

World Cup Provides Morale Boost



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The electrifying atmosphere of the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup transcended Europe and the employees of Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Southern Europe. Those that experienced World Cup soccer for the first time and those that were familiar with the event were equally excited.

National flags hanging on desks, a printout of the tournament play sheet and water cooler conversations of who would win the next round abounded at DCMA Southern Europe during the FIFA World Cup. DCMA Southern Europe's area of operation covers Europe to South Africa, and its employees' ethnic backgrounds are just as diverse. With employees located in Germany, Italy and Israel, World Cup interest runs high.

The enthusiasm began when reduced-price tickets for several USA exhibitions were offered to those in the office in Germany. Painted faces of red, white and blue populated the stands, and all in attendance enjoyed the festivities. Once the World Cup competition matches began, office members met regularly after work to watch them. The small American community of fans huddled around a TV set tuned to American Forces Network – Europe, and many of our host country foreign personnel eagerly explained the rules to those of us unfamiliar with soccer. If there had ever been hesitation to communicate with the locals, it was overcome by this world ice breaker.

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Employees' moods were high, laughter abounded in the hallways and work was done at an increased speed because of released adrenaline and talk about the games. “It was the single most enjoyable time during my tour,” stated Ms. Jeannette Spann, DCMA Southern Europe quality assurance specialist. When Germany played Italy in the finals, there was a friendly rivalry between the DCMA offices in both locations. Ultimately, the Italian office was able to claim bragging rights when they won the match against the Germans.

Our love affair with 2006 FIFA World Cup Soccer ended with an Italian victory, but in 2010 South Africa will host the World Cup, and a renewed interest in soccer is expected in DCMA Southern Europe once again.

“The World Cup event is just one example of taking advantage of the local activity to boost morale and promote an international relationship with our host nations. Our employees have tasted the international excitement surrounding a sport beloved by much of the world. It will linger with them for the rest of their lives and the impact on morale has been immeasurable,” stated Army Col. Timothy D. Dixon, DCMA Southern Europe commander.

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