

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TRANSATLANTIC DIVISION



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STRONGHOLD

MIDDLE EAST DISTRICT ~ EXPEDITIONARY DISTRICT

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FY24 YEAR IN REVIEW



BUILDING STRONG: *Strengthening Partnerships, Building Capacity, and Enhancing Security for our Nation, Allies, and Partners across the Middle East, Central and South Asia, and the Levant.*

INNOVATIVE ENGINEERING, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION SOLUTIONS IN ONE OF
THE MOST DYNAMIC CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTS ON EARTH

YEAR IN REVIEW FISCAL YEAR 2024: OCTOBER 2023 - SEPTEMBER 2024



VISION STATEMENT:
Trusted team, proudly serving as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' tip of the spear, providing innovative solutions for our nation, allies, and partners.

MISSION STATEMENT:
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division delivers agile, responsive, and innovative, design, construction, engineering and contingency solutions in support of U.S. Central Command, U.S. Special Operations Command and other global partners to advance national security interests.

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- Division Commander:**
Colonel Craig S. Baumgartner
- STRONGHOLD Designer, Editor & Publisher:**
Catherine Carroll
Transatlantic Division
Regional Public Affairs Director
- Contributing PA Professionals:**
Lt. Col. Angela King-Sweigart
Transatlantic Division PAO
- Maj. Jamia Odom
Transatlantic Division PAO
- Joseph Macri
Middle East District Chief
- Shannon Moeck
Middle East District PAO
- Amy Bugala
Expeditionary District Chief
- Shannon Hodges
Visual Information Specialist

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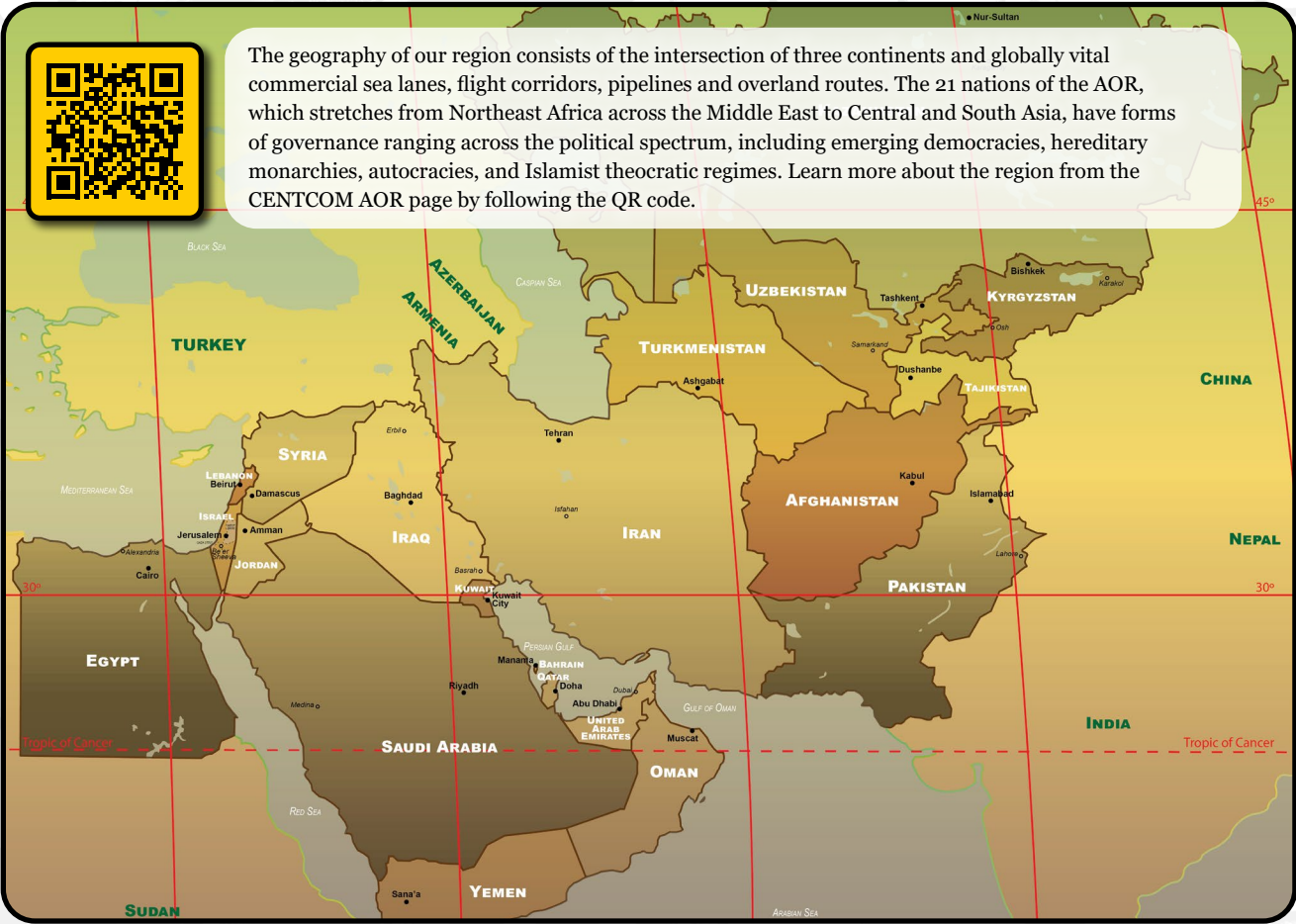
Fiscal Year 2024: Year In Review

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TRANSATLANTIC DIVISION STRONGHOLD MIDDLE EAST DISTRICT ~ EXPEDITIONARY DISTRICT

Welcome to the FY24 edition of STRONGHOLD Magazine, a dynamic showcase of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division's accomplishments and media highlights from the past fiscal year. In this issue, we celebrate the achievements of our dedicated team with insightful articles, striking visuals, and impactful videos that capture our progress and partnerships. Each story reflects the expertise, resilience, and commitment of our division in meeting the challenges of this unique operational landscape.



The geography of our region consists of the intersection of three continents and globally vital commercial sea lanes, flight corridors, pipelines and overland routes. The 21 nations of the AOR, which stretches from Northeast Africa across the Middle East to Central and South Asia, have forms of governance ranging across the political spectrum, including emerging democracies, hereditary monarchies, autocracies, and Islamist theocratic regimes. Learn more about the region from the CENTCOM AOR page by following the QR code.



Don't miss this ...
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Empowering the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's vision with USACE collaboration: 1950s -1990s





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Division Commander
Col. Craig S. Baumgartner



(Click the QR Code for leadership page and bios)

Transatlantic Division

Our accomplishments over FY24 reflect our commitment to excellence and partnership:

Contracting Excellence: Our contracting officers executed over 569 actions, leading to obligations exceeding \$530 million, not including real estate actions. This demonstrates our agility in meeting mission needs and delivering impactful results.

Foreign Military Programs: Through Foreign Military Sales (FMS), Foreign Military Financing (FMF), and Counterterrorism Equipment Fund (CTEF) programs, we awarded \$225 million in new projects and completed \$250 million worth of critical facilities, enhancing the readiness and capabilities of our partners.

Military Construction (MILCON): In support of CENTCOM's mission, we awarded \$101 million in projects and successfully completed seven MILCON projects, including a highly complex Tactical Operations Center and Fleet Maintenance Facility at Isa Air Base, Bahrain. These projects ensure our partners are equipped with state-of-the-art facilities to carry out their missions effectively.

Leasing Support: Our team managed 459 leased units supporting Title 10 missions and 344 leased units for Title 22 (FMS) support, totaling an annual rental value of \$40 million. Additionally, we provided critical oversight for SOCOM's program, managing nine offices and 125 leased locations valued at \$25 million annually.

These achievements are not just about numbers—they represent our impact in building capacity, strengthening partnerships, and enhancing security in the CENTCOM region and SOCOM globally. Your dedication has enabled us to safely deliver complex, quality projects on time, and within budget..

As we move forward into FY25, our focus remains steadfast: to be the partner of choice for our mission partners by delivering agile, innovative, and sustainable solutions that meet their evolving needs. I am confident that with your continued dedication, we will continue to build on this legacy of excellence and face the challenges ahead with determination and resilience.

Thank you for everything you do. Let's keep Building Strong and advancing our mission, together!

BUILDING STRONG!
Col. Craig Baumgartner

As we bring Fiscal Year 2024 to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the tremendous efforts and achievements of our team at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division. This year has been one of dynamic transitions and remarkable accomplishments, all driven by your unwavering commitment to excellence.

Our mission is unique: we are the tip of the spear, delivering agile, responsive, and innovative design, construction, and engineering solutions in some of the most challenging environments in the world. Serving as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' forward element, we operate within the U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command areas of responsibility.

We play a crucial role in supporting U.S. military operations, strengthening partnerships, building capacity, and enhancing security for our nation, allies, and partners. Whether it's constructing critical infrastructure, supporting contingency operations, or ensuring the safety and resilience of our forces, the Transatlantic Division remains the partner of choice, driving mission success across the region.

One of the pillars of our success is our ability to respond swiftly and effectively to emerging requirements. This is made possible by the dedication of our workforce, who bring expertise, innovation, and a commitment to safety in every project. From supporting military readiness to executing programs that enhance regional security, our impact extends far beyond construction — it's about building trust, capacity, and enduring partnerships.

This past year was also marked by leadership transitions that brought new energy and perspectives to our team. In June, I had the honor of assuming command from Brigadier General William C. Hannan, Jr., after serving as the deputy commander. Additionally, we witnessed a Change of Responsibility, as we bid farewell to Command Sergeant Major Clifton D. Morehouse, whose leadership was instrumental in guiding our Soldiers and civilians.

We welcomed Command Sergeant Major Michael Arroyo, who has already hit the ground running, bringing valuable experience to help us continue pushing the envelope in delivering for our mission partners.



District Commander
Col. Christopher D. Klein



(Click the QR Code for leadership page and bios)

Middle East District

People: None of what we do is possible without people – our USACE employees, our foreign service nationals, our Embassy partners, our service component partners, our contractor partners, and our regional allies. Relationships built on mutual respect, collaboration, and commitment to customer service make our mission happen and make it fun. We are committed to ensuring all people delivering this mission have a safe, healthy working environment. We must continue to invest in our people to ensure everyone has the skills to complete their mission to the fullest of their potential. I am proud of how our teams come together during challenging times and see each other through. That is the mark of great organizations and what makes this an exciting and enjoyable mission.

This year, the Middle East District made substantial progress on regionally significant projects. Additionally, we assumed full responsibility for the Israel program to better align the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the major combatant commands. Now, all across the Central Command Area of Responsibility, we are meeting commitments to our mission partners and proving our ability to deliver in any environment.

Not only did we strengthen partnerships around the globe, we expanded our outreach efforts in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. We continue our support to the DOD Starbase program, continued the high school intern program, and entered into a groundbreaking agreement with Shenandoah University, supporting their students, program development, and innovation hub. These efforts not only benefit the community, but also helps build a talent pool of future National leaders.

Finally, I want to highlight a very significant achievement this year – the District earned the Army Safety Star for its safety program, the highest safety award in the Army. This is a reflection of the safety culture our District and our contractor partners developed over the past few years. It was quite a journey and completing the final stage of the Corps of Engineers Safety and Occupational Health Management System is monumental. We will continue to build on the safety program through continuous commitment and continuous improvement. Well done team!

Thank you for what you do every day. Thank you for your interest and support of our mission. The projects we deliver are critical to our service members and the defense of our regional allies and partners. I hope this publication conveys why the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Middle East District, is the trusted partner of choice for these critical efforts time and time again.

~ Col. Chris Klein

I am proud to be joining the team of professionals at the Middle East District who safely deliver critical infrastructure to our warfighters, allies, and partner nations in the Central Command Area of Responsibility. It is great to be back! My four overarching priorities are: People, Mission Success, Resource Responsibility, and Organizational Improvement. These priorities are interrelated, mutually supportive, and essential to being the agency that develops solutions to the Nation's toughest challenges.

Organizational Improvement: We must continuously evolve the organization to meet changes in culture, policy, and technology. At the Middle East District, every employee is fully empowered to recommend changes to policy and implement changes within their control. Advances in communications technology and platforms improved our ability to stay connected and enable delivery at our field offices. Today, data collection and data visualization tools are enabling us to better understand our District performance. In the future, improved modelling and analytics will improve our performance in risk-based decision making. We are seeing similar advances in engineering and construction techniques and materials. We must remain open to integrating these advances into our delivery. With our host nation partner's desire to be on the cutting edge of innovation, the Middle East District is uniquely positioned to lead USACE in operationalizing innovation.

Resource Responsibility: We must be good stewards of equipment and the funding entrusted to us by our mission partners, the United States government, and other foreign nations. We are living in a restricting resource environment with top line budgets that are not really changing; there is no extra money. We must meet our budget requirements by ensuring our equipment survives its full lifecycle. On our projects, our customers want to see value in their investment without continuous cost increases. With resource responsibility, we will be able to sustain investments to continuously improve our people and performance.

Mission Success: We must deliver today! The projects we deliver are critical to the defense of our allies in the Middle East and advancing our interests abroad. Our United States service members deserve the best when deployed and stationed overseas; the Middle East District delivers the best to US Central Command. Our foreign allies and partners can go to other nations for defense equipment; however, they come back to the United States for the quality of our equipment, facilities, and commitment to common defense. When we safely deliver quality projects on schedule and on budget, we sustain our reputation as a reliable partner.



District Commander
Lt. Col. Eder C. Ramirez



(Click the QR Code for leadership page and bios)

Teammates, Mission Partners, and Esteemed Public,

As the Commander for the Transatlantic Expeditionary District I want to reflect on the incredible work accomplished by the People of the only forward contingency deployed organization in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Guided by our principles—Today safely delivering our programmatic commitments for our mission partners, Tomorrow looking at opportunities to innovate and focus on People Always—we have strengthened partnerships, built capacity, and enhanced security for our nation, partners, and allies across the most dynamic region in the world.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration across multi-agency and our Kuwaiti mission partners has been central to our success. This year, we advanced key foreign military sales cases with Kuwait Ministry of Defense, delivering infrastructure for the Super Hornet megaproject and the Kuwaiti Naval Base pier. By working closely with host nations and allied forces, we have deepened U.S. and Kuwaiti military cooperation, reinforced long-term alliances and strengthened the bonds that enable critical regional stability.

BUILDING CAPACITY

Our mission is not just about Engineering, Design and Construction—it's about creating lasting capability in support of security cooperation with our Kuwaiti mission partners and U.S. Central Command strategic goals for the most dynamic combatant command in the world. From new housing for our U.S. Service Members, like the unaccompanied officer quarters, and relocatable buildings across the region; to

Expeditionary District

operational facilities on U.S. bases to enhance operational readiness. This operational infrastructure, improves and empower both U.S. forces and our partners. These efforts improve quality of life and build the foundations for future success and enduring capabilities for the U.S and our Mission Partners.

ENHANCING SECURITY

We play a vital role in supporting named operations in Iraq and Syria by providing essential infrastructure, base camp master planning, and a multitude of facility renovations that enhances the effectiveness of coalition forces. Every project we undertake and deliver in support of U.S. forces or our allies—directly contributes to the long term security posture of our nation and in support of our regional mission partners.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we prepare for the challenges of the coming year, we remain committed to safely delivering quality projects on time and withing budget. My focus will continue to be on our People, our most valued asset, while fostering partnerships, building capacity, and ensuring security. Together, we will continue to deliver excellence, embodying the resilience and dedication that define the Transatlantic Expeditionary District.

Thank you for your hard work, unwavering service, and unparalleled sacrifice. It the honor of my professional career to serve you as Commander and alongside you as one of your Teammates.

*With Deepest Regards to your Service,
Lieutenant Colonel Eder C. Ramirez*



Our Region ...

One of the Most Historically and Culturally Rich Environments on Earth.

At the Transatlantic Division, our area of operations within the CENTCOM AOR is a tapestry of history, culture, and vast opportunities:

GEOGRAPHICAL SPAN:

- Over 4 million square miles, at the crossroads of three continents.

DEMOGRAPHICS:

- Home to a diverse population of over 560 million individuals.
- Encompasses 25 distinct ethnic groups.
- Uses 20 primary languages, each enriched by a myriad of dialects.
- Cultivates myriad religions, often intersecting and blending across national borders.

ECONOMIC & STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE:

- Cradles essential commercial sea lanes and pivotal flight pathways.
- Houses invaluable pipelines and strategic overland routes.

HISTORICAL & CULTURAL RICHNESS:

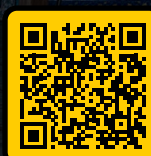
- Lies at the heart of ancient civilizations and age-old trade routes.
- Holds a treasure trove of world heritage sites, historical landmarks, and architectural wonders.
- Offers an endless spectrum of artistic expressions, traditions, and festivals.

POLITICAL LANDSCAPE:

- Comprises 21 countries, weaving from Northeast Africa through the Middle East to Central and South Asia.
- Showcases a spectrum of governance structures, from budding democracies to age-old monarchies, each contributing uniquely to the global narrative.

In our work within this region, we are not just contributing to infrastructure and development, but also immersing ourselves in one of the most historically and culturally rich environments on Earth.

*Yes, you should be very jealous of us.
Better yet, come join our Team of Teams!



The U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility covers 21 nations from Northeast Africa across the Middle East to Central and South Asia.





STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS.

What we bring to the CENTCOM AOR is an amazing partner. The Division has been constructing facilities and working with our partners in the Middle East since the 1950s. Ultimately, our outstanding relationships across the region enable and support the U.S. and its partners in achieving their security objectives.

Our legacy in the Middle East spans more than 70 years, symbolizing unwavering commitment, alliance, and shared endeavors. From the foundational efforts of the Mediterranean and Middle East Divisions to today’s complex military assets, our expertise in engineering, design, and construction has consistently enhanced the operational capabilities of U.S. Central Command, U.S. Special Operations Command, and our regional allies.

By delivering tailored infrastructure solutions—such as advanced air bases, naval facilities, and defense installations—we fortify resilience and readiness across the region. Beyond technical excellence, our enduring partnerships built on trust and mutual respect underscore our role as the ‘Partner of Choice,’ ensuring a shared vision for success in one of the world’s most dynamic environments.



A Legacy of Commitment and Collaboration



Why Partnership Matters ...

STREAMLINED SOLUTIONS: In the dynamic landscapes of the Middle East, Central Asia, and the Levant, our strong partnerships enable swift, adaptive solutions on and off the battlefield.

GATEWAY TO EXCELLENCE: The Transatlantic Division connects partners to the full expertise of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, solidifying our role as the partner of choice in the CENTCOM and SOCOM AORs.

CATALYST FOR INNOVATION: By uniting specialists across the CENTCOM AOR, we innovate today to address tomorrow’s challenges, ensuring readiness and resilience.

LEGACY OF EVOLUTION: Our history is built on innovation and partnership, advancing national goals and supporting the security and stability of our mission allies. In this geopolitically vital region, our infrastructure solutions directly impact mission success. From specialized facilities to resilient innovations, our collaborations enhance efficiency, foster trust, and reinforce the U.S. commitment to peace and progress.

Explore this section to learn how our partnerships drive success and reflect our dedication to collaboration and excellence in the region ...

“The best way to ensure mission success is through strong partnerships built on trust and mutual respect.” – General Dwight D. Eisenhower

Setting Extraordinary Standards as ‘Partner of Choice’ in CENTCOM AOR

Story by Catherine Carroll, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division

“I have witnessed first-hand how our work transcends mere construction. Our efforts in building missile defense systems, airfields, hangars, clinics, and housing are not just projects; they are pivotal contributions to the overall U.S. mission in the region. Each endeavor we undertake is a testament to our steadfast commitment to regional security and stability”

Lieutenant General Scott A. Spellmon, the 55th Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Feb. 7, 2024) – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division stands as a pivotal force in the U.S. Central Command’s area of responsibility. Since the 1950s, the Division has actively shaped the landscape of engineering, design, and construction across the Middle East. Transforming from its initial focus on basic military construction, the Division now leads sophisticated, large-scale infrastructure projects, demonstrating a deep commitment to building capacity and enhancing security in the region. By setting and consistently upholding extraordinary operational standards, it has established itself as the ‘partner of choice.’

Being labeled a ‘partner of choice’ is more than just receiving praise; it embodies steadfast reliability and a proven track record of success. For the Transatlantic Division, this title is a testament to its deep-rooted commitment to excellence and innovation in the CENTCOM AOR. It signifies not merely being an option but being the definitive choice for missions demanding the highest caliber of engineering and strategic foresight.

In its operations, the Division goes beyond the norm of ‘business as usual.’ It is known for consistently setting an exceptional standard in what is undeniably one of the world’s most complex and dynamic construction environments. Every program, project, and partnership embarked on is not just an undertaking; it’s a crucial foundation that supports the overarching objectives of each mission partner in the AOR.

During a recent series of engagements with the Division’s Middle East District leadership and

professionals, and U.S. military and allied nation mission partners across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Lieutenant General Scott A. Spellmon, the 55th Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, emphasized the Division’s long-standing presence and its impact.

“As we mark seven decades of the United States Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division’s presence in the U.S. Central Command region, I am reminded of our enduring legacy of commitment and excellence,” Spellmon said. “In my role as Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of USACE, I have witnessed first-hand how our work transcends mere construction. Our efforts in building missile defense systems, airfields, hangars, clinics, and housing are not just projects; they are pivotal contributions to the overall U.S. mission in the region. Each endeavor we undertake is a testament to our steadfast commitment to regional security and stability.”

Brigadier General William C. Hannan, Jr., the Transatlantic Division commanding general, who, along with Middle East District engineers and program managers, accompanied Spellmon on the engagements, discussed the division’s strategic impact and its broader role beyond engineering.

“Our achievements have bolstered not only our organization but have also significantly influenced our mission partners and the strategic interests of the United States,” Hannan said. “Through close collaboration with commands such as U.S. Army Central, U.S. Air Forces Central, and U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, we

bring the full spectrum of the Army Corps of Engineers’ expertise to strategically support and complement the missions of these entities. Our proven track record in delivering not just infrastructure, but also security-enhancing innovations and agile solutions, cements our role as a trusted and capable partner.”

Detailing the Division’s focus on enhancing regional security and its role in important projects, Hannan went on to list significant accomplishments from the past fiscal year.

“In fiscal year 2023, we managed 679 contract actions valued over \$565 million, including key programs in Saudi Arabia and Jordan, as part of our \$6 billion program, Hannan stated. “This includes FY23 awards for two pivotal programs: the \$348.6M Multi Mission Surface Combatant Initial Operating Capability Construction in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and two Military Construction projects in Jordan, aggregating to \$48M,” Hannan detailed.

“It also includes continued construction activities at our Mega Projects (F15 in Qatar and F18 in Kuwait),

planning and design support for the new MOD HQ in Saudi Arabia, hundreds of other projects supporting U.S. and allied nation partners, leading integration of all USACE activities for U.S. Special Operations Command, and outstanding support to the warfighters in Iraq, Syria and across the CENTCOM AOR. These undertakings, fueled by the tenacity and expertise of our Districts, support the strategic posturing and operational readiness of our allies and U.S. forces in the region.

“Through these accomplishments, I have seen our team’s unwavering commitment to the CENTCOM AOR,” Hannan continued. “Our role extends far beyond traditional engineering; we are integral in forging lasting partnerships and aligning our efforts with the broader objectives of regional stability and security.”

Improving living conditions and safety for military personnel is another significant aspect of the Division’s work. Colonel Philip M. Secrist III, the Transatlantic Division’s Middle East District commander, shared his insights on his District’s contributions.

“I am consistently impressed by the adaptability and



(Above)U.S. Army Brig. Gen. William C. Hannan, Jr., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division commanding general (center rear), accompanies U.S. Army Col. Philip M. Secrist III, Middle East District commander (far left), Jim M. Sindle, U.S. Consul General for the U.S. Consulate General Dhahran, Saudi Arabia (center left), U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon, 55th Chief of Engineers and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers commanding general (center right), along with Middle East District program managers and professionals view ongoing project sites and discuss and evaluate USACE’s role as the ‘partner of choice’ in the U.S. Central Command’s area of responsibility during a recent series of engagements and project site visits with U.S. military and allied nation mission partners across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Jan 24. Understanding the complex and dynamic engineering, design, and construction program and the strategic impact of the USACE mission, programs, and projects is essential for leadership and mission partners and underscores the Transatlantic Division’s commitment to building capacity and enhancing security solidifying its pivotal role in advancing the objectives of the CENTCOM AOR.



comprehensive expertise our team brings to the dynamic and challenging environment of the CENTCOM region,” Secrist said. “Our commitment stretches far beyond the construction of resilient infrastructure; we are deeply involved in building the capabilities and operational effectiveness of those serving on the front lines.

“Our longstanding presence is a clear reflection of our dedication to our mission partners and regional allies,” Secrist continued. “Through our efforts in building crucial infrastructure and vital engineering projects, we have solidified our role as the trusted ‘partner of choice’ in the region. It’s not just about the infrastructure we create; it’s about the enduring relationships we foster, the open dialogue we encourage, and the bridges of mutual respect and understanding we build.”

The Division’s commitment to efficiency and innovation is also evident in its expeditionary district. Headquartered in Kuwait and one of the only forward deployed districts, the Transatlantic Expeditionary District also directly supports the warfighters and ongoing named operations. Colonel Mohamad Z. Rahman, the Expeditionary District commander, commented on his district’s approach to delivering results.

“In our role within the CENTCOM region, our comprehensive support has spanned the entire project lifecycle in support of the Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve and Combined Special Operations Joint Task Force-Levant. This includes everything from the initial request for services package development for requirement boards like the Joint Facilities Utilization Board to ongoing project management, engineering design, and construction oversight.

“Significantly, we’ve prepared and annually updated base camp master plans within the Operation Inherent Resolve AOR.” Rahman continued. “These plans and our continuous maintenance of base camp Geographic Information System data have been vital in strategic planning and installation transitions across the combined joint operating area.

“In Kuwait, as the designated execution agent by the Area Support Group and Directorate of Public Works – Kuwait, our project management and support span the full spectrum of construction activities, from planning and scoping to execution and oversight. Our achievements include the completion of over 270 infrastructure projects and the successful management of prime power contracts in Kuwait and Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. Our innovative approaches have earned us the USACE Innovation Award, and we maintain a strong focus on environmental initiatives and safety,” Rahman stated proudly.

“The numerous awards received by our personnel are a testament to their excellence and dedication. These are not just milestones but a reflection of the unwavering commitment of our entire district, a source of great pride for us all.”

Collaboration with U.S. and allied nations has been the cornerstone of the Division’s long-term success within the region. These partnerships have enhanced diplomatic relations and facilitated collective problem-solving for regional challenges.


Jim M. Sindler, Consul General for the U.S. Consulate General Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, along with André L. Cadieux, the U.S. Consulate General Dhahran Political and Economic Chief, recently joined Spellmon, Hannan, and Secrist for multiple engagements and project site visits in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Sindler shared his perspective on their contributions.

“As the Consul General, I have the unique privilege of witnessing the impactful work of the USACE Transatlantic Division in the CENTCOM AOR. The Division’s exceptional contributions are not just a testament to engineering prowess but also a reflection of the United States’ deep commitment to regional stability and prosperity. USACE’s role as the ‘partner of choice’ in this region aligns seamlessly with the State Department’s mission to foster strong international relationships, enhance security, and promote mutual understanding.

“The extraordinary standards set by USACE in their programs and projects significantly bolster our diplomatic efforts and enhance our collaborative endeavors with our partners in the Middle East,” Sindler continued. “The enduring presence and achievements of USACE are pivotal in supporting the broader goals of the United States in the region, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to building a future that is secure, prosperous, and beneficial for all.”

In a sector where meeting the status quo could be the norm, the Transatlantic Division and its district’s consistently push boundaries, turning extraordinary feats and innovative achievements into everyday occurrences. This organizational culture of exceeding expectations is apparent in their enduring commitment to constructing the foundations of security and pioneering innovative solutions.

This is what cements USACE’s reputation. Its endeavors are not just about fulfilling immediate needs; they are about shaping a future where security is integrated with progressive innovation. In this vision, the extraordinary is not an aspiration – it’s the baseline.

As the Transatlantic Division looks towards the future in the CENTCOM AOR, its enduring legacy of innovation and excellence marches on, building strong across the Middle East, Central Asia, and the Levant. The Division and its districts uphold their commitment to strengthening partnerships, building capacity, and enhancing security in one of the world’s most strategically significant regions. With adaptability, ongoing innovation, and robust partnerships, the Division continuously reinforces its vital role. Its steadfast dedication to extraordinary operational standards cements its status as the ‘partner of choice’ in the CENTCOM AOR. 





