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U.S. ARMY EUROPE SOLDIERS, NAVY SEABEES IMPROVING LOCAL QUALITY OF LIFE WHILE TRAINING IN ROMANIA, BULGARIA

MIHAIL KOGALNICEANU AIRBASE, Romania -- Soldiers from U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Navy Seabees are working with Romanian social services agencies to help improve conditions for citizens as they build a base for U.S. forces to train here.

The servicemembers have begun defining projects and procedures with Romanian officials that should allow American forces to undertake renovation projects at various

community service agencies in Constanta, the large port city near this air base that is simultaneously transforming to serve as a hub for future combined training with the Romanian military.



BILL ROCHE

U.S. Army Europe, U.S. Navy and Romanian officials discuss future humanitarian projects that will be undertaken by Navy Seabees deployed as part of the ongoing USAREUR-led Joint Task Force-East exercise in Constanta, Romania. During the Aug. 27 meeting the group set the groundwork for identifying and completing projects over the course of the four-month exercise and visited a center for disabled children to determine the facility's interior repair needs. Participating in the meeting were (right to left) Capt. Dan Shane of the USAREUR office of the deputy chief of staff, engineer; Chief Petty Officer Bill Nesbit and Lt. Brad Coleman of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 40; Petre Dinica, general manager of the Constanta County Department of Social Care and Child Protection; Valentina Munteanu and Gene Mirela Cornelia, directors general adjunct for the Constanta County Department of Social Care and Child Protection; Maj. Daniel Morgan, JTF-E civil-military affairs officer, and JTF-E translator Alexa Constantin.

As U.S. and Romanian troops continue to train together in the ongoing USAREUR-led Joint Task Force-East "proof of principle" exercise to verify future operations here, two local projects have already begun to take shape.

JTF-E Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 40 say they have already begun initial planning for the first project, the renovation of the interior of an endocrinology clinic in the city. That job includes replacing or renovating walls, tiles, sinks, bathrooms and other fixtures at the clinic to improve its condition and sanitation, explained Chief Petty Officer Bill Nesbit of NMCB 40.

Discussion has also begun on the second project, to repair and renovate walls in Constanta's Horizon Community Service Center, a facility for handicapped children.

A team led by JTF-E civil affairs officer Maj. Daniel Morgan that included Seabees Nesbit and Lt. Brad Coleman, and Capt. Dan Shane of the USAREUR office of the deputy chief of staff for engineering, met with representatives of the Constanta County Department of Social Care and Child Protection Aug. 27 to discuss that project and build a framework for future jobs in the city. Following their discussion the combined group toured the center for a first-hand look at the work that needs to be done.

Petre Dinica, general manager of the Constanta County Department of Social Care and Child Protection, told the Americans he was "very excited to have you here, and pleased to have you as our guests." He said he and his staff had developed lists of ideas and priorities for future projects in Constanta, and proposed that the group set objectives for its future cooperation.

In about 10 days, a contingent of JTF-E Soldiers will move to Bulgaria to train with its forces as well. A task force advance team is already in the country planning support for that training and set the stage for community projects in the area of the Novo Selo Training Area where that exercise will take place. Two missions in Bulgaria are in the works, Nesbit said -- the renovation of a kindergarten in the town of Mokren, and a project to replace windows in a senior center in Sliven.



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