

NATO SKYWATCH

Volume 20, No. 2

NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen

30 January 2004



Exercise, Exercise, Exercise

One scenario during January's Magic Viking involved a collision between two cars in front of hangar 1. One was a fuel truck, which really got damaged. The kerosene was set to have escaped through a leak on the ramp. In no time the fire brigade was on the spot to spray down a snow carpet to stop the fuel flow.

Exercise, Exercise, Exercise

See related story on Page 6.

Photo Andrea Hohenforst

IOT&E accomplished

Component members awarded Certificates of Appreciation

By A1C Michael Claßen

The IOT&E - Initial Operational Testing & Evaluation - of the NATO AWACS fleet's prototype mid-term modernisation aircraft took place from September to November 2003. The tests marked a decisive phase in the NATO AWACS Mid-Term Modernization Programme because the NAEW&C Programme Management Organization's Board of Directors was scheduled to make the decision to proceed with the program based, in part, on the IOT&E test results.

On 16 January members of the Operations Wing, Logistics Wing, Information Technology Wing, Training Wing and Plans and Programme Division were awarded Certificates of Appreciation for their contribution to IOT&E. About fifty guests from the E-3A Component, NAPMA and Force Command attended the ceremony at the Frisbee Club. Among them were E-3A Component Commander Brig. Gen. Axel Tüttelmann, NAEW&C Force Commander Maj. Gen. Gary Winterberger, and NAPMA General Manager Brig. Gen. Lothar Amme.

Between 1999 and 2000 major upgrades had been installed into Tail 453, better known as N1, including a new man-machine interface, five additional consoles and a more sophisticated communication and data-capture systems. During IOT&E the E-3A Component was able to test N1 for the first time under its own conditions. The new systems were tested under operational conditions, which will make it possible to further adopt them to the Component's requirements. The ten test flights totalled 95 flying hours on the new system. **(Continued on Page 3)**



E-3A Component Commander Brig. Gen. Axel Tüttelmann (right) receives from NAEW&C Force Commander Maj. Gen. Gary Winterberger and NAPMA General Manager Brig. Gen. Lothar Amme (left) the framed letter. Photo MSgt. Chad Eiring

Next NATO Skywatch:
13 February
Submissions due by:
5 February

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Ten years of Partnership for Peace
NATO looks back at ten years records of success. See Page 3.

Vacancy announcements
Turn to Page 4 for the available vacant posts.



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(Continued from page 1.)

In December 2003, the NAPMO BOD decided to proceed with the program.

The plane is now back in the hands of Boeing, where new test series are taking place before it returns to Geilenkirchen for the final test phase in late summer 2005, Operational Testing & Evaluation (OT&E). The other jets are scheduled to be equipped with the new systems between 2006 and 2008.

At the E-3A Component, sections from all wings contributed either directly or indirectly to IOT&E. A mission crew, specially trained on the new systems, performed the test missions; IT-Wing personnel provided pre- and post-mission support and performed data analysis of the new computer systems; and specially trained maintenance personnel kept the jet flying in conjunction with Boeing.

Base Support Wing took care of all infrastructure, including shelters and rationing. PPC coordinated among the participatory sections on base and with NAPMA and Force Command.

Tüttelmann, during his speech at the ceremony, remarked: "You've done a great job. I'm impressed with the professionalism and commitment in mission accomplishment." He awarded the certificates to Lt. Col. Richard Smith for PPC, Lt. Col. Mark Simpson for Operations Wing, Jos Mertens for Logistics Wing and Jean McDonald for IT Wing.

Finally, also the Component commander himself was honoured. Winterberger and Amme thanked him in a letter: "Your IOT&E Team has done a remarkable job of supporting this intense activity under some very demanding conditions. [...] Whist there is still much work to be done to ensure we get the capabilities we need from this programme, IOT&E has laid the groundwork and given us many lessons that will greatly contribute to our preparations for OT&E. Please pass on our congratulations and personal thanks to the entire IOT&E Team for their efforts."

Ten years of Partnership for Peace

'It is good to see that people from so many nationalities understand each other so easily'

By SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

On 10 January 1994 NATO launched the Partnership for Peace (Pfp), opening a new chapter in its relations with partner countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. On that day at a meeting in Brussels, NATO Heads of State and Government invited the Alliance's partner countries at that time "to forge a real partnership - a Partnership for Peace." The key contribution of the Pfp is establishing a real dialogue between NATO and each participant. Since its creation in 1994 it has been joined by thirty countries, three of which - the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland - have since become members of the Alliance.