Transatlantic Division Leader Strengthens Partnerships During Qatar Emiri Air Force Project Site

Story by Catherine Carroll, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division

“Qatar has been a key USACE partner in the region for decades and our relationship continues to grow. We remain firmly committed to strengthening our partnerships throughout the region, as we continue to focus on building the capacity and enhancing the security of our nation, partners and allies.”

*Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton D. Morehouse
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division*

WINCHESTER, Va. (Feb. 24, 2023) – During a multi-country visit to the Middle East, Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton D. Morehouse, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division senior enlisted advisor, traveled to Qatar on February 5, for a strategic engagement with U.S. Air Force Col. Timothy Dreifke, the Senior Defense Official/Defense Attaché to the U.S. Ambassador to Qatar, and Dr. Khaled M. Masoud, the USACE Middle East District regional programs manager and Joint Project Management Office director, along with U.S. Navy Capt. Joseph Manion, the Office of Military Cooperation chief with the U.S. Embassy Doha, Qatar; and Middle East District program managers, Scott Ritchie and Jim Moore.

During the engagement, the leaders discussed current progress on Falcon 3 and Falcon 5 Beddown support projects, and other ongoing and future Qatar Emiri Air Force projects. The Transatlantic Division and its districts serve as USACE’s tip-of-the spear throughout the Middle East and Central Asia, supporting U.S. Central Command and regional U.S. allies through programs like Foreign Military Sales which addresses the operational, training and maintenance needs of our allied nation partner’s military efforts, enabling sustainable security and continued stability with the region.

Dreifke serves as the principal military advisor to the U.S. Ambassador, principal liaison to the host nation Chief of Defense, as well as the principal in-country representative of the Secretary of Defense and

Geographic Combatant Commander, U.S. Army Gen. Michael “Erik” Kurilla, USCENTCOM commander. Foreign Military Sales projects require close coordination with the host nation and the SDO/DATT is a critical piece in that relationship.

The USACE projects will construct the needed maintenance support facilities, airfield taxiways and apron areas, operations facilities, munitions support areas, and aircraft alert hanger to support their F3/F5 mission and continue as a deterrent to regional threats, strengthening its homeland defenses.

These required facilities and infrastructure will support the beddown and operations of the Apache helicopter mission and allow for integration with U.S. forces for training exercises, which contributes to regional security and interoperability.

Qatar is an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Persian Gulf region. Their relationship with the U.S. is anchored by mutual defense interests with the Qatar Emiri Air Force having a predominant role in Qatar’s defenses. The FMS purchase of aircraft heightens the State of Qatar’s capabilities for current and future air-to-air and air-to-ground threats.

“Qatar has been a key USACE partner in the region for decades and our relationship continues to grow.” said Morehouse. “We remain firmly committed to strengthening our partnerships throughout the region, to include Qatar, as we continue to focus on building the capacity and enhancing the security of our nation, partners and allies.”

Framing Our Progress: A Photographic Exploration ...

Within these pages lies more than just words—discover the visuals behind our stories. Scan the QR CODES you find in this magazine to instantly access a curated collection of photo albums. Each album is a window into the vibrant life of our mission, capturing moments that define and celebrate our work and our people.





THE POWER OF PRESENCE.

“There is no substitute for the dignity, the majesty, and the power of a sincere handshake.”
- Dwight D. Eisenhower

In today’s digital age, the value of personal engagement cannot be overstated. We recognize the importance of being present, both in meetings and on project sites, to foster trust, strengthen collaboration, and ensure success.

BUILDING TRUST ACROSS CULTURES: A handshake is more than a gesture—it’s a bridge to mutual respect. Personal interactions help navigate cultural nuances, solidifying partnerships.

CLEARER COMMUNICATION: Face-to-face interactions enable more direct, transparent, and efficient exchanges, ensuring clarity and alignment in discussions.

GENUINE CONNECTION: Physical presence fosters empathy and a deeper appreciation for diverse perspectives.

DEMONSTRATING COMMITMENT: Being there shows dedication not just to the mission but to the people and the shared goals.

ON-SITE INSIGHTS: Firsthand visits provide real-time understanding of challenges and progress, enabling immediate solutions and stronger outcomes.

Whether building trust or solving challenges, being there in person is a cornerstone of our commitment to excellence and partnership.



Stories in Motion ...



Dive deeper into our narrative with a dynamic multimedia feature that brings our content to life. Each edition of our magazine is peppered with exclusive videos that highlight our mission and our people, providing you with a richer understanding of our stories. Keep an eye out for QR CODES alongside articles throughout this issue—each one is your gateway to a visual experience that extends the conversation beyond the page.

To enhance your exploration, our social media hub offers a centralized platform where you can connect with the main media streams for our division, district, and our US mission partners across the CENTCOM AOR. Simply scan the QR code below with your device to access our online and social media platforms. Whether it's a behind-the-scenes look, an in-depth interview, or a panoramic view of our projects, these videos are curated to engage, inform, and inspire.

So, let's not just flip through pages—let's connect, explore, and discover together. Get ready to unlock a new dimension of storytelling within our magazine, and stay engaged with us across all our social media channels for the full experience.



Memorial Day 2024:

On Memorial Day, we paused to honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation. Their courage, selflessness, and unwavering dedication remind us that the freedoms we enjoy come at a profound cost. As we reflected on their sacrifices, we were reminded of our responsibility to preserve and honor their legacy. At 3 p.m., the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division and our Districts joined the nation in a Moment of Remembrance, uniting in gratitude and respect for those who gave everything for our country.



Stories in Motion ...

Video by Catherine Carroll, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division





USACE Supports CENTCOM’s 6th Annual State Partnership Program Adjutant General Conference

Story by Catherine Carroll, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division

“We can support border security, anti-terrorism, environmental restoration, emergency management, humanitarian assistance, disaster response, critical infrastructure assessments, and water management. The Transatlantic Division is committed to being a first-rate provider to support your objectives.”

*Scott Cilley, Plans and Operations Chief
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division*

TAMPA, FL. (may 29. 2024) — U.S. Central Command hosted its 6th Annual State Partnership Program Adjutant General Conference at the CENTCOM Headquarters in Tampa, Florida, May 14-16. This event brought together senior leadership from CENTCOM’s State Partnership Program, including Adjutant Generals and Command Sergeants Major from six states. The United States Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division, represented by Scott Cilley, Plans and Operations chief; Major David Nemecek, Plans and Operations officer; and Tara Clark, Project Initiation and Development program manager, significantly contributed to the conference’s success.

The State Partnership Program is essential for fostering theater security cooperation on military-to-military, civilian-to-military, and civilian-to-civilian levels. This conference was pivotal for aligning security cooperation efforts with CENTCOM and its components to ensure operational success in host nation security cooperation. Countries represented at the conference included Jordan, Qatar, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Oman, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.


During the conference, the Transatlantic Division provided an executive-level capability briefing, showcasing the organization’s value to various lines of effort. Cilley highlighted the Division’s commitment to being a premier provider of Theater Security Cooperation.

“The Transatlantic Division is all in on Theater

Security Cooperation. We can support border security, anti-terrorism, environmental restoration, emergency management, humanitarian assistance, disaster response, critical infrastructure assessments, and water management. The Transatlantic Division is committed to being a first-rate provider to support your objectives,” Cilley stated.

The conference, hosted by Brig. Gen. Steve Snelson, CENTCOM Plans, Policy, and Programs deputy director, featured participation from key military leaders including the U.S. Special Operations Command Central and the U.S. Air Forces Central assistant to the commander.

Several Adjutant Generals expressed interest in how the Army Corps of Engineers could further assist their theater security cooperation efforts. The conference highlighted the vast resources and expertise available within USACE which includes nearly 38,000 subject matter experts across multiple functional disciplines.

The Transatlantic Division is dedicated to leveraging its extensive repository of tailored subject matter expertise to support various mission partners’ objectives. This includes providing support for military-to-military events, exercises, workshops, forums, conferences, and project development, including engineering design and construction. The division aims to collaborate closely with Security Cooperation Organizations, State Partnership Program units, and other key stakeholders to support mutual objectives and unique events. 

USACE and U.S. Special Operations Command Forge Ahead with Enhanced Partnership

Story by Catherine Carroll, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division

“For us at the U.S Special Operations Command, the Transatlantic Division’s biggest contribution is their ability to advocate for us within the USACE Enterprise. They do things for us that we have no way of doing for ourselves.”

*Colonel Stephen Murphy, Command Engineer
U.S. Special Operations Command*

Tampa, Fla. – In a landmark engagement on February 15, 2024, at the Headquarters of the United States Special Operations Command in Tampa, Florida, U.S. Army Colonel Stephen Murphy, Command Engineer of U.S. Special Operations Command, alongside senior leaders from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division, convened to evaluate the progress and future directions of their collaboration.

This meeting, facilitated through a virtual connection to Winchester, Virginia, welcomed key Transatlantic Division personnel including John Adams, Transatlantic Division programs and business director; Levi Sutton, USSOCOM program manager; Vernie Reichling, USSOCOM liaison officer; and Joey Behr, Programs Integration Division deputy chief.

The focus of the discussion was Sutton’s comprehensive 90-day assessment of the cooperative efforts between the two entities. The assessment aimed to pinpoint avenues for the Army Corps of Engineers to bolster support for USSOCOM across various operational spheres.

Murphy praised the insights gained from the review, highlighting substantial prospects for the Transatlantic Division to support USSOCOM, particularly in operational engineering endeavors. While the scope of involvement in Military Construction remains constant, the expectation for ongoing construction support within their jurisdiction was affirmed.


This dialogue underscores the solidified alliance stemming from the strategic alignment in November 2018, marking the Transatlantic Division’s commitment

to augmenting Combatant Command capabilities. Participation in the annual Global Engineer Conference and the Senior Executive Review Group, among other initiatives, exemplifies the division’s active contribution to this partnership.

Notably, the Transatlantic Division’s role as the Special Operations Forces Support Team underscores its pivotal position in facilitating unique operational requirements and advancing USSOCOM-specific initiatives. This includes leadership in Real Estate services, development of standardized design criteria for Human Performance Training Centers, and authorship of critical operational manuals, thereby ensuring the readiness and effectiveness of United States Special Operations forces.

Col. Stephen Murphy: “For us at the U.S Special Operations Command, the Transatlantic Division’s biggest contribution is their ability to advocate for us within the USACE Enterprise. They do things for us that we have no way of doing for ourselves.”

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Transatlantic Division serves as USACE’s tip of the spear in one of the most dynamic construction environments in the world, strengthening partnerships, building capacity and enhancing security for our nation, partners and allies.

The USACE Transatlantic Division and its Districts, Centers and Specialized Teams deliver agile, responsive, and innovative, design, construction, engineering and contingency solutions in support of U.S. Central Command, U.S. Special Operations Command and other global partners to advance national security interests. 

Middle East District Commander Engages STARBASE Academy Students with Engineering Program

Story by Shannon Moeck, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

“This is the greatest job in the world, working at USACE. Our goal in supporting local events like this is to help build students’ interest in these subjects and develop future STEM leaders for our nation.”

*Colonel Christopher Klein, District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District*

(Sept. 10, 2024) Students at the STARBASE Academy in Winchester, Va. recently received a firsthand look at what a future in engineering, courtesy of Col. Christopher Klein, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District.

STARBASE, a Department of Defense-funded program, aims to inspire elementary students by immersing them in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects. Middle East District’s support of this event reflects its commitment to fostering future generations of engineers and leaders for the Corps of Engineers.

Klein, whose son’s 5th grade class participated in the program, shared his experiences as an engineer and highlighted the importance of STEM education.

During the program, he introduced the students to the Corps’ motto, “Essayons” — meaning “Let Us Try” — and emphasized the vital role of engineering in modern society. He touched on historic and contemporary engineering feats, from the world’s tallest structure, the Burj Khalifa, to the Tacoma Narrows Bridge collapse, using the latter to explain the effects of aeroelastic flutter on bridges.

The students then applied the lessons learned from the lecture, using their imaginations to build popsicle stick bridges. Once completed, the


bridges were suspended between two tables, and weights were added to test their strength. The students delighted in seeing how much weight their seemingly fragile structures could hold.

“I love STARBASE. It’s so fun to build things,” one student remarked excitedly.

Klein’s son, sitting among his classmates, helped reinforce the personal connection that Klein brought to his presentation, as he shared his love for engineering with a new generation, including his own child. His words carried an extra layer of meaning, as he not only inspired his son but also the entire class to consider a future in STEM fields.

“This is the greatest job in the world, working at USACE,” Klein said, as he encouraged the students to consider careers in engineering.

After the experiment, Klein wrapped up with a Q&A session, reminding the students that they are the future of engineering. He concluded by showing a video of modern 3D-printed houses, asking them to imagine the cutting-edge technology they could help create as future engineers.

“Our goal in supporting local events like this is to help build students’ interest in these subjects and develop future STEM leaders for our nation,” Klein said. 



(Above) In a hands-on engineering challenge at STARBASE Academy, Col. Christopher Klein, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District, tested students’ popsicle stick bridges by adding weights to see how much each could hold.



(Above) Col. Klein’s son observes as his father explains the causes behind the Tacoma Narrows Bridge collapse.



USACE Middle East District Forms University Partnership

Story by Joe Macri, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

“This partnership, which fosters the ability to create new pathways and internships for our students with USACE, is one more way we think about how we protect the future.”

Dr. Tracy Fitzsimmons
Shenandoah University President

With their close proximity and expertise in the Middle East, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District and Shenandoah University have long seemed like a natural fit for partnership but until recently have had limited interaction.

This is set to change with a new memorandum of understanding signed by University President Dr. Tracy Fitzsimmons and the Middle East District Commander Col. Philip Secrist during a ceremony held on 29 April.

The partnership represents a win-win situation, fostering closer ties between the two organizations in and paving the way for collaborative initiatives that benefit students, professionals, and the community at large.

The agreement is slated to provide SU students with increased internship opportunities that will give them valuable hands-on experience and exposure to real-world applications of their studies. Moreover, promoting STEM subjects aligns well with the growing demand for skilled professionals in these fields, ensuring that students are well-prepared for the workforce.

Creating a greater pool of STEM graduates was also a theme for the day as the university prepares to open its new Hub for Innovators Veterans and Entrepreneurs (HIVE) which will be the home of the school’s virtual, augmented and extended reality programs. USACE already uses VR technology in its engineering and construction processes and district personnel expressed excitement at the opportunity to have such an advanced lab in close proximity.

“They like us, are forward thinkers, ready to be trailblazers for the future ahead,” said Erick Stillman, the Middle East District’s advanced modeling manager. “And now instead of traveling all the way down to the virtual lab at ERDC (Engineering Research and

Development Center) in Mississippi, we can make a 5-minute drive to the campus and explore all the new equipment, ask questions and solve problems.”

With the Middle East District’s mission of providing expertise in construction and engineering support to the U.S. military and allied nation partners throughout the Middle East, Secrist noted that with its Center for Islam in the Contemporary World, the university was a natural fit with the Middle East District’s work.

“There are so many opportunities for us to benefit from their knowledge and with over 70 years’ experience in the region, I’d like to think we’ve got a lot of insight to offer as well,” said Secrist.

Fitzsimmons, noted that the university hopes to increase its veteran’s services, continue to develop its technology programs and create a strong and diverse pool of graduates she sees USACE as a strong conduit to that.

“This partnership, which fosters the ability to create new pathways and internships for our students with the Army Corps of Engineers, is one more way we think about how we protect the future,” she said during the ceremony.

Secrist noted the partnership will also help the Middle East District with recruitment and retention.

“USACE is currently competing for the best and the brightest and with an increase in telework and remote work, that competition has only gotten stronger. The ability to hire top talent who may want to stay in the area is a huge benefit to us. Winchester is a very welcoming community and a lot of people who come here don’t want to leave.”

With the framework now in place, it will be exciting to see how the Middle East District and Shenandoah University leverage this partnership to drive innovation, promote education, and make a positive impact in their shared community. **END**



(Above) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District Commander, Col. Philip Secrist, and Shenandoah University President, Dr. Tracy Fitzsimmons, sign a memorandum of understanding between the two organizations in a ceremony held at the University in Winchester, Va. On 20 April.



(Above) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District director of resource management, Dylan Benz, receives instructions during a virtual reality technology demonstration at Shenandoah University. the Middle East District recently entered into an agreement with the University to assist with internship opportunities, promote STEM careers and increase the university’s veterans outreach.

(Left) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District (TAM) supervisory paralegal and Shenandoah University alumna Mary En-sogna speaks at signing ceremony for a memorandum of understanding between the Middle East District and the University that will assist with internship opportunities, promote STEM careers and increase the university’s veterans outreach.



USACE Strengthens Partnership for Global Infrastructure in Kuwait

Story by Catherine Carroll, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division

“USACE is well equipped with technical professionals and is ready to support the diplomacy through its superior skills in engineering and technology.”

*Colonel Mohammed Z. Rahman, Former District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Expeditionary District*

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait (Apr. 7, 2024) – In a significant meeting held on March 17, at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait, U.S. Army Col. Mohammed Z. Rahman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Expeditionary District commander, and Viet Nguyen, Expeditionary District deputy district engineer, engaged in strategic discussions with The U.S. Ambassador and the Economic Counselor from the American Embassy in Kuwait. The engagement centered around enhancing the role of USACE in the context of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment, PGII, and its implications for U.S. and allied economic and national security interests.

The PGII aims to foster sustainable and high-standard infrastructure development across the globe. This initiative not only promises economic growth and prosperity but also serves as a backbone for strengthening national security frameworks among allied nations.

During the meeting, Rahman discussed USACE’s commitment to supporting the initiative, outlining potential avenues for cooperation and collaboration. He highlighted the Expeditionary District’s history of overcoming challenging environments to deliver engineering solutions that bolster security, stability, and economic development in the region.

PGII is the perfect avenue to build and

maintain relationship among like-minded countries through infrastructure development,” Rahman explained. “USACE is in a perfect position to support global infrastructure development due to its global experience and excellence in engineering.

During the meeting, Rahman underscored the importance of leveraging advanced technology and promoting innovation to ensure infrastructure projects not only adhere to the highest standards of quality and efficiency but also significantly enhance the capabilities of mission partners. This approach is vital for building capacity, which is central to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ focus throughout the U.S. Central Command’s area of responsibility.

“By prioritizing such technological and innovative advancements,” Rahman continued, “the projects are designed to not only meet current needs but also to foster a collaborative environment that strengthens the overall mission effectiveness and security in strategic regions.


The meeting also served as a platform for the Expeditionary District’s leadership to reaffirm their support for U.S. diplomatic efforts in the region. Rahman and Nguyen conveyed the readiness of USACE to align its diverse range of engineering services with the objectives of the PGII, reinforcing the collaboration between U.S. diplomatic and engineering efforts.

The dedication and expertise of the Expeditionary District team, known for delivering agile and innovative construction, design, engineering, and contingency solutions, play a critical role in supporting CENTCOM and U.S. allied nation mission partners across the Middle East and Central Asia.

“USACE is well equipped with technical professionals and is ready to support the diplomacy through its superior skills in engineering and technology, Rahman stated. “The collaboration between USACE and the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait will serve as the conduit to support infrastructure development for the host nation and in the region.”

The meeting concluded with an affirmation

of continued partnership and a commitment to exploring new opportunities under the PGII framework. With the collective efforts of the U.S. Embassy and the USACE, the U.S. continues to demonstrate its leadership in promoting sustainable development and security across the globe.

Within this strategic endeavor, USACE’s seventy-year legacy of engineering excellence is further leveraged, underscoring the Expeditionary District as a critical gateway to the USACE enterprise, showcasing an unparalleled ability to channel the full power of its expertise into developing infrastructure that not only meets current needs but also stands the test of time. 



U.S. Army Col. Mohammed Z. Rahman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Expeditionary commander (left), along with Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton D. Morehouse, USACE Transatlantic Division senior enlisted advisor (right), assess infrastructure projects in support of Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq, Sept. 15, showcasing the leadership and commitment that drive USACE’s efforts in advancing infrastructure developments across the U.S. Central Command region, including Kuwait. (U.S. Army Photo by Richard Rzepka)



Framing Our Progress:

Members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division and Expeditionary District visited the marine construction and repair project at the Mohammed Al-Ahmad Kuwait Naval Base to get eyes on the site and engage with our project partner. The project involves repairing the Kuwaiti Naval Base dry docks, ship transfer yard, ship maintenance building, pier, and synchrolift system. The work is part of a USACE-Kuwait Ministry of Defense partnered project that will enhance Kuwait’s maritime operations.

Click QR Code for full photo album:



USACE and ARCENT Partnership Empowers Forward Operating Bases’ Leap into Tech-Driven Defense

Story by Catherine Carroll, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division

“The partnership between the ARCENT and USACE is a prime example of how collaboration and innovation can significantly enhance our operational capabilities.”

*Colonel Christina L. Burton, Engineering Director
U.S. Army Central*

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – In a groundbreaking partnership at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army Central, and private industry leaders, are pioneering a new chapter in defense readiness. This alliance is propelling the armed forces into a future where technological innovation and strategic prowess converge, reshaping the landscape of military operations. Merging the latest in technology with the enduring spirit of defense, this initiative sets a new standard for the future of military readiness and sustainability.

Building on this momentum, the ARCENT Innovation Team visited Camp Arifjan in March. As the authority responsible for the administration, supply, training, and maintenance of over 35,000 U.S. Army personnel across the Middle East, Central Asia, and the Levant, U.S. Army Central plays a pivotal role. This visit underlines a dynamic partnership between military and industry leaders, aimed at boosting operational efficiency and advancing sustainability goals. It’s a testament to ARCENT’s commitment to enhancing the readiness and effectiveness of U.S. forces, ensuring rapid force projection, and supporting sustainment in a concerted effort to deter threats across the region, all within the strategic framework of the U.S. Central Command.

The team was hosted by USACE Transatlantic Expeditionary District, an organization renowned for its innovative approaches to engineering challenges. The district recently received the Innovative District of the Year Award 2023, largely due to its adoption of Matterport 3D technology for site assessment. This technology, developed by the USACE Engineering Research and Design Center, enables accurate three-dimensional modeling of physical spaces, providing a

significant advantage in planning and assessment for military projects.

“The partnership between the ARCENT and USACE is a prime example of how collaboration and innovation can significantly enhance our operational capabilities,” said Col. Christina L. Burton, ARCENT engineering director.

“By integrating cutting-edge technologies like what USACE has implemented with Matterport 3D into our strategic framework, we’re not only improving our planning and assessment processes but also setting a new standard for excellence in military engineering,” continued Burton. “This is a clear indicator of our commitment to maintaining the readiness and effectiveness of our forces, ensuring we can rapidly respond to any challenges that arise in our area of responsibility.”

During the visit, industry leaders were briefed on the capabilities and benefits of the Matterport 3D technology by Brian Johnson, the Expeditionary District chief of engineering.

Highlighting the critical role of innovative technologies in enhancing operational capabilities, Johnson underscored the importance of adopting new solutions to meet the evolving demands of military engineering and support.

“With Engineering being asked to maximize efficiency and innovation with streamlined resources and personnel, it is imperative that we reach out and utilize technologies that help us bridge those gaps so USACE can continue to provide engineering support for ARCENT and the warfighter,” Johnson explained. “ARCENT and ERDC are our key partners in researching and acquiring those technologies, and with our

partnership we can move engineering support to the next level.”

Jack M. Peters, ARCENT Engineering Directorate’s Operational Energy program manager, emphasized the crucial role of collaboration in achieving technological milestones.

“Also significant, was our collaborative effort with ARCENT’s Operational Energy Team, private industry leaders, and USACE, when ARCENT was awarded three Energy Resiliency Conservation Investment Program projects, with the Largest Microgrid, Solar and Battery Energy Storage System, currently under construction on Camp Arifjan, to be commissioned sometime in 2024,” Peters stated.

“Forming these strategic partnerships with private industry in developing the first-ever microgrid demonstrations project, commissioned in May 2022, and working with USACE on our Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program projects, in providing in-house design development from our initial 15-35% conceptual designs to design completion, contracting, and construction, has been an outstanding collaboration.”

Colonel Mohammed Z. Rahman, Expeditionary District commander, expressed confidence in the transformative power of renewable energy sources within military operations, highlighting the necessity for adaptability and resilience in contemporary conflict scenarios.

“Alternate energy option in theater is an excellent way to secure the ability to fight and win our nations wars,” Rahman emphasized. “Overseas military bases are relying on host-nation civilian electricity grids and those are vulnerable to severe weather disasters and traditional acts of crime like bombing or sabotage.”

“Our modern military requires electricity to continue the fight even during long term blackouts,” Rahman continued. “Partnerships, especially the strong collaborations between USACE, ERDC, ARCENT, and CENTCOM, are critical to formulating innovation and moving beyond conventional battle strategies.”

This visit underscores the U.S. Army’s commitment to advancing its operational capabilities through technological innovation and sustainable practices. It also showcases the effective partnership between the military and the private sector, aiming to leverage cutting-edge technology and renewable energy to meet the challenges of modern military engagements. The focus on renewable energy, in particular, highlights a strategic move towards reducing dependency on traditional energy sources and enhancing the energy resilience of military operations in the U.S. Central Command’s area of responsibility.

Emphasizing the significance of energy resilience in modern military strategy and operations, Johnson elaborated on the direct benefits and broader implications of integrating renewable energy solutions into military bases.

“Today’s military runs as much on electricity as bullets and bombs, so it is crucial that electrical resilience and redundancy is prioritized,” Johnson explained. “These microgrid projects will provide the needed resilience to continue operations when traditional power supplies fail.

“In addition, it will remove costly spot generators from the base grid, providing cost savings from operation and manpower savings from maintenance. ARCENT and USACE partnership on these projects will hopefully be a model for future solar panel microgrid projects throughout CENTCOM.”



(Above) Courtesy photo showing first microgrid project yard at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. (Date unknown). (Photo courtesy of Jack M. Peters, U.S. Army Central Engineering Directorate, Operational Energy program manager.)

(Left) Brian Johnson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Expeditionary District chief of engineering, adjusts equipment during a site visit at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, in 2022. (Photo courtesy of Brian Johnson, USACE Transatlantic Expeditionary District.)



Empowering the Future: USACE Division CSM Visits U.S. Army Engineers in Kuwait

Story by Catherine Carroll, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division

“Leadership involves more than just overseeing operations; it’s about fostering innovation and propelling your team forward in all conditions. The goal is to develop NCOs who not only address the problems in front of them, but also inspire and elevate their teams through innovative approaches to get a jump on the challenges ahead.”

*Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton D. Morehouse
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division*

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – In a significant event aimed at fostering professional growth among U.S. Army Engineer Regiment Soldiers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton D. Morehouse held an open forum discussion at Camp Arifjan, Apr. 11, with active duty and reserve component engineer Soldiers deployed to Kuwait. The engagement offered a platform for non-commissioned officers to engage directly with one of USACE’s division level senior enlisted leaders, exploring the pivotal role of engineers in achieving Army objectives and the value of mentorship and professional development within the NCO ranks.

During the discussion, Morehouse, who enlisted in the Army in November of 1995 as an engineer and attended basic combat training and advanced individual training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, shared valuable insights from his nearly 30-year career, using his decades of experience and often applying a ‘learn from my mistakes’ honesty approach to addressing the unique challenges and opportunities that come with being an both an engineer and an NCO.

“In the Army Engineer Regiment, technical prowess has to be matched with continuous professional development,” Morehouse stressed. “It’s not just about being good at what you do today; it’s about being prepared for the challenges ahead. I’m committed to providing you with the tools and knowledge you need

to excel personally and professionally and to lead and mentor in every way I can. But, it’s also all there in the NCO creed and in the doctrine. You just have to read it – really read it – and apply it. You have to get after it every day and take advantage of the opportunities as they arise. Be prepared mentally and physically. It’s that simple.”

Morehouse’s interactions were aimed at enhancing the Soldiers’ understanding of their critical roles in not only combat and peacetime missions overseas, but also in leading, supporting, and mentoring each other day to day whether they are on duty or off.

“Remember, leadership in the Engineer Regiment is not a position; it’s a responsibility,” Morehouse emphasized. “It requires a commitment to your personal growth and to the growth of those you lead. Every project, every mission, every training exercise is an opportunity to demonstrate your dedication and to strengthen the team. We lead from the front, and we lead by example. That’s how we build stronger leaders and a stronger Army.”

