

# Western end of runway gets obstacle free

By PIO

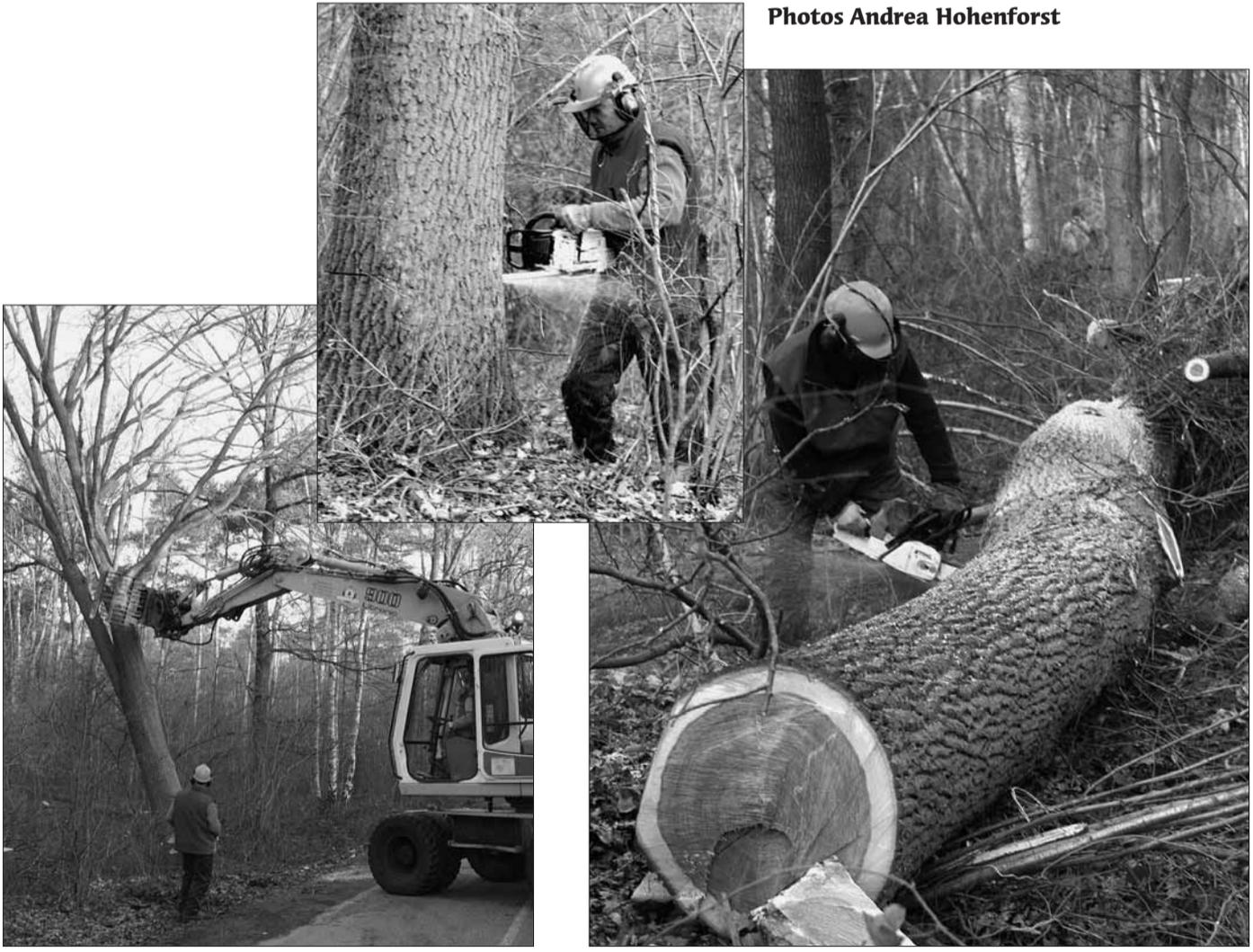
**This week Monday, 9 January, contractors started to cut a section of trees adjacent to the west side of the base on the Dutch side of the border. After years of discussion, the western end of the runway is becoming 'obstacle free' and the E-3A Component will be able to operate with improved safety margins.**

The trees in the Schinveld Forest were growing into the obstacle free zone, causing problems for flying operations, especially during bad weather. To assure flight safety in the last few years the, special flight instructions were ordered. The cutting of the trees now increases the margin of safety on take-off and landing.

Although safety concerns required the clearing of this six-hectare section of the forest, the project will have no significant impact on noise levels for those living near the base. In fact, noise levels will decrease to an extent because pilots will be able to fly what's known as 'precision approaches', allowing aircraft to glide at lower power levels to the runway. This was previously not possible because the trees blocked the pilots' view of the runway approach lights.

Even with the trees cut, the Component will continue to prioritise efforts to control the noise impact on surrounding communities. One method for doing that was established in an agreement between NATO and the Dutch Government to limit the total number of aircraft movements over the Netherlands annually. In fact, the total number of movements over the Netherlands last year was significantly below the allowed totals (3,211 against 3,600). Moreover the E-3A Component observes quiet hours, between 2200 and 0800 and there is no flying during the weekends, unless required for operational reasons.