The Pfp's main task is to increase the participants' ability to act in concert. Through various mechanisms, it helps Partner countries prepare to operate jointly with NATO forces. "The practical focus of Pfp was to be on preparing the military forces of Allies and Partners to work together seamlessly," said NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer on 14 January at the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council at Ambassadorial level at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. "Today, Allied and Partner soldiers serve shoulder-to-shoulder in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Afghanistan. Some Allies and Partners are putting their Pfp experience into use in Iraq."

The Partnership for Peace is designed to encourage practical cooperation with individual partner countries. Each country is invited to draw up a 'shopping list' of concrete activities -



such as joint military exercises, defence conversion programmes and training - that it would like to engage in, choosing from different areas proposed by NATO.

A two-year Individual Partnership Programme is established between each Partner country and NATO. In each case, it draws on the wide range of activities described in the Partnership Work Programme - from purely military cooperation, to fields like crisis management, peacekeeping, civil emergency planning, air traffic management and armaments - according to the specific interests and requirements of each nation.

A key aspect of the Partnership for Peace is building interoperability, meaning that forces from partner countries are trained to operate side by side with troops from NATO countries, allowing partner countries to contribute to NATO-led operations.

In the spring of 1997 NATO foreign and defence ministers agreed to an enhanced Pfp programme with a more operational role, stronger political consultations, and increased opportunities for partners to participate in decision-making and planning of Pfp activities. Since then NATO AWACS aircraft made numerous visits to these partner countries. These successful visits included briefings to host nation military personnel and orientation flights for selected officials.

Also since then, NATO AWACS aircraft participated in a number of Pfp exercises. These exercises are an opportunity to further build trust, confidence and understanding among the nations. The social opportunity forms an important part. Often a great intercultural exchange takes place in one of the hangars. The nations bring a little piece of their country with them in the form of national foods and drinks for everyone else to sample. New friendships are formed, and they share their cultures in a relaxing setting. As a Slovakian Colonel mentioned during exercise Cooperative Chance at Sliac Air Base, Slovakia, in 1998: "It is good to see that people from so many nationalities

understand each other so easily."

The basic aim is to stimulate and support domestic defence reform in partner countries and the creation of modern, effective and democratically responsible armed forces and other defence institutions. Furthermore, its goal is to help countries manage the social and material consequences of such reform. The programme has proven to be a vital instrument for bringing partner countries closer to the Alliance and, in the case of ten countries, three of which are NATO members today, paving the way for NATO membership.

De Hoop Scheffer: "But our Partnership has also forged a common purpose which goes far beyond military interoperability. It has helped develop political and institutional interoperability between Allies and Partners, building on common values. It has helped build an impressive Euro-Atlantic network of political leaders, diplomats, soldiers and civil servants who can speak the same language, work together, and solve problems together. In short, we have laid the foundations for a common, Euro-Atlantic security culture."

Today, there are 27 partner countries in the Partnership for Peace. Seven of these are in the final stages of becoming NATO members. "Therefore, as we greet this ten-year mark, we can look back at a record of success. The Euro-Atlantic Partnership has been a catalyst of domestic transformation and of international security co-operation on a historically unprecedented scale," said De Hoop Scheffer.

In 2002, at the Prague Summit, NATO Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to NATO's partnerships. A number of reforms were introduced to make the Partnership for Peace more relevant to today's security environment. These reforms are expected to be further strengthened at the upcoming NATO Summit in Istanbul later this year.



NAEW&CF E-3A Component members drink coffee with Bulgarian officials during a Partnership for Peace visit to Plovdiv Air Base in April 1998.

Photo PIO archive



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The DEPT was here

By A1C Michael Randerath and
SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

Late last year, Component members of the operations community were given the opportunity to take a look at a unique tool that helps enable the secure transmission of both data and voice traffic within NATO. This tool, known as the Deployable ERCS Prototype Terminal (DEPT), was at NATO Air base Geilenkirchen to perform some tests of a new secure data antenna. ERCS stands for Electronic-Countermeasures Resistant Communication System and is the system used throughout NATO to transmit secure data and voice traffic. The sensitive electronics and expertise required to use this system are relatively bulky and usually assigned to fixed locations or imbedded within aircraft like the E-3A. What makes this tool so unique is that all the necessary equipment is installed in camouflage trucks that can be moved wherever the mission requires.

Jan van der Voort and Max van Nierop, respectively a technician and programmer from the NATO Consultation, Command and Control Agency, travelled here recently with the DEPT to perform tests on a new data transmission antenna, and while here they provided tours from their "deployed" location – parked next to the main gate. They, along with Maurizio de Odorico from Electronics Maintenance Squadron and MSgt. Hank Piek from Squadron 3, were present to give detailed information to anyone interested in air surveillance technology and the capability of this mobile ERCS terminal, which is a NATO-owned asset.