The Soldiers raised sincere questions about career paths, leadership development, and the future of the engineering regiments mission. For reserve Soldiers, the questions focused on the balancing act of in the field training and administrative and online tasks during limited drill weekend time.

Morehouse responded by highlighted the necessity



(Above) U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton D. Morehouse, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division, shares honest advice as he conducts Professional Development Training with active duty and reserve component Army Engineer Regiment Soldiers deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, April 11. The open forum discussion offered a platform for non-commissioned officers to engage directly with one of USACE’s division level senior enlisted leaders, exploring the pivotal role of engineers in achieving Army objectives and the value of mentorship and professional development within the NCO ranks. (Below) A U.S. Army engineer listens during a Professional Development Training session held by Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton D. Morehouse, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division senior enlisted advisor, with active duty and reserve component Army Engineer Regiment Soldiers deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, April 11.





of outside the box thinking for planning and executing training, especially for reserve component Soldiers.

“If you are just going to the range you failed,” Morehouse pointed out. “There is so much opportunity for training within the training. You have to be willing to plan it, to do it, to support it, at every level. If you have your Soldiers just sitting around waiting for the next turn, the next round, then that is an opportunity to add in another layer of training. That makes it worth the Soldiers time for showing up. They show up for you. You show up for them. It’s what NCOs do.”

“Leadership involves more than just overseeing operations; it’s about fostering innovation and propelling your team forward in all conditions. The goal is to develop NCOs who not only address the problems in front of them, but also inspire and elevate their teams through innovative approaches to get a jump on the challenges ahead.”

Morehouse also emphasized the importance of the Army values in every facet of a Soldier’s career.

“Our strength in the Army stems from more than our technical and leadership skills; it is deeply rooted in our unwavering commitment to Army values,” Morehouse stated. “Integrity, duty, respect—these principles are not

just words; they guide our conduct and our decision-making both on and off the field. Adherence to the Army values is essential, ensuring that discipline and honor are integral to all aspects of our engineering tasks, boosting both mission effectiveness and unit cohesion.”

Morehouse’s open, honest, and often plainspoken real-talk interactions with the engineers highlighted USACE’s dedication to supporting and enhancing the capabilities of the Army’s engineering units.

“Engineers are crucial to the Army and to USACE’s operational capabilities. Whether constructing facilities in remote areas or boosting combat readiness, their efforts are indispensable. We depend on their skills to achieve success in combat and support roles worldwide.”

His visit underscored the importance of professional development within USACE and affirmed the Army’s commitment to preparing its engineers for leadership roles, equipping them to face future challenges adeptly.

These efforts are a testament to the Army Corps of Engineers’ continued strategy to empower its workforce through comprehensive education, leadership cultivation, and proactive mentorship, all crucial for sustaining the advanced capabilities of the Army’s engineering forces. **End**





Framing Our Progress:

Lieutenant General Scott A. Spellmon, the 55th Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, emphasized the Division’s long-standing presence and its impact during a recent series of engagements with the Division’s Transatlantic Middle East District leadership and professionals, and U.S. military and allied nation mission partners across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in January 2024.

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We have played a pivotal role in cultivating partnerships and developing civil and defense infrastructures across the Middle East, leaving a lasting legacy of collaboration, innovation, and shared commitment to progress.

We occupy a unique role within the Army Corps of Engineers, delivering engineering, design, and construction expertise to U.S. forces and allied nations alike. Our efforts in the CENTCOM AOR go beyond construction, fortifying readiness, accelerating modernization, and supporting the warfighter to ensure peacetime operations, deterrence, and conflict success.

Through the Foreign Military Sales program, we strengthen allied capacities, fostering collective security and interoperability. With approximately 80% of USACE's FMS work, we reinforce regional and national security on every project.

In an era of evolving threats and strategic competition, our focus on innovation ensures our partners maintain a decisive edge, securing the region and cementing our role as USACE's Tip of the Spear in advancing security and stability within the CENTCOM AOR. By enhancing the capabilities of our allies, we contribute to a resilient framework for regional defense and collective success.



Fostering the Foundations of Progress



Why Building Capacity Matters ...

UNIFIED DEFENSE AND GROWTH: Strengthening allied capacities enhances collective defense, boosts interoperability, and reinforces regional stability, ensuring cohesive and efficient operations for U.S. and partner forces.

ADVANCING INFRASTRUCTURE: Modern, resilient infrastructure integrates cutting-edge technologies to support mission readiness and adaptability.

FOSTERING TRUST AND SHARED SUCCESS: Through capacity-building efforts, we deepen collaboration, strengthen mutual understanding, and celebrate shared achievements that solidify our partnerships.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE: By equipping our partners with the tools, expertise, and resources to adapt, we ensure resilience and readiness for the challenges of tomorrow.

Explore this section to see how collaboration drives transformation, reflecting our commitment to growth and stability across the region.

WE DO DAMS TOO – AND SO MUCH MORE!

We balance supporting CENTCOM and SOCOM missions with broader efforts that impact communities and economies. From projects like the Mosul Dam in Iraq to disaster relief planning in Pakistan, we strengthen water infrastructure and build capacity for sustained resilience. Whether supporting FEMA stateside or assisting allies overseas, we're not just providing solutions—we're equipping regions with tools and knowledge for lasting progress.



USACE Innovation: The Key to BUILDING STRONG in the U.S. Central Command’s AOR

Story by Catherine Carroll, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division

“The Army Corps of Engineers possesses significant research capabilities. They not only help us develop innovative solutions swiftly, but they also provide us with a deep well of knowledge and expertise, which is crucial in addressing the unique challenges of the CENTCOM AOR.”

*Colonel Christina L. Burton, Engineering Director
U.S. Army Central*

WINCHESTER, Va. (Oct. 4, 2023) – Innovation, particularly in the realm of engineering, design, and construction programs, is more than just a buzzword—it’s the key to the future in regions as diverse and dynamic as the U.S. Central Command’s area of operations across the Middle East, Central Asia, and the Levant.

For the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division, innovation is the essential energy that drives success. From the initial development phase of a project, through the design and construction, and well into the operational phase, innovation drives the relentless pursuit of excellence, supporting sustainable strategies and fostering the development of long-lasting, reliable solutions.

Why is this important? Because the CENTCOM region is one of the most dynamic construction environments in the world, spanning more than 4 million square miles. This vast area is populated by more than 560 million people from 25 ethnic groups, speaking 20 languages with hundreds of dialects, and confessing multiple religions that transect national borders.

Factor in the extreme weather conditions that range from scorching desert heat to unpredictable flash floods, and it’s evident that constructions here face unique challenges. Add to this the evolving security threats, and it becomes clear why there is an urgent need to stay agile and forward-thinking. Innovation isn’t just an option; it’s essential for success.

At USACE, ‘Building Strong’ means continuously

embracing innovation. It ensures that infrastructures are not just built but are durable even in the harshest conditions. It’s about fortifying military facilities for the utmost security and streamlining project timelines for cost-efficiency. The Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Divisions’ commitment to innovative solutions is instrumental in achieving strategic objectives for both the U.S. and its allied nations in these regions.

Edward “Ted” Upson, the Transatlantic Division’s Engineering and Construction chief, outlined the division’s approach in meeting the unique challenges of the CENTCOM AOR.

“The Transatlantic Division has risen to the diverse geographical challenges of the CENTCOM AOR,” stated Upson. “Given the dynamic landscapes of our AOR, innovation becomes even more crucial as we strive to maintain a strategic competitive edge and support CENTCOM’s mission to promote stability and protect U.S. national security interests.

By leveraging new technologies and innovative ideas, we stay ahead in the face of both environmental and security challenges.”

One of the most compelling examples of this innovative drive is the Transatlantic Division’s partnership with the USACE Engineer Research and Development Center. This collaboration extends beyond immediate solutions, enabling strategic reach back to the home front for advanced research and development capabilities.

“The Army Corps of Engineers possesses significant research capabilities,” said Upson. “They not only help



U.S. Army Col. William C. Hannan, Jr., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division commander (left), rides in a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter after an inspection of Transatlantic Expeditionary District projects in Baghdad, Iraq Sept. 20. (U.S. Army photo by Rick Rzepka, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Expeditionary District public affairs office)

us develop innovative solutions swiftly, but they also provide us with a deep well of knowledge and expertise, which is crucial in addressing the unique challenges of the CENTCOM AOR.”

This partnership has resulted in key initiatives such as the development of a groundbreaking 3D modeling system.

“We use this system to map and model remote areas of the CENTCOM AOR,” Upson said. “This technology allows us to develop projects or present the terrain to potential contractors who can’t conduct site visits due to remoteness or security situations.”

Another significant project Upson highlighted is in collaboration with ERDC, “The Distributed Low-Energy Wastewater Treatment System is a scalable, somewhat mobile solution that effectively bridges the gap between basic wastewater systems and full-scale wastewater treatment plants. It’s tailored for bases transitioning from expeditionary to permanent status.”

“Projects like the Falcon-3 Facilities and Infrastructure, as well as the Falcon-5/F-15QA beddown support facilities under construction in Qatar, showcase our commitment,” Upson said. These facilities, which support the Qatar Emiri Air Force, incorporate advanced construction techniques, state-of-the-art infrastructure design, and modular construction methods.

It’s all about enhancing flexibility and expediting construction processes,” Upson continued. “These projects also stand as a testament to our division’s legacy of strong partnerships, especially with component commands such as U.S. Air Forces Central and the Air Force Security Assistance & Cooperation Directorate.”

Building on that foundation of collaboration, the

division’s impact extends even further.

“Our division is unique compared to the rest of the Army Corps of Engineers,” stated Col. William C. Hannan, Jr., Transatlantic Division commander. “We provide engineering, design, and construction not just for our nation and military partners, but also for allied nation mission partners through Foreign Military Sales, Security Cooperation initiatives, and related facilities and infrastructure design and construction, increasing capacity and enhancing security throughout the entire region.”

Emphasizing the division’s critical role, Hannan explained how capacity-building enhances regional security. “With military construction, we are increasing readiness and modernization through projects supporting the warfighter, enabling steady-state military operations, and sustaining our nation’s ability to fight and win wars, while also addressing the operational, training and maintenance needs of our allied nation partner’s military efforts, increasing interoperability and enabling sustainable security and continued stability within the region.”

As the Transatlantic Division looks to the future, it is steadfast in its commitment to reinforcing its legacy of strong partnerships, embracing innovation, and building strong for decades to come.

“Our mission partners are pushing innovation as much as we are, and we’re working together to expand our capabilities and explore new technologies,” Upson concluded. “Our legacy of enduring commitment to the region ensures that we continue to deliver innovative, resilient, and sustainable engineering solutions for our partners and allies.”



USACE Fortifies Operational Capacity in CENTCOM AOR

Story by Catherine Carroll, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division

“In lockstep with USARCENT, we concentrate on projects that not only build infrastructure but also protect and support our service members, enhancing their capability to operate securely in a dynamic environment as well as their safety and quality of life.”

*Colonel Philip M. Secrist III, Former District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District*

WINCHESTER, Va. (Jan. 15, 2024) — The United States Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division has, since the U.S. Central Command’s establishment in 1983, been a pivotal player in bolstering the United States’ strategic efforts within the USCENCOM Area of Responsibility. With a storied history extending over seventy years, the Division has solidified a robust presence in a highly dynamic region, underpinning the complexities of swiftly shifting operational missions with a foundational partnership and engineering excellence.

Col. William C. Hannan, Jr., the Transatlantic Division commander, underscores this commitment, “For decades, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division has been pivotal in shaping the operational landscape across the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility. Our mission is comprehensive — we provide the critical infrastructure that underpins the very essence of military readiness and operational flexibility. From the initial design phases to the final construction, our efforts are integral in building the capacity that CENTCOM and its component commands rely on, no matter the operational environment.”

The Division’s involvement spans from the design of cutting-edge facilities to the construction of resilient installations crucial to the initiatives of CENTCOM. “Our mission transcends the mere construction of resilient structures; it’s about forging the critical infrastructure that serves as the very backbone of expansive military operations across the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility,” Hannan stated. “We are committed to enhancing the operational effectiveness and capacity of our forces and those of our allied partner nations.”

The Division consists of two primary elements — the Middle East District and the Transatlantic Expeditionary District. These districts are the tip of

the spear for USACE’s comprehensive engineering, design, and construction capabilities, reinforcing USACE’s commitment to USCENCOM’s mission and its component commands.

“Our work, built on a foundation of trust, resilience, innovation, and readiness, aligns us closely with CENTCOM’s, and their component command’s, strategic goals and bolsters the collective strength of our partners,” Hannan elaborates.

Col. Philip M. Secrist III, the Middle East District commander, highlights his district’s collaboration efforts with U.S. Army Central, focusing on projects that not only increase our nation’s functional and operational capacity throughout the CENTCOM AOR, but also safeguard and improve the quality of life for service members. “In lockstep with USARCENT, we concentrate on projects that not only build infrastructure but also protect and support our service members, enhancing their capability to operate securely in a dynamic environment as well as their safety and quality of life,” says Secrist.

This sentiment is echoed by Col. Mohammad Z. Rahman, the Expeditionary District commander, who speaks to the District’s unique position and agility. “As the Army Corps of Engineers’ only forward-deployed district in direct support of contingency operations, we rapidly align our project management and engineering expertise to support CENTCOM and ARCENT’s immediate and evolving needs. This direct engagement showcases our readiness to respond at the speed of relevance, ensuring sustainable outcomes,” asserts Rahman.

The Division’s scope of work is a testament to the enduring partnership and innovation that the Transatlantic Division brings to the region. “Our efforts

stretch well beyond the scope of traditional construction, addressing the evolving requirements essential for operational advancement,” stated Hannan. “Facing a dynamic operational landscape, our division remains agile, preemptively developing solutions that sustain and empower our warfighters.”

“Our commitment is to the mission’s broader goals—enhancing the effectiveness of our service members and fortifying the operations they support,” says Hannan. “Each project under our stewardship is imbued with our dedication to safeguarding and improving the conditions for those serving within the AOR.”

Hannan also emphasizes the division’s collaborative efforts: “Working in concert with ARCENT, we channel our research and development strengths to tackle specific challenges within the AOR. Leveraging the comprehensive capabilities of the U.S. Army Engineering and Research Development Center and the USACE Enterprise enables us to introduce innovative practices and technologies that sharpen our competitive edge.”

“Our partnerships within the region are fortified

by our shared commitment to enhance operational capacities and security measures, which are paramount for enduring success,” Col. Secrist III stated. “The comprehensive approach of the Transatlantic Division plays a vital role in supporting CENTCOM’s mission.”

The Transatlantic Division’s legacy in the CENTCOM AOR is marked by a commitment to meet the infrastructural and operational needs of the U.S. military and its partners. “Our long history of success in supporting CENTCOM’s mission has not only facilitated operational readiness but also promoted cooperative security efforts,” Col. Rahman affirmed.

Looking to the future, the Transatlantic Division is determined to continue its legacy of excellence and partnership, remaining a bedrock of capacity building and security enhancement in the CENTCOM AOR. “Our readiness is showcased by our ability to deliver solutions at the speed of relevance, ensuring we are always forward, always ready,” affirms Rahman, portraying a division fully equipped to face the challenges of an evolving global security environment. **END**



U.S. Army Col. Craig S. Baumgartner, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division deputy commander (left), and Col. Mahammad Z. Rahman, Transatlantic Expeditionary District commander (right), receive an update during a site visit of a Super Hornet infrastructure project in the U.S. Central Command’s area of responsibility, Jul. 9. The Transatlantic Division directly bolsters the capabilities of U.S. troops downrange, ensuring they have the essential facilities and resources to carry out their operations. Every project is a testament to the legacy of the Army Corps of Engineers’ and its commitment to enhancing the safety, effectiveness, and quality of life for those serving in the U.S. Central Command’s AOR. (U.S. Army photo by Rick Rzepka, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Expeditionary District public affairs office)



Framing Our Progress:

Project Delivery Team members with the USACE Middle East and Transatlantic Expeditionary Districts and contract personnel tour ongoing construction at the Super Hornet program site at Al Jaber Air Base with John Adams, Transatlantic Division Regional Programs and Business Director, and Scott Sawyer, Division Program Manager, during their visit to Kuwait June 24-26, 2024.

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Building Leaders: The Technical Engineer Competency Development Program

Story by Shannon Moeck, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

“The TEC-DP allows you to see what USACE can provide and understand their systems,” Pitsenberger said. “It’s a great opportunity because if you want to stay in the Army or even transition out, having experience with USACE opens up many possibilities.”

*Colonel Philip M. Secrist III, Former District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District*

(Jun. 25, 2024) Capt. Andrew S. Pitsenberger, a standout Army engineer, is a testament to the transformative power of Engineer Regiment’s Technical Engineer Competency Development Program (TEC-DP). This program, designed to immerse junior captains in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), equips them with the skills and experiences necessary to excel in both military and civilian engineering roles.

Norberto “Tito” Santana, Transatlantic Middle East District Operations Officer, highlights the program’s broader goals.

“I would say the main goal is the retention and recruitment opportunity. The TEC-DP positions are a great opportunity for select engineering (EN) officers, early in their career, to gain exposure to the total capabilities of the Army Engineer Regiment. Traditional career progression focuses on tactical engineer competencies within Brigade Combat Teams or Engineer Brigades for young Soldiers (Lieutenant through Captain).”

Confirming Santana’s statement, Pitsenberger adds, “TEC-DP is a way to introduce junior captains to the Army Corps of Engineers. It’s an opportunity you might not know about because as you progress in the Army, you see more of traditional Army opportunities. This program introduces what USACE can offer compared to regular Army positions.”

Born and raised in Franklin, Tennessee, Pitsenberger graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering in December 2019. Pitsenberger’s journey prior to TEC-DP has been marked by a variety of assignments and

responsibilities. After serving in different engineering capacities in Germany, he now ensures construction quality on projects for the Middle East District in Jordan. His role as a Quality Assurance (QA) representative involves working directly with contractors and workers on projects like the airfield infrastructure and munitions storage. His journey exemplifies the transformative power of the TEC-DP.

“The TEC-DP allows you to see what USACE can provide and understand their systems,” Pitsenberger said. “It’s a great opportunity because if you want to stay in the Army or even transition out, having experience with USACE opens up many possibilities.”

TEC-DP is structured to provide participants with hands-on experience in diverse engineering projects, both domestically and internationally. It emphasizes the development of technical skills, project management, and leadership abilities within the unique context of USACE operations. Participants learn about USACE’s dual role in supporting military operations and providing civil works projects, gaining insight into its civilian-military partnership.

“USACE has a unique civilian-military partnership, and understanding that dynamic is crucial,” Pitsenberger said. “You have to learn a lot quickly to be a beneficial member of the team.”

Pitsenberger highlighted the importance of curiosity and the willingness to learn. Success in the TEC-DP hinges on asking questions and leveraging the expertise of experienced team members.

“There’s so much knowledge in USACE, and everyone is willing to share it,” he noted.



Capt. Pitsenberger (first on left) with Jordan area office staff enjoying a meal together.

Maj. Christopher “Barty” Bartenhagen, Pitsenberger’s direct supervisor, emphasized how TEC-DP has bolstered Pitsenberger’s growth and performance.

“TEC-DP is designed to provide junior officers an opportunity to serve in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. His has been a unique opportunity, too, because of the mission set in Jordan that he has been a part of and the MILCON projects he has been able to work on. Pitsenberger has really leaned into his time in USACE and has contributed to success at the project level and at the country program level.”

Bartenhagen noted the real-world impact of Pitsenberger’s training, “The Jordan Resident Office and the work we do really does deliver projects that enable our mission partners to accomplish the strategic objectives of the United States of America. CPT Pitsenberger got the chance to learn from some World-Class Department of the Army Civilians while working on the Jordan Team. He has worked alongside PEs and QA/ConReps learning how to interact with Contractors, interpret drawings and specs, ensure quality construction placement, review submittals, produce correspondence, and a myriad of other things they do to ensure the safe delivery of quality projects for our mission partners.”

Pitsenberger’s hands-on experience includes direct involvement in multiple projects, executing duties and responsibilities as part of the project delivery team.

“The project management experience he has gained,

and will continue to develop, in USACE is invaluable to his professional development,” Bartenhagen added.

From the perspective of the Corps, the TEC-DP offers significant benefits.

“I think it gives Army Engineers the intimate experience of what delivering a project looks like at the project level,” said Bartenhagen. “This insight and perspective are a tremendous advantage for officers that come back to command in USACE, because they can better relate to specifics of a project while they keep an eye on the organizational level of a district.”

Looking ahead, Pitsenberger envisions a long-term career with the Corps, whether in uniform or as a civilian. “One of the organizations I would want to work for if I leave the Army is the Corps,” he said. “The Corps’ work is fascinating and valuable to the communities it serves.”

TEC-DP is not just a career development program, it is a pathway to leadership within the Corps of Engineers. Pitsenberger’s experience underscores the program’s role in shaping capable leaders who understand the full spectrum of USACE’s capabilities and contributions. By providing junior captains with unparalleled training and experiences, the program ensures that the Corps of Engineers remains a vital and effective force, ready to meet the engineering needs of the military and the nation. His journey serves as a compelling recruitment narrative for the next generation of Army engineers.



Middle East District Celebrates Leadership Development Graduates: Building Future Corps Leaders and Stronger Teams

Story by Joe Macri, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

“There are a lot of things we have to invest in as a district but growing our future leaders is number one.”

*Colonel Christopher Klein, District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District*

(Sept. 9, 2024) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District recognized eight employee’s completion of the district’s Leadership Development Tier 1 training during a graduation ceremony held 5 September.

Leadership Development Tier One is part of a 3-tiered program within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that cultivates future Corps leaders. The district’s commander, Col. Christopher Klein, alluded to the importance of the program in his opening remarks.

“There are a lot of things we have to invest in as a district but growing our future leaders is number one,” Klein said.

He also noted that in addition to the leadership skills the class learned, it also helped develop a stronger team.

“There’s a lot of personal development in this class but one of the biggest benefits I see in this program is that it brings together people who might not otherwise work together as members of a team which benefits the entire organization.”

The current class was the first one to go through a new curriculum that was based on feedback from previous graduates. The new version of the program involved more mentorship and was also designed to make the capstone project more applicable to the workforce.

Klein said that the mentorship was not only an important aspect of the program but also an important aspect of learning to be a better leader throughout a person’s entire career.

“If you have 1000 employees in your organization,

you have 1000 mentors because every employee is an opportunity to learn something from.”

According to Vanessa Francis Gray, a previous graduate of LDP 1 and an advisor to the most recent class, the changes proved beneficial to the organization.

“Previously the capstone project involved an overview of local Civil War battles and the leadership lessons learned from them. It was a fun project but a lot more abstract. This capstone involved the class looking into ways we can improve the Middle East District’s project delivery team process and is something that could ultimately improve our organization.”

Francis Gray said that when she went through the program it gave her a much better understanding of USACE.

Mitch Lawrence, a civil engineer in the current class agreed and said it also gave him a much better picture of the Middle East District as a whole.

“As an engineer, it was very easy to find myself down in the trenches in engineering. This afforded me the opportunity to learn about what others do and paint a bigger picture of how the entire organization functions as a unit,” said Lawrence.

The Leadership Development Program is available in most USACE districts. Tier One is designed as an entry-level overview of leadership skills. The second tier provides a deeper dive into leadership principles and continues the team building aspect. Tier 3 is conducted at the Division level and is designed to give a bigger picture perspective of USACE with more intense longer term capstone projects.



(Above) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District (TAM) Leadership Development Program Tier One advisors Lt. Col. Daniel Terbilcox, Lauren Wougk, Lymarie Torres and Vanessa Frances Gray. The team helped redesign the District’s LDP 1 course and provided guidance during the first iteration of the newly improved program.

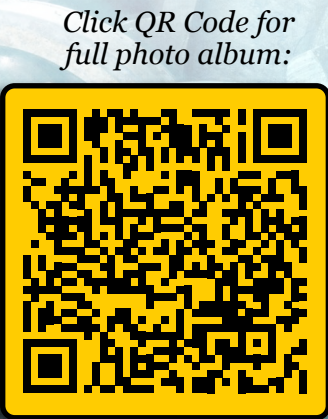
(Below) Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District, Col. Christopher Klein, presents a Leadership Development Program Tier 1 certificate to engineer Mitch Lawrence. Also pictured are LDP Tier 1 advisors Vanessa Francis Gray and Lt. Col. Daniel Terbilcox.

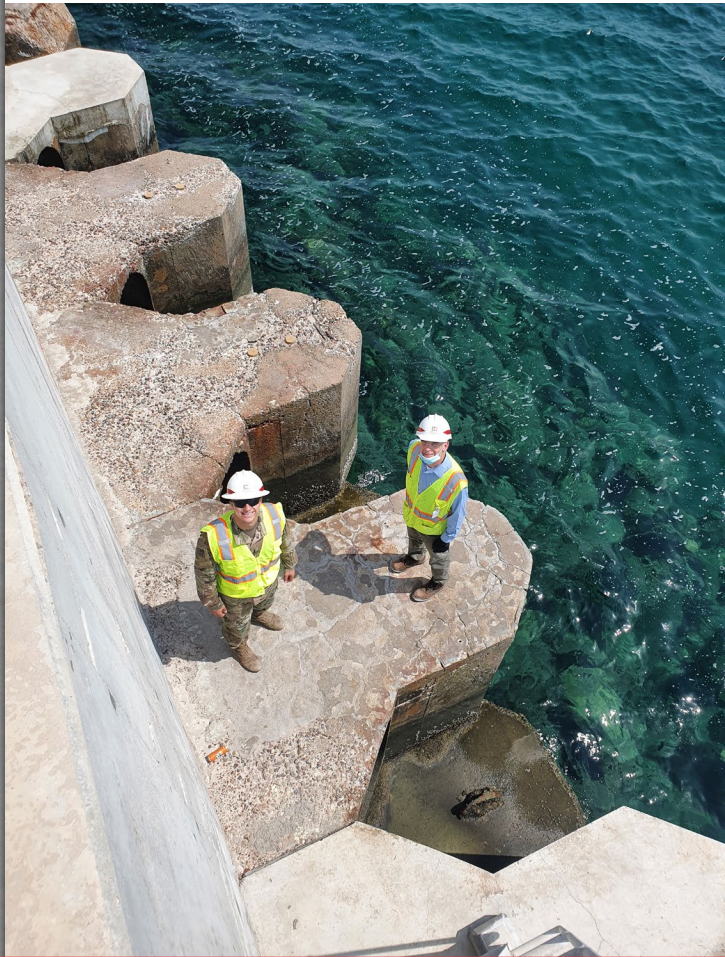




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We compiled a few of the best of the best photos
of your military engineers out in the field over
the last few years doing what they do best!





USACE continues to support mission partners long after projects are complete

Story by Joe Macri, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

“We build some really great facilities for our mission partners. But even the best facilities only last if you maintain them. Our District has had a presence in the Middle East for over 70 years and some of our early projects are still around today. But we’ve also seen cases where we built something, ”

*Brian Ball, Procurements and Services Branch Chief
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District*

(Nov. 6, 2023) No one likes to do the maintenance. That’s true whether talking about a house, a car or multi-million-dollar missile defense infrastructure. Or so says Brian Ball, the chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District’s Procurements and Services Branch.

The branch can provide regular and corrective maintenance for facilities, equipment, procurement of spare parts & consumables, and new or replacement construction for facility related equipment, building renovations as well as training and professional services support.

“We build some really great facilities for our mission partners,” said Ball. “But even the best facilities only last if you maintain them. Our District has had a presence in the Middle East for over 70 years and some of our early projects are still around today. But we’ve also seen cases where we built something, no one does the maintenance on it, and even just a few years later its fallen into a state of disrepair.”

The Middle East District is unique among USACE districts in that most of it’s work is done on behalf of U.S. allied nation partners. When the U.S. sells weapons systems or military equipment (aircraft, missile defense, etc.) through foreign military sales cases, those nations will often pay the Middle

East District to build the infrastructure for those systems. Using USACE helps ensure what’s known as a “total package approach and means that the FMS partner will not only receive the actual equipment but that the infrastructure to support it is built by an organization familiar with the requirements. It can also include follow on material such as spare parts and training to help ensure everything is kept in good working order.

Ball said that using his branch benefits his district and USACE as well as their mission partners.

“It’s in our best interest to see the facilities we build reach their full service-life potential and not fall into disrepair,” Ball stated. “Our customers benefit from that increase in facility lifespan and from not having to dedicate their own time and personnel to maintenance activities. We benefit because these big, fancy, impressive buildings we’ve built remain in good condition and can serve as showpieces and points of advertisement for USACE’s design and construction quality.”

