



EIE EXPRESS

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

Issue 72, November 2015

AROUND EUROPE

After attacks, US issues travel warning



WASHINGTON – Americans should be alert to possible travel risks, especially during the holidays, following increased terrorist threats around the world, the State Department warned recently, according to a report by The Associated Press.

A travel alert, in effect until Feb. 24, said current information suggests that militants with the Islamic State, al-Qaida, Boko Haram and other terrorist groups continue to plan attacks in multiple regions.

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Special education center opens in Tunisia

ARIANA, Tunisia – U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Kathleen Hanson inaugurated a \$675,000 extension to a special education vocational training center Nov. 3 that was funded by Africa Command's humanitarian-assistance program.



The new construction by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District added several workshops and classrooms to the facility, greatly improving learning conditions and allowing for a significant increase in the school's enrollment.

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Wiesbaden school picks up Blue Ribbon



WIESBADEN, Germany – Wiesbaden Middle School added the National Blue Ribbon School award to its collection of accolades for excellence, celebrating with a schoolwide assembly Nov. 2.

Europe District is an official partner of WMS, supporting its educators and students through science, technology, engineering and math learning in and out of the classroom. With USACE support, it became the first school to win the Education Department's Blue and Green Ribbon awards in the same year.

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Commander's Corner

My thanks to the district



As we celebrate the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday, what a perfect time for me to share my thanks for all you do each and every day to make Europe District so successful. I especially want to extend my sincere appreciation for your work while I have been away from our headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany, so much over the past few months and not able to visit as many field offices and project sites as I would have liked. Despite the limited interaction with other key district leaders or me, you always carry the day through your professionalism and commitment. That's what impresses me the most.

In the past few months, 4 important USACE governance priorities, North Atlantic Division actions, and some national and regional strategically important projects have occupied the vast majority of my time. Although I try to stay engaged electronically with all of you as much as I can, there is just no substitute for face-to-face, personal interaction. Because of my inability to personally connect with each of you as much as I would like, I am truly thankful for both your understanding and amazing professionalism, which alleviate any concern about the district faltering one bit.

Moreover, with Europe District being the only one in USACE that supports two U.S. combatant commands and covers the largest amount of inhabitable land mass, there are more than a dozen field offices I have yet to visit and hundreds of projects I may never get to personally see. For those of you living and working in these remote locations and the many employees carrying out those isolated or less-visible projects, I am profoundly thankful and proud of how well you all execute your duties and represent our great organization.

In closing, whether you are an American employee or one of our many personnel from other countries and cultures, I wish everyone an enjoyable Thanksgiving.

Army Strong ... Building Strong!

COL Matt Tyler

Congratulations to our recent Hero of the District: Melissa George.

SPOTLIGHT on Program Management Branch



The Program Management Branch supports the management and oversight of multiple key and strategic programs in Europe District's area of responsibility such as military construction, the Defense Health Agency, Department of Defense Education Activity and other government agencies. The branch provides support to overall financial management and data reporting of these various programs to include fiscal closeout. Strategically placed regional program managers are embedded with district partners and stakeholders.

Anchored at the Amelia Earhart Center in Wiesbaden, Germany, the Program Management Branch plays a pivotal role in driving the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District mission.

Providing business and statistical assessment for planning, program execution, financial management, closeout, resource and administrative requirements, automated management information systems and upward reporting are among its core functions. The branch prepares workload forecasts, coordinates fiscal and manpower issues with the district's Resource Management Office, and organizes monthly Project Review Board meetings for leadership.

The team's managers represent district partner interests at the program level through communication of expectations, timely upward reporting, defining standards and requirements, and establishing and tracking milestones and metrics to ensure consistency across Europe District. They also direct program fund requests through higher headquarters and partner representatives, control and manage budgets, engage in conflict resolution, streamline priorities, and elevate the profile of key programs through development of new work requirements with stakeholders.

"The work here at Europe District is very challenging – like nowhere else in the world – but the reward of accomplishment is great," said Omar Chavez, senior project manager on the Rhine Ordnance Barracks Medical Center Replacement. "Your co-workers become a part of your extended family, and those are friendships that we take back with us on our journeys home."

Living and working in Germany gives team members an abundance of unique tourist opportunities and the chance to meet people from different backgrounds around Europe.

"I enjoy the new experiences of working within Germany and with the German Bauamts, along with learning the German work and cultures," said Chris Miranda, a program manager. "What I enjoy about living in Germany is the opportunity to travel in and around Europe with my family."

Chavez says Wiesbaden sits in close proximity to a multitude of great destinations and weekend getaways, making travel on the Continent even easier.

"It is a true privilege to live, work and play in Germany," he added. "To experience the various diverse cultures, languages, foods and be able to share that with our children and family that come to visit is a very rewarding experience."

WORK WITH USACE

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Redzikowo, Poland
Solicitation number:
W912GB-16-R-0002

MARC contracts
Across Eastern Europe
Solicitation number:
W912GB-16-R-0006

Environmental services
Belgium, Netherlands
Solicitation number:
W912GB-15-R-0031

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NAU in the News

- [Offziere.ch, United States hasn't abandoned Israel over the Iran deal](#) – article
- [Engineer Blast, Message to the Regiment #107 \(April-October 2015\)](#) – articles
- [Herald Union, Amelia Earhart Playhouse captures accolades](#) – article

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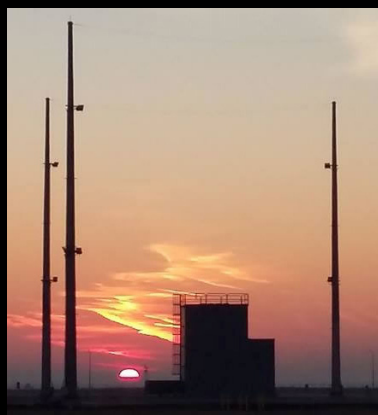
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Helping wounded warriors

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WATCH: U.S. Army Europe's tribute to veterans

Around the District

A snapshot of upcoming events, activities and points of interest

- November is National American Indian Heritage Month. The 2015 Department of Defense theme is "Growing Native Leaders: Enhancing Seven Generations." According to the U.S. Census, there were more than 5 million Native Americans living in the United States in 2011. These individuals represent a rich and diverse culture that includes 566 federally recognized tribes, each with its own traditions, beliefs and history. To read about American Indians in the Army, visit www.army.mil/americanindians/?from=features_bar.

- Europe District's annual Holiday Office Party Celebration is set for Dec. 11 at the Amelia Earhart Center in Wiesbaden. Food and games begin at noon on each floor. At 2 p.m., a district gathering is planned in the lobby. Individual branch and office events start at 3 p.m. For more details, ask your floor/wing POC. Updates are also forthcoming on the district's home portal.

- Kastle Keepers will host the annual Children's Holiday Party at the AEC from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Dec. 16. The free event is open to children of AEC employees up to age 12. There will be plenty of holiday fun, games, crafts, treats, singing and photos with Santa. Volunteers are welcome. For details, contact Aurora Williamson at aurora.williamson@usace.army.mil or DSN 570-2471.

- Employees, family and friends are invited to Europe District's annual Winter Ball on Jan. 30 at the Radisson Blu Schwarzer Bock Hotel in downtown Wiesbaden. Cocktails start at 6 p.m., followed by a dinner buffet an hour later. Dancing goes from 9-11 p.m. Tickets are 45 euros a person but go up in January. Contact Aurora Williamson for more information.

Comments? Corrections?

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