

USACE Omaha District visits Qatar

By Mike Blass

Most people think of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a Stateside agency limited to working within the Continental United States, Alaska and Hawaii. The truth, however, is the USACE works around the world on projects totaling billions of dollars. USACE, a U.S. federal agency under the Department of Defense and a major Army command is made up of more than 37,000 civilian and military personnel, making it one of the world's largest public engineering, design, and construction management agencies providing outdoor recreation opportunities to the public, and providing 24 percent of U.S. hydropower capacity. Although generally associated with dams, canals and flood protection in the United States, USACE is involved in a wide range of public works throughout the world.



In May, members of the USACE Petroleum, Oils, and Lubricants Mandatory Center of Expertise, in the Omaha District, joined a multiagency team of technical experts in support of the DoD Office of Inspector General inspection of Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. The POL-MCX team inspected the

aircraft and ground vehicle fueling systems at AUAB. The POL-MCX was

selected for this effort because of its 32 years of experience designing, constructing, assessing, and repairing fueling systems around the world.

AUAB is home to the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing and supports multiple missions and aircraft, including bombers, fighters, heavy lifters, surveillance, special operations, and in-air refuelers. AUAB also hosts aircraft and personnel from Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain as part of the Combined Joint Task Force supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Eric Bausch, POL-MCX, Civil Engineer, Dustin Scheuffele, POL-MCX, Mechanical Engineer, Rick Bussard, POL-MCX, Electrical Engineer and Greg Etter, POL-MCX, Program Manager, all from the USACE Omaha District, took on the unique challenge of inspecting the AUAB fueling systems. They supported DoD OIG and were joined by representatives from the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and Defense Logistics Agency. The POL-MCX team completed their field inspections ahead of schedule and with upmost professionalism. "It was satisfying to see them operate at their full potential," said Dustin Scheuffele about the AUAB fueling systems. "Most CONUS fueling systems are built for contingency, but are rarely used to their full capability. AUAB demonstrated that our fuels standard designs are meeting the needs of a high-tempo mission."

Jim Howell, Deputy Director of Technical Assessments Division, DoD OIG, and Nicolaas Degreef, General Engineer, DLA Installation Support Bahrain, joined the POL-MCX team during the field inspections and were very impressed by the POL-MCX subject matter experts and their findings. Rick Bussard previously visited AUAB in 2012 as part of a Military Construction startup and noted that, "The Base has transformed from expeditionary to enduring," with more permanent structures.

The POL-MCX ended their inspection with a formal outbrief to Col. Bongiovi, 379th Expeditionary Mission Support Group Commander, with each POL-MCX engineer explaining their observations and answering questions from AUAB leadership. The POL-MCX team received high praise for their succinct and professional briefing. One of the key points made by the POL-MCX team during the brief was that the Air Force personnel at AUAB appeared to be extremely motivated despite the high tempo and heat that averages 106 degrees Fahrenheit. "It's because they have a mission" remarked Greg Etter after the outbrief. "We saw the very best of each segment of the Air Force at AUAB, and they knew that they were making a difference every day."

Most of the inspection required the POL-MCX team to be in near vicinity of the aircraft, including refuelers and bombers. "It was a force beyond measure" comments Eric Bausch about the weapons systems and capabilities that AUAB provides to the mission. "It made me very proud to be part of this organization and see how everyone in POL-MCX, Omaha District, and USACE is making a real difference for the warfighter."



Group photo of the inspection team outside the AUAB DoD Inspector General office. Left to right: Lee Digiovanni, NAVFAC; Robert (Bob) Harp, DoD OIG; Scott Arnoe, DoD OIG; Melissa McAllister, DoD OIG; Marcos Melendez, DoD OIG; Theodore (Ted) Schindler, DoD OIG; Rick Bussard, USACE POL-MCX; James (Jim) Howell, DoD OIG; Eric Bausch, USACE POL-MCX; Greg Etter, USACE POL-MCX; Dustin Scheuffele, USACE POL-MCX and Vickie Hawkins, DoD OIG. Photo by Eddie Siler, DoD OIG.



POL-MCX team inspect a fuel pumphouse at AUAB. Left to right: Eric Bausch, POL-MCX, Civil Engineer; Dustin Scheuffele, POL-MCX, Mechanical Engineer; Jim Howell, DoD OIG and Rick Bussard, POL-MCX, Electrical Engineer. Photo by Greg Etter.



Jim Howell, DoD OIG (left) and Rick Bussard, POL-MCX, Electrical Engineer (right) discuss the operation of an automatic control valve in a fuel pumphouse at AUAB. Photo by Greg Etter.



Eric Bausch, POL-MCX, Civil Engineer explains the pigging launchers and receivers located at AUAB. Left to right: Chris Wells, AUAB fuels maintenance; Nicolaas Degreef, DLA; Jim Howell, DoD OIG; Eric Bausch, POL-MCX, Civil Engineer; Dustin Scheuffele, POL-MCX, Mechanical Engineer and Rick Bussard, POL-MCX, Electrical Engineer. Photo by Greg Etter.