History of the DEPT

Within NATO's integrated air-defence system, data is transmitted between the AWACS and the respective ground sites using a variety of code systems and protocols – one of which is the Joint Tactical Information Distribution System, or JTIDS. In early 1995 the component's JTIDS maintenance facility – which provides assistance to the NATO Air Defence Ground Element sites – presented a requirement

developed by the ERCS technician Gerd Niessen to the Air Defence Hardware Committee for a mobile ERCS terminal. The idea was to use a mobile terminal for checking the ERCS Link at the various ground sites, thus avoiding the need to request that an E-3A stay airborne, on-station, for a complete operational check of the links.

In 1996, the command and control requirements of the NC3A were combined with the testing requirements of the component's JTIDS Maintenance Facility, and it was decided to build a mobile terminal to be named Deployable ERCS Prototype Terminal.

The E-3A Component/Force Command provided an ERCS terminal and technicians from the maintenance facility developed a rack with parts left over after the aircraft ERCS upgrade. AFNORTH and NAMSA-Air Defence provided their expertise, but NC3A/ACD did most of the work to install the peripherals inside the shelter.

Capability of the DEPT

Presently the DEPT, consisting of a standard NATO mobile shelter, is equipped with a JTIDS Class-1 terminal, providing both secure data link and secure voice capability. The shelter has five workstations with flat screens, communication systems and loads of other modules for which Max van Nierop is responsible. On the screens the following can be displayed: the mission plan, the flying routes/engagement zones, the search & rescue areas, the no-flying areas, AWACS orbits, secure text messages and the Recognized Air Picture (RAP) sent by the E-3A.

This equipment proved to be very useful during several exercises, especially its capability to exchange aircraft track data. When this link drops out, track data has to be provided by voice, which can be a major barrier to mission accomplishment. The task of the mobile terminal is to relay the information from the E-3A aircraft to the Air Operations Centre. This is accomplished via fibre-optic link, designed and set up by NC3A. The operations centre is provided with a



DEPT: All the necessary equipment is installed in camouflage trucks that can be moved wherever the mission requires.
Photo A1C Michael Randerath

RAP, allowing it to monitor mission accomplishment, and if necessary, make corrections via the E-3A aircraft.

In the past, NATO has funded and maintained over 100 radar stations across Europe. NATO's air surveillance requirements have changed since the time of the Cold War, and for this reason, the DEPT's main advantages compared to static systems are its mobility and the fact that it is generally more sophisticated and equipped with the latest technology.

The DEPT has gradually grown in its capabilities since the first idea was

tabled in 1995. The NC3A/ACD/Surveillance Branch has developed an invaluable asset that can be used NATO-wide in all conditions.

It should be emphasized that there is always room for improvement of the DEPT's capabilities, but it is up to the potential users to request modifications. Whenever enough people ask for a DEPT briefing/demonstration on the spot, it can be easily arranged for it to be brought back to NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen. For more information: LWENJ ext. 3728.

Surprise... surprise!

Say 'I love you' on Valentine's Day! Surprise a friend or loved one with a free Valentine's Day greeting in the next issue of the NATO Skywatch. Send your message of forty words or less to the Public Information Office at mail stop 33, or email pio@e3a.nato.int, or bass/lann email E3AGK Hymenberg, by 5 February. Submissions should be printed or typed and include your name and telephone number.

Vacancy announcements

Applications are invited for the following posts:

Assistant Systems Administrator, post number AGK IUH 0400, advertisement number 04004, NATO grade B-5. This post is assigned to the Systems & Help Desk Function, Management & Facility Support Division, Information Technology Wing, NAEW&CF E3A Component. Closing date 17 February 2004.

Fireman, post numbers AGK SAF 0530, AGK SAF 0540, AGK SAF 0550 & AGK SAF 0560, advertisement numbers 04015, 04016, 04017 & 04018, NATO grade C-3. These posts are assigned to the Fire/Crash&Rescue Branch, Airfield Services Squadron, Base Support Wing, NAEW&CF E3A Component. Closing date 18 February 2004.

Senior Clerk (Logistics), post number AGK LAC 0410, advertisement number 04006, NATO grade B-2. This post is assigned to the PILS&T.O. Office, Office of the Commander, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Logistics Wing, NAEW&CF E3A Component. Closing date 16 February 2004.

Senior Assistant (Plans), post number AGK CXL 0050, advertisement number 04002, NATO grade B-4. This post is assigned to the Mobility/Exercise Planning Branch, Plans & Programmes Division, Headquarters, NAEW&CF E3A Component. Closing date 13 February 2004.

