AROUND EUROPE

USACE contractor teaches vehicle safety

MONS, Belgium- Student safety is paramount at NATO’s Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe international school and on Nov. 9 a construction contractor, Wayss & Freytag Ingenieurbau AG, demonstrated the dangers of vehicle and truck blind spots to more than 40 schoolchildren. Belgian primary school students moved into temporary facilities in November to accommodate the construction of the future school campus.

Big national response to Sandy:USACE

NEW YORK- “She was wandering around mounds of debris along the waterfront at Breezy Point, New York, and the shock on her face was pretty powerful for me,” said Jim Balocki, chief, Interagency and International Services, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “Her name was Kathleen and she told me she had lost everything to Sandy and that she was grateful for everything we were doing to help her community,” said Balocki.

Web conferencing brings engineers to class

WIESBADEN, Germany- A live video stream of eighth-grade physics students displayed on Jason Cade’s computer screen. After a quick audio check, Cade, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District project manager and mining engineer, with the assistance of his colleagues, used face-to-face video conferencing to teach a lesson on roller coaster engineering to Wiesbaden Middle School students Dec. 19.
The Hohenfels Resident Office is part of the Bavaria Area Office located in Grafenwoehr, Germany. The office is responsible for projects in Ansbach, Bamberg, Garmisch, Hohenfels, Illesheim and Schweinfurt.

Hohenfels projects under construction include two new child development centers, an auto skills facility, a commissary and a gymnasium. Design in underway for the Ansbach Training Area firing range, Katterbach school extension, townhouses and a local clinic.

The team executes projects for customers such as Department of Defense Dependents Schools, Medical and Dental Activity, and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. In addition, the office works on force protection and metering projects.

The resident office consists of five local nationals and seven U.S. citizens. Leeanne Brown, the management assistant, is the backbone for installation passes, contract files and office supplies. Ursula Pfefferlein, an administrative contracting officer, has expert knowledge of U.S. and German contracting laws and regulations and provides guidance to resident and project engineers. Jim McPeak, a project engineer, completed the 106-unit Urlas Townhome project in 2011 and is now managing vehicle maintenance facilities and child development center projects. McPeak appreciates the opportunity to live and work in Bavaria.

“I really enjoy working with valued German coworkers who are experienced and helpful,” he said.

Husband and wife team Steve Schluth and Rosanna Alcantara, a project engineer and regional program manager respectively, are in Germany on their third tour. They like being centrally located and traveling to all parts of Europe.

Hans Hirschman, the resident engineer, leads the team and utilizes his decades of experience to manage the booming construction program.

Mike Gollasch, a 64-year-old project engineer, will retire this year.

“Working for the COE was the best decision I’ve ever made. The diversity of projects I handled in my career was tremendous. I will miss working with my American colleagues when I retire.”

The Honenfels team manages complex projects, a hefty warranty program and German/English language barrier during the day. After work, they take advantage of the world-famous biergartens and Bavarian culture surrounding them.
AROUND THE CORPS

Education efforts in 2012 focus on partnerships

Automated system helps Army Corps manage debris in NYC

AROUND THE ARMY

German brigade pays tribute to American brothers-in-arms

 Reserve Soldiers help terminally ill boy live military dream

AROUND THE DOD

DOD photographers recall 2012 imagery milestones

Robot to serve as future military ‘pack mule’

WATCH: USACE team supporting Sandy recovery efforts

Operations Security

Terrorism in Cyberspace—The Cyber Threat

The increased physical security measures in place at government and military facilities following the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the success of counter terrorist operations at home and abroad, have hindered opportunities for conventional terrorist attacks in the physical realm.

Cyberspace may actually become the terrorists preferred battle space because it offers a target rich environment; certain cyber targets may be critical nodes necessary for the conduct of operations in the traditional war fighting domains; and probably most importantly, cyber attacks can be conducted from remote or sanctuary locations anywhere on the globe, where attribution and counter strikes may be very difficult to achieve.

Cyberspace is an environment where actions can occur at light speed. It is a densely populated battle space where adversaries can converge instantly from anywhere within a globally dispersed grid. The creation of U.S. Cyber Command and the establishment of the service cyber component commands was a crucial first step in DoD preparedness for dealing with the complexities of cyber warfare today and the future.

We must continue to build on our cyber capabilities and capacity in order to maintain an edge in cyberspace. Cyberspace is a highly contested environment, where DoD networks are currently under attack 24/7 and where it is very possible that threats can evolve faster than our ability to develop countermeasures.

Our military has a key role in protecting cyberspace but an effective response to the emerging cyber threat requires cooperation and participation across all of the DoD, Federal, State, local governments, academia, and the private sector. The stakes are high with respect to protecting our economy, civil infrastructure, public safety, and national security.