According to Ball, one of the biggest challenges of his job is convincing the district’s mission partners to use his services.

“It’s sometimes hard to measure success in a program that’s meant to prevent something bad from happening rather than just building

something. What I will say is that I’ve yet to see an instance where a mission partner has asked us to stop providing O&M services on any facility once we’ve put a program in place. “

Ball was also quick to attribute much of the success his branch to the district’s contracting section.

“Anything you could say about the uniqueness of our mission in the Middle East District Programs and Project Management, you can say about them in the context of the USACE Contracting Community and our contracting section. “What we do is not unique but the expertise with which we are able to do it providing our mission partners with what they need when they need it is. This is something we’ve developed over time and we’d love to see utilized more and more.”



Contractors perform routine operations and maintenance work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District. This work is typically performed under an Operations and Maintenance Contracts the District routinely executes for USACE’s U.S. military and allied nation partners in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility as part of a full range of engineering, construction and design services the district can provide.



Before and after photos of equipment and facilities repaired under Operations and Maintenance Contracts executed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District. The District routinely executes O&M contracts for USACE’s U.S. military and allied nation partners in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility as part of a full range of engineering, construction and design services the district can provide.



District Provides CENTCOM Commercial Real Estate Support Across the Middle East

Story by Joe Macri, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

“We’ve been trying to procure housing, office space and other land use in the region for over seven decades and eventually our mission partners started asking us to do it for them. Now we are the go-to for virtually all U.S. military real estate leasing in the Middle East”

*Colonel Philip M. Secrist III, Former District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District*

(Jan. 3, 2024) With over 70 years of history in the Middle East, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District is not only able to offer their mission partners the engineering and construction expertise USACE is known for, but also a host of other niche services developed along the way. Many of these services were developed out of necessity by the Middle East District to better accomplish its construction mission. As the Middle East District developed that expertise in-house, it was obvious that they were able to offer that expertise to other partners in the region and create entirely new lines of operation.

One of the more recent services the District has developed has been Real Estate support for U.S. military organizations across the Middle East.

Few real estate transactions are simple but when you add in multiple countries, time zones, force protection requirements, and applicable statutes, policies, and regulations the process can be downright byzantine.

John Philpott, the head of the Middle East District’s real estate division said that’s where his office comes into play.

“the Middle East District’s Real Estate Division acquires, manages, and disposes of real estate interests for US stakeholders operating in the U.S. Central Command region. This can include routine business such as procuring housing or office space but also specialized programs on an as-needed basis supporting contingency operations. When needed, we can also serve as “one-door to the Corps” for other real estate services provided by our sister Districts and Divisions,” Philpott said.

Colonel Philip Secrist, the Middle East District’s commander, said that offering real estate services to other stakeholders in the region developed organically, much the same way many of its other capabilities have.

“Real estate is just one example of something we began doing for ourselves because it needed to get done. Then over time, we realized we could offer that expertise to our mission partners,” he said. “Another example of this is design-based threat assessments. Anything that we build for the U.S. military requires a threat assessment but because our mission partners don’t do them as regularly as we were doing

them, they didn’t have the same expertise and started asking us to do them. Real estate is similar. We’ve been trying to procure housing, office space and other land use in the region for over seven decades and eventually our mission partners started asking us to do it for them. Now we are the go-to for virtually all U.S. military real estate leasing in the Middle East where other traditional alternatives are not feasible.”

Philpott said that while he hadn’t worked on Real Estate transactions before being given the task of standing up the new branch, he learned quickly on the job and has a team of well-versed experts.

Christina Rauhala, one of the District’s Real Estate specialists said although the job has challenges, it mostly comes down to the relationships they build.

“The job is pretty simple when you boil

it down. Find the property or facility that we need and negotiate the best price for the government. The time differences can sometimes be challenging but if you build a good relationship with the property managers and the people overseas you can trust you’re getting what you need.”

Rauhala also said she enjoys the opportunity to travel as part of her job.

Similar to Construction, Procurement, and Service Contracting Officers and Specialists, Real Estate Contracting Officers and Specialists require specialized training and Delegations (similar to Warrants) that give them the authority to enter into leasing agreements on behalf of the government.

the Middle East District currently maintains approximately 161 active leases across approximately 775 properties in 6 Middle East countries.



A public affairs team from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducts an interview with a USACE employee from the Middle East District at an employee housing compound. The Transatlantic Middle East District has a dedicated real estate team that provides commercial real estate support to the U.S. Military throughout the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility.



District Provides Mission Partners a Model Experience

Story by Joe Macri, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

“It’s no different than Coke or Pepsi, and those brands have standards. A Coke from Los Angeles shouldn’t look/taste different from one in New York. So why should USACE be any different? We have standards and it’s my job to enforce them.”

*Erick Stillman, Advanced Modeling Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District*

(Apr. 3, 2024) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Middle East District’s Erick Stillman thinks about USACE’s reputation for quality with every design he reviews. As the district’s Advanced Modeling Manager, his motto is, “USACE is a Brand.”

“It’s no different than Coke or Pepsi, and those brands have standards. A Coke from Los Angeles shouldn’t look/taste different from one in New York. So why should USACE be any different?” said Stillman. “We have standards and it’s my job to enforce them.”

According to the USACE Engineering and Construction Bulletin (ECB) that covers Advanced Modeling, it “refers to the use of Building Information Modeling (BIM), Civil Information Modeling (CIM), Computer Aided Design (CAD), and Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) for the development of design and construction deliverables.”

Every USACE District is expected to maintain an Advanced Modeling capability and those who work in that area are constantly striving to ensure Corps’ efforts are aligned with industry, an ongoing challenge when technology is changing so rapidly.

Stillman said that the Middle East District’s high volume of projects transitioning from design into construction keeps his Advanced Modeling Team one of the busiest in the Army Corps of Engineers, but he sees that as a benefit to the district’s Architectural-Engineering (AE) mission partners.

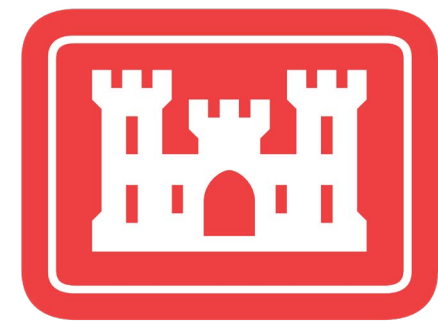
“We are one team,” said Stillman. “We are not successful if our A-E’s are not successful.” Because

the operational tempo is so high at the district, the Middle East District’s Engineering Division designs about 10% of the overall workload, with the other 90% developed by our A-E firms. This is why maintaining control of the “Brand” is so important, “Because we oversee, monitor, and enforce standards from others not working in-house.”

The Middle East District initially began employing Advanced Modeling methods around 2018, with Stillman becoming a Supervisor tasked with leading a team of four subject matter experts in 2022. Stillman’s supervisor, David Rackmales, the Middle East District’s head of Technical Services, said Stillman’s reputation for providing some of the best Advanced Modeling products in USACE, proceeds him.

“Erick was recently asked to present his work to the Corps CAD-BIM Community of Practice workshop. His expertise helped reshape parts of USACE’s Project Execution Plan into a more streamlined, efficient, and timesaving “living” document suitable for all types of Advanced Modeling Design and Construction project deliverables,” said Rackmales.

Stillman said he sees exciting times ahead in the world of Advanced Modeling with his team actively working towards implementing workflows for 3D Model Based Reviews (MBR), 4D analysis / animation simulations, Augmented Reality / Virtual Reality (AR/VR) platforms and other applications that will fully utilize current and developing technology to improve their products.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**





USACE Middle East Tour Provides Rewarding Experience

Story by Joe Macri, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

“We try really hard to get the word out that we have some great opportunities for people. You are working directly to support our U.S. military personnel around CENTCOM, contributing to over arching U.S. policy goals in the region and you’ll work on a portfolio of projects virtually unmatched anywhere else. When you factor in paid housing and other benefits that come with an overseas tour, it’s hard to beat,”

***Jeff Pohlig, Area Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District***

(Jun. 14, 2024) Although the Middle East is typically associated with a military deployment in the minds of many, Jeff Pohlig, an Area Engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District, said he found the two years he spent there far from the stereotypical austere environment many think of.

Pohlig, who just wrapped up a tour in Bahrain with USACE’s Middle East District found his job there to be both personally and professionally rewarding and encouraged others to consider similar opportunities if available.

“There were so many great things that I loved about the assignment. As an engineer you will rarely get the opportunity to experience such complexity and the variety in your projects. I got to build munition storage facilities, air traffic control towers, aircraft hangars, aprons and taxiways, infrastructure for naval ships, command centers, simulator facilities and more. And on the personal side of things, I was fortunate enough to work with colleagues from 6 different countries and got to learn about their customs and traditions. Lunch time was always an exciting time to learn about new foods,” he reminisced.

The Middle East District is unique among USACE

districts in that a majority of its projects are for U.S. allied nation partners in the Middle East. Most are funded by those nations helping to provide for their national defense. Additionally, the district supports U.S. military forces around the region through infrastructure improvements to U.S. facilities used by U.S. forces such as the Bahrain Naval Base.

The projects are executed by a team of engineering, construction and related support professionals through the Middle East District’s headquarters in Winchester, VA as well as offices located in countries throughout the Middle East.

As the Middle East District’s Area Engineer in Bahrain, Pohlig not only worked on projects there but also United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Jordan. He said that working across multiple nations with military officers from those countries gave him a better appreciation for the diversity of cultures across the region which in turn helped him better understand the needs of the various mission partners USACE works with.

“Just as an example, UAE is a relatively new country flush with cash, with a small population and modern cities. Its largest tourism draw is the world’s tallest building the Burj Khalifa built in 2010. Egypt on the other hand, is an older country with a huge

population and far less wealth per capita. Its largest tourism draw are the Pyramids, which were built 4500 years ago. Both country’s militaries have vastly different budgets, threats, and goals. Understanding the history, culture and current state of the countries helped me to understand what mattered most to stakeholders,” said Pohlig.

Pohlig, who brought his wife with him to Bahrain, said they both found the two years spent in the Middle East to be personally rewarding as well.

“My wife and I loved to take advantage of the central location and traveled to other countries. In addition to traveling with me to the countries within my area of responsibility, we also we were able to visit Vietnam, Malaysia, the Maldives, and Spain. We saw a total of 8 new countries during our tour with the Middle East District. With the Doha and Dubai airports nearby, travelling is cheap,” he said. “She was also able to take classes with the University of Maryland Global campus including an Arabic elective.”


Asked about some of the misconceptions about the assignment Pohlig mentioned concerns for his safety and that people seemed to think it was a “hardship.”

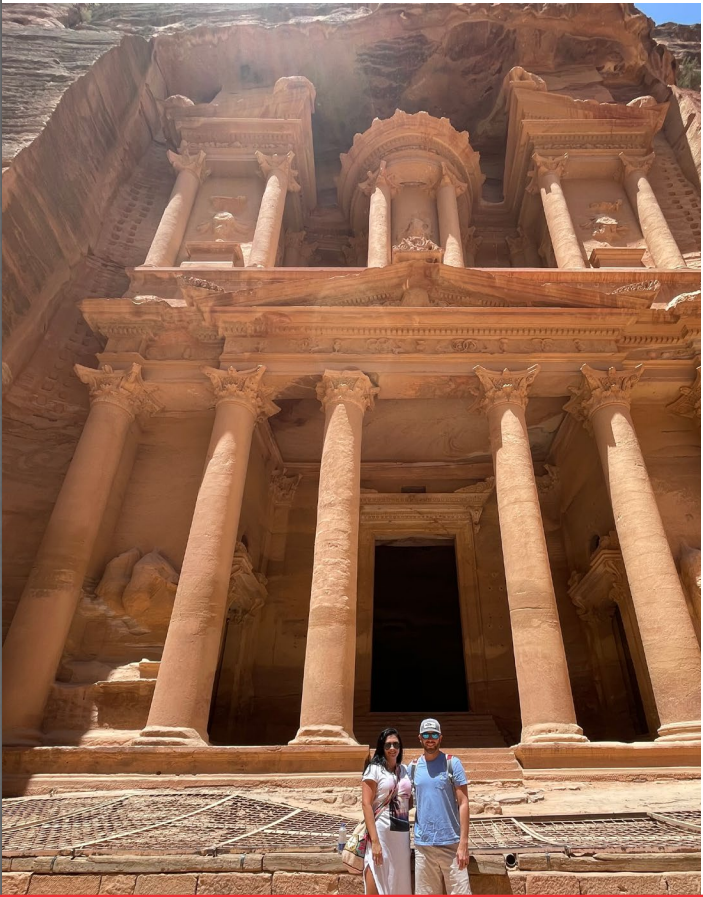
“People automatically assume every country resembles a dangerous, war-torn country because of what they see on the news. This is far from reality. The majority of countries in the middle east are safe. Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia

and Kuwait all have lower crime rates than the United States. It’s also not hot all the time, there are seasons and relief from the heat. From December to March in Bahrain the average high is around 70F, it even snows in Jordan in the winter. There are also churches, and some countries have alcohol at hotels, bars, and restaurants. Just because they are Muslim countries, doesn’t necessarily mean they aren’t tolerant of other cultures and religions.”

Col. Philip Secrist, the Middle East District’s commander said he appreciated Pohlig’s willingness to speak positively about his experience and hopes it will encourage more people to consider an overseas assignment with his district.

“We try really hard to get the word out that we have some great opportunities for people. You are working directly to support our U.S. military personnel around CENTCOM, contributing to over arching U.S. policy goals in the region and you’ll work on a portfolio of projects virtually unmatched anywhere else. When you factor in paid housing and other benefits that come with an overseas tour, it’s hard to beat,” said Secrist.

“There are some minor inconveniences, that may take some getting used to but nothing anyone with a sense of adventure wouldn’t adapt to quickly, I’d encourage anyone looking to expand their resume and see a bit of the world to give it a shot,” said Pohlig. 



(Above) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District Resident Engineer Jeff Pohlig (second from right), team members from the district’s Bahrain team and TAM Commander Col. Philip Secrist visits a ship to shore utilities project site at Bahrain Naval Base. When complete the project will enhance U.S. and allied nation Navy capabilities at the base by providing navy ships with greater connectivity to utilities on shore. In addition to Bahrain Pohlig supervised numerous construction projects in United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Jordan during his time as a resident engineer in the region.

(Left) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District Resident Engineer Jeff Pohlig and his wife Laura visit the UNESCO heritage site of Petra while traveling in Jordan. Pohlig enjoyed the ability to travel during his tour with the Middle East District as a resident engineer in Bahrain.



Serving at the ‘Tip of the Spear’: USACE deployment offers career-enhancing opportunity

Story by Amy Bugala, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Expeditionary District

“This opportunity opened doors, allowing me to expand my capabilities to become a supervisor and an Administrative Contracting Officer.”

Hadi Alrahaheh, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Expeditionary District

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait -- Working in one of the most dynamic construction environments in the world can be viewed as both a challenge and an opportunity. For many, the chance to serve at the ‘tip of the spear’ with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer’s only forward-deployed district is a career-enhancing opportunity that’s playing a vital role in strengthening the organization - one deployment at a time.

The district’s team of approximately 80 professionals —representing three of the nine USACE Divisions, 24 of the 44 districts worldwide, one of the nine Labs and Centers of Excellence, and Headquarters—are building connections across the districts and strengthening the overall ‘One Door to the Corps’ concept.

Beyond navigating the environmental extremes that come with working in the Middle East those serving with the Transatlantic Expeditionary District say they are discovering valuable opportunities for career advancement, networking, collaborating on diverse projects, and overseeing project completion, along with a chance to serve their country.

Hadi Alrahaheh, a project manager with the Tulsa District and USACE employee for 10 years, says his deployment helped pave the way for his career growth and a new experience.

“This opportunity opened doors, allowing me to expand my capabilities to become a supervisor and an Administrative Contracting Officer,” said Alrahaheh a first-time deployer serving as the Expeditionary District’s Kuwait Area Office Resident Engineer. He now supervises a team of twelve working more than \$200 million in projects in Kuwait.

The military environment, project requirements, variety and pace make it a completely different

experience here than in a stateside district, Alrahaheh explained. “The delivery actions and timelines are expected to be much faster. You will see a project go from A to Z in a contingent environment because you’re required to execute everything quickly.”

Support to the military is one of USACE’s six focused mission areas, that increase readiness and modernization through projects supporting the warfighter, enabling steady-state military operations, and sustaining the nation’s ability to fight and win wars.

For Project Engineer Zar Nigar, deploying in support of the military mission represents an exciting challenge and opportunity to serve in a region and culture familiar to her. Born and raised in Pakistan, Nigar is passionate about her projects and eager to add a new chapter to her career and life story.

“It’s in my nature; I always take on a challenge,” said Nigar, who is leveraging her language skills to gain an inside perspective and strengthen relationships with local contractors and laborers.

This deployment marks her first assignment away from the New York District, where she worked on new construction, military facility sustainment, restoration, and modernization projects.

Work variety and an opportunity to serve alongside the military has been drawing Michael Fellenz back to the Middle East for many years. Fellenz, an Air Force veteran and seasoned military and civilian deployer, works as a Project Engineer while deployed, and as a Geologist at the Buffalo District where he has served for 37 years.

“The variety of projects I’ve worked on [while deployed] has been a lot more than in my home

district. The more experience I got the more projects I’ve been given,” said Fellenz, whose project work with the Expeditionary District includes life support areas, force protection, dining facilities, and various quality of life initiatives. “If you stay for two years, you’ll likely see a project come to completion,” he added.


Fellenz says he’s been fortunate to serve USACE in this capacity, learn new skills and support the ongoing efforts to enhance security, safety, and overall quality of life for the warfighter.

Similarly, Kimberly Edwards feels incredibly honored to serve her country and work with an international community of engineers and construction professionals to support the USACE mission in Kuwait. As the district’s Chief of Engineering and an architect, Edwards was looking for her next career move when she decided to deploy for the first time. Now, she’s engaged in work she never imagined.

“I love building in another country; you get to experience that country through your work. Especially as an architect, we are responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of every occupant that ends up in our building. Whether that is a person working on the project or the person who ultimately occupies the final structure,” she said.

Edwards has seen first-hand how her contributions make an impact and how the collective expertise of the “Always Forward” district benefits mission partners.

“The most impactful thing about serving here is that even the smallest thing I do, does something powerful in the end,” she said.

Through each deployer’s experience the Expeditionary District is “Building Strong” and strengthening its’ commitment to staying innovative, agile, and responsive in support of the mission throughout the U.S. Central Command area of operations. 



Hadi Alrahaheh, (middle) the USACE Expeditionary District’s Kuwait Area Office Resident Engineer, along with local contractors, inspects ongoing construction at one of USACE’s premier projects in Kuwait—the Super Hornet Program facilities at Al Jaber Air Base on September 10, 2024.



Zar Nigar (right) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Expeditionary District project engineer reviews project specifications with a local contractor and project manager with the Area Support Group-Kuwait, Department of Public Works at the Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facility project site in the U.S. Central Command area of operations, August 5, 2024. The TEMF is a single-story semi-permanent structure that consists of vehicle maintenance and administrative areas and is expected to be completed in November 2024.



Kim Edwards, (right) along with members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Transatlantic Expeditionary District stand for a photo with Daniel N. Rosenblum, the U.S. Ambassador to Kazakhstan following the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Kazakhstan Peace Operations Training Center October 24, 2023. The conference center was built to prepare Kazakh Soldiers for international missions that contribute to global peace. (USACE PHOTO by Rick Rzepka)



Michael Fellenz, a deployed project engineer (second from the left) stands for a photo with co-workers at an area office in the U.S. Central Command area of operations. This small team of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Expeditionary District personnel are serving at the 'tip of the spear' in support of USACE's Operation Inherent Resolve projects.

ENHANCING SECURITY.

We execute our mission in a very challenging environment. Innovation enables us to remain relevant and maintain our position as the regional leader, not only in engineering and construction, but as the problem-solver of choice.

We are a driving force in bolstering security and stability across the CENTCOM and SOCOM areas of responsibility. Operating in geographically vast and complex regions, we bring engineering expertise and innovative solutions to address unique challenges. By leveraging strong partnerships, we deliver critical infrastructure and foster collaboration with allies to support mission success and regional stability.

Through partnerships with ARCENT, AFCENT and other mission partners, we design and construct essential infrastructure such as airfields, hangars, and other facilities that enable safe and efficient operations. These projects go beyond construction, providing a strategic advantage and reinforcing readiness across the region. Additionally, our focus on force protection ensures the safety of forward operating bases and remote locations, countering extremist threats while enhancing the quality of life for those who serve.

Beyond infrastructure, we play a vital role in capacity building with our allies. By equipping partner nations with the technical skills and knowledge needed for infrastructure development and disaster preparedness, we strengthen their ability to address challenges independently. This collaborative approach lays the groundwork for long-term stability and fosters resilience across the region.



Building the Foundations for Defense



Why Enhancing Security Matters ...

ROBUST INFRASTRUCTURE: Strong infrastructure ensures the seamless execution of operations and enhances safety for both military and civilian personnel.

STRATEGIC PRESENCE: Secure, advanced bases provide a strategic edge, enabling rapid responses to emerging threats.

REGIONAL STABILITY: Supporting partner nations in strengthening their capabilities fosters stability and reduces regional tensions.

FORCE PROTECTION: Enhanced security measures protect U.S. servicemembers and allies, ensuring a safe environment to operate.

Explore this section to learn more about our critical contributions to advancing security, protecting forces, and strengthening partnerships in the CENTCOM and SOCOM areas of responsibility.

The Transatlantic Division stands as USACE's tip of the spear for enhancing security across the CENTCOM and SOCOM areas of responsibility.

Harnessing comprehensive engineering expertise, innovative solutions, and strategic partnerships, we build resilient infrastructure, reinforce force protection, and foster collaborative engagements with allied forces and regional partners—ultimately strengthening security in these critical regions.



Expertise at the Front: How USACE Experience Powers U.S. Army Success

Story by Catherine Carroll, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division

“I was motivated to volunteer with the Expeditionary District by its rich history and commendable achievements. I saw it as a chance to enhance my skills by working on more complex projects and in diverse environments. I believe that my work at the district will significantly contribute to both my personal and professional growth.”

*Yusuf Tavfik Sultan, Electrical Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Expeditionary District*

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait (Apr. 7, 2024) – In the vast, dynamic landscape of the U.S. Central Command’s Area of Responsibility, the success of the U.S. Army’s mission is intricately linked to the infrastructure that supports it. For more than 70 years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has played a crucial role in providing the critical engineering, design, and construction expertise that ensures operational readiness and resilience across the Middle East, Central Asia, and the Levant. The Transatlantic Expeditionary District, as USACE’s only forward deployed district in support of contingency operations, continues this legacy by being the sharpest tip of the spear, strengthening partnerships, building capacity, and enhancing security for our nation, allies, and partners.

The backgrounds of those who serve in the Expeditionary District are as diverse as the tasks they undertake. Each member brings a unique blend of professional experience, cultural insight, and even military service, enriching the collective capability of the team. Whether it’s designing and constructing facilities that withstand the rigors of desert climates or ensuring that installations meet the multifaceted security needs of those they serve and protect, the expertise of USACE personnel is fundamental. And their stories reveal a deep commitment to leveraging their skills for the greater good.

Highlighting the diversity and expertise within

the team, Jillian Martin, the District’s Construction Administration Branch office engineer who supports the district virtually from New York; Russell Wahlay, District construction chief; and Yusuf Tavfik Sultan, District electrical engineer—who both arrived at the district this month—shared their experiences and insights on serving with a district that is quite literally – Always Forward.

“I hold a BS in Architectural Engineering and an MS in Civil Engineering from Drexel University,” Martin shared. “My experience includes four years as a Project Engineer and Project Manager with the GSA Mid-Atlantic Region, one and a half years as a Civil Engineer at USAG West Point DPW, and six years at the USACE New York District - West Point Area Office.

“When the Expeditionary District needed a virtual Office Engineer, I eagerly supported the mission despite not being physically present,” Martin continued. “My expertise in Construction Administration involves overseeing project setup, maintaining accurate data, modifying contracts, and managing project closeouts. These skills are vital for executing the USACE mission worldwide.”

Similarly, Russell Wahlay reflected on his extensive field experience and the cultural insights he gained, which fuel his commitment to the district.

“I am a Civil Engineer with a Professional Engineering license, currently serving as an Area Engineer with an Administrative Contracting Officer

warrant in the Buffalo District,” Wahlay stated. “My experience includes four deployments with both the Transatlantic Afghanistan District and the Mosul Dam Task Force. These positive experiences and the opportunity to work with diverse cultures in these geographic areas have inspired me to contribute further to the Transatlantic Expeditionary District.”

Likewise, Sultan brings a unique combination of military and engineering perspectives, illustrating the depth of experience that enhances the district’s capabilities.

“I possess two distinct backgrounds: military and engineering. My military experience spans 13 years as an officer in the Iraqi army, where I honed my leadership skills, Sultan explained. “My engineering expertise developed through my education and participation in various projects focusing on electronic design and programming control devices. After completing my education, I transitioned to the Department of Transportation, spending seven years as a lead design engineer overseeing numerous projects in the southern region of Maine.

“This collective experience inspired me to join USACE, which offered valuable opportunities to serve and further enhance my skills and expertise,” Sultan continued. “I was motivated to volunteer with the Expeditionary District by its rich history and

commendable achievements. I saw it as a chance to enhance my skills by working on more complex projects and in diverse environments. I believe that my work at the district will significantly contribute to both my personal and professional growth.”

Working effectively in CENTCOM requires more than just technical skills; it demands a profound understanding of the cultural and social nuances of the region. This cultural acuity enhances project outcomes and enhances an environment of respect and collaboration among our all our mission partners.

Sultan exemplifies this cultural acuity, drawing from his extensive personal and professional experiences in the Middle East to enhance the effectiveness of USACE projects.

“I was born, lived, and worked in the Middle East, which has given me a deep understanding of the culture, people, and legal systems of the region,” Sultan shared. “My expertise extends to power systems and professional codes relevant to my role as an electrical engineer with USACE. This background significantly supports and enhances the efficiency of my work. I see it as a valuable opportunity to share and transfer this knowledge to other engineers during my time here.

“After moving to the USA, I successfully integrated into the culture and formed strong bonds with many communities,” Sultan explained. “At USM, where I



Yusuf Tavfik Sultan, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Expeditionary District electrical engineer, smiles for a candid photo during the January 2025 Expeditionary District Town Hall event in Kuwait.



joined multicultural groups, I had the opportunity to interact with students from diverse countries and ethnicities. Being part of such a diverse community not only strengthens societies and promotes stability but also enhances the workplace environment, making work more enjoyable and providing opportunities to learn about different cultures, including their languages, foods, and beliefs.

“I also served as a regiment commander in the Iraqi military for 13 years, an experience that aligns well with my current civilian role, given my military background,” Sultan continued. “Familiarity with the military environment and the ability to effectively integrate with professionals from various backgrounds have further enabled me to contribute effectively to USACE.”

Martin’s upbringing in a culturally diverse setting and her professional experiences provide a robust foundation for understanding and leading multicultural teams at USACE.

“I grew up in a very culturally diverse area of the U.S.,” Martin explained. “Exposure to a variety of cultures and religions was common. My younger sister, adopted from a foreign country, further enriched this diversity. In my professional life, I’ve tackled projects initially conducted in different languages and measurement systems, requiring translation before analysis.

“These experiences have deeply informed my approach to working on multicultural teams,” Martin continued. “Throughout my federal career, I’ve managed teams across various engineering disciplines and collaborated with other organizational branches like contracting, finance, and legal. This diverse exposure has ideally prepared me for leading diverse teams.”

Likewise, Russell Wahlay leverages the insights from his multiple deployments to enhance the operational strategies of the Transatlantic Expeditionary District.

“As I mentioned previously, my multiple USACE deployments have given me unique perspectives on working in deployment environments, Wahlay stated. “I am committed to contributing these insights to the district mission. I hope the experiences I gain here will enrich my work back at my home district, allowing me to carry over valuable knowledge and practices.”

Whether in uniform or as civilians, the goal remains the same: to support the mission and the people who carry it out. This perspective drives a proactive approach to project management, emphasizing safety, sustainability, and the well-being of all. The tangible results of their work—whether in building operational capacity, enhancing force protection measures, or in improving the quality of life for service members and civilians alike—underscore the pivotal role of USACE in advancing military capabilities and operational

readiness.

Martin explains transitioning from an Area Office to District-level work with TAE, highlighting her expanded role and enhanced communication skills required for global operations.

