



EIE EXPRESS

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

AROUND EUROPE

Issue 76, April 2016

EIC a hot topic at US-German meeting



LEIMEN, Germany – Understanding responsibilities and identifying challenges early on will be paramount in meeting an aggressive timeline for structural requirements within European Infrastructure Consolidation, U.S. and German construction leaders

said at their annual Partnering Conference.

The national defense strategy, which aims to realign and balance American forces in Europe over the next decade, was among several key topics discussed here April 13-14 as U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District met with key counterparts from German ministries.

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Students get lesson in water pollutants

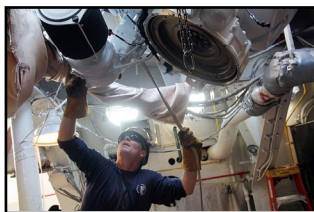
WIESBADEN, Germany – A pair of Europe District project managers encouraged Wiesbaden Middle School students to pollute – on Earth Day.



Bryan McClure and Robert Mackey taught about 75 Department of Defense Education Activity-Europe sixth-graders how to build and contaminate model aquifers, or underground water reservoirs, in a lesson April 22 to demonstrate the impact of pollutants on drinking water.

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At the Corps, every day is Earth Day



Earth Day is an annual celebration built around keeping the planet a truly marvelous and beautiful place to inhabit. It's also a reminder that everyone has a responsibility to preserve natural resources and

stay vigilant in its health and well-being.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been doing its part to save the planet for many decades, especially in North Atlantic Division, which remains on the front lines in the effort to restore and protect the environment.

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Commander's Corner

A campaign of 12 simple words



As we farewell Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, the 53rd Chief of Engineers, in mid-May and prepare to welcome a new chief, what a great time to refresh ourselves on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Campaign Plan. This plan has been used and will continue to guide this incredible organization in the execution of its many, many missions within the United States and globally.

I challenge everyone to know the campaign plan's four goals, which is not hard to do and consist of just 12 words: Support National Security, Transform Civil Works, Reduce Disaster Risks and Prepare for Tomorrow.

"Support National Security" describes USACE's contributions to our military, interagency and international partners to enable national, regional, and global security capabilities and objectives. Furthermore, it includes the support we provide to U.S. combatant commands and their service component commands that operate across the globe. For Europe District, this campaign goal is our primary focus and connects to almost every project we execute. Our work in Germany and throughout our vast area of responsibility, whether a massive military construction facility or small theater security cooperation project in a remote location, enables U.S. policy abroad or supports the goals of allies and partners.

"Transform Civil Works" applies to USACE's management of U.S. waters in an effort to enhance the budget process, modernize planning, deliver quality solutions and services, and provide reliable, resilient, sustainable infrastructure systems. Technically, Europe District does not manage any true civil works projects.

"Reduce Disaster Risks" is another goal specific to the United States. It refers to USACE's responsibility during a natural or man-made disaster as the federal government's lead public works and engineering agency. USACE's daily work in the U.S. can range from maintenance of locks and dams to maintaining vast levee systems, designing flood-risk reduction systems, modeling and simulation. In the strict definition of "Reduce Disaster Risks," the district does not have projects that support this goal.

Finally, "Prepare for Tomorrow" is supported by every USACE district, whether under civil works or military programs. This objective describes our essential responsibility to prepare for the future by focusing on people, technology, processes and engagement. It includes solving the science, technology, engineering and math challenges facing nations worldwide. In addition, this goal promotes workforce engagement and training to ensure we all are as involved and competent as possible.

Again, I encourage all employees to learn these goals. If the Chief of Engineers asks you, will you know the goals?

Army Strong ... Building Strong!

COL Matt Tyler

SPOTLIGHT on the Office of Counsel



From left: Raymond Sullivan, Brett Howard, Nancy van Noortwijk, Jay Aldridge and Megan Tooman.

Europe District's Office of Counsel, a team of five attorneys and a legal technician, is responsible for legal matters within the district, as well as legal issues between the district and host nations; district and U.S. forces elements in European Command and Africa Command areas of operation; and on behalf of U.S. forces and host nations.

The attorneys counsel decision-makers and play a critical role in planning and executing district projects. The Office of Counsel practices preventive law in the planning and design phases of projects to facilitate smooth and effective execution.

In addition, they take part in — and frequently lead — negotiations with host nations such as Germany, Poland and many countries in Africa. The lawyers also litigate contract disputes before the U.S. Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals and are responsible for providing legal counsel on, and litigation of, labor disagreements. Finally, the office provides general legal services to the command and district employees.

In fiscal year 2015, the office performed more than 2,000 legal reviews while participating in negotiations, presolicitation briefings and resolution of disputes. District counsel was instrumental in negotiating and completing an agreement on the Rhine Ordnance Barracks Medical Center Replacement project near Ramstein Air Base. The new consolidated U.S. military hospital is set to replace Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in 2022.

The staff functions well together and everyone is willing to share their knowledge and help out where needed, said Nancy van Noortwijk, the deputy command counsel.

"Without that that type of team approach, we wouldn't be able to execute in a timely manner considering our workload, tempo and diversity of issues," she said.

Jay Aldridge, a Europe District attorney, finds the work in support of AFRICOM and EUCOM to be unique and exciting.

"Every country the district operates in presents a different set of challenges and requires familiarity with international agreements and host-nation rules and customs," he said. "Working with project-delivery team members, stakeholders and our host-nation partners to overcome obstacles and execute construction projects is one of the many benefits of working here."

Life in Europe outside of work is different, too, said Brett Howard, also an attorney.

"My kids are growing up expecting to meet people from different countries," he said. "I was on a ski lift with my 6-year-old daughter and she asked, 'What language are those people speaking? I know it is not German, French or Turkish, so what is it?' I thought it was unusual for a child to be able to tell the difference in languages."

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Weilerbach, Germany
Solicitation number:
W912GB-16-R-0001

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for more solicitations.*

NAU in the News

- The Corps Environment, USACE environmental mission (see Page 5) — Q&A with Chief of Engineers
- DBZ Online, A look at the Rhine Ordnance Barracks Medical Center Replacement — article and photos
- Bavarian News, Partners huddle at USACE workshop as construction booms in Europe — article

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WATCH: USACE, Wiesbaden students plant STEM garden

Around the District

A snapshot of upcoming events, activities and points of interest

- **Need a passport or visa photo?** — The Wiesbaden Training and Support Center, located at Building 1032 on Clay Kaserne in Germany, provides free passport photo services. Photos are taken 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays. You can request an appointment online, after registering at www.vios.army.mil. Booths for official photos formatted to State Department standards are also available at the Hainerberg PX and Clay Kaserne Food Court. The cost is 5 euros.

- **Army Emergency Relief campaign** — AER's mission is to provide emergency financial assistance to Soldiers and their families. The annual campaign continues through May 15. Europe District personnel who want to donate can do so through the home portal or by contacting Master Sgt. John Walls at john.d.walls@usace.army.mil or DSN 570-2482. For more information, visit www.aerhq.org/dnn563/Home.aspx.

- **USO center closes** — The USO has permanently closed its center at Frankfurt Airport due to several operational factors, officials announced. Over the past three years, the center saw a decline in visitors after many military personnel and families began arriving at Ramstein Air Base. Force-protection and security concerns also contributed to the decision.

- **Europe travel alert** — A State Department alert for U.S. citizens traveling in Europe remains in place until June 20 after several recent terrorist attacks, including the bombings in Brussels claimed by the Islamic State. Americans should exercise vigilance in public places or using mass transportation. For more information, go to <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en.html>.

Comments? Corrections?

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