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U.S. Army Europe Commander visits Novo Selo Training Area

Story by Spc. Staci Evbuomwan

194th Engineer Brigade, Tennessee Army National Guard

NOVO SELO, Bulgaria -- The 194th Engineer Brigade, Tennessee Army National Guard, is conducting mission command for Resolute Castle 16 (RC16) at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria. RC16 is a U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) led training operation across the countries of Bulgaria, Estonia, Romania, and Hungary consisting of operations consist of construction improvements for military police training. RC16 gives the United States the opportunity to work and train with NATO allies, improving the ability to operate as a combined force and to strengthen ally partnerships.

Army Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, Commanding General USAREUR, and Martina Strong, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Sofia, Bulgaria, visited troops at Novo Selo Training Area on May 18, 2016. Hodges thanked the Soldiers from the 194th Engineer Brigade and Seabees from the 133rd Naval Construction Battalion for their hard work and dedication. He spoke about the importance of RC16 and how the construction improvements and training involved enhances our ability to operate as a combined force with our NATO allies. RC16 is more than construction on training sites; it provides the U.S. Army, and its allies and partners, the opportunity to see how our strengths and capabilities can be combined.

Army Sgt. Justin Marlow, Survey and Design sergeant, with the 194th Engineer Brigade, briefed Hodges and Martina on the engineering projects. Marlow has been assisting in the planning of RC16 since October 2015. In regards to his brief and Hodges' comments, Marlow said, "It was certainly gratifying to have Lt. Gen. Hodges come out to the job-site to show his support and enthusiasm for our on-going overall mission, as well as digging in to get the specifics on our individual projects. For the Soldiers doing the work, I feel that was such a boost in motivation, just to know the importance of what we are doing here and how it all fits into the larger picture of the Strong Europe initiative."

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In recognition of dedication, hard work, leadership, and technical expertise, Lt. Gen. Hodges presented coins to Lt. Col. Cory Scates, Quality Assurance and Quality Control Officer, and Army 1st Sgt. Michael Ilko, the Vertical Subject Matter Expert, both with the 194th Engineer Brigade and Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan Esmile, Detail Assistant Officer in Charge, with the 133rd Naval Construction Battalion. Marlow received a coin for the technical expertise provided during planning for RC16, and for his assistance with the engineering project designs.

(This story was originally posted at the following website: <https://www.army.mil/article/168402/>)

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PHOTO CAPTION:



Photo 1: Army Sgt. Justin Marlow, Survey and Design sergeant with the 194th Engineer Brigade Tennessee Army National Guard, gets presented a coin by Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges (right), Commanding General UASREUR, at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, May 18, 2016. Martina Strong, Deputy Chief of Mission at U.S. Embassy Sofia, Bulgaria (left) attended the visit and received a briefing from Sgt. Marlow regarding his efforts in assisting with the design of engineering projects. Marlow receives this coin in recognition of the hard work and technical expertise provided since October 2015 during the planning of Resolute Castle 16. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Staci Evbuomwan, 194th Engineer Brigade)

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Photo 2: First Sgt. Michael Ilko (right), vertical NCOIC with the 194th Engineer Brigade Tennessee Army National Guard, and Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan Esmile (center), AOIC with the 133rd Naval Mobile Construction Battalion, received coins from Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, May 18, 2016. Hodges presented these coins to reward the hard work and leadership of both Ilko and Esmile during construction operations for Resolute Castle 16. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Staci Evbuomwan, 194th Engineer Brigade)



Photo 3: Army Maj. Tony Glandorf (center) and Sgt. Justin Marlow (right), both with the 194th Engineer Brigade Tennessee Army National Guard, brief Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges (left), Commanding General USAREUR, on project plans for Resolute Castle 16 at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, May 18, 2016. Resolute Castle 16 is part of a USAREUR led multinational operation and builds relationships with our NATO allies and partners through joint construction and military police training operations. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Staci Evbuomwan, 194th Engineer Brigade)

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Photo 4: Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, Commanding General USAREUR (right), shakes hands with Spc. Ayele Oconnor with the 194th Engineer Brigade Tennessee Army National Guard, during his visit to Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, May 18, 2016. Lt. Gen. Hodges walked the ranks thanking each Soldier present for their hard work and dedication. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Staci Evbuomwan, 194th Engineer Brigade)



Photo 5: During his visit to Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, Commanding General USAREUR, met with Soldiers from the 194th Engineer Brigade and Seabees with the 133rd Naval Mobile Construction Battalion, May 18, 2016. The 194th Engineer Brigade conducts mission command for Resolute Castle 16 and working alongside the Navy Seabees to complete training site construction improvements. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Staci Evbuomwan, 194th Engineer Brigade)

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Photo 6: Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, Commanding General USAREUR, visited Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, and met with Soldiers from the 194th Engineer Brigade, Tennessee Army National Guard and Seabees with the 133rd Naval Mobile Construction Battalion, May 18, 2016. Hodges addressed troops regarding the importance of Resolute Castle 16; a USAREUR led multi-national operation nested within Operation Atlantic Resolve. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Staci Evbuomwan, 194th Engineer Brigade)