



## #22 - Navigating Challenges of Design/Construction for DoD in Host Nations

## Summary

Learn how a multi-national team, using a Navy contract, successfully designed a technically challenging Air Force project, on an Army installation in the middle of an Italian National Park, by obtaining special permitting, review, and approval from Italian Environmental Agencies, Waterway Agencies, Railroad Agencies and the local electrical power company.

### Full Description

Does the coordination to successfully design a technically challenging project for an Air Force customer on an Army installation through a Navy contract seem moderately complex? Now imagine the added complexities for the project which was designed for an installation in the middle of an Italian National Park and required special permitting, review and approval by Italian Environmental Agencies, Waterway Agencies, Railroad Agencies and the local electrical power company.

This presentation will highlight the challenges encountered, coordination required, and innovative solutions developed for the Design of the US Air Forces Europe requirement to Construct an Ammunition Storage Area Munitions Railhead and Expand/Upgrade a Munitions Dock at Camp Darby, Italy, leading to improved safety of service members and local populace while delivering enhanced mission readiness.

The presentation highlights the need to understand differing US and Host Nation code requirements, as well as processes to identify the most stringent requirements that form the basis for the design. Discussion includes the critical nature of identifying local design partners to gain an understanding of the local regulatory environment, as well as local sensitivities, and assist in coordination among national, regional and local agencies. The presentation details how the full team, including experienced local partners, play a crucial role in developing technical solutions and mitigation measures leading to ultimate approval of a design that meets the varied requirements and concerns of all impacted agencies and

organizations. Finally, the presentation highlights how constant coordination with all stakeholders and the contracting officer throughout the life of the design and construction are required to deliver a project that satisfies the customer mission requirements.

### *Learning Objectives*

- Participants will be able to identify significant challenges that must be overcome to successfully deliver design projects in international locations with local contractors.
- Participants will be able to discuss requirements for success and share successful techniques regarding Host Nation regulatory coordination in design and construction.
- Participants will be able to identify and optimize critical code compliance items from among differing sets of codes for consideration in the design process.
- Participants will be able to identify innovative solutions to overcome technical and regulatory challenges in a complex Host Nation environment.

### **Speakers**

Kevin Chafin, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C, F.SAME  
GFT Strategic Market Director, Federal

Kevin is the 2025 SAME Urbahn Medal recipient, recognized for significant contributions to the profession and positive societal impact. With 35 years of federal A/E experience—including service with the U.S. Air Force, NAVFAC, and leadership roles in both small and large firms—he has delivered projects across Europe and worldwide for USACE, NAVFAC, GSA, DHS, and others. Kevin is currently the Federal Strategic Market Director for GFT Infrastructure (Gannett Fleming TranSystems).

Tim A. Williams, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, RLF  
Architecture Engineering Interiors, Senior Project Manager

As RLF's Senior Federal Project Manager, Tim has 40 years of industry experience and a rich history of working with NAVFAC Facility Engineering Commands (FEC) throughout the CONUS and OCONUS managing military architecture, engineering, and planning services. He is accustomed to leading large, complex DB & DBB MILCON projects (as well as SRM, RDT&E and O&M funded projects) per Navy criteria and standards including FC1-300-09N Design Procedures, UFC 1-200-01, UFC 1-200-02, and UFC 3-101-01 (et al) while adhering to the Whole Building Design Guide.



Rebecca Goetzke, BSCE, LEED AP, VP Italy SAME Field Chapter  
A.I.C.E Program/Project Manager | VP

Rebecca is A.I.C.E.'s U.S. program/project manager. She is a former DoD engineer with 27 years in industry/13 with AICE, and worked for the DPW in Italy and the Corps of Engineers in Wiesbaden, as well as for various US/International and Italian design and construction firms. Rebecca has a vast background and knowledge of DoD project management, design and construction management, HN code compliance, and U.S. and international standards. Rebecca is trained in U.S. project management, design management, site supervision, and U.S. and international standards, and has obtained many U.S. Government awards, certificates and letters of appreciation for her professionalism.

James M. Lambeth, PE, LEED AP  
GFT Project Manager/Senior Civil Engineer

Mitch is highly experienced in planning, inspections, design development, construction support, and overall project management of DoD projects, working with both NAVFAC and USACE, on projects including rail and roadway transportation, rail intermodal yards, utility assessments, and Civil site design for Federal development projects. Mitch has over 42 years of experience managing projects in addition to his hands-on civil engineering experience with the design and inspection of railways, roadways and utilities in diverse locations within the US as well as overseas. He is proficient in SpecsIntact, MasterSpecs, PCASE for Pavement Design, AutoCAD & Microstation (WaterCAD, SewerCAD, and StormCAD).