“Previously, my work with USACE had been on an Area Office level,” Martin explained. “The different perspective here has helped deepen my understanding of the USACE mission as well as the coordination required to make it all happen. Working remotely from another continent and time zone has also helped further develop my communication skills.

“Most of my previous USACE experience has been related to the Military Academy at West Point, repairing and constructing the assets needed to train cadets as they prepare to commission and lead within the Army,” Martin continued. “My work with the Expeditionary District offers a much different perspective on the work of the Army and how USACE plays a part in it. Through this district, I can continue to serve a different phase of Army life.”

In a similar vein, Sultan reflects on the empowerment and pride of working at USACE, emphasizing the importance of cultural diversity in strengthening the organization.

“It is my honor to serve at USACE, and I hope to have the opportunity to continue being part of this organization in the future,” Sultan emphasized. “Working at USACE makes me feel empowered to serve our nation effectively. Collaborating with individuals from diverse cultures not only enriches our experiences but also contributes to strengthening our nation.”

Wahlay shared how his deployment experience equips him to address project challenges, underscoring his commitment as a civilian supporting U.S. warfighters.

“My past USACE deployments will help in dealing with the challenges that occur with our projects here,” Wahlay explained. “I also understand from a people standpoint the possible challenges we have as deployed civilians assisting the USACE mission. I have never served in the military, however deploying with USACE as a civilian in support of the U.S. warfighters is an honor for me.”

Looking to the future, the professionals of the Expeditionary District are well-prepared to meet the evolving challenges within the CENTCOM AOR. Armed with a rich mix of engineering expertise, cultural insights, and strategic deployment experience, they are superbly positioned to continue their legacy of building strong. The team remains committed to leveraging their collective expertise, innovative thinking, and strategic insights—always moving forward to ensure that the Army of 2030 is agile, resilient, and ready for any challenges ahead.

“My experience includes four deployments with both the Transatlantic Afghanistan District and the Mosul Dam Task Force. These positive experiences and the opportunity to work with diverse cultures in these geographic areas have inspired me to contribute further to the Transatlantic Expeditionary District.”

***Russell Wahlay, Construction Chief
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Expeditionary District***



Russell Wahlay, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Expeditionary District construction chief, stands for a photo during a site visit at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Apr. 8, to review the Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facility project, demonstrating USACE’s dedication to maintaining operational excellence and ensuring project success for strategic infrastructure crucial for sustaining military capability.



Enhancing Quality of Life at Camp Arifjan: USACE Cuts the Ribbon on the Unaccompanied Officers Quarters

Story by Catherine Carroll, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division

“This project in particular holds great importance as it directly enhances the quality of life for our military members deployed to Camp Arifjan and underscores our commitment to their well-being and readiness in fulfilling their missions.”

*Brigadier General William C. Hannan, Jr., Former Division Commanding General
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division*

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait (Apr. 23, 2024) – Set within the austere terrain of the Kuwaiti desert, Camp Arifjan serves as a pivotal base for U.S. military operations in the Middle East. However, beyond its strategic significance, it serves as a temporary home for countless service members and civilians deployed in the region. Recognizing the importance of quality of life in sustaining morale and operational effectiveness, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Expeditionary District is spearheading initiatives to transform the living conditions and facilities at Camp Arifjan.

At the forefront of these efforts is the ambitious construction project of the Unaccompanied Officers Quarters. More than just a building, the UOQ represents an oasis for unaccompanied officers as they execute their missions in and around Camp Arifjan. With its sleek amenities and thoughtful design, it aims to provide a comfortable and conducive environment for 300 unaccompanied field grade officers amidst the challenges of deployment.

Brigadier Gen. William C. Hannan, Jr., USACE Transatlantic Division commanding general, traveled to Kuwait to speak at the UOQ’s ribbon cutting ceremony and share his thoughts on the importance of the project and on the value of the partnerships that enabled its successful completion.

“Today, we celebrate a milestone that underscores the enduring partnership and shared commitment

between Kuwait and the United States – and between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and our regional mission partners and allies,” Hannan said. “As we gather to cut the ribbon on the Unaccompanied Officers Quarters, we celebrate more than just a construction milestone, this project represents a significant investment in the well-being and effectiveness of those who serve here.”

The ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on April 23 and was also attended by key Kuwait Ministry of Defense and Kuwait Army officials; Col. Mohamad Z. Rahman, USACE Transatlantic Expeditionary District commander; U.S. Army Central Area Support Group – Kuwait Directorate of Public Works personnel, as well as many base service members and civilians who have watched it evolve from start to finish. The event marked a pivotal moment in fortifying the living standards for service members at Camp Arifjan, underscoring the collaborative efforts and commitment of all involved in realizing this essential infrastructure construction.

“Army Central Command and the Kuwait Area Support Group are crucial to our operations here in Kuwait,” Hannan emphasized. “This project in particular holds great importance as it directly enhances the quality of life for our military members deployed to Camp Arifjan and underscores our commitment to their well-being and readiness in fulfilling their missions. Camp Arifjan’s significance

as a key base in the Middle East necessitates continuous improvements in force protection and quality of life. This initiative strengthens our ability to effectively operate in the region.”

Prior to the ribbon cutting ceremony, U.S. Army Maj. Michael N. Daschel, ASG – Kuwait Directorate of Public Works projects officer in charge shared his thoughts on this project.

“Aside from being a new, comfortable living space, these buildings will allow Soldiers to be housed in more permanent quarters, Daschel said. “There are also practical features incorporated into these buildings, such as walk-in showers and epoxy flooring to name a couple, that will reduce maintenance due to their simplicity. Housing is probably the biggest driver of morale. I don’t think there’s anyone housed at Camp Arifjan that wouldn’t prefer to live in these new buildings.”

Hannan echoed these sentiments on the benefit of living space for the military officers who will soon call

it a home away from home. “Without a doubt, this project will significantly boost the overall morale, resilience, and operational effectiveness of personnel deployed to Camp Arifjan,” Hannan said. “Soldiers that have a dedicated barracks that enables them to sleep and recharge, will be more effective - especially in the stressful situations and long days that are a just a natural part of being deployed.”

However, the Expeditionary District’s commitment to the wellbeing of Soldiers extends far beyond the UOQ. Through a range of projects, including upgrades to living quarters, recreational facilities, and infrastructure, the district is reshaping the fabric of life at Camp Arifjan. Each initiative reflects a dedication to enhancing the well-being and resilience of those stationed at the base.

Rahman, who volunteered to serve his 25th year in the U.S. Army leading USACE’s only forward deployed district in support of named U.S. Army



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. William C. Hannan, Jr., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division commanding general, speaks at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Unaccompanied Officers Quarters at Camp Arifjan Kuwait, Apr. 23.

operations, will also be retiring shortly following his redeployment, articulated the significance of these endeavors and his thoughts on leading such a unique mission.

“Serving as the Commander of the Transatlantic Expeditionary District was the most rewarding assignment of my 24 years of Army Reserve career,” Rahman shared. “This is a unique district with exceptional mission in theater. The expeditionary construction projects that this district is involved with have a direct impact on improving the quality of life of our own troops as well as multinational forces deployed in theater. The most important part of this command is that I had the opportunity to work with the most talented engineers, planners, scientists, and

environmental professionals from across the USACE. I am honored and indebted to those who supported me for successful completion of this command and accomplishment that we had together.”

The Army Corps of Engineers endeavors at Camp Arifjan are emblematic of its dedication to excellence and the welfare of those who serve. As the base evolves, one thing remains clear – USACE’s commitment to enhancing quality of life will continue to shape the experience of all who call Camp Arifjan home.

The Unaccompanied Officers Quarters, shown Apr. 19, just prior to the ribbon cutting ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, is a product of close collaboration between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Expeditionary District, U.S. Army Central, the Kuwait Armed Forces, and the Kuwait Ministry of Defense.



Enhancing Quality of Life:

Set within the austere terrain of the Kuwaiti desert, Camp Arifjan is pivotal for U.S. military operations in the Middle East and serves as a temporary home for many. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Expeditionary District is transforming living conditions with the construction of the Unaccompanied Officers Quarters, a sleek, comfortable facility for 300 U.S. military officers. The project, celebrated with a ribbon-cutting attended by key USACE, U.S. Army Central, Kuwait Ministry of Defense, Kuwait Armed Forces, and U.S. Embassy officials on April 23, marks a significant enhancement of service member life at Camp Arifjan.



Stories in Motion ...

Video by Catherine Carroll, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division





USACE employee remembers the Kuwait liberation

Story by Richard Bumgardner, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Expeditionary District

“It wasn’t until I came back over here working for USACE as a civilian that I realized February 26th is a public holiday in Kuwait and celebrated as Liberation Day. That makes me proud knowing I played a part in the inaugural events of February 26. That is pretty cool.”

*Michael Corcoran, Contracting Officer Technical Representative
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Expeditionary District*

On February 26, a special day for Kuwaiti citizens - a day celebrated with fireworks, store sales, horns honking and flags flying - there is one U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civilian employee who feels especially proud to have been part of the coalition liberating force that set Kuwait free in 1991.

Michael Corcoran, a U.S. Department of the Army civilian contracting officer technical representative with the Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division’s forward deployed Transatlantic Expeditionary District, first arrived in Kuwait in 1991, as a private first class with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), 311th Military Intelligence Battalion.

Corcoran deployed for Operation Desert Storm following the invasion of Iraqi forces into their much smaller neighbor, Kuwait.

Once his active-duty enlistment in the Army ended, he never thought he would be back to Kuwait in an official capacity, let alone as a civilian working for the Army Corps of Engineers.

Now, as he sees the celebrations throughout Kuwait City, very similar to how we celebrate July 4th but with Kuwaiti flags and green, white and red national colors displayed everywhere, he looks back at his former service with pride, knowing his career had come full circle on this 33rd anniversary of the liberation of Kuwait.

“It wasn’t until I came back over here working for the Army Corps of Engineers, as an civilian, did I realize February 26th is a public holiday in Kuwait and celebrated as Liberation Day,” Corcoran said. “That makes me proud knowing I played a part in the inaugural events of February 26. That is pretty cool.”

He is currently deployed with the Expeditionary

District from the Army Corps of Engineers’ Nashville District, where he is a senior mechanic, responsible for the maintenance of several district dams.

“We came over here, assisted an ally, accomplished our mission, and went home,” Corcoran said. “Now that I’m back over here with USACE, it’s a bit less stressful but equally rewarding in terms of accomplishing goals and helping people.”


Corcoran initially deployed in 1990 to Saudi Arabia, followed by Kuwait in 1991, and over the years he has stayed in contact with a handful of Soldiers from his deployed unit.

“Desert Storm was a huge event in my life,” he said. “Not only for what we accomplished, but also for the people I met and served with.”

The core of Mike’s platoon from Desert Storm, 33 years later, are still close friends today.

“We have regular get togethers around the U.S., so when I was preparing for this deployment, my wife scheduled a going away dinner with close friends at our house. Three guys that deployed with me to Desert Storm where at that dinner.”

On this 33rd Kuwait Liberation Day, thank you to Corcoran, his battle buddies, and all our USACE team members that participated in Desert Storm, helping to liberate the country of Kuwait.

Editor’s Note: The Expeditionary District, whose motto is “Always Forward,” is the Army Corps of Engineers’ only contingency district, dedicated to meeting the challenges of providing theater-wide engineering solutions and expertise in support of U.S., Coalition, and Host Nation efforts throughout the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. 





HERE’S YOUR SIGN:

Safety is more than a priority; it’s a commitment we make every day. These signs serve as constant reminders that protecting our people and our mission is at the heart of everything we do. Stay alert, stay safe, and keep building strong!



Click QR Code to learn more about the USACE Safety and Occupational Health Office:



Building Tomorrow’s Solutions:

In a world where threats to military personnel and operations are ever-evolving, safeguarding lives has never been more critical. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is at the forefront of this mission. Providing engineering, design, and construction support and services within one of the world’s most dynamic operational environments, USACE’s Transatlantic Division is committed to providing the innovative solutions essential for protecting those serving downrange. marks a significant enhancement of service member life at Camp Arifjan.



Stories in Motion ...

Video by Catherine Carroll, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division



Insights from the Transatlantic Division’s U.S. Army Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program

Story by Major Jamia Odom, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division

“It all starts with that individual person. That you believe that what we are talking about is important. If we can start there, that is how we can see a cultural shift as a collective and truly start seeing those effects on a larger scale on an installation and even policy level.”

*Samantha Orozco, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division*

WINCHESTER, Va. (Apr. 15, 2024) - Standing as the cornerstone of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division’s proactive stance against sexual assault and harassment is the U.S. Army’s Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program. Samantha Orozco, the USACE Transatlantic Division Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, shared valuable insights into the significance of the SHARP Program at the Division headquarters in Winchester, Va., March 25.

As April unfolds, the Transatlantic Division pauses to acknowledge National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, an annual observance across civilian and military sectors alike. This year’s theme, “Change Through Unity: Empower. Protect. Prevent.”, reverberates profoundly, underscoring the indispensable link between safeguarding personnel and fulfilling mission objectives.

“It’s important to recognize that the military is actively addressing issues of sexual assault and harassment,” Orozco explained, “The SHARP program offers a valuable opportunity not only to respond effectively and support victims, but also to lead prevention efforts and offer education. It’s a chance for us to showcase our commitment to doing what’s right, promoting a culture of respect and safety within our organization.”

As the Transatlantic Division continues its #ArmyValues campaign this month, it underscores the alignment of the SAAPM with the Army Values.

This initiative reinforces the core values that define the ethos of the Army and serves as guiding principles for Soldiers, Army civilians, and leaders, shaping their behavior, decisions, and actions both on and off duty.

Aligned with this overarching campaign, Orozco emphasized the need for a cultural change encompassing both service members and civilians. Orozco’s insights highlight the crucial connection between the SHARP and the Army Values, emphasizing the importance of integrating these values into every aspect of the division’s operations.

She emphasized the significance of the Army’s prevention model, which underscores that everyone plays a vital role in prevention across all levels within our units, organizations, and communities.

This model operates on multiple tiers, beginning with the individual. Taking personal responsibility to adhere to the Army Values, to take ownership in creating an environment of mutual support and treating all of those around you with dignity and respect. The second level focuses on the unit and organization. Its focus is on command climate and building cohesive teams. Lastly, is the community level which encompasses organizational partnerships, safety and security implementations, and additional support services.

The model emphasizes individual belief in the SHARP Program.

“It all starts with that individual person,” Orozco stated. “That you believe that what we are talking


about is important. If we can start there, that is how we can see a cultural shift as a collective and truly start seeing those effects on a larger scale on an installation and even policy level.”

Cultural change is central to the SHARP Program, fostering a climate where Soldiers actively prevent sexual harassment and assault. Orozco emphasized the importance of education and leadership engagement in nurturing this shift, including addressing fears around reporting through training and support.

“There is always going to be a fear for people to come and report,” Orozco acknowledged. “We hope through education and training that we can put some of those fears at bay. At the end of the day, if leadership isn’t going to hold people accountable, I don’t have a chance at getting through to them,”

Orozco added, “Since coming to the USACE Transatlantic Division, the command team has been extremely supportive of the SHARP Program, not only committing to the program through their words but through their actions. I look forward to continuing to work with this command team to continue to grow the program.”

“In April, the Division provides numerous training sessions and workshops,” Orozco continued. “These include annual training, workshops on bystander intervention, and various forums tailored to different learning styles to include SHARP Program jeopardy because everyone learns differently. The more ways to learn the more ways to help.

“In the battle against sexual harassment and assault, every voice matters, and every action counts.” 



Click the QR Code for the 2024 SAAPM Video: ONE VICTIM IS TOO MANY:

There are people and resources available to help victims of sexual assault; you are not alone.

**Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR)
guidance is available online at
www.SAPR.mil**

**DoD military and civilian personnel
can call the DoD Safe Helpline
(877-995-5247)**

**The hotline offers assistance 24/7 and can connect you
with your Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)
and base SAPR Victim Advocates, as well as other military
and civilian resources.**



SAFETY.

At USACE, WINNING = SAFELY Finishing Quality Projects, On Time and Within Budget.

Since 2016, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has revolutionized workplace safety with the Corps of Engineers Safety and Occupational Health Management System (CE-SOHMS). This systems-based approach transcends traditional compliance, embedding safety as a core value across the organization.

CE-SOHMS is implemented in three strategic stages: assessing and refining existing processes, educating the workforce to ensure understanding, and fostering ownership and adherence to safety practices. This adaptive approach addresses the challenges of our diverse, multilingual workforce and the complexities of deployed environments, ensuring safety remains a universal priority.

Central to CE-SOHMS are our 'Champions of Change,' dedicated individuals who drive daily safety awareness and guide their teams through the transition. Their efforts, supported by active leadership engagement, have been instrumental in maintaining momentum—even amid challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic.

CE-SOHMS is more than a program; it is a commitment to safeguarding each other and our mission. By cultivating a behavior-based safety culture, we are building a safer, more resilient work environment—every day, in every task.



People *Actively Using Saftey* Everyday!



Safety Check: Explore the Middle East District's journey with the Corps of Engineers Safety and Occupational Health Management System (CESOHMS) in this video. Hear directly from our team members—both in the field and at headquarters—about how safety is a core commitment that guides every task, from engineering and design to construction support across one of the world's most dynamic regions. Through a focus on safety, USACE empowers its workforce, strengthens mission delivery, and ensures that everyone returns home safely. Watch to learn how USACE is leading in safety across the Middle East.

Video by Shannon Moeck, USACE Middle East District



Stories in Motion ...



A Proactive Approach to Safety – Middle East District Completes Safety Milestone!

Story by Shannon Moeck, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

“As many districts I have been involved with in their CE-SOHMS journey, assessing or helping in other ways, I am most proud of what the Middle East District has done with their very unique challenge of location and personnel shifts.”

James Trail, CE-SOHMS Assessor
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

(FEB. 9, 2024) From 21-25 January 2024, Transatlantic Division safety chief, Kevin Raposa, Middle East District safety chief, Vanessa Matheny, and Corps of Engineers Safety and Occupational Health Management System (CE-SOHMS) assessors James Trail and Jeff Kirkey visited the district’s field offices in Jordan and Bahrain for stage 3 interviews of the CE-SOHMS program. During that time the safety chiefs and assessors engaged in a comprehensive review of the program’s stage 3 criteria. They interviewed non-supervisory personnel and supervisory ersonnel to determine if the CE-SOHMS planning had effectively reached stage 3.

C-SOHMS is the execution of a safety management system. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) spearheaded CE-SOHMS in 2017. It is now a methodology required by regulation and supported by USACE leadership to fully integrate safety and occupational health functions into all USACE business operations. It ensures risk is managed properly at the correct level resulting in reduced injuries and illnesses of employees and contractors, while enhancing USACE ability to complete our mission on-time, within budget, and at a quality expected by USACE customers.

CE-SOHMS is a 3-stage evolution and it can take time for the culture of safety to take root in the organization.

Stage 1 “Crawl” – Development of processes, plans, and documents.

Stage 2 “Walk” – Program implementation where those documents and plans are shared with and to train employees with the safety mindset.

Stage 3 “Run” – The stage where the field has implemented and are acting according to the safety management system.

Raposa shares, “Complete implementation of the CE-SOHMS takes time. It requires years of effective leadership communication with Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) professionals to train, teach, and mentor at all organizational levels. This demonstrates how employees are taking ownership of the safety program, with support from supervisors. This is a significant achievement that each and every Middle East District employee has accomplished!”

The field concurs with Raposa’s assertion.

Major Christopher “Barty” Bartenhagen, a Middle East District Project Manager Forward at the Jordan field office, is excited about completing stage 3 of CE-SOHMS. Bartenhagen says, “I’m the safety champion at the Jordan resident office. I work hand in hand with our collateral duty safety officer and together we try to implement this organizational change with not only the Middle East District employees but also with the contractors on site as well. Safety is more than just a checklist, and that’s where CE-SOHMS delivers. It shifts safety from a checklist to a mindset. We have implemented a culture where we bring safety to the forefront of our actions so everyone can get home safely each night.”

The assessment determined that the execution of the SOH systems are effective and that there is a high level of employee knowledge and commitment to safety in the field. Hazard identification in the field is producing desired positive results and the Emergency Action Plans (EAP) are documented and demonstrated.

The Middle East District started their CE-SOHMS pathway in 2019. It is now the sixth out of 52 Districts to complete stage 3.

Assessor Trail states, “As many districts I have been involved with in their CE-SOHMS journey, assessing or helping in other ways, I am most proud of what the Middle East District has done with their very unique challenge of location and personnel shifts. It is important to understand the TAM stage 3 versus state side stage 3 is totally different and by far more challenging for the Middle East District’s Area of Responsibility (AOR).”

The next steps are to ensure the District sustains what they have accomplished while consistently reassessing the CE-SOHMS criteria. “It is important to encourage SOH ownership at all levels horizontally and vertically,” said Matheny, “and we will continue to seek opportunities for improvement.”

Successfully completing the Department of Army final assessment results in the award of an “Army SOH Star”. Matheny has a plan moving forward in the CE-SOHMS process. She explains, “Completing stage 3 of CE-SOHMS is a big step and the success is thanks to the Middle East District leadership support and cooperation of all personnel. I can say that coming in as the new Safety Chief, we will move forward with the final stage in achieving the U.S. Army SOH Star, I have confidence that the Middle East District will be successful. One of the safety office top priorities is to build a journey proposal plan to prepare for the SOH Star award. We will be building a story that shows our continuous improvement and success safety stories from the time we completed stage 3.”



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District safety team is inspecting a construction site as part of the CE-SOHMS assessment.



New Safety Helmet: The Middle East District Leads USACE in Protecting its People

Story by Shannon Moeck, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

Known as Type 1 Safety Helmet, these newly implemented helmets have design features that contribute to the overall effectiveness and comfort of the safety helmet, ensuring that workers are adequately protected while performing their duties in challenging environments.

Middle East District Introduces the new safety helmet to the field.

(Feb. 21, 2024) The implementation of the “Tip of the Spear Safety initiatives” by the Middle East District demonstrates a responsibility to ensuring the safety of its personnel across the Middle East. The procurement and fielding of the new safety helmet, which began in December 2022, has been a significant step towards enhancing worker protection and reducing the risk of injuries in the field.

The evolution of personal protective equipment (PPE), particularly the transformation of the traditional hard hat, underscores the construction industry’s dedication to enhancing worker safety. While conventional PPE like hard hats, high visibility vests, and safety boots have been instrumental in preventing injuries, ongoing advancements in materials science, ergonomics, and technology present opportunities to further improve worker safety.



From hardhats to helmets; what’s new and why?

The 2020 statistics provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics highlight the significant risk of head injuries in the workplace, with nearly 6 percent of non-fatal occupational injuries involving days away from work attributed to head injuries. Among these injuries, encounters with objects or equipment and slips, trips, and falls are common causes.

The limitations of traditional hard hats, dating back to the 1960s, are also noted. While they provide protection to the top of a worker’s head, they often lack adequate side impact protection and chin straps. This deficiency increases the risk of head injuries, as traditional hard hats can fall off a worker’s head if they slip or trip, leaving them vulnerable to impacts.

The modernization of the traditional hard hat gives way to safety helmet upgrades. Manufacturers have leveraged new technologies to create next-generation helmets that provide enhanced protection. These helmets offer features such as improved impact resistance, extended coverage to protect the face and neck, adjustable suspension systems for a customized fit, chin straps, and compatibility with additional safety accessories like face shields.

The decision to introduce the new helmet was influenced by the firsthand experience of the Middle East District’s Deputy Commander, Lt. Col. Eder Ramirez, during the 2022 hurricane recovery operations in Puerto Rico. This experience highlighted the benefits of the new helmet design and prompted the Middle East District Safety and Logistics Team to initiate procurement activities.

Known as Type 1 Safety Helmet, these newly implemented helmets have design features that contribute to the overall effectiveness and comfort of the safety helmet, ensuring that workers are adequately protected while performing their duties in challenging environments.

Since its introduction at the the Middle East District Area and Resident Engineers Conference in Spring 2023, the new helmet has gradually been implemented by across the District’s field offices in the Middle East. The fielding initiative has been limited only by the availability of the helmet.

This ongoing the Middle East District safety initiative is now implemented USACE wide with the publication of USACE Daily Tasking Order 23-09-18 (USACE Safety Helmet Acquisition Process). This order streamlines the safety helmet acquisition process allowing the Middle East District to procure the helmets more efficiently and in larger quantities.

Lieutenant General Scott Spellmon, 55th Chief of Engineers, recently directed USACE Division Commanders to submit their implementation plan for the new safety. He praised the Middle East District for its current degree of utilization.

The Way Forward.

- * The Middle East District’s safety office continues to be proactive ensuring all field personnel have the new helmet. Currently, 70% of the field office personnel have received the new helmet.
- * 100% implementation across all operations to be finalized by end of calendar year 2024.
- * To sustain the initiative, the Middle East District has implemented a sustainability plan, which includes maintaining a 10% overage in each of the seven field offices. This strategy aims to enhance the safety culture within the organization and ensure ongoing protection for personnel in the field.
- * Creating materials on how to properly wear the new safety helmet is another crucial step in ensuring its effectiveness in protecting personnel. By developing training resources, the Middle East District safety can ensure that personnel are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to properly wear the new safety helmet, ultimately enhancing overall safety on job sites across the Middle East.

The Middle East District’s safety program reflects a dedication to prioritizing the health and well-being of its personnel, fostering a culture of safety excellence, and continuously improving safety measures and equipment to mitigate risks effectively in challenging construction environments.





New Safety Chief Inspires District to Reach for the Star in Safety Performance

Story by Shannon Moeck, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

“I have many activities planned for Safety Week in June ... All of those activities are geared towards keeping the district staff engaged in CE-SOHMS and working towards the Army Star certification,”

***Vanessa Matheny, Safety and Occupational Health Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District***

(Mar. 15, 2024) When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District achieved its stage 3 certification in the Corps Safety and Occupational Health Management System (CE-SOHMS), it was the culmination of roughly 5 years of effort.

Arriving at the district near the end of this process, Vanessa Matheny, the Middle East District’s newly appointed Safety and Occupational Health Manager was in the enviable position of being able to rest on that accomplishment. But that’s just not in her character and Matheny immediately set the district on a course to achieve another safety accolade, the Army’s Safety and Occupational Health Star Award.

The Army Star represents an Army organization’s ongoing and long-term commitment to putting safety at the forefront of its practices.

“My goal is to sustain and improve the Corps of Engineers Safety and Occupational Health Management System (CE-SOHMS) and receive the Army Star certification,” said Matheny.

Matheny’s path to the Middle East District was created much the same way a safety program is, one step at a time.

It began in childhood when she lived in South Korea as a military dependent, which gave her unique perspective on world cultures and military life.

About her childhood, Matheny shared, “As a military brat, I enjoyed traveling, learning about different cultures, and playing softball and soccer.”

Her educational journey took her to the University of Texas at San Antonio where she pursued a degree in public health with a focus on community health. Matheny’s involvement in Air Force ROTC during her university years furthered her understanding of military

etiquette and culture.

After college graduation, Matheny applied for various positions through the Department of Defense Recent Graduate’s program. Despite receiving offers in various career fields, she ultimately chose to pursue the safety internship position, recognizing its alignment with her degree. The internship program is a two-year initiative sponsored by the Department of the Army. This program provided valuable training and experience, paving the way for her full-time role as a safety and occupational health specialist.

During her internship, Matheny underwent various trainings to develop her skills and knowledge in occupational safety. She took OSHA classes at Eastern Kentucky University and a month-long training at Fort Rucker. She said, “I learned a lot about regulatory standards and best practices in workplace safety.”

The internship included working in the safety office at the Buffalo district for the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Unlike the engineering internship program that involve rotations through different divisions, Matheny’s internship remained solely within the safety program. This specialized training provided her with in-depth knowledge and experience specific to safety and occupational health.

Upon completing her training and demonstrating her proficiency in safety practices, she was hired as a full-time safety and occupational health specialist at USACE’s Buffalo district. Graduating from the internship program Matheny earned the Department of Army Safety and Occupational Health (CP-12) certificate. This certification not only recognized her successful completion of the program but also fulfilled a requirement for obtaining her a permanent position.



Matheny’s role as a safety specialist at the Buffalo district involved overseeing safety protocols within the construction and operations divisions, with a particular focus on supporting district dredging program, civil works, operation and maintenance of locks and dams. Additionally, she provided support to the environmental division, where she gained valuable experience in groundwater sampling and utilizing equipment for detecting radiation or chemical substances in the ground.

