooter and cyberattacks
- The importance of refining intelligence requirements based on threats that are less prone to intelligence gathering and analysis than larger groups whose actions are more pronounced
- The need to continue promoting antiterrorism awareness through the dissemination and education of suspicious-activity indicators and reporting
- The value of increased eGuardian use as a terrorist-threat and suspicious-activity reporting system

iWATCH Army, a terrorist-focused neighborhood watch program, remains a vital element of the antiterrorism community awareness program. Army commands should promote active iWATCH efforts and encourage community members to report suspicious activity and indicators of high-risk behavior.

Comments? Corrections?

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