The Dutch government's decision to clear this small section of the forest is supported by the E-3A Component, but does not change the Component's commitment to being a good neighbour. As in the past the Component will continue to ensure the noise burden on local communities is reduced as much as possible. For example, around half of training approaches are flown away from Air Base Geilenkirchen. And finally, the approach and departure routes are carefully mapped to reduce noise impact as much as possible.



Photos Andrea Hohenforst

**Next NATO Skywatch:  
27 January  
Submissions due by:  
19 January**

**Also in this issue:**  
**Gen. Tom Hobbins visits base.** See page 3.  
**Winter tyres mandatory in Germany.** See page 4.



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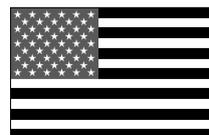
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NATO Air Mobile Medical Teams in Pakistan have treated over 3,000 patients in the earthquake-affected area of Kashmir since they started operations in November.

The 8 October earthquake devastated the infrastructure in the Kashmir Mountains leaving thousands injured without access to medical facilities. Roads and hospitals collapsed and hundred of thousands needed medical attention.

The Air Mobile Medical Team consists of a Luxembourg MD Explorer Air Rescue helicopter (Luxembourg contribution to the NATO Disaster

## NATO mobile medical teams treated more than 3000 patients

Relief Team in Pakistan) and Czech, Dutch, French, Portuguese, and UK medics assigned to the NATO Medical Relief Hospital in Bagh. They have been able to bring medical assistance and medicines to remote villages. Most of these areas are not accessible by vehicles and do not have any medical facilities nearby where people can go for medical care.

The Luxembourg MD Explorer is the workhorse of the Air Mobile Medical Team. Its ability to land in remote areas is phenomenal. In some instances, the medical teams are dropped by the Luxembourg helicopter and then reach their destination using mules for extra mobility in the rough mountain terrain. They have saved the lives of hundreds that would otherwise have been killed by earthquake-related injuries or diseases.



Medical personnel look after a patient in the intensive care.  
Photo SHAPE

## NATO Nations have donated €100 million worth of equipment to the Iraqi Armed Forces

**NATO member countries are responding to the Iraqi people's desire for increased security in their country by providing a large quantity of donated arms and equipment in support of the Iraqi Armed Forces.**

For example, Romania has donated around 6,000 AK-47 rifles and various types of other equipment. A large shipment of donations from Slovenia arrived this year, including among

other things, around 17,000 AK-47 rifles and around 10,000 helmets. Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Hungary and Latvia have also donated various types of equipment to the Iraqi Security Forces.

Donations of weapons from many of the East European nations that have now joined NATO are ideal for the Iraqi military because many Iraqis are already familiar with those weapons from the days of the former regime, say western military experts. While not all are new, the weapons are in excellent shape. The above-mentioned

donations are estimated to be worth around €30 million.

Seventy-seven tanks and four tank-recovery vehicles, donated to the Iraqi Armed Forces by Hungary were delivered and they are now located at Taji, north of Baghdad, which is the headquarters of the Iraqi 9th Division (Mechanized). The tanks were transferred from Hungary by a combination of land and sea transport and are expected to be operational by mid-December. This donation is estimated to be worth around €70 million, which takes the total of NATO

donations to the Iraqi Armed Forces in 2005 to €100 million.

In response to a request from the Interim Iraqi Government (IIG), NATO announced at the Istanbul Summit that it had agreed to assist with the training of Iraq's security forces.

On October 8, 2004, the Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, based in Norfolk, Virginia, established the NATO Training and Equipment Coordination Group (NTECG). The NTECG was created to support the ongoing NATO Training Mission in Iraq (NTM-I), under the Supreme Allied Commander Europe. The NTECG's mission is to assist NATO military authorities in training selected Iraqi personnel out-of country, and to develop a NATO role in coordinating and harmonising Iraqi Interim Government equipment needs with national offers to support those requirements.

In-country coordination is undertaken by the NTM-I Training, Equipment and Synchronization Cell (TESC), which addresses the Iraqi Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Interior requirements by coordinating the delivery of NATO nation offers of equipment that meets Iraqi requirements.

NTM-I is in Iraq at the request of Iraqi authorities. The Mission mainly concentrates on training Iraqi officers and assisting the Iraqi Security Forces with donated equipment, not combat operations.

## Commander U.S. Air Forces in Europe visits base

**Signing the Component Guest Book was Gen. Tom Hobbins' first task after he was welcomed on 29 December by E-3A Component Commander Brig. Gen. Stephen D. Schmidt.**

**The Commander U.S. Air Forces in Europe paid a courtesy visit between Christmas and New Year. He received an update about the tasking of the men and women of the E-3A Component as well as about the numerous real-world operations the Component took part in during the last few years.**

**On the same day Gen. Hobbins also visited JFC HQ Brunssum.**

Photo MSgt. Mark Bogges



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# Winter tyres mandatory in the Federal Republic of Germany

By IMP

The traffic police department in Heinsberg has provided the E-3A Component with the following information with regard to the use of winter tyres in the Federal Republic of Germany with effect from 1 January 2006.

German legislation does not currently prescribe the use of winter tyres during the winter season, but legislation on this subject is expected in the near future (sometime in 2006).



However, an amendment has been made to