



# EIE EXPRESS

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

## AROUND EUROPE

Issue 73, December 2015

### US, Romania complete Aegis Ashore



U.S. and Romanian officials inaugurated the new Aegis Ashore Phase II radar site and missile battery Dec. 18 during a ceremony in Bucharest, declaring it "technically capable."

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District has worked closely with the Missile Defense Agency, U.S. Navy and Romanian officials to finish the \$170 million missile defense complex and meet a presidential mandate for operational capacity by the end of 2015.

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### Military construction to ramp up in Poland

SLUPSK, Poland – USACE expects to break ground on another Aegis Ashore complex by next summer as attention turns toward Phase III of the European Phased Adaptive Approach to ballistic missile defense at Redzikowo Air Base.



In addition to the BMD shield, the Department of Defense and Polish Ministry of National Defense continue to cooperate on planning and execution of projects supporting the European Reassurance Initiative.

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### 'Wall-breaking' held for USARAF project



VICENZA, Italy – Leaders and stakeholders took part in a "wall-breaking" ceremony Dec. 9 for the future U.S. Army Africa headquarters at Caserma Del Din. "This is the largest renovation project we've done for USARAF,"

said Mediterranean Resident Office Engineer Tim Wood. "They're a great partner to work with, and we're glad for the opportunity to help them consolidate all their staff in a modern headquarters. It's interesting to be renovating historic buildings from the Mussolini era into 21st-century standards."

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### Commander's Corner

Happy holidays



My family and I wish everyone a very happy holiday season and wonderful New Year! Regardless of your religious beliefs or cultural background, I hope this time of year provides an opportunity to relax a bit and connect with family and friends.

Europe District maintains an incredibly demanding pace as we provide vital engineering, construction and other support to so many military commands, U.S. agencies and foreign governments. Across all staff sections and branches within the district, our mission in 2015 placed a great level of responsibility and hefty amount of strategically important work on the shoulders of our team, and many employees continue to do so much extra to meet these important demands. Recognizing that, I truly hope you all will take time to relax during this holiday season and return in early January refreshed and ready to meet the critical requirements we'll face in 2016.

I am extremely proud to serve with each and every one of you and your extraordinary commitment to support our nation's missions abroad, NATO allies and other close partner nations. Selfless service is a core Army value and one that is embodied in so much of what we as members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers do on a daily basis. Your dedication to others makes the world a better place.

Whether remaining in your local community or traveling this holiday period, please keep safety and security as top priorities for yourself and those around you. I also ask each of you to remember in your thoughts and prayers the courageous men and women – in and out of uniform – who are serving this time of year away from loved ones. Their selfless service is a gift to be treasured by all who live in good health, peace and prosperity.

Again, the Tyler family wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Army Strong ... Building Strong!

COL Matt Tyler

Congratulations to our recent Heroes of the District: Jeff Holt and Kris Morrow.

## SPOTLIGHT on the Caucasus Project Office



From left: Leván Imedadze, George Shikhiashvili, Nana Kacheishvili, Gwen Nelson and Shalva Khvadadze.

Europe District's Caucasus Project Office in Tbilisi, Georgia, covers three countries: the host republic, Azerbaijan and Armenia. Most of its projects are tied to European Command's Humanitarian Assistance Program, typically involving the renovation or construction of a clinic, school or community center, as well as water-supply system rehabilitation to different regions.

The office also implements the U.S. Export Control and Related Border Security program, known as EXBS, overseeing construction of the "green border" between Georgia and Azerbaijan. The effort delivers new buildings for border police, including accommodation, offices and training areas with fully equipped facilities.

The Caucasus team is comprised of an American project engineer and several local nationals — two engineers, a program coordinator and administrative assistant. With about 80 percent of projects in remote locations, the staff frequently drives five to eight hours just to reach a job site. But the work is highly rewarding.

"We are very friendly and supportive of each other," says Program Coordinator Nana Kacheishvili. "Everything we accomplish is a result of good teamwork. ... Our projects are performed with high quality, on time and within budget. With a few amount of dollars, it's amazing how much happiness you can bring to a community. Projects turn into a big event for the community, and they bring relief in lifestyle and improvement of conditions."

Recently completed humanitarian-assistance projects in Armenia include the Gyumri Child Care and Protection Boarding School, Kharbred Specialized Orphanage and Meghri Clinic. In Georgia, the team upgraded a kindergarten and school for the deaf and handled a dredging project in Poti Sea Port for EXBS.

In 2016, the Caucasus Project Office expects to finish two efforts in Georgia: a new wing at the Asylum Seeker Center in Martkopi and the Management Department Rescue Training Center. It's also renovating Kindergarten #59 in Armenia and managing Azerbaijan water-supply improvements.

Project Engineer Gwen Nelson has served in Tbilisi since the summer of 2013.

"I love living and working in this area," she said. "The Caucasus region is beautiful. Each country is unique, and the people are great."

Georgia is renowned for its wine — Nelson enjoys the free samples offered at grocery stores and wine shops. The cuisine and lemonade are distinctive here, too.

"Armenia is different in that you have additional mountains you have to cross and it's drier in some areas," she added. "Azerbaijan is very flat in a lot of areas. ... All of these countries are free range. There are little pesticides utilized in the growing of vegetables and fruits. This makes all the food taste extremely fresh."

### WORK WITH USACE

Aegis Ashore Navy facilities  
Redzikowo, Poland  
Solicitation number:  
W912GB-16-R-0002

Master planning, A-E services  
Throughout Europe  
Solicitation number:  
W912GB-16-R-0016

MATOC contracts  
Romania  
Solicitation number:  
W912GB-16-R-0013

*Click announcement or visit [FBO.gov](http://FBO.gov)  
for more solicitations.*

### NAU in the News

- U.S. Embassy Armenia, Ambassador opens school renovation thanks to American military support — [article](#)
- Department of Defense Education Activity, DODEA Blue Ribbon Schools 2015 — [news report](#)
- Building Strong, USACE Ebola response spotlights FEST capabilities (see Page 33) — [article](#)

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## WATCH: Remembering Operation United Assistance

### Around the District

A snapshot of upcoming events, activities and points of interest

- **Blood drive** — Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines need your help! The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District Blood Drive is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 13 at the Amelia Earhart Center theater in Wiesbaden, Germany. All USACE Army civilians can get up to four hours of administrative leave for recovery if they donate. For more information, contact Melissa George at [melissa.g.george@usace.army.mil](mailto:melissa.g.george@usace.army.mil) or DSN 570-2520. You can also visit the Armed Services Blood Program website at [www.militaryblood.dod.mil/default.aspx](http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil/default.aspx).

- **Winter Ball** — Employees, family and friends are invited to Europe District's annual Winter Ball on Jan. 30 in downtown Wiesbaden. Cocktails start at 6 p.m., followed by a dinner buffet an hour later. Dancing goes from 9-11 p.m. This will be a celebration of the New Year, winter season, family, friends and their time together in Germany. Tickets are 45 euros a person but increase to 50 euros after the New Year. Contact your floor POCs for more information or to purchase tickets.

- **NAU Security Notice** — Europe District's Security Office has implemented a new mailbox called "NAU Security Notice," which will be used to send security-related messages to team members. Look for email notifications on: travel restrictions and advisories, road closures, demonstrations, inclement weather, Operations Security, antiterrorism and force-protection measures, and security awareness from the DOD, Army and USACE. Please take a minute to open and read the contents of these notices. Some information may be pertinent to your area of operations or have an affect on travel plans.

### Comments? Corrections?

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