“I really enjoyed the cross disciplinary experience,” she said, “Collaborating with the environmental and health physicists’ teams allowed me to contribute to comprehensive safety measures while also gaining insights into related fields, enhancing my effectiveness as a safety specialist.”

Desiring more international military construction experience, in January 2022, she embarked on a 120-day assignment at the Middle East District as a safety specialist. This assignment provided her with exposure to different construction projects and safety protocols in the Middle East, further expanding her expertise in the field.

In late 2022, Matheny took on a new role as a safety specialist at the Japan district. This position allowed her to immerse herself in the rich culture and natural beauty of Japan. Matheny said, “I love Japan and enjoyed weekend travel experiencing the diverse landscapes and seasonal changes. Mount Fuji was a particularly stunning sight.”

Matheny also appreciated the opportunity to engage with the local culture and meet Japanese nationals, which provided her with valuable insights. Working alongside Japanese contractors, she observed their safety management systems, which made her job easier and underscored the importance of safety in the workplace.

Matheny noted, “There’s a high level of organization and dedication to safety within the Japanese construction industry.”

In December 2023, Matheny arrived at the Middle East

District. Transatlantic Division, Safety and Occupational Chief, Kevin Raposa said, “Having worked with Vanessa in the past, I knew her experience as a safety professional, working OCONUS, along with her strong work ethic, can-do attitude, and fresh ideas, made her the perfect fit for the Middle East District.”

Meeting Raposa’s expectations, she is quickly moving forward to implement her ideas and contribute to the enhancement of the safety program within the district. Looking ahead, Matheny is already planning events for National Safety Month in June.

Matheny said, “I have many activities planned for Safety Week in June. This includes, fire drills, CPR and first aid training, fire extinguisher drills, and other optional or required trainings. The safety office will also organize a health fair focusing on ergonomics, employee assistance programs, and other relevant topics for employee health and safety.”

All of those activities are geared towards keeping the district staff engaged in CE-SOHMS and working towards the Army Star certification,” said Matheny.

To achieve this objective, Matheny recognizes the importance of educating the district staff about CE-SOHMS and the requirements for Army Star certification. Matheny said, “The objective is to create a culture where safety is prioritized and ingrained into daily operations.”

Matheny’s proactive attitude and willingness to take initiative are valuable assets in fostering a culture of continuous improvement in safety and occupational health. She understands the importance of trying new approaches and learning from both successes and failures.

Matheny said, “I have a lot of ideas that I’m willing to try. If it doesn’t work, at least I know I tried and can move on to the next idea.” Matheny’s mindset of not letting fear hold her back from pursuing her ideas aligns well with the beliefs of innovation and progress.

USACE Transatlantic Division observes National Safety Month

Story by Lt. Col. Angela King-Sweigart, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division

“Our employees are working in office situations as well as at active worksites. All our employees continue to promote a culture of safety which in turn supports our mission partners.”

**Kevin Raposa, Safety and Occupational Health Chief
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division**

WINCHESTER, Va. (Jun. 26, 2024) — June is National Safety Month, and employees here are engaging in a variety of trainings designed to keep them safe on the job.

“Safety is always a focus here,” said Kevin Raposa, chief of safety and occupational health for USACE Transatlantic Division. “But this month the Transatlantic Division headquarters and the Middle East District, decided to partner and use the results from the employees completing their Position Hazard Analysis (PHA) to offer various trainings.”


The PHA, is administered to all employees in the form of Q&A and gives them a way to identify hazards associated with their jobs and learn about the controls they and their supervisors can implement to mitigate those hazards. The results provide valuable insights.

“We found out due via the results of the survey, that our workforce, needed some

additional training here, like ladder safety training,” he said. “That was great because the survey did exactly what it was intended to do.”

Employees here have already taken fire extinguisher, CPR and First Aid training, ladder safety training, supervisor safety training, training on EM385-1-1 updates (the Army Corps of Engineers safety manual) and more to be offered as the month continues.

The training ensured that the organization was continuing to implement the Corps of Engineers Safety and Occupational Health Management System (CE-SOHMS). This program is intended to enhance safety both here and on project sites across the operational footprint.

“Our workforce is diverse,” said Raposa. “Our employees are working in office situations as well as at active worksites. All our employees continue to promote a culture of safety which in turn supports our mission partners.” 



Jeffrey Slater, contracts manager and Todd Glover, general supply specialist, assigned to USACE Middle East District, Transatlantic Division, practice CPR during National Safety Month, June 3 in Winchester, Virginia. The training ensures the organization is continuing to implement the Corps of Engineers Safety and Occupational Health Management System (CE-SOHMS). This program is intended to enhance safety both here and on project sites across the operational footprint. (U.S. Army photo by Shannon Moeck)



(Above) Timothy Odell, logistics management specialist, assigned to USACE Transatlantic Division takes ladder training from Kevin Raposa, chief of safety and occupational health for USACE Transatlantic Division June 7 in Winchester, Virginia. Employees revealed through the Position Hazard Analysis that this training was needed. (U.S. Army photo by Lt. Col. Angela King-Sweigart)

(Left) David Hardisty, a project manager assigned to USACE Middle East District, Transatlantic Division, practices extinguishing a fire safely during National Safety Month, June 4 in Winchester, Virginia. The training ensures the organization is continuing to implement the Corps of Engineers Safety and Occupational Health Management System (CE-SOHMS). (U.S. Army photo by Shannon Moeck)



PEOPLE.

Our greatest strength is our PEOPLE – the intelligent, adaptable, and professional Soldiers and civilians who deliver vital public and military engineering solutions and services to our nation, allies, and partners.

At the core of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division are our people—military and civilian professionals who embody the innovative spirit of USACE. From engineers and environmental specialists to administrators and project managers, their expertise drives operational success in support of U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command. Their collective skills and dedication enable us to navigate complex missions, delivering solutions that safeguard national security and fulfill international commitments.

THE ESSENCE OF ENGINEERING: SHAPING OUR WORLD

Engineering is the art of problem-solving and innovation. It transforms scientific principles into designs that improve lives, address global challenges, and make the world safer and more sustainable. Engineers are visionaries, driving progress through solutions that range from renewable energy to advanced infrastructure, creating a better future for all.



People are our Greatest Strength



THE BACKBONE OF DEFENSE: MILITARY ENGINEERS

Military engineers are vital to national defense, designing and building the infrastructure that enables military operations. Their work includes developing transportation networks, constructing forward operating bases, and creating logistical frameworks. These engineers excel in adapting to diverse and challenging environments, ensuring readiness and operational effectiveness.

THE CORNERSTONE OF PROGRESS: DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS

Design and construction engineers transform concepts into resilient, functional infrastructure that enhances quality of life and drives economic growth. Their expertise ensures structures meet modern challenges, from urbanization to climate change, while prioritizing safety, sustainability, and innovation.

Our people are the foundation of the Transatlantic Division’s success. Their dedication and expertise not only advance USACE’s mission but also build a safer, more secure future for the CENTCOM area of responsibility and beyond.

“All of the real heroes are not storybook combat fighters either. Every single man in this Army plays a vital role. Don’t ever let up. Don’t ever think that your job is unimportant. Every man has a job to do and he must do it. Every man is a vital link in the great chain.”
- General George S. Patton, U.S. Army



Transatlantic Division
Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Arroyo

(Click the QR Code for leadership page and bios)



People Are Our Foundation

As the Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division, it's my honor and privilege to serve alongside an exceptional team of Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, and mission partners. You are the heart and soul of this organization, and it's your dedication, professionalism, and resilience that drive our success every day.

Our mission is clear: to deliver world-class engineering, construction, and contingency solutions that support our nation's security and strengthen partnerships in some of the most dynamic environments in the world. But let me remind you—no mission succeeds without people. You are the foundation of everything we do, and taking care of our people is not just my priority—it's our shared responsibility.

Leaders at every level must foster an environment where everyone feels valued and supported. That means creating opportunities for growth, recognizing hard work, and ensuring the well-being of our team members. But taking care of people isn't only the leader's responsibility—it's something we all contribute to, day in and day out. Looking out for your teammates, lending a hand when needed, and building trust within your teams—these are the actions that set this division apart.

The Army Values—loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage—serve as our guiding principles. These values are not exclusive to Soldiers; they are lived out by every individual in this organization, no matter your role. Together, we bring these values to life, strengthening not only our mission but also our relationships with one another.

I challenge each of you to prioritize teamwork and self-care. Recognize your role in making this organization strong and ensure your actions reflect the respect and commitment we owe to one another. When we take care of our people, we build an organization that is unstoppable.

Thank you for all that you do to make the Transatlantic Division a team of excellence. It is a privilege to serve alongside you.

Together, we are BUILDING STRONG every day.



Transatlantic Expeditionary District
Sergeant Major Alan E. Thomas, Jr.

(Click the QR Code for leadership page and bios)

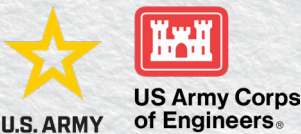


As the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Transatlantic Expeditionary District, I am reminded daily of the remarkable dedication, resilience, and professionalism displayed by our team. It is our people—our Soldiers, DoD Civilians, contractors, and mission partners—who truly define the success of our district and embody the Army Values that guide us.

Each of you plays a critical role in achieving our mission of safely delivering innovative engineering and construction solutions across the CENTCOM area of responsibility. Whether it's working long hours to meet a project deadline, overcoming challenges in austere environments, or mentoring the next generation of leaders, your contributions matter. Your hard work not only supports the district but strengthens our partnerships and enhances our nation's security.

I encourage each of you to prioritize teamwork, professionalism, and integrity as we move forward. These values build trust and empower us to overcome obstacles together. Remember, our collective success relies on the individual contributions of every member of this district. Protect your physical and mental well-being, give your best effort every day, and support your teammates in doing the same.

Together, we will continue to demonstrate that the strength of our organization lies in its people. I am deeply proud to serve alongside you, and I look forward to the accomplishments we will achieve as a united team. The PEOPLE are the program!



Alan Thomas, Jr.
Sergeant Major, U.S. Army
Senior Enlisted Advisor



On Solid Ground: Army Values are the Foundation of USACE Transatlantic Division’s Mission

Story by Catherine Carroll, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division

“Army values aren’t just a poster on the wall; they are the compass that directs every action of our Soldiers and civilian personnel within the Army Corps of Engineers. These values guide us, keeping us true to our mission and our commitment to the nation.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton D. Morehouse
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division

WINCHESTER, Va. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division stands as the Army Corps of Engineers’ tip of the spear in the global engineering, design, and construction landscape, uniquely positioned within the vast U.S. Army framework. Serving as an essential cornerstone in strengthening partnerships, building capacity, and enhancing security throughout the U.S. Central Command’s area of responsibility, the Division delivers agile, responsive, and innovative solutions for our nation, allies, and partners.

With a history of more than 70 years in the region, the Transatlantic Division oversees more than \$5 billion in projects including military construction programs, force protection innovations, and security cooperation initiatives, strengthening Army readiness, enhancing vital infrastructure, and deepening global partnerships. Each action reinforces the Army’s unwavering commitment to its service members and global partners.

Within this multifaceted mission, the Transatlantic Division’s workforce, comprising dedicated soldiers and Department of the Army civilians, stands as a testament to the Army values. Whether on the home front or in dynamic overseas environments, these individuals consistently demonstrate Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. Their unwavering commitment to these core principles not only drives the success of the Division but also embodies the very essence of what it means to be part of the U.S. Army family.

Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton D. Morehouse, the Transatlantic Division’s senior enlisted advisor, sheds light on the significance of these values in the day-to-day operations of the division.

“Army values aren’t just a poster on the wall; they are the compass that directs every action of our Soldiers and civilian personnel within the Army Corps of Engineers,” said Morehouse. “These values guide us, keeping us true to our mission and our commitment to the nation.”

Morehouse takes pride in the Transatlantic Division’s steadfast commitment to the Army values, ensuring they serve as the bedrock of day-to-day operations. He asserts, “In every aspect of our work, our decisions echo the depth and integrity of our Army values. They stand as living principles, shaping our actions and ensuring we consistently meet the highest standards of service and dedication.”

While each Army value is integral to the Division’s success, Morehouse places particular emphasis on the role of ‘Integrity’. He elaborates, “Integrity is more than just doing the right thing; it’s about being consistently transparent, honest, and building a reputation for trustworthiness. This foundational value directly impacts the successful outcome of our projects and has earned us the unwavering trust of our partners.”

Reflecting on the blend of military and civilian personnel within the Transatlantic Division, Morehouse is especially struck by the demonstration of ‘Selfless Service’.

“The essence of ‘Selfless Service’ shines brightly among



U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton D. Morehouse, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division senior enlisted leader, performs the maximum deadlift event during the Army Combat Fitness Test at Millbrook Highschool, Winchester, Va., June 14.

our civilian ranks,” Morehouse stated. “To ensure this ethos remains at the forefront, we invest in continuous training and mentorship. It’s imperative to instill these values, and it starts by leading through example, showcasing commitment at every echelon of our organization.”

Observing Morehouse in the field, it becomes evident that the Transatlantic Division’s values are not just administrative mandates, but living principles that guide the division’s every move. At the heart of his leadership style, the core principles of ‘Duty’ and ‘Respect’ consistently emerge.

“Our team is entrusted with significant missions, with critical programs and projects,” Morehouse exclaims, “and fulfilling those with respect for our partners and allies - and with each other – is paramount.”

His emphasis on relationship-building within the CENTCOM AOR is apparent not just in his words, but also in his interactions. Morehouse often navigates complex discussions with an unwavering commitment to ‘Loyalty’ and ‘Respect’.

“Our values fortify our bonds with our partners and allies in the CENTCOM AOR,” he states confidently. “By staying true to these values, we establish relationships based on mutual trust and understanding.”

In the Transatlantic Division’s rich mosaic of talent, many of its dedicated civilian workforce professionals are retired veterans, hailing from every branch of the military. These seasoned professionals not only bring with them the expertise of the Army, but also the distinctive strengths of the Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard. Regardless of their prior affiliations, the fact that they can all converge under the Army’s

The Army Values are a set of principles and standards that guide the behavior of all members of the U.S. Army, whether they are active-duty Soldiers, reserve component, or civilian affiliates.

These values are:

- Loyalty**
- Duty**
- Respect**
- Selfless Service**
- Honor**
- Integrity**
- Personal Courage**

values is a testament to the universal ethos of military service. This shared foundation of duty, respect, loyalty, and integrity forms the cornerstone of the Division’s operations.

As Morehouse succinctly stated, “While their prior uniforms may differ, their commitment to honor, courage, and the shared values that define us as military professionals remains unwavering. It’s this foundation that brings us together, stronger as one.”

No matter the strength and unity of a team, challenges are an inevitable part of any mission. It’s the manner in which these challenges are addressed that defines the true mettle of an organization.


When challenges arise, Morehouse doesn’t shy away. Instead, he turns to the foundational values that have long steered the organization. “Open dialogue, training, and leading by example,” he asserts, “are our tools to bridge any gaps.”

Drawing from this profound unity and deeply ingrained shared values, Morehouse states, “It’s our collective commitment to collaboration that sets us apart. Mutual

respect, understanding, and open communication are the driving forces behind our division’s successes.”

Observing him mentor young leaders is a lesson in leadership itself. Morehouse’s approach is direct: “Live the values, don’t just recite them.” He envisions a strong future for the Transatlantic Division, noting, “I see the role of our Army Values as not just the ground we each stand on, they are the solid foundation we build upon together. As the Army Corps of Engineers evolves, these values will guide us through every challenge and opportunity.”

As Morehouse reflects on the journey of the Transatlantic Division and its accomplishments, his words resonate profoundly. “Our commitment to the Army isn’t just a duty, it’s an honor. It represents the best of who we are and reminds us of the legacy we’re part of. Stand tall and proud on this foundation.”

His statement serves as both a testament to the Division dedication and a rallying cry for future endeavors, reminding all of the deep-rooted values that drives USACE to ‘Be All It Can Be!’ 



U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton D. Morehouse, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division senior enlisted advisor, rides in a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter after an inspection of Transatlantic Expeditionary District projects in Baghdad, Iraq Sept. 20. (U.S. Army photo by Rick Rzepka, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Expeditionary District public affairs office)



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On Solid Ground: Army Values are the Foundation
of USACE Transatlantic Division's Mission

LOYALTY

DUTY

RESPECT

SELFLESS SERVICE

HONOR

INTEGRITY

PERSONAL COURAGE

#ARMYVALUES

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TRANSATLANTIC DIVISION

BUILDING STRONG.

“The U.S Army values aren’t just a poster on the wall; they are the compass that directs every action of our Soldiers and civilian personnel within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These values guide us, keeping us true to our mission and our commitment to the nation.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton D. Morehouse
USACE Transatlantic Division senior enlisted advisor



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

BUILDING STRONG. ON SOLID GROUND.

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USACE Transatlantic Division employee embarks on Army Coaching Program

Story by Lt. Col. Angela King-Sweigart, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division

“I am finding the program eye-opening,” she said. “You find yourself using the skills more often in the workplace ... This was a way to give back and share my experiences.”

*Zenovia D. Wilcox, Senior Program Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division*

WINCHESTER, Va. (Mar. 29, 2024) – A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division employee is undertaking an intense talent management program in order to help fellow employees in their careers; the first employee in the organization to do so. Zenovia D. Wilcox, a senior program manager and USACE civilian applied for and was accepted into the program earlier this year. The Army Coaching Program is a non-attributional, Soldier-focused, confidential, and career-long program which focuses on a Soldier’s self-development and professional goals as well as their performance and potential.

Her interest in applying for the Army Coaching Program was based on her experience serving as a registered architect at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters, where she had the opportunity to provide mentorship and guidance for other architects within the Architecture Community of Practice.

She is about halfway through and says she’s learning and acquiring new skills with the program.

“I am finding the program eye-opening,” she said. “You find yourself using the skills more often in the workplace. For instance as a coach

I am now implementing listening to others and using the program’s House of Leadership concept to find solutions that best fit them.”

While it may seem similar to a mentorship program, coaching is more about facilitating a leader’s insight. Coaching is guided self-development, according to Wilcox.

Wilcox is looking forward to her graduation and the ability to coach others. “This was a way to give back and share my experiences,” she said.

The Army Coaching Program began in 2019. If accepted, the attendees must complete 16-weeks of training as well as be available to coach 100 hours in the first two years after certification.

For details on the Army Coaching Program, click the QR code to the right.



For details on how to request a coach, click the QR code to the left.





Reflections on Veterans Day by the US Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division

Story by Major Jamia Odom, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division

“I tie my connection to Veteran’s Day to my father and grandfather, both World War 2 veterans. My grandfather was an Army Engineer and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross during WW2 while with the 114th Engineering Battalion. This inspired several others in my family to serve in the military, including my brother and me who both served in the Air Force.”

***Joseph Macri, District Public Affairs Chief
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District***

WINCHESTER, Va. (Nov. 9, 2023) - Every year on November 11th, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division joins our nation in observing Veterans Day, a federal holiday dedicated to honoring the selfless men and women who have served in our armed forces, serving our country during both times of peace and war. The origins of Veterans Day, originally called Armistice Day, can be traced back to the conclusion of World War I when the guns fell silent at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

Veterans Day is a solemn occasion marked by gratitude, respect, and remembrance. It is a day for reflecting on the sacrifices made by our service members, past and present, and acknowledging the profound impact they have had on our nation and the world. The Transatlantic Division took a moment this year to share their thoughts on this observance and the veterans that have impacted their lives.

Major Johnathon W. Drew, Transatlantic Division strategic initiatives officer, shared his thoughts on Veterans Day. “Veterans Day gives me the opportunity to reflect on all those who have served before me, such as Herman Zeitchik, whom I had the good fortune to meet in 2019. Drew stated. “Zeitchik stormed Utah Beach at H-Hour on D-Day with the Army’s 4th Infantry Division. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge, helped liberate

Paris, and helped liberate Dachau. He passed away in 2021, but the contributions of individuals like him should never fade from memory.”

Joseph Macri, USACE Middle East District public affairs chief, shared his personal connection to Veterans Day, rooted in his family’s history of service.

“I tie my connection to Veteran’s Day to my father and grandfather, both World War 2 veterans. My grandfather was an Army Engineer and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross during WW2 while with the 114th Engineering Battalion. This inspired several others in my family to serve in the military, including my brother and me who both served in the Air Force.”

Veterans hail from diverse backgrounds, representing a multitude of experiences and stories, reflecting the rich tapestry of America in terms of ethnicity, culture, and all walks of life. Lieutenant Colonel Robert Leonard, Transatlantic Division Plans and Operations office deputy, emphasized the value of diversity.

“A diverse workforce brings together individuals with varied backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives, Leonard said. “Diversity of thought can lead to more innovative solutions to complex problems.”

Throughout history, American service members have been deployed to far-flung corners of the world, often enduring hazardous conditions, harsh environments,

separation from their loved ones, and the constant threat of danger. Leonard also highlighted how veterans enrich our organizations.

“Veterans possess a unique set of skills and perspectives, including leadership and teamwork, adaptability, discipline and work ethic, problem-solving skills, technical expertise, resilience, and a global perspective.” Leonard continued. “Their legacy of sacrifice reminds us that the cost of liberty is never free and that our nation’s strength is built upon the shoulders of these heroic individuals.”

More than a day off, Veterans Day provides an opportunity for us to pause and reflect on the immense debt of gratitude we owe to those who have served our country. It is a day to recognize the selflessness and courage of our veterans and to express our appreciation for their sacrifices, their service, and their unwavering commitment to the values that make our nation great.

Margaret A. Jones, Transatlantic Division business Integration program manager, shared her perspective

deploying with the military on her first deployment in 2004.

“My first deployment to Iraq in 2004 was the first “real” opportunity to work alongside my military brethren. It was truly an eye-opening experience. I came to understand the significance and the pride that should be displayed when donning the military uniform. Most American citizens truly have no idea the sacrifices that our soldiers and their families make to ensure our freedoms.”

As we commemorate Veterans Day, it is essential to remember that its significance goes beyond mere words of gratitude. It is a time to honor the bravery, dedication, and sacrifice of our service members who have upheld the values and freedoms we hold dear. Let us ensure that every day, not just on November 11th, we show our unwavering support and appreciation for those who have served and continue to serve, for they are the true heroes of our nation.





Framing Our Progress:

This photo collection highlights Expeditionary District team members participating in the Area Support Group Kuwait's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation 5K Run/Walk events, held twice a month at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Captured by district employees, these images showcase the team's commitment to health, wellness, and camaraderie while supporting MWR initiatives that enhance quality of life in the deployed environment.

Click QR Code for full photo album:





ROTC Cadet Temin Sohn’s Summer Experience at the USACE Field Office in Jordan

Story by Shannon Moeck, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

“I’m looking forward to getting hands-on experience with meetings at construction sites and understanding the U.S. interaction with countries in the Middle East.”

*Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadet Temin Sohn
University of Southern California Chemistry Student*

(Sept. 20, 2024) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Middle East District recently welcomed Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Cadet Temin Sohn, a chemistry student from the University of Southern California, as part of its cadet summer training program. The program introduces future Army officers to the various career fields they may eventually lead. TAM operates across nine countries in the Middle East, undertaking projects for both the U.S. military and allied nation partners. Each summer, the district hosts one to four cadets at its headquarters in Winchester, Virginia, before sending them to one of its field offices to visit construction sites and experience local cultures.

This summer, Sohn had the opportunity to spend his training period at the Middle East District’s field office in Jordan. Sohn, who aspires to become a pediatrician, saw this as a unique chance to gain hands-on experience in an international setting.

“When would I ever go to Jordan? I was very curious about the Middle East, and that is why I wanted this opportunity,” he said before departing. “I’m looking forward to getting hands-on experience with meetings at construction sites and understanding the U.S. interaction with countries in the Middle East. I am also excited to explore cultural sites.”

Reflecting on his time in Jordan, Sohn described his experience as both challenging and enlightening.

“I was privileged to get to experience the struggles and austerities in a deployed environment,” Sohn said. “It was full of new experiences, being on a base in a foreign country.”

Meeting Capt. Andrew Pitsenberger and Maj. David Newman from USACE was a pivotal moment for Sohn.

“I’m grateful to be able to meet Capt. Pitsenberger and Maj. Newman from USACE and get to hear about their

unique OCONUS experiences serving on active duty,” he said. “They gave me a lot of advice from things they’ve realized from their past experiences. One of the things they said that resonated with me was to seize all the opportunities that the Army provides you with.”

Capt. Pitsenberger also reflected on Sohn’s time at the Resident Office: “I feel like Cadet Sohn’s time with the Jordan Resident Office was a great opportunity for him and the office. I know that not many cadets get to see what all USACE can do before they join, and this was a great opportunity to see how USACE construction differs from regular Army construction. The office was able to benefit by showing off all the hard work they do to a future leader in the Army and hopefully eventually USACE. He also had a wonderful opportunity to see what conventional Army units do in Jordan and compare that to his experiences with USACE and ROTC.”

Throughout his stay, Sohn shadowed Capt. Pitsenberger, Celena Phelps, a construction quality control representative, and Essam Bastawros, a project engineer, observing their quality control and assurance roles. This allowed him to see firsthand how they ensured that civilian contractors upheld the standards agreed upon in their contracts.

“I got to see them doing their QC and QA roles, ensuring that the civilian constructors were upholding the standards they had agreed to in their contracts,” Sohn said. “I was also fortunate enough to see the work of a platoon from an Army Engineer Corps Reserve unit pouring concrete for a road project.”

Sohn was impressed by his interactions with 1st Lt. Brian Walsh and Capt. Hermann, who shared their deployment experiences.

“Lt. Walsh inspired me with his perspective on his outcomes,” Sohn said. “To provide some context, his

reserve unit has been deployed for about two years now, and while that can seem like a negative thing, his positive perspective influenced me. He told me all about his experiences as a lieutenant, the importance of working closely with non-commissioned officers, and overall, told me it’s going to be a lot of fun—I’m really looking forward to it.”

A special highlight for Sohn was meeting Dr. Vargas, an allopathic physician and lieutenant colonel, thanks to an introduction from Capt. Pitsenberger during a health checkup at the JTC base.

“LTC Vargas shared her reasons for becoming a doctor in the Army, and her expert opinion on the factors to consider when choosing between allopathic and osteopathic schools,” Sohn said. “Her insights were incredibly valuable.”

Sohn identified two key inspirations from his time in Jordan: the positive mindset of the Army officers he encountered and their willingness to help him gain diverse experiences.

“The perspective that the Army officers I’ve met were positive. You can look at things negatively and stay negative or look at them positively and continue to grow,” he reflected. “Another thing that inspired me was everyone’s willingness to help me gain all the experiences I could. It really inspired me to do the same whenever someone comes up to me for help.”

Beyond his professional growth, Sohn enjoyed casual moments such as playing basketball with an Air Force Tech. Sgt. This chance meeting provided him with information to help navigate future decisions.

“We played one-on-one, and after I told him I’m a cadet, we sat down and talked about his experiences

in the Air Force,” Sohn said. “He even gave me an interesting website to look into when I mentioned I was trying to become a doctor.”

One of the highlights of the trip was the unique opportunity to travel to Petra, a famous archaeological site in Jordan’s southwestern desert, with Capt. Pitsenberger and Maj. Newman.

“Walking through the Siq, past the Treasury, and up to the Monastery is something I’ll never forget,” Sohn said. “To imagine that these structures were carved from rocks two thousand years ago—Petra is a mind-blowing experience.”

Observing active construction projects provided Sohn with a practical understanding of the work involved, enhancing his appreciation for both the planning and execution phases of engineering projects. “I went at a time when all the construction was active and past the planning phase, so it was fascinating to see the work being done.”

When asked if he would recommend the program to others, Sohn didn’t hesitate. “I would recommend this program,” he said. “Like many others, I was hesitant at first. I was very unsure about going to the Middle East given everything going on right now, but I was reassured that my safety was a priority. Once I arrived, I felt very safe, and the experiences I had there are ones you can’t really get anywhere else. You’re in a deployed environment, you see the challenges and austerities, but you also get to witness how the people there maintain such a positive outlook. It’s incredibly inspiring, and their positivity really rubs off on you. This program offers a unique and invaluable experience that I believe everyone should take advantage of.”



ROTC Cadet Temin Sohn and Norberto “Tito” Santana examine a detailed map of the Middle East, discussing ongoing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) projects in the region.

LEAD. COMMUNICATE. ACCOMPLISH.

“The art of communication is the language of leadership.”