Senior Technician (Communications), post numbers AGK LEE 0240 & AGK LEE 0250, advertisement numbers 04013 & 04014, NATO grade B-4. These posts are assigned to the Communications Section, Communication/ESM Maintenance Branch, Electronic Maintenance Squadron, Logistics Wing, NAEW&CF E3A Component.

Closing Date 19 February 2004. **Technician (AGE)**, post numbers AGK LAS 0170, AGK LAS 0220 & AGK LAS 0280, advertisement numbers 04007, 04008 & 04009, NATO grade B-3. These posts are assigned to the AGE Inspection Section, Maintenance Support Branch, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Logistics Wing, NAEW&CF E3A Component. Closing date 20 February 2004.

Junior Technician (Equipment Maintenance), post numbers AGK LAS 1060 & AGK LAS 1070, advertisement numbers 04010 & 04011, NATO grade B-2. These posts are assigned to the Tools & Equipment Section, Maintenance Support Branch, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Logistics Wing, NAEW&CF E3A Component. Closing date 20 February 2004.

Principal Scientist (Meteorology), post number AGK SAM 0010, advertisement number 04019, NATO grade A-4. This post is

assigned to the Meteorology Branch, Airfield Services Squadron, Base Support Wing, NAEW&CF E3A Component. Closing date 25 February 2004.

Senior A/C General Mechanic, AGK LAF 0510, Advertisement Number 04012, NATO Grade C-4, assigned to the Aircraft Rinse, Wash & De-icing Section, Flightline Maintenance Branch, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Logistics Wing, NAEW&CF E-3A Component. Closing date 24 February 2004.

All posts are due to be filled as soon as possible.

For further details, please visit the Component Information Portal (WISE) under Headquarters, PEC, Recruitment/Services Section or review the advertisement posted in Building 8.

Note: Only applications of qualified personnel will be considered.

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Exercise Magic Viking

German conscripts challenge IMP and Civil Guard

By A1C Michael Randerath

Exercise... Exercise... Exercise! A team of fifteen German conscripts conducted several 'special operations' during the first 'Magic Viking' exercise in 2004. The intention was to test how the International Military Police (IMP) and Civil Guardsmen react to certain threatening scenarios.

Evaluators had scripted several events to be performed by the team. To name just a few examples: car crashes, base personnel hit by mortar fire and a potential guerrilla group scouting the airbase. But the most exciting training scenarios were a violent demonstration at the main gate and an invasion by enemy forces of the northern area of the base.

At 1000 in the morning of 7 January, the acting team left the base and met 100 meters in front of the main gate. A bullhorn, "STOP AWACS" and "NO WAR" banners were handed out. As the guardsmen saw the chanting group marching towards them, they immediately closed the gates. Directed by 1st Lt. Frank Rath and MSgt. Markus Soetzen from the German National Support Unit, the pacifistic demonstrators increased their protests gradually. Some threw garbage over the fence; some annoyed both guardsmen and guard dogs with bullhorn sounds; and others insulted the guardians.

Later, a few guys even tried to climb over the fence, but were cordially taken care of. So far, the IMP and Civil Guard had everything under control. The fake extremists' exercise goal was to talk with the Component commander, and as the IMP didn't let them in voluntarily, they used a trick to be successful in that.

One demonstrator pretended to have some kind of injury. The crowd was told that if they displace to 50 meters in front of the base and stay calm, a doctor would be called. The guardsmen opened the main gate to pick up the patient. Doing that, they were suddenly

facing the entire group running towards the open gate, and some of them could enter the base.

The astonished IMP reacted very fast. Those ones that couldn't be stopped with words were captured under the threat of force. However... the German conscript-team took comfort in the fact that there was going to be another opportunity to challenge the security forces.

A scenario with a small guerrilla group invading the airbase and blowing up a building was to be conducted at night. After a short briefing, the fifteen German conscripts and their supervisors displaced to the Component's northern area with automobile headlights switched off. They wanted to remain unseen. Unfortunately some patrolling IMP

base colleagues, in our opinion killjoy, had good eyes or ears and stopped the three cars.

Our simple answer was: "Exercise!" and "Please don't tell your IMP friends about us!" Some minutes later, the destination was reached. Equipped with pistols, Uzi's, G3-rifles and some exercise ammunition, the pseudo-terrorists acted like they had just broken through the fence and had placed their bomb in the building. The Fire Brigade, who installed a fog generator next to the 'blown up' building and several 'Ka-Boom' sounds caused by Soetzen's clackers established scenario realism.

IMP and Civil Guard got alerted, searched the whole area with caution and half an hour after the first explosion, the invasion team got surrounded while holding their position.

