



Contractors work to erect a building at the TFOS. (Photographs by SKE Group)

## *design/build by SKE*

*On 13 April 2007, Notice to Proceed was received for a high priority, Fast-Track Design/Build project by Joint Venture SKE Romania (SKE Romania SRL and SKE Support Services GmbH) for the construction of a new Temporary Forward Operating Site (TFOS) near Constanta, Romania. The TFOS is designed to support military unit deployment training of up to 1000 soldiers and airmen per training rotation. A Europe District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project, the TFOS would become the first U.S. training site of significant size in the country.*

*Story by SKE Group*

# 100 Days to success



*Inside a completed barracks building at the TFOS in Romania, designed and built by Joint Venture SKE Romania.*

## *Temporary FOB in Romania*



TOP: Aerial view of a portion of the completed TFOS. Note barracks top left and office/living space containers middle right. BOTTOM: Steel framework being erected for one of the main buildings at the TFOS.



***“The project was actually constructed in 54 days, on time and within budget. U.S. Army and Air Force units began deployments to the site on 17 August 2007.”***

The TFOS is designed to support military unit deployment training of up to 1000 soldiers and airmen per training rotation. A Europe District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project, the TFOS would become the first U.S. training site of significant size in the country. It is located at the Mihail Kogalniceanu (MK) Airbase, near Constanta, Romania.

The scope of services for this project included design, construction, installation, renovation, and utility connections. As is usually the case when the U.S. Military initially enters a new country to begin cooperative training operations, access to host country military installations, based upon their security requirements, is difficult. Such was the case initially; however, working with a cooperative spirit, SKE was able to overcome this challenge and was eventually afforded complete access.

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### **MK Airbase**

The project required SKE to execute construction utilizing Government Furnished Contractor Installed (GFCI) items “harvested” from assets of another forward operating base located in the Balkans onto an SKE prepared site at MK Airbase. GFCI items included buildings (ATCOs), a power generation plant, ablution (shower and bath) units, living containers, HVAC equipment, all furniture and numerous other quality of life items.

The project also required repairs and/or replacement of various items of equipment and building systems, including doors, frames and hardware; vehicle maintenance roll-up doors, frames and hardware; windows; roof repair; toilets, sinks, showers and associated interior plumbing. The specific requirements of the work consisted of site preparation, construction and installation support for the following:

- All Infrastructure
- Central Power Plant
- Battalion Logistics Support Area (LSA).
- Consolidated Motor Pool Facility.

- Organizational Support Facility.
- Squadron Operations Facility.
- Company Operations Facilities.
- Morale Welfare and Recreation-Training Support Center Facility.
- Communications Facility.
- Supply Support Area Facility.
- AAFES Shoppette, Post Office and Finance.
- Med /Dent Clinic.
- Dining Facility

Joint Task Force-EAST HQ. The project included the renovation of the JTF headquarters facility, including physical security upgrades in and around this building.

### **Babadag Training Area.**

The project also included the installation of facilities at the Babadag Training Area, Logistics Support Area (LSA). This facility is located approximately 10 Miles from MK Airbase, acts as the principle training area for both Army and Air Force, and is capable of supporting a company-size units consisting of up to 300 personnel for approximately four months.

The camp was constructed as one complete and useable facility including ATCO buildings, gravel roads and parking, maintenance tent, ablution units, and appropriate fencing/force protection requirements.

Midway through construction of the support area for Babadag, an additional competitive construction contract was awarded to SKE to build two small arms firing ranges and renovate an existing range at MK Airbase. Fifty days were given to complete the construction. The projects were completed on time and to budget. The ranges are now in use.

The newly established U.S. Military concept for deployment and rotation of units for training in Romania is currently going through its initial evaluation/validation in Operation “Proof of Principle” at MK Airbase, Romania. Its initial success will be in large part due to the design and construction of these facilities through a dedicated partnering effort of The SKE Group and the Europe District, Corps of Engineers team. **AE**