- James Humes, a speechwriter for five U.S. Presidents

In an ever-evolving world of engineering, global collaborations, and multifaceted missions, the Transatlantic Division champions the ethos of leading effectively, communicating transparently, and accomplishing goals. This section of STRONGHOLD encapsulates the essence of these three tenets, showcasing the human element that stands at the heart of our operations and underlines our dedication to key organizational topics.

LEAD: Leadership is paramount. It isn't just about being at the forefront, but also about inspiring and guiding our Soldiers and civilians to face challenges head-on. As we spotlight change of commands, leaders, and the individuals who make crucial decisions daily, it becomes evident that leadership shapes our narrative and reinforces our objectives, including a strong emphasis on the importance of SAFETY.

COMMUNICATE: Effective communication fosters understanding and unity. It's the lifeline of our operations, bridging potential divides and keeping everyone informed. This segment highlights events, collaborations, and the critical role of communication in promoting key initiatives like SHARP (Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention) and EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity).



Inspiring Actions, Driving Tangible Results



Join our Mission ...


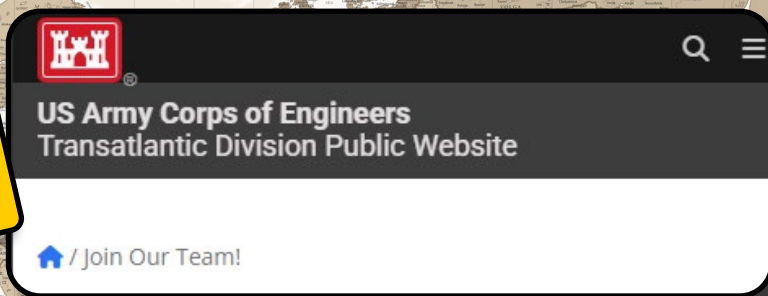

ACCOMPLISH: Every achievement, big or small, is a testament to our commitment and capability. Recognizing awards, celebrating milestones, and sharing stories of perseverance and success showcases our relentless drive to fulfill our mission in varied and often challenging terrains.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES: For those inspired by our mission and eager to be part of our dynamic team, we offer a diverse range of career opportunities spanning multiple disciplines.

SMALL BUSINESS COLLABORATION: We recognize the value small businesses bring in terms of agility, innovation, and local expertise. As a prospective contractor, small businesses will find numerous avenues for collaboration, furthering our shared objectives.

Your partnership and contributions can significantly amplify our mission's impact. We invite you to explore these opportunities and consider becoming part of our collective journey towards excellence.

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USACE Division Commander Promoted to Brigadier General

Story by Lt. Col. Angela King-Sweigart, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division

“For me personally it’s about the Soldiers, the NCOs, the officers, the DA and DoD Civilians that invested in me over the past 26 years. I’m honored.”

*Brigadier General William C. Hannan, Jr., Former Division Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division*

WINCHESTER, Va. (Jan. 20, 2024) - Col. William C. Hannan, Jr., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division commander, was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General during a ceremony here Jan. 16.

Lt. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon, 55th Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, presided over the ceremony.

“It’s truly an honor to recognize and advance our best engineer officers,” said Spellmon. “Colonel and soon-to-be-general Bill Hannan is certainly one of these.”

Hannan thanked family members for their support. His wife Col. Sally Hannan, their children, and his father Bill, Sr. were in attendance along with numerous colleagues and family members attending virtually.

Hannan also acknowledged those he served with during his career that helped develop him as a leader.


“For me personally it’s about the Soldiers, the NCOs, the officers, the DA and DoD Civilians that invested in me over the past 26 years. I’m honored,” he said. “I’ve just been amazed over and over again, and Sally and I have been so privileged to serve with so many great folks both in our engineer regiment and our Army.”

Hannan is looking forward to continuing his command and serving with the Soldiers and Civilians of the USACE Transatlantic Division.

“What a great place to serve as a leader at this level,” he said. “It’s really the people here at the

Transatlantic Division that enable our mission... providing innovative solutions to our nation, allies and partners.”

Hannan has more than 26 years of military service in a variety of command and staff assignments. He assumed command of USACE Transatlantic Division on July 26, 2022, after his most recent post of Chief of the Office of Security Cooperation –Iraq (OSC-I). He is a graduate of The Ohio State University and a native of Ohio.

The Transatlantic Division provides engineering solutions for our mission partner’s toughest full spectrum challenges in one of the most complex construction environments in the world that includes 21 nations stretching from Northeast Africa across the Middle East to Central and South Asia. The organization has oversight of well over \$5 billion in projects throughout the U.S. Central Command’s area of responsibility, as well as dedicated support to the U.S. Special Operations Command. 

(Right Top) Newly promoted U.S. Army Brig. Gen. William C. Hannan, Jr., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division commanding general, stands while family members pin on brigadier general rank during his promotion ceremony in Winchester, Va., Jan. 16. (U.S. Army Photo by Maj. Jamia M. Odom, USACE Transatlantic Division public affairs office)

(Right Bottom) U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon, 55th Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, administers the Oath of Office to U.S. Army Col. William C. Hannan, Jr., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division commander, during Hannan’s promotion ceremony to Brigadier General, Jan. 16, in Winchester, Virginia. (U.S. Army Photo by Maj. Jamia Odom, USACE Transatlantic Division public affairs office)



Click the QR Code to view the Promotion Ceremony Program:



USACE Division Welcomes New Commander: Colonel Craig S. Baumgartner

Story by Catherine Carroll, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division

Baumgartner assumed duties as Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division, June 21. Although, he has been a crucial part of the division since August 2021, serving as the deputy commander. In this role, Baumgartner demonstrated exceptional leadership, dedication, and a deep understanding of the Division mission, making him the ideal choice to lead the command into the future.

WINCHESTER, Va. (Jun. 21, 2024) – The United States Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division proudly announces a change in leadership as Brigadier General William C. Hannan, Jr. officially hands over command to Colonel Craig S. Baumgartner. Baumgartner assumed duties as Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division, June 21. Although, he has been a crucial part of the division since August 2021, serving as the deputy commander. In this role, Baumgartner demonstrated exceptional leadership, dedication, and a deep understanding of the Transatlantic Division mission, making him the ideal choice to lead the command into the future. With a career spanning over three decades, Colonel Baumgartner has held numerous key positions that highlight his expertise and commitment to military engineering. His previous roles include serving as a Chief of

Staff, HQDA G-3/5/7, and Combined Joint-Engineer Branch Head at the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A). He also led the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District as Commander and District Engineer, demonstrating his ability to manage complex engineering projects and operations. Colonel Baumgartner’s extensive experience includes deployments and assignments in some of the most challenging environments. He has served as Command Engineer of United States Army Cyber and Second Army at Fort Meade, Maryland, and held leadership roles during combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. His strategic vision and operational expertise have been instrumental in enhancing security and building capacity for our nation and allies. A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, Colonel Baumgartner holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Engineering Management. He furthered his education with

a Master’s Degree in Engineering Management from the University of Missouri Science and Technology and a Master’s Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College. His extensive military education and numerous awards, including the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star Medals, reflect his dedication to excellence and service. Outgoing Commanding General, Brigadier General William C. Hannan, Jr., led the Transatlantic Division with exceptional dedication and vision for the past two years. His tenure has been marked by significant achievements and steadfast leadership. We extend our deepest gratitude for his service and wish him the very best as he transitions to his

next assignment as Commander of the USACE Northwestern Division. Under Baumgartner’s leadership, the Transatlantic Division and its districts will continue to serve as USACE’s tip of the spear in one of the most dynamic construction environments in the world, strengthening partnerships, building capacity, and enhancing security for our nation, allies, and partners. The division will continue to safely deliver agile, responsive, and innovative design, construction, engineering, and contingency solutions in support of U.S. Central Command, U.S. Special Operations Command, and other global partners to advance national security interests.

Click the QR Code to view the Change of Command Ceremony Program:



U.S. Army Colonel Craig S. Baumgartner, new U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division commander (center left), passes the Division colors to Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton D. Morehouse, Transatlantic Division senior enlisted advisor (center right), symbolizing the official transfer of command from Brig. Gen. William C. Hannan, Jr. (right), during the Change of Command Ceremony at the Division headquarters in Winchester, Va., June 21, 2024. Major Gen. William H. Graham, USACE Deputy Chief of Engineers and Deputy Commanding General (left) hosted the ceremony. (Photo courtesy of Shannon Hodges, Transatlantic Middle East District visual information)



USACE Expeditionary District welcomes new leadership

Story by Lt. Col. Angela King-Sweigart, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division

“It is a great honor and responsibility we all have to represent the castle. We recruit the best to come here and do great things.”

***Col. Mohammed Z. Rahman, Former District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Expeditionary District***

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait (Jun. 29, 2024) -- The “Always Forward” U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Expeditionary District conducted a combined change of command ceremony welcoming new leadership to the only forward-deployed district serving in the Central Command area of responsibility.

Col. Mohammed Z. Rahman relinquished command of the district to Lt. Col. Eder C. Ramirez and Sgt. Maj. David C. Kluba passed the colors to Sgt. Maj. Alan E. Thomas in a ceremony officiated by Transatlantic Division Commanding General Brig. Gen. William C. Hannan, Jr. at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, June 16. District staff and local leadership attended in person along with a virtual presence online from division, family, and friends.

Serving at the “tip of the spear”, the Expeditionary District provides innovative, theater-wide engineering solutions and expertise in support of U.S., Coalition and Host Nation partners.

During his remarks, Hannan extended his appreciation to the outgoing command team for their work strengthening partnerships and highlighted the accomplishments under their leadership.

“Col. Rahman’s efforts to stand up the Middle East Engineer Network, assisted in building an engineer team that worked together solving problems and delivering projects. These partnerships greatly enabled mission success and ultimately improved regional security,” said Hannan.

Hannan said Rahman and Kluba led the district to mission success across all areas, supporting more than 300 projects totaling over \$1.2 billion including logistics, energy and security projects, building barracks and other facilities in direct support of CENTCOM mission objectives.

Rahman expressed gratitude to the organization,

division leadership and partners for their support. “Thank you for putting your trust in me,” he said. “After a successful year in command, this is my time to handover the guidon.”

He thanked team members by name for contributing to the success of the district over the past year and for volunteering to deploy.

“The civilian and military workforce is the bedrock of this organization; I value you the most,” he added. “Your cooperation and teamwork were the reasons for successful completion of so many construction projects in Kuwait, and across the U.S. Central Command’s area of responsibility.”

Rahman, an Army Reservist, also expressed gratitude to his family, who watched the ceremony virtually from their home in Illinois.

“They are the center of gravity of my life,” he said. “I couldn’t do what I do in uniform without the support of my family, my colleagues at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the American people.”

The incoming commander previously served as the deputy commander for the USACE Middle East District and is looking forward to continuing to build on all USACE represents in the CENTCOM theater.

“It is a great honor and responsibility we all have to represent the castle,” said Ramirez, referencing the red Corps castle insignia, a symbol of engineering excellence and service to the nation. “We recruit the best to come here and do great things.”

The ceremony marks the fifth change of command for the Expeditionary District since it was established in 2021 from the merger of the Transatlantic Afghanistan District and Task Force Essayons. The district remains the only USACE forward deployed district in support of contingency operations – postured to continue to adapt with the changing environment.



(Top) Lt. Col. Eder C. Ramirez shares a few words after taking command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Expeditionary District during a combined change of command ceremony June 16, 2024 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The ceremony officially marked the transfer of authority from Col. Mohammed Z. Rahman to Ramirez and Sgt. Maj. David J. Kluba to Sgt. Maj. Alan E. Thomas.

(Above) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Expeditionary District’s outgoing command team, Sgt. Maj. David J. Kluba, senior enlisted advisor (left) and Col. Mohammed Z. Rahman (right) passes the unit colors relinquishing command and responsibility during a combined change of command ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait June 16, 2024.

(Left) Brig. Gen. William C. Hannan, Jr., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Transatlantic Division Commanding General, passes the unit colors to the new Expeditionary District commander Lt. Col. Eder C. Ramirez during a combined change of command ceremony June 16, 2024, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

USACE Middle East District Recognized for Student Outreach

Story by Shannon Moeck, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

“For a number of years now, the Army Corps of Engineers has offered an exceptional opportunity. The experience is so thought out and well rounded, the way this is developed is what we’d like to project-based learning to look like and something we’d like to see duplicated.”

*Katie Lockhart
Winchester Public Schools Career and Technical Education Coordinator*

(May 2, 2024) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District was recently named to the Virginia School Boards Association Honor Roll in recognition of its high school internship program. The program assigns students with an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) subjects to district mentors in those career fields and allows them to work on a collaboratively designed project through the course of a high school semester. During a presentation of the award at a recent school board meeting, representatives from Winchester City Schools, one of the school districts the Middle East District works with, praised the program as a model worth emulating. “For a number of years now, the Army Corps of Engineers has offered an exceptional opportunity. The experience is so thought out and well rounded, the way this is developed is what we’d like to project-based learning to look like and something we’d like to see duplicated,” said Katie Lockhart, Winchester Public Schools Career and Technical Education Coordinator. The program started several years ago with individual family or student requests to shadow engineers but over time involved into a formal

program where students receive academic credit for their work. Mary Billings, a supervisory engineer with the Middle East District said it’s that formal process that makes the program so successful. “No longer is this just something where a person may have a family friend who works here and asks if their son or daughter can shadow one of our outstanding STEM professionals,” she said. “We work with the local school districts to advertise the program, and students go through a formal application process to compete for an internship. Each year I am so impressed with the high achieving students that apply with an interest in engineering or architecture.” Garrison Myer, a Middle East District intern program manager, said one of the other improvements the program has made is having the students, who come from different school districts, work together. “In the past each student would choose an individual project. We now have them work together as a project development team to design one thing. That replicates the workplace more and allows them to learn how each person contributes to a team,” he said.

Most of the students go on to major in those subjects in college and some have returned to the district during the summer as paid interns. The goal of the program is to remain connected with the students throughout their educational process so the Middle East District is their number one choice for employment after college graduation. Lockhart said that was another reason she viewed the program as such a model for success. “This is the ideal way for high school students to see that making these early connections as they are learning can create a career opportunity on the horizon,” she said.

The Middle East District’s commander, Col. Philip Secrist, said he considers his district’s participation in STEM activities an important part of USACE’s overall mission. “From elementary school through college, developing and maintaining an interest in a STEM field, particularly in public service is critical to our nation. The time and effort we put into developing these students now is definitely something our society will get back. I really appreciate the great partnerships we have with the local school districts and we’re grateful for the recognition.”



(Above) Clarke County High School Students Melody and Zachary Moore try on virtual reality glasses during a visit to Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA. The visit was part of their internship with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District high school internship program. The program was recently recognized by Winchester Public Schools and the Virginia School Boards Association when the district was named to the VSBA Honor Roll.

(Right) Katie Lockhart, Winchester Public Schools Career and Technical Education Coordinator, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District architect Sarah Field-Jablecki, the Middle East District Engineer Mary Billings and Sara Weinstein, Winchester Public Schools work-based learning coach, during a ceremony in which the Middle East District was inducted into the Virginia School Boards Honor Roll.





Middle East District Employee Spotlight Featuring Peter Smith

Story by Shannon Moeck, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

“This experience gave me the opportunity to grow my leadership skills. I enjoy challenging my team to figure out the why of what we do. I encouraged my team to be curious and ask questions to determine if that is the best way to move a contract forward. It’s been a highlight to help empower and build the contracting team.”

***Peter Smith, District Contracting Officer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District***

(Jan. 12, 2024) Peter Smith, a contracting officer for the U.S Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District in Winchester, Va., said one of the things he learned early in life was to always be open to the next opportunity. It’s that philosophy that led him to his current job and that he followed when offered a yearlong assignment in with Kuwait.

Born in Russia, he and his older sister were adopted by a couple in Fairfax, Va. Growing up he was active in sports playing football, baseball, basketball, and wrestling. That passion led him to West Virginia University’s (WVU) coaching and performing science degree program. The program however, was not what he expected as it focused more on biology, anatomy, and nutrition than coaching. In time, he decided this program was not the right path for him.

Smith decided to leave WVU and attend George Mason University (GMU) to study business management with a focus on entrepreneurship. While attending school, he started his own mobile detail business. He learned how to manage a business and workforce. Prior to graduation, he sold the business and had to figure out what his next professional steps were.

Coming from a family who work in federal and local government, they encouraged him to look at USAJobs, the federal hiring website, for positions.

Smith said, “I knew I did not want a desk job, but I wanted a stable job.” He actively applied to multiple listings. A job offer came from Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey. He decided to drive up to N.J. to get a feel for the area. On his way, he received a temporary job offer from TAM as a contract specialist. Smith said, “I had no idea what the Middle East District did, or even what a contract specialist does, but the opportunity to stay close to home made this an easy decision. I turned back from N.J. and accepted the offer from the Middle East District.”

Smith began his career at the Middle East District in an internship that is now called the Army Fellows program. According to the U.S. Army Center of Military History website, “This program is designed to attract, recruit, and hire top civilian talent. The 2-year fellowship is developmental in nature and blends progressive and sequential work assignments, formal training, and self-development as individuals’ progress from entry-level positions to more advanced key positions within the workforce.”

Smith said, “I appreciated the program because I rotated through the different departments and learned about whatthe Middle East District does. I also gained multiple people’s perspectives on the mission and the work.”

Smith’s decision to join the Middle East District paid off and he recently took on an acting section chief role.

“This experience gave me the opportunity to grow my leadership skills. I enjoy challenging my team to figure out the why of what we do. Instead of just being told to do something one way, I encouraged my team to be curious and ask questions to determine if that is the best way to move a contract forward. It’s been a highlight to help empower and build the contracting team,” he said.

That role also helped prepare Smith for his next opportunity when he applied for a 12-month temporary assignment as a Contract Specialist for the Transatlantic Expeditionary District in Kuwait.

“Currently I work with pre-award contracts. In this position I will get to experience the post-

contract period, overseeing construction and doing contract modifications. I know being on site will help me understand the whole process of contracts to construction better. I look forward to this learning opportunity and expanding my skillset to become a more effective employee.”

Eric Caruso, contracting section chief & contracting officer, explains what an asset Peter is to the Middle East District, “As a contracting officer and leader, Peter represents all 7 of the Army’s core values. His personal and professional success is directly attributed to his willingness to tackle challenging tasks head-on and never shying away from growth opportunities. I know he’ll make the most of his TDY and come back as an even stronger asset to TAM.”



Peter Smith and Mikayla Shanholtzer review contracts.

Middle East District Employee Spotlight Featuring Stephanie Langhorne

Story by Shannon Moeck, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

“Stephanie has a unique charisma and energetic spirit that inspires a positive team atmosphere daily, which makes working with her a pleasure. She takes pride far beyond just her position duties and always seeks different opportunities to give back to the organization in multiple ways.”

***Peter Smith, Contracting Acting Supervisor
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District***

(Jan. 17, 2024) Stephanie Langhorne always knew she wanted to work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Her grandfather worked for USACE and her mother, Jane Smith, worked for the Middle East District and the Transatlantic Division in the Resource Management section. Growing up she saw the benefits her mom had working at the Middle East District. She loved that her mom had the flexibility to go to her sporting events and be home to take care of her when she was sick. “This is the kind of life I want for my family,” Langhorne said.

When Langhorne was 7-8 years old, her mom worked for USACE Europe District. They lived on Hohenfels Base in Germany. Langhorne remembers, “We walked everywhere. I have such happy memories of going to the different shops and the shopkeepers always had treats for the children.” She also has fond memories of traveling to London, Paris, and Neuschwanstein Castle during that time.

Langhorne spent most of her childhood growing up in West Virginia. She said, “I’m glad I had a chance to explore some of the world when I was young.” She graduated from Potomac State College with an associate degree in business administration.

Next, she received her bachelor’s degree from West Virginia University in business with an emphasis in human resources.

After graduation she worked for the USDA as a single-family housing specialist for the rural development home loans section. There was not a lot of opportunity to move up in that organization. She started as a GS 3 and couldn’t move past a GS 7.

Her dream of working for USACE came true in 2019 when she accepted a position with the Middle East District as a GS 5/6 Procurement Technician. Once she became a GS 6, she accepted a GS 7/9/11 Contract Specialist position with the Army Fellows Program. According to the U.S. Army Center of Military History, “The Army Fellows program is designed to attract, recruit, and hire top civilian talent. The 2-year fellowship is developmental in nature and blends progressive and sequential work assignments, formal training, and self-development as individuals’ progress from entry-level positions to more advanced key positions within the workforce. During her first year she became certified in contracting. This past July, she became a permanent GS 11/12 Contract Specialist.

One of the many things Langhorne enjoys about working for the Middle East District is the growth

opportunities, she said, “If you work hard and they like you, they are going to help your career advancement.” Her acting supervisor, Peter Smith, values Langhorne’s work, “Stephanie has a unique charisma and energetic spirit that inspires a positive team atmosphere daily, which makes working with her a pleasure. She takes pride far beyond just her position duties and always seeks different opportunities to give back to the organization in multiple ways.”

She also appreciates her team, “Everyone I work with, I get along with. I can trust my colleagues to let me have what I need to be successful in my position. We are more than just colleagues, we are friends.” She is also excited about the opportunity to travel to the Middle East, “I have not been there yet, but I look forward to seeing how my work positively impacts our partners.”

“I really enjoyed assisting with the Middle

East District career fair table at Virginia Military Institute. I wanted to be a voice for USACE and talk to and inspire the students about their futures.” Langhorne also acknowledges how important it is to let future federal service employees know about the many great benefits that are part of the salary package. “I’m getting ready to have my second child, and I am so grateful to have 3 months of maternity leave.”

As Langhorne looks towards the future, she says, “It’s hard to say where my career or my husband’s career may lead us. My husband works at the Air National Guard in Bunker Hill. Maybe one day we will have the opportunity to live abroad and give our kids a similar experience I had. For now, I am very content at the Middle East District”

Langhorne is proud to be a third generation USACE employee, “Maybe one of my children will follow in my footsteps and work for USACE too.”



(Above) Stephanie Langhorne (center right) participated with colleagues in Spirit Week’s Move it Monday at the Middle East District Headquarters building in Winchester, Va.

EWeek 2024: Middle East District Employee Spotlight

Sammy Nmair

Story by Shannon Moeck, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

“Getting to be hands on is what attracted me to construction. I get to see the product as it is being built to its completion. With the amount of work I put into these projects, I want to see the day-by-day process come to fruition. That’s how I get gratification from the work I do.”

Sammy Nmair, Civil and Infrastructure Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

(Feb. 21, 2024) When Sammy Nmair began his job with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District, as a project engineer for the district’s Bahrain area it was like joining the family business. Nmair’s journey was inspired in part by his father who had previously worked for the Middle East District in the early 2000’s.

Nmair’s family also lived in the Middle East during his formative years and while studying civil engineering at the American University in Cairo, Nmair and his family had a front row seat to history as the Arab Spring Revolution began in Egypt on January 25, 2011, and lasted for 18 days. The people of Egypt began protesting the government and Nmair remembers, “one million people were in Tahrir Square demanding the overthrow of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.”

In early February, the Nmair family was evacuated by the U.S. Embassy in Cairo when the embassy moved approximately 3,000 embassy employees. The evacuees were moved via busses and taken to the airport.

“I remember tanks and checkpoints were all on the highway. It seemed like the entire international expat community were at the VIP terminal in the airport. We had no idea where we were being sent to. Twelve hours later we were on a plane when we learned we were heading to Greece then to Jordan,” He recalled.” TAM supported the Nmair family throughout the evacuation process

Nmair returned to Virginia to continue his civil

engineering studies. He graduated with a bachelor’s and master’s degree in civil and infrastructure engineering with a concentration in construction from George Mason University (GMU). This seemed natural to him as he comes from a family of engineers, including both his parents and siblings.

After graduation he had the opportunity to work on diverse projects in different positions. First, he got a job in the private sector at Balfour Beatty Construction doing special projects ranging up to \$10 million from concept to completion of projects.

In 2019, he joined USACE in Florida working on the high-profile Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) Project surrounding Lake Okeechobee as the senior project engineer where he successfully closed out four projects.

In 2021, he shifted to the Norfolk District where his work focused on projects in Arlington National Cemetery. He did a restoration for one of the original gates of the cemetery where restored them and placed them back in their original location on the grounds. He also restored the amphitheater in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the columbarium’s. He also oversaw the review of the mega project expansion at Arlington National Cemetery.

During that project, Jeff Pohlig, TAM area engineer in Bahrain, called Sammy and asked if he would like to come work in the Middle East. “Yes sir,” Nmair declared, “that has always been my dream to work overseas.” He

started at the Bahrain area office in January of 2023. He’s currently working on two projects in Bahrain, “The P-964 shore to ship utilities project which provides the Navy that provides power, telecommunications, water, and sewage connections for the ships that dock at the pier. They are also connecting via a tunnel to provide power across the base. The other project is P-974, electrical system upgrade, to create a new loop of electrical connections.” Additionally, he’s working on a project in the UAE.

“Sammy excels at coordinating utility outages with Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station (NCTS), the United Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) and the Naval Support Activity Bahrain (NSA) in order to successfully execute contract P-974 NSA Bahrain Electrical System Upgrade and P-964 Shore to Ship Utilities. Often approval requires creative solutions for alternative power, water, and cooling sources which require expeditious execution of contract modifications. These modifications ensure the USACE

projects continue on schedule while stakeholders are able to maintain national security capabilities,” Pohlig said.

“Getting to be hands on is what attracted me to construction,” Nmair said, “I get to see the product as it is being built to its completion. With the amount of work I put into these projects, I want to see the day-by-day process come to fruition. That’s how I get gratification from the work I do. I also love working through the problems we face and finding solutions to finish these jobs.”

“I’m still young, but in five years I’m hoping to move forward into engineering management promotions. My goal is that by the end of my career I will manage large scale programs that help my agency reach their mission.”

Nmair intuitively speaks the language of leadership with gratitude for those who has helped him along the way. As he looks to the future, “Hopefully, I can give similar opportunities to someone else one day.”



Click the QR Code for the 2024 EWEEK Story in Motion.



Lieutenant Colonel Donald K. Lew Promoted in USACE Ceremony

Story by Shannon Moeck, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

“I would not be here today without the leadership, coaching, and mentoring of others. I’m proud to carry on the legacy as an officer, following in the footsteps of my mom and dad.”

*Lieutenant Colonel Donald K. Lew, P.E., PMP
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District*

(Aug. 28, 2024) Lieutenant Colonel Donald K. Lew was promoted from Major to Lieutenant Colonel in a ceremony held on August 28, 2024, on the patio at the Middle East District Headquarters in Winchester, VA. The event, attended by his parents—both retired USACE engineers—his wife, and their three children, as well as friends and distinguished guests, celebrated Lew’s exceptional service and dedication to the Army.

Other attendees included the Transatlantic Division Commander, Colonel Craig Baumgardner and Director of Programs and Business Mr. John Adams, underscoring the significance of Lew’s promotion. Colonel Christopher Klein, who presided over the ceremony, emphasized the Army’s tradition of promoting based on potential.

“This is a monumental promotion in Don’s career,” Klein remarked. “His performance and dedication have consistently set him apart, and this promotion is just one of many that recognize his potential and leadership.”

Lew’s official promotion to Lieutenant Colonel was effective on July 31, 2024. A Purdue University graduate with a degree in industrial engineering, Lew has continually advanced his professional qualifications. He has earned three master’s degrees and multiple certifications, including Project Management Professional (PMP) and Professional Engineer (PE). Lew is currently working on his ninth additional skills qualification, a rare achievement in the military.

“He’s on his eighth qualification and working on his ninth, which is a testament to his relentless pursuit of excellence,” Klein highlighted.

Throughout his career, Lew has taken on some of the Army’s most demanding assignments, including commanding the Army’s only rough terrain unit and the prestigious Sapper Leader Course.

“Don has consistently embraced the most challenging roles, turning around units and leading by example,” Klein remarked. “His impact on the engineer regiment will be felt for years to come.”

In his remarks, Lew expressed deep gratitude to those who have supported him, particularly his family.

“I would not be here today without the leadership, coaching, and mentoring of others,” he said, acknowledging his wife, and their children, for their unwavering support. He also paid tribute to his parents, both former USACE engineers, saying, “I’m proud to carry on the legacy as an officer, following in the footsteps of my mom and dad.”

The ceremony concluded with a reception, where attendees celebrated Lew’s promotion and his continued service to the nation.

(Right top) COL Christopher D. Klein proudly administered the oath of office to LTC Donald K. Lew. With COL Klein officiating, LTC Lew reaffirmed his commitment to serving the nation and upholding the values of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

(Right bottom) LTC Donald K. Lew receives his new rank insignia from his loved ones. This special occasion, where family plays a key role in marking a milestone, reflects the deep bonds and support system that are integral to military life.