Most of the wannabe-terrorists got 'shot'. Four of them were smart enough to drop their weapons and surrender. Blindfolded and cable-tied, they were declared prisoners of war (POW).

A transportation car brought them to the POW detention centre, where they had to give their identity and wait for someone to frisk them. Even though the four fake POW's tried hard to prevent the minders from finding their knives, they failed to do so. For this reason and because their terrorist comrades got 'killed in action', the IMP and Civil Guard mastered this scenario as well.

While some pseudo demonstrators and fake terrorists were disappointed in the light of their failure, others agreed that IMP and Civil Guard have done a pretty good job in terms of keeping uninvited guests out.



Exercise, Exercise, Exercise - With a bullhorn and banners a 'special operations' team from German conscripts protest against AWACS flying operations during exercise Magic Viking - Exercise, Exercise, Exercise.
Photo A1C Michael Randerath

Drive with extra attention during the winter

By IMP

Winter driving doesn't have to be a nightmare. Make sure you and your vehicle are prepared by following the suggestions below.

Clearing ice from the windows of a vehicle

All the windows of a vehicle must be cleared of ice before the vehicle may be operated. In 1997 a vehicle waiting to exit from Rommelstrasse in the off-base housing area, in order to proceed towards the Main Gate, struck a Component member. The operator of the vehicle was waiting for an opportunity to enter Lilienthalallee and, because he had only cleared a small portion of his windshield, did not see the Component member who walked

in front of his vehicle as he launched forward.

For traffic safety on base, the IMP & Civil Guards as "gate entry controllers" are advised to deny access to vehicles if their windows are not cleared of ice.

Windshield wipers

You should check your windshield wipers to make sure the blades are in good working condition and ready for the wintertime. Keep your windshield washers clear of any obstructions. Keep the washer bottle full with de-icing liquid and your wipers in good working order.

Black ice and dirty roads

Beware of suddenly changing road conditions. In recent years quite a few Component members have found out the hard way that their intended

direction of travel did not match with the forces of gravity and traction. Do your tires have sufficient tread and are they suitable for the weather conditions?

Use of head-, fog, and parking lights

Please ensure that all your vehicle lights are clean and in working order. Fog lights may only be used when visibility is reduced to 50 meters or less. The parking light is only to be used for enhancing the visibility of a parked vehicle.

Fog is one of the most dangerous hazards a driver will have to face. An accident to one vehicle ahead can quickly involve many others. Slow down and keep a safe distance. When following another vehicle in fog, leave enough space to stop. There is always

the possibility of an unforeseen hazard ahead, which may cause the vehicle in front of you to make an emergency stop.

Excess idling

It is a violation of Host Nation Traffic Law and E-3A Component Directive 05-127 to leave a vehicle in idle for more than 3 minutes. This occurs when a vehicle's engine is turned on to warm up while the driver is clearing ice from the windows.

Finally, please take special care when operating a vehicle during darkness or low visibility. Pay special attention to the important things around you and do not let yourself be distracted by things like advertisement signs that have no bearing on your operation of the vehicle.

Canadian Forces: The right hand of Santa

By Amn. Stefan Krueckel

A generous and honourable tradition of the Canadian Forces at the E-3A Component and Niederheid took place in December 2003. In a time where not a few people are struggling with their economic situation, not many others would have thought of the children whose dreams of Christmas could have been totally ruined. That has been averted, thanks to the Canadian forces who, like every year, raised money to keep poor children and their families from having a melancholy Christmas.

The commander of the Canadian forces support unit, Commander Mike McGrath, at Niederheid, delivered €1,950 and mounts of toys and puzzles to Mr Hartmut Schuck, chief of the Heinsberg Social Services. This group of people does the best it can to fulfil the wishes of children who are suffering either financially or psychologically. The raising of funds took place within the Canadian forces where every employee had the opportunity to deliver his voluntary contribution at any of several contacts.

"We knew that a collection was coming but we didn't reckon such a great achievement," said Schuck. "The outcome of this achievement is that 18 families with a total of 47 children were able to solve some of their economic

problems. For instance, the donation made it possible that a mother was able to afford a ticket to see her children on Christmas."

Since last year the Canadian Forces increased the effort of the collection, but also extended their activities for the good of social services. This special campaign has taken place annually since 1997. In times of empty purses, this fundraising secured many dreams and wishes of the children.

The Canadian forces also set up an internal lottery for the social welfare and planned to do several more events to soften the pain of people who must come to grips with a bitter destiny.



Commander Mike McGrath and two of the main persons in charge for the fund raising, Sgt. Maggie Mendoca (right) and her alternate Maxi Springer.

Photo courtesy NSCA

Astra Cinema

Euro only at ticket window. Doors open at 1900 for a 1930 show time, except as noted. Adults pay just €4, children €2. Sunday is matinee only.

29-31 January: Elf.

Family/comedy, starring Will Ferrell, James Caan, Bob Newhart, Ed Asner, Mary Steenburgen and Zoey Deschanel. Rated PG, 90 minutes.

5-7 February: Matrix,

Revolutions. Action/Sci-Fi, starring Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss, Laurence Fishburne, Nona Gaye, Monica Bellucci and Hugo Weaving. Rated R, 129 minutes.

Family Support Centre

Please call ext. 3791 or stop by building 78 to sign up for these workshops.

Relocation Assistance

Sponsorship Training, 6 February 1000-1130. Come and hear helpful ideas on what you can do to assist the person or family you will be sponsoring. You can make your life and their settling in easier if you put some preparation into it!

Smooth Move Workshop, 2 February 1300-1600. Are you PCSing, separating, or retiring? Let the base experts help in your "smooth move."

INTRO - A Newcomers Orientation, 17 February 0800-1700. Come and learn about your new base and its many opportunities. This orientation is mandatory for U.S. military members and civilian employees. Military members are required to wear the uniform of the day. Family members are encouraged to attend. A free buffet lunch is provided by the American Women of Geilenkirchen.

Explore Sittard-Daytrip, 26 February 0830-1630. Come visit this wonderful quaint town in the Netherlands.

Discover the weekly market and enjoy the ambiance of Europe. Bring Euro for lunch.

Explore Geilenkirchen-Daytrip, 14 February 1000-1500. Explore the historical WW II battle area of this local city. See what facts you didn't know were so close to where you live. Bring euros for lunch, dress for the weather and walking/hiking. Not suitable for children under 6 years old.

Personal Financial Management Program (PFMP) & Air Force Aid Society (AFAS)

Brown Bag Investor, 18 February 1130-1230 pm. Old and new investors alike, bring your brown bag lunch and join us in a discussion on investing. Each month a different topic will be discussed.

Financial Readiness Class, 5 February 1330-1500. Research has found that financial education can reduce frequency of money problems and improve one's feelings about his or her own financial status. 13 units offered - Sign up NOW!

Family Life Skills

Cooking for Singles, 27 February 1200-1330. This class is a fun way to meet other singles and learn some great new recipes. You will learn to cook these great new and old recipes in smaller portions.

SKYWATCH

Skywatch Classifieds are free to all NATO personnel. Advertisements must be printed or typed, and include your name, office symbol and duty extension. The editor will not accept advertisements for services that generate a regular income or for housing other than vacation rentals. Submissions for the next issue are due to PIO before noon Thursday, 5 February.

Autos for sale

Saturn SL2 1997, colour Salmon, 4-door, air conditioning, power steering, power windows, 5-speed, electric sunroof, 110,000 miles. Passed base inspection in December, asking \$4,000. Kelly's Blue Book value \$4,500. Contact Brooke at ext. 3834.

Blue Renault coach '96, 2 litre engine, electrical windows, 110,000 km, airco, equipped with winter tires, garage maintained, asking EUR 5,000. Please contact 0049-163.6963066.

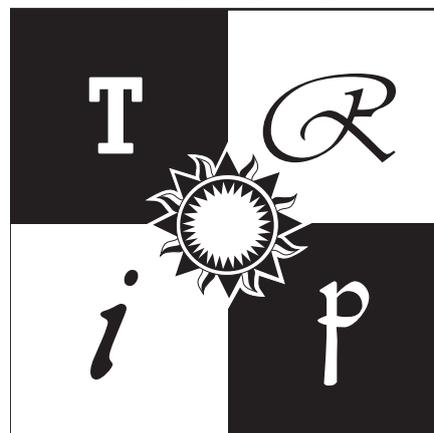
Miscellaneous

63 piece dinner service (for eight settings), white/beige-peach detail with gold trim, excellent condition (like new). Includes serving

dishes/espresso/coffee and tea services, photos available at IT Wing or Training Wing, worth €750 - selling for €350 obo. Contact Wenda Berentsen on ext. 2810 or 00 31 (0)45 5259397 after 1700.

Kodak Easyshare LS 443 digital camera, 4.0 MegaPixel real image resolution, World-optic-leader Schenider-Kreuznach Variogon Aspheric 3X zoom lens, 35-105 mm, 3.3X digital zoom, flash, 1.8 in "indoor/outdoor" display, 16MB internal memory, SD/MMC card slot, USB camera dock to download images/recharge battery, 2 Li-Ion rechargeable batteries (1 only 2 months old). This is a high performance but easy to use camera, 8 months old, excellent condition. Asking €230. Contact Peppe Caruso at ext. 3579 or 0177 4914799.

make a



To a musical or concert nearby

Musicals

ABBA, The Show

This musical takes place on 6 March in the Theatre am Marienort in Duisburg.