‘Essayons’ in Action: Perseverance Delivers 3D Map for Lebanon

Story by Shannon Moeck, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

“This project went through multiple hands before we were able to push it across the finish line. It was a real team effort, from overcoming technical setbacks to managing customer expectations. Everyone had a part to play.”

*Kristine Brannon, District Program Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District*

(Oct. 23, 2024) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Middle East District recently completed a 3D topographical map of Lebanon, exemplifying the perseverance and problem-solving that define their motto, “Essayons” (“Let us try”). While the project faced numerous challenges, it was primarily the technical expertise of one individual that helped bring it across the finish line.

Mark Whitacre, the engineer tech responsible for 3D printing, played a central role in the project but remained humble about his contributions.

“I’m just one person in the shop,” Whitacre noted. “This wasn’t something I did alone. We had so many people working through issues and finding solutions to keep the project moving. It was a group effort.”

However, according to Joseph Zaraszczak, Programs and Project Management Branch Chief responsible for the Lebanon portfolio, Whitacre’s technical leadership was critical to the project’s success.

“This wasn’t a typical team effort composed of multiple disciplines like our larger design and construction projects,” Zaraszczak explained. “It was really all Mark. Kristine Brannon, the program manager, and I primarily communicated updates from Mark to others. He was the one managing the technical issues and coming up with solutions.”

The project, which began in 2019 under program manager Dan Echols and passed through several other program managers, before reaching Brannon in January 2023. While each program manager provided oversight and kept the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) informed

of progress, it was Whitacre’s hands-on work that ultimately ensured the map’s completion.

“This project went through multiple hands before we were able to push it across the finish line,” Brannon said. “It was a real team effort, from overcoming technical setbacks to managing customer expectations. Everyone had a part to play.”

Brannon emphasized the critical role of Ted Kientz, who was key to the 3D map’s success.

“Ted worked closely with the Lebanese to gather the exact coordinates needed for the map, and he kept them updated on the project’s progress and any delays,” Brannon explained. “He was also in constant communication with Mark and me, ensuring everyone was aligned.”

One of the most significant challenges Whitacre faced during the project was related to the binder material used in the 3D printing process. The binder, which acts like glue to hold the map layers together, was defective, causing multiple breakdowns of the printing machines.

“At first, we didn’t realize the binder was the issue,” Whitacre said. “For months, we were troubleshooting different components, thinking it was the printers, only to find out the binder material was at fault.”

The defective binder not only delayed the project but also caused a waste of powder, another essential material for printing. As Whitacre continued to use the faulty binder, they unknowingly consumed large quantities of powder, which then had to be replaced. Once the binder issue was identified, a nationwide shortage of the product compounded the delays, forcing the team to wait

for new supplies.

Despite these setbacks, Whitacre managed to secure a replacement binder and move forward with production.

“It was frustrating, but once we had the right material, progress resumed,” Whitacre said. “It took months to get there, but we were determined to push through.”

Whitacre didn’t stop there. To reduce the map’s weight and make it easier to ship, he utilized a honeycomb design in the 3D printing program that saved material while maintaining structural integrity.

“That honeycomb structure saved us a lot of material and weight,” Brannon noted. “It’s just one of the many ways Mark adapted to overcome challenges.”

Even with the delays and shortages, the map was completed on budget and within the fiscal year, avoiding the need for additional funding.

“We were relieved to meet the deadline,” Brannon said. “The project faced challenges, but we never lost sight of the goal, and Mark’s troubleshooting skills played a crucial role.”

The 3D map is part of a broader master plan that the

LAF will utilize in defending their country’s borders and citizens. While the LAF have not yet seen the map, it will be displayed in a facility that will soon begin construction under a contract awarded by TAM in September 2024. This facility, along with a new access road, display tables, and the 3D map, contributes to the larger LAF vision for security of their country. Completion of the construction project is expected by the end of October 2025, at which point the LAF will be able to fully utilize the map as part of their military planning.

The 3D map’s successful completion reflects the Corps’ commitment to innovation and delivering quality results for its partners.

“We embody the motto ‘Essayons,’ and this project is proof of that,” Brannon concluded. “We kept trying, and in the end, Lebanon got the map they needed.”

The 3D map will be shipped in multiple crates and assembled on-site, with each piece fitting together like a puzzle. This valuable tool will aid the LAF in its military planning, and the experience gained from the project will serve as a guide for future efforts. **END**



Kristine Brannon and Mark Whitacre crouch next to the intricate 3D-printed map of Lebanon, displaying the culmination of their team’s hard work and technical expertise.

District Employee Gains Professional Development on a Deployment

Story by Shannon Moeck, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

“My communication, time management and decision-making skills are stronger. This experience expanded my range of adaptability to a new environment and new team members. I also really appreciate being exposed to a different Army mission than what we do at the Middle East District.”

Andres Restrepo, Civil Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Middle East District

(Feb. 21, 2024) When Andres Restrepo, a civil engineer with the Middle East District, received an email asking him to volunteer with a special deployment with the U.S. Army, it only took him minutes to reply, “I am interested in volunteering for this assignment.” Within hours he received confirmation that he had been selected for this position.

Restrepo joined a FEST-A EN DET based out of the Alaska District. This unit is known as Forward Engineer Support Team – Advance Engineer Detachment. The team consisted of a Major officer-in-charge (OIC), Sergeant 1st class non-commissioned officer-in-charge (NCOIC) and six U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) civilians with expertise in geographic information systems (GIS), and civil, structural, mechanical, environmental, and electrical engineering. These deployments typically last six months.

Restrepo explained, “I was intrigued to be deployed to an environment civilians would not normally go.”

“The initial process was a bit nerve-racking,” Restrepo said, “A typical temporary duty (TDY) would provide start dates, training, and time to familiarize yourself with the scenarios and work. The initial email only stated I needed to start ASAP.”

Within a week, Restrepo completed all his medical

and paperwork requirements for his deployment. He was stationed on a base in Germany in support of the U.S. Army, Europe and Africa (USAREUR-AF). The deployment was part of Operation Atlantic Resolve with NATO. The purpose of the mission is to maintain stability in the region.

“The deployment happened so quickly because I was replacing the civil engineer who had to leave for personal reasons.”

The civil engineer was not the only person to leave mid-way through their deployment. The team also turned over three other staff members, including the GIS person, the Major, and the Sergeant 1st Class.

“It was a steep learning curve in a short amount of time. Initially there were some communications and expectations issues, but it all worked well in the end.”

“I would have liked to have been there the full six months, I learned and accomplished a lot in three months,” said Restrepo. “Being a subject matter expert, I was able to collaborate with others in real time and apply what I know in the field.”

This deployment was a natural fit for Restrepo, and he thinks anyone from the Middle East District or the Transatlantic Division would be an asset for these deployment assignments. “The type of military construction we do at the Middle East District is like the work being done for this mission.

This made the transition from the the Middle East District to the FEST team much easier. I was the only person on team who worked with allied partners as part of my normal duties.”

The type of routine work TAM specializes in, allowed Restrepo to tap into subject matter experts for the reports he was compiling. Specifically, a repository of pre-fabricated buildings that can be adapted and built in overseas environments created by Center of Standardization (CoS) for Nonpermanent Facilities. The information Restrepo gained from his colleagues in Winchester, Va. was useful information for the reports he was writing. He also reached out to cost estimates team at the Middle East District who provided him resources and guidance on preliminary cost estimates.

Restrepo is grateful for the skills he gained

on this deployment, “My communication, time management and decision-making skills are stronger. This experience expanded my range of adaptability to a new environment and new team members. I also really appreciate being exposed to a different Army mission than what we do at the Middle East District.”

Another reason he enjoyed the deployment was the overall work environment. His team worked in a NATO office building on base. “I met people from all over the world, Lithuanians, Italians, Ukrainians. The work we were involved with is really a world effort.”

The FEST team is deployed every two years. Restrepo said, “I look forward to future deployments as long as my schedule is open.”





U.S. ARMY ENGINEER ASSOCIATION THE DE FLEURY MEDAL



BRONZE DE FLEURY Kimberly Adkins

Transatlantic Division Plans & Operations Operations Chief

For outstanding service as an Emergency Management Specialist, Kimberly Adkins rendered 19 years of exceptional contributions to the U.S. Army Engineer Regiment. Her dedication to training and improving the Engineer force has promoted the capabilities of Army Engineers across the Army, the Department of Defense, and allied and partner armies. Her efforts have influenced personnel at every level, including the United States Army Corps of Engineers Enterprise, the U.S. Army, interagency partners, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, state liaisons, Echelons Above Division, Major Subordinate Commands, districts, and individual Soldiers. Her unwavering commitment reflects great credit upon herself, the Engineer Regiment, and the United States Army.

The de Fleury Medal is not just a token of recognition; it is a symbol of our proud tradition and the indomitable spirit that drives the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Awarded to those who exemplify bold leadership and steadfast commitment to engineering excellence, it connects us to the valorous legacy of Lieutenant Colonel François Louis Teissèdre de Fleury.



BRONZE DE FLEURY Joseph Behr

*Transatlantic Division Programs Integration Division,
U.S. Military Construction Deputy*

For exceptional service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Engineer Regiment, Joseph Behr is recognized for fifteen years of unwavering commitment and outstanding contributions to program management, engineering, and construction. Since 2008, he has demonstrated unparalleled professional competence, integrity, and moral character, embodying the highest standards of duty and devotion to both country and mission. Throughout his distinguished career, Behr has consistently exemplified exceptional leadership and dedication, bringing great credit upon himself, the Engineer Regiment, and the United States Army.



SILVER DE FLEURY Col. Mohammed Z. Rahman

Former Transatlantic Expeditionary District Commander

For exceptionally meritorious service spanning twenty-five years to the United States Army Engineer Regiment. As the Expeditionary District Commander, Colonel Mohammed Zillur Rahman demonstrated exceptional leadership, engineering expertise, and unwavering dedication to the mission. His exemplary contributions profoundly impacted the lives of countless Soldiers and significantly enhanced the readiness and effectiveness of the United States Army and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. His achievements reflect great credit upon himself, the Engineer Regiment, and the United States Army.

*The de Fleury Medal is the highest award
for professional excellence in the Engineer*



HISTORY OF THE DE FLEURY

Click the QR Code for full length video exploring the history of the de Fleury Medal.





WHAT WINNING LOOKS LIKE ...

Our Employees of the Year, Employees of the Quarter, and annual award recipients represent the highest caliber of professionalism and commitment within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Their accomplishments are not just individual milestones but a reflection of the skill, dedication, and collaborative strength that define our organization. These honors underscore the vital contributions of our workforce in achieving USACE’s mission and advancing its legacy of excellence.

Transatlantic Division 2023 Employee of the Year **U.S. Army Capt. Hong Alger** *Executive Officer* *USACE Transatlantic Division*



Transatlantic Division Employees of the Quarter



Employee of the Quarter
1st Quarter
Timothy Odell
USACE Transatlantic Division



Employee of the Quarter
2nd Quarter
Ashlea Benz
USACE Transatlantic Division



Employee of the Quarter
3rd Quarter
Tara Clark
USACE Transatlantic Division



Employee of the Quarter
4th Quarter
Kevin Morrison
USACE Transatlantic Division



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Legion of Merit
Col. Philip M. Secrist, III
Middle East District



**E. Manning Seltzer Award for
Special Contributions**
Ken Kajihira
Middle East District



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Value Engineering Achievements Award
Dale Hartmann
Middle East District



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Superior Civilian Service Award
Thomas Han
Expeditionary District



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Meritorious Service Medal
Joseph Behr
Transatlantic Division



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Chief of Engineers Special Recognition Award
Kayln Chism
Expeditionary District

**2023 Top Division for
Knowledge Management Implementation**

The Transatlantic Division was named the 2023 USACE Top Division for Knowledge Management for its leadership and innovation. The team created a central repository to share lessons learned and reviews, improving project outcomes and aligning with the USACE strategy to enhance knowledge sharing.

Zenovia Wilcox
Transatlantic Division



Matt Kenney
Middle East District



Additional Team Support:
Elaine Lawson
Transatlantic Division

Mark Morris
Middle East District

Megan Hoover
Middle East District

Matthew Moore
Middle East District

Marissa Woodward
Transatlantic Division



Chad Crosbie
Middle East District



Steve Markland
Middle East District





Spotlight on Excellence ...

Each month, we shine a spotlight on individuals whose exceptional contributions exemplify the professionalism and dedication of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This recognition reflects the high standards and unwavering commitment our team members demonstrate. Their achievements highlight the expertise and excellence that drive USACE’s mission forward.

The strength of the Transatlantic Division lies in the dedication, expertise, and professionalism of our workforce across our districts, both stateside and overseas. Operating in some of the most complex and dynamic environments worldwide, our team—spanning multiple time zones and diverse operational landscapes—demonstrates an unparalleled commitment to excellence.

Whether delivering innovative solutions to meet local infrastructure needs, strengthening our international partnerships, or advancing strategic initiatives in support of national security, every member of our team plays an integral role in achieving our mission.

Recognizing their contributions through meaningful acknowledgment allows us to highlight individual accomplishments while celebrating the collective impact of our global workforce. These recognitions honor the ingenuity, teamwork, and resilience that define who we are and inspire all of us to continue building strong foundations for the future.



**October 2023 Spotlight on Excellence: Arun Ramalingam
Electrical Engineer, Middle East District**

Arun Ramalingam delivered exceptional contributions as an Electrical Engineer with the Bahrain Resident Office. He managed hundreds of electrical requests with precision and led a \$1.5 million contract modification to reduce utility outages, improving reliability and efficiency for mission operations. Ramalingam’s dedication and clear communication strengthened partnerships and enhanced the district’s reputation for excellence.



**November 2023 Spotlight on Excellence: CPT Hung Nguyen
Project Manager, Expeditionary District**

Capain Hung Nguyen demonstrated exceptional leadership by supporting warfighters in Syria. He led his team to deliver five critical projects, including troop housing and utility improvements, all completed under budget despite the challenging environment. Nguyen’s dedication and strong leadership fostered collaboration across the region, ensuring successful project execution and vital support for the mission.



**December 2023 Spotlight on Excellence: Harry Kye
Chief of Contract Administration, Middle East District**

Harry Kye demonstrated exceptional skill in negotiating and settling a \$57 million claim on the Shield 5 program in Qatar. He spent countless hours reviewing schedules, consultant reports, and contract files to recommend a fair settlement to the Contracting Officer. Kye worked closely with contracting, legal, and construction teams to reach consensus and secured a settlement for roughly 40% of the contractor’s claim. His expertise in construction scheduling and management fostered significant goodwill with Qatari mission partners.



January 2024 Spotlight on Excellence: Nettie Carter
Lead Program Analyst, Expeditionary District
Nettie Carter delivered exceptional support as the Lead Program Analyst for Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield. She independently planned schedules, managed budgets, and conducted risk analysis to ensure alignment with approved costs and projected obligations. Her efforts enabled the district to achieve budgetary balance and successfully execute the FY23 program. Carter’s dedication extended to mentoring and empowering her team, fostering positive morale and sustaining program delivery. Her professionalism and teamwork have elevated the overall success of the district.



February 2024 Spotlight on Excellence: Sammy Nmair
Civil Engineer, Middle East District
Sammy Nmair played a key role in enhancing safety and security at the Bahrain Resident Office. Nmair synchronized the office’s security plan with district and U.S. Navy requirements and fostered strong relationships with Navy Security Forces to streamline access and security processes. Nmair spearheaded safety inspections, promoting a proactive culture that mitigated time-loss incidents in the office and field. His collaboration with partners and contractors ensured smooth project execution, enabling TAM to contribute to a



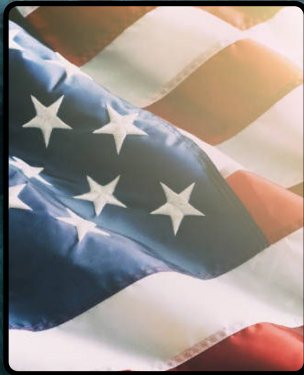
March 2024 Spotlight on Excellence: Kalyn Chism
Safety Chief, Transatlantic Expeditionary District
Kalyn Chism ensured the safe execution of the Syncrolift/Shiplift Platform Project at Mohammed Al-Ahmad Kuwait Naval Base. She collaborated with contractors, dive teams, and subject matter experts to review and implement dive and unexploded ordnance plans. Chism took the initiative to coordinate with the contracting officer, project engineer, and area engineer, often working beyond normal hours to meet safety requirements. Her dedication led to the successful and safe completion of UXO dive operations to standard.



January 2025 Spotlight on Excellence: Erick Stillman
Advanced Modeling Manager, Middle East District
Erick Stillman led efforts to enhance advanced modeling processes at the Middle East District. He presented at the FY24 USACE CAD-BIM Community of Practice Workshop, introducing the USACE Middle East District Advanced Modeling Project Execution Plan to improve efficiency and adaptability. Stillman also spearheaded the implementation of 3D Model-Based Reviews, 4D analysis, 5D quantity take-offs, and AR/VR platforms, streamlining digital modeling and construction workflows. His leadership continues to drive innovation across the district.



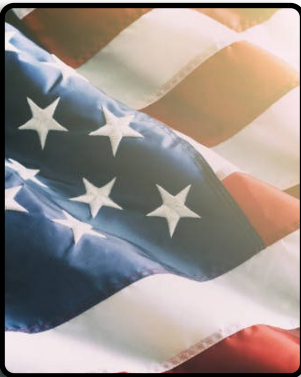
May 2024 Spotlight on Excellence: Mary Ensogna
Supervisory Paralegal, Middle East District
Mary Ensogna played a key role in establishing a formal partnership between the Transatlantic Middle East District and Shenandoah University, a first for the district. She fostered recruitment opportunities and strengthened ties with the school through her advocacy and dedication. During the signing ceremony, Ensogna delivered an impromptu speech and interview with local media, showcasing her professionalism and serving as an exemplary representative of the district and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



June 2024 Spotlight on Excellence: 1LT Carlton Woodie
Project Manager, Expeditionary Districts
1LT Carlton Woodie made significant progress on delayed housing projects in Syria, ensuring timely completion of critical facilities. As the project manager for all efforts in the region, he led his teams to success in a challenging environment by fostering strong working relationships across the area. Woodie’s dedication and commitment played a key role in advancing the district’s mission and providing essential support to warfighters.

Spotlight on

Excellence ...



July 2024 Spotlight on Excellence: Carlos Nichols
Quality Assurance Representative, Expeditionary District
Carlos Nichols demonstrated professionalism and dedication by supporting program delivery and mission requirements at the AAAB Resident Office in Iraq during key staff absences. He maintained regular coordination with multiple partners and provided mentorship to contractors, ensuring projects stayed on time and within budget. Nichols’ commitment and leadership ensured the continued success of the district’s mission during a critical period.



August 2024 Spotlight on Excellence: Thomas Han
Deputy District Program Manager, Expeditionary District
Thomas Han provided exceptional support across all aspects of program delivery and mission execution during key staff absences and leadership gaps. Over the past six months, he served in multiple roles, including Chief of the Operation Inherent Resolve Program, Chief of the Branch for Base Camp Master Plans, and Deputy Chief of the Programs and Project Management Division. Han’s professionalism, leadership, and expertise exemplify his commitment to mission success and teamwork.



September 2024 Spotlight on Excellence: Ahmed Mahmoud, Project Engineer, and Emad Abdel Galil, Contracting Officer’s Representative Middle East District
Ahmed Mahmoud and Emad Abdel Galil demonstrated exceptional performance in completing the deep foundation for the Multiuse Training Facility at the Ras El Tin base in Alexandria, Egypt. This Foreign Military Financed project for the Egyptian Navy involved installing fifty drilled piers up to 55 meters deep and placing a massive mat foundation using 1,800 cubic meters of concrete. Mahmoud and Abdel Galil’s careful planning and collaboration with the Egyptian Navy enabled the project to finish over thirty days ahead of schedule, ensuring a seamless transition to the next contract phase.



TRANSATLANTIC DIVISION OVERVIEW 2024

Welcome to our annual publication providing a comprehensive insight into our mission, capabilities, and valued mission partners. Through this publication, we showcase the vital work we do and the impact we have on our mission areas.

For those interested in receiving printed copies of the BUILDING STRONG Overview, or the STRONGHOLD Magazine, please don’t hesitate to reach out to our public affairs office and we will mail them out to your organization. It’s our pleasure to share our story and accomplishments with you!



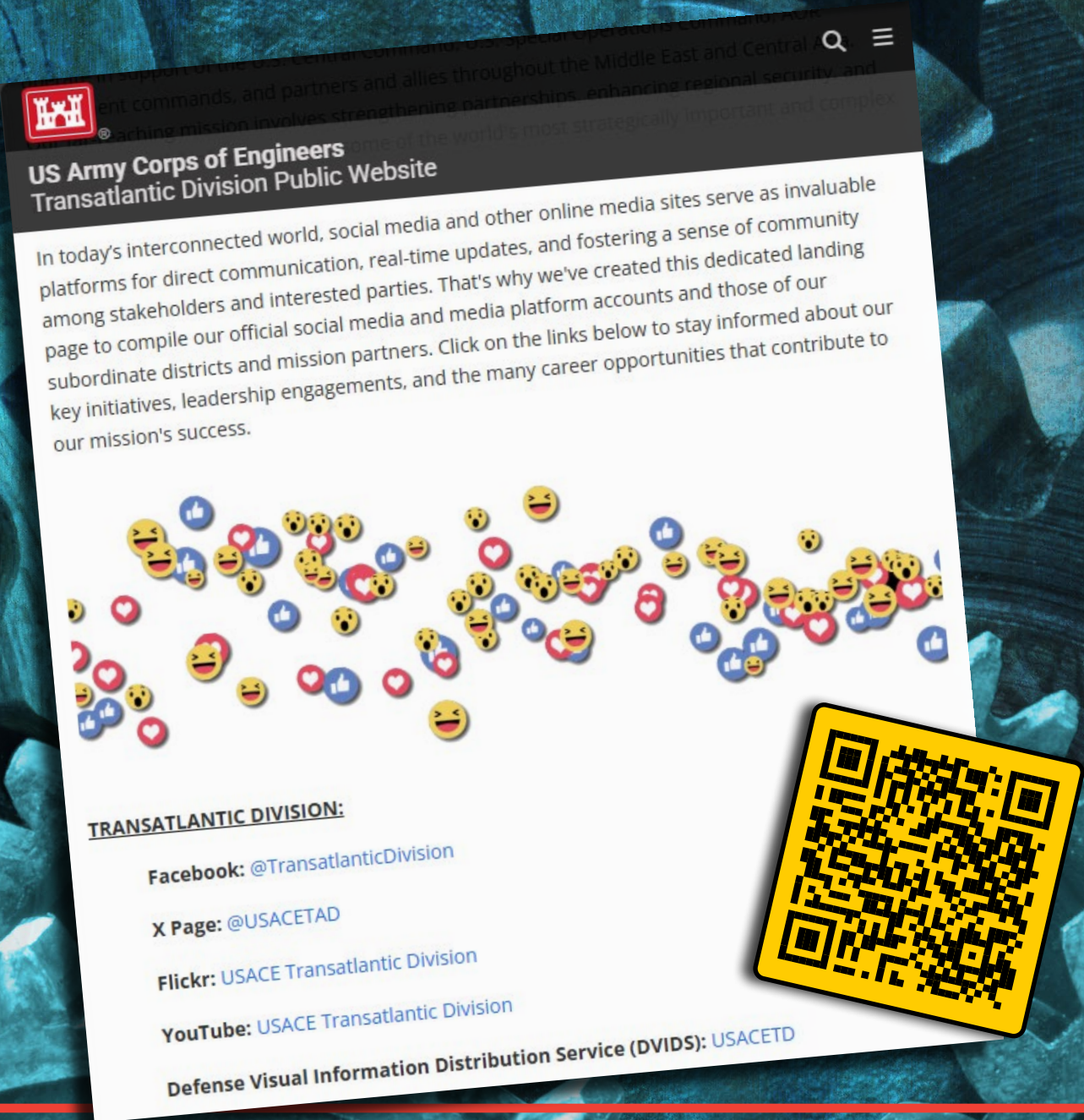
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Building Relationships Through Storytelling

“By sharing compelling stories, we engage and inspire, forging deep connections with our audiences - bridging gaps, cultivating trust, and creating a strong foundation for collaboration, enabling us to shape a future of shared success.”

Catherine Carroll, USACE Transatlantic Division Regional Public Affairs Director

Connect with our Division, Districts, and Mission Partners here on our Social Media Hub!



US Army Corps of Engineers
Transatlantic Division Public Website

In today's interconnected world, social media and other online media sites serve as invaluable platforms for direct communication, real-time updates, and fostering a sense of community among stakeholders and interested parties. That's why we've created this dedicated landing page to compile our official social media and media platform accounts and those of our subordinate districts and mission partners. Click on the links below to stay informed about our key initiatives, leadership engagements, and the many career opportunities that contribute to our mission's success.

TRANSATLANTIC DIVISION:

- Facebook: @TransatlanticDivision
- X Page: @USACETAD
- Flickr: USACE Transatlantic Division
- YouTube: USACE Transatlantic Division
- Defense Visual Information Distribution Service (DVIDS): USACETD



U.S. ARMY
US Army Corps
of Engineers®

About Us ...

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a long history of tackling some of the world's most complex construction challenges. Nearly a century ago, just before World War II, Congress and the War Department shifted military construction responsibilities from the Quartermaster Corps to the Corps of Engineers. That change set the foundation for what we do today, and over time, the Transatlantic Division emerged as the Army Corps of Engineers' tip of the spear, supporting the warfighter and fostering safety and stability across the Middle East and Central Asia. Our history is as dynamic as the vital support we provide to our mission partners.

At the Transatlantic Division, we take on our mission partners' toughest challenges in some of the world's most dynamic environments. With oversight of nearly \$6 billion in projects across the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility, including the newly integrated Israel program, and dedicated support to U.S. Special Operations Command, we deliver innovative, sustainable, and resilient solutions that meet the Department of Defense's needs. Whether in times of peace or war, we establish the conditions for regional security and stability while partnering with allies and mission partners across the region.

Our work is executed through two districts: the Middle East District, based in Winchester, Virginia, and the Transatlantic Expeditionary District, headquartered in Kuwait. Together, these districts combine proven expertise with an expeditionary mindset to deliver results where they're needed most.

From our headquarters in Winchester, Virginia, we support U.S. Central Command's vast area of responsibility, which covers the third-largest battlespace and remains a top priority for the United States. As one of the Army Corps of Engineers' nine major subordinate commands, the Transatlantic Division was first established in 1991 to support reconstruction activities following the Gulf War. Today, our mission has evolved to meet the demands of an increasingly complex and interconnected region.

The Middle East District is the division's longest-serving element and provides design, construction execution, and related services for U.S. and foreign mission partners across the U.S. Central Command region. Now including support for the newly expanded Israel program, the Middle East District helps increase regional security and stability in alignment with U.S. interests. It also supports contingency operations when called upon.

Beyond the Middle East, the district provides logistics services for U.S. forces deployed in the Balkans, a mission it has carried out since 1995 for U.S. Army Europe. Additionally, the district works on foreign military sales projects for a range of customers, including Egypt, Jordan, and Kuwait, and supports the U.S. Air Force Materiel Command.

The Expeditionary District is our newest addition and the only forward-deployed district in the Army Corps of Engineers. Created to provide rapid and effective support for named operations, the Expeditionary District specializes in project management, planning, engineering, environmental support, construction management, and real estate services. Operating across the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility, the district delivers cost-effective, sustainable solutions that strengthen regional security and stability while meeting the needs of our mission partners in both contingency and peacetime operations.

Together, the Transatlantic Division, its two districts, and its dedicated team of professionals are proud to support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' mission to deliver solutions that strengthen our nation, our allies, and our mission partners.



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Editor

STRONGHOLD Magazine

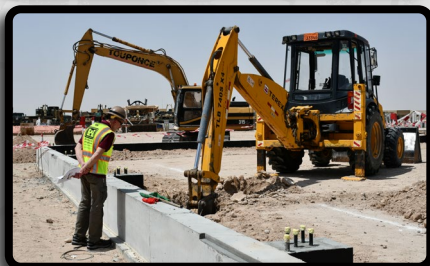
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Transatlantic Division, Public Affairs

201 Prince Frederick Dr

Winchester, VA 22602

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**STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS, BUILDING CAPACITY, AND
ENHANCING SECURITY FOR OUR NATION, ALLIES, AND PARTNERS**