Concerts

Seal performs on 9 March at the Philpshalle in Düsseldorf (-Oberbilk).

Pink performs on 15 March at the Köln Arena in Cologne.

Shania Twain performs on 29 March at the Köln Arena in Cologne.

Eric Clapton performs on 15 April at the Köln Arena in Cologne.

Phil Collins performs on 12 June at the Rhein Energie Stadion in Cologne.

Sting performs on 16 June at the Tanzbrunnen (open air) in Cologne.

Santana performs on 6 July at the Kunst und Ausstellungshalle in Bonn.

All tickets are available at www.konzertkarten-online.com or at Kalles Musikmarkt GmbH, Haihovertstr. 4, 52511 Geilenkirchen, tel. 02451 8595.

Try to get the tickets as early as possible, otherwise they could be sold out.

Change of Command at AFNORTH

German General Gerhard W. Back took over as the new Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces North Europe during a change of command ceremony on 15 January at the Regional Headquarters AFNORTH, Brunssum, the Netherlands.

General James L. Jones, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, officiated the command change and accepted the AFNORTH colours from outgoing commander General Sir Jack Deverell. Back is the second German Commander-in-Chief for Regional Command NORTH. The position of Commander-in-Chief AFNORTH is, since the inception of RHQ AFNORTH in March 2000, a position that rotates between Germany and the United Kingdom. Deverell was the first British CINCNORTH.



General Gerhard W. Back (left), Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces North Europe and General Sir Jack Deverell, former CINCNORTH, at the press conference that followed the change of command ceremony.

Photo AFNORTH



Photo CSA Archive

Carnival Valentine Dinner Dance Night

The Civilian Staff Association (CSA) invites all CSA members and E-3A Component members and their guests to the E-3A Component Carnival Valentine Dinner Dance Night at the Officers' Club on Saturday, 14 February, starting 1800. Carnival dress is highly desirable. If you are not a big carnival freak, you may also come in regular dress (casual but smart, perhaps wear at least a carnival hat) and enjoy the evening. As a tradition, the best costumes, male and female, will be awarded a prize during the evening.

Tickets are €30 each; CSA members will receive two tickets for a CSA subsidized price of €25 each. The ticket includes an excellent international cold/warm buffet, and also included are 3 bottles of wine per table of 12 people. The Aachener Carnival Group 'De Jongens van der Bevereau' will provide entertainment and the 'Forever' Show Band from Bavaria, and others.

All Component members and their guests are invited to attend this carnival function. Please note that if you bring guests who do not work at the E-3A Component, you are entirely responsible for properly bringing them on base and adhering to the current security regulations. You and your guests must be identifiable at the Main gate when entering the base and should not be in possession of any toy weapons. A seating plan will be available for your choice of table on a first-come-first-served basis.

Tickets will be available from Werner Schumm, ext. 2477; J.P.L. Jacobsen, ext. 3040; Paolo Albanese, ext. 3826; Christel Flintrop, ext 4490.

IDH, Officers' and Frisbee Clubs now on the BASS LAN System. Menu information under Public Folders/ Base Support Wing/Services Squadron/ Clubs or IDH. Also, check out the Services Squadron web page for programme information and upcoming events.

E-3A Component Clubs

Sunday brunch will alternate between Officers'/Frisbee Clubs. Members from both clubs are eligible to attend. Regular prices: brunch – members, €9.20; guests, €10.70; lunch – members, €6.10; guests, €7.65; children 4-12 years, half price. Reservations should be made NLT 1200 on the Friday before. Club cards are required. For additional information, please contact the Officers' Club, ext. 4990, or the Frisbee Club, ext. 4992.

- 1 Family brunch at the Officers' Club. Frisbee Club closed.
- 8 Chinese brunch at the Frisbee Club. Officers' Club closed.
- 15 Winter lunch at the Frisbee Club. Officers' Club closed.
- 22 Both clubs closed due to carnival.
- 29 Italian brunch at the Officers' Club. Frisbee Club closed.

Officers' Club (SWPO/4990)

Operating hours bar Monday-Friday 1100-2300; restaurant Monday-Friday 1130-1330, Sunday 1100-1400 (alternating with the Frisbee Club).

Reservations are required for Sunday brunch by 1200 on the Friday before. Club cards required when using the Frisbee Club.

Lunch at the Officers' Club Monday-Thursday A la Carte menu served. Monday and Wednesday a vegetarian special is also available. Buffet style lunch is offered on Friday. Throughout February membership appreciation. One time each month for each Officer's Club member, buy one drink of your choice and get an equivalent drink of your choice free of charge, club cards required.

Tuesdays 1700-1800 Happy Hour, free snacks available.

MWA INFORMATION February

Fridays 1600-1800 Happy Hour, free snacks available.

- 14 CSA carnival dinner dance open to all Component members and their guests. Watch out for special flyer.
- 19 Officers' Club open until 1400 (Alt Weiber Fastnacht).
- 23 Officers' Club closed due to Carnival.
- 24-26 Seafood specialities during lunchtime.

Special Notes:

Officers' Club Participation in Frisbee Club Event, during Frisbee Club opening hours, Officers' Club members are eligible to utilise the Frisbee Club for breakfast, dinner and Sunday brunch (on an alternating basis between the Frisbee and Officers' Clubs). Club cards required when Officers' Club members are using the Frisbee Club. Cancellations for Officers' Club events will be accepted up to two days prior to the event at ext. 4990. After this time, a cancellation fee of €5 per person must be charged for non-excused absences.

Sentry Club (SWPJ/4997)

Weekly specials all at €3

- 2-6 Tortellini with cheese and ham sauce.
- 9-13 Chicken breast fillet with sauce Hollandaise and croquettes.
- 16-20 Meat balls with rice and gipsy sauce.
- 24-27 Chicken nuggets with French Fries.
A daily soup and a variety of self-prepared salads are also available. Please note: The menu may change without notice.

Frisbee Club (SWPN/4994)

Make a reservation today at the Frisbee Grill and enjoy good food and the cosy atmosphere!

Remember - the Frisbee Club is open for breakfast and dinner to all Frisbee and Officers' Club

members.

Monday-Thursday Happy Hour 1700-1800. Every Friday Happy Hour 1700-1900 with free snacks.

Throughout February special "winter" special - various soups will be served throughout the month.

- 3 SKAT.
- 4, 11 and 18 Mussel special during lunchtime.
- 6 Bavarian Breakfast, 0900-1030, will be served.
- 10 BINGO.
- 19 Carnival: "Altweiberball". Club will be open 1400-2400 with live music from the "Lee Sound" Band. A DJ will also be available.
- 20-23 Frisbee Club closed due to carnival.

Sports Department (SWPT/4946)

Throughout February indoor soccer and basketball leagues.

- 14 Volleyball tournament. This is an invitational event with teams from off base.
- 18 Aerobathon – open to all Component members and their families.

International Pre-school (SWPS/4957)

18 Carnival parties when children may dress up in costumes. The parties will be held as follows: Morning class at 1100 and afternoon class at 1500.

23-27 Winter Break.

1 March

Back to school.

Registration continues for the 2003/2004 school year with places still available for the afternoon programme only. Office hours – Monday-Wednesday 1500-1630/Thursday 0800-1200.

Please note: Information and registration available during office hours only.

International Library (SWPL/4956)

Monday-Friday operating hours 1100-1600.

The Library has something for

everyone. Four Library computers are now available each providing Internet for your convenience. Use of these computers is free to all NATO ID cardholders.

Also available – newly released books (fiction and non-fiction), CDs, DVDs and videos (adult and children's selections) and CLEP and DANTE study materials, General Jumper, and Embry Riddle.

Thrift Shop (SWPG/4919)

Tuesdays and Thursdays operating hours 1000-1400.

International Youth Activities (SWPY/4954/5)

Registration and further information at the IYA Office in Bldg. 95, ext. 4954/5, opening hours Monday-Friday, 0815 – 1300.

Carnival break program

From 24 to 27 February the IYA is organising a session for children aged 6 and older with activities from 0930 to 1630. The children can be dropped off at 0800, and picked up no later than 1730. The programme offers fun games, arts and crafts, sports, free play, special projects and movies. Cost is €51 for one child, €102 for two children, and €127,50 for three or more children, including a field trip to Europlanetarium and Kinderstad on 24 February and lunch on 27 February.

Trip to Europlanetarium and Kinderstad

On 24 February, the IYA is offering a trip for ages 6 and older to Europlanetarium in Genk and Kinderstad Indoor Attraction Park in Heerlen. The bus departs at 0830 and gets back at about 1730. Cost is €21 per child, chaperones go free.

Volkshochschule language courses

The winter-spring session of Volkshochschule language courses is starting the week of 2 February. Classes are held in Bldg 141. Basic prices: regular courses €39 for 15 mornings/evenings; intensive courses €78 for 30 mornings/evenings. Registration in class. The following courses are offered: German, English and Italian. Further information at ext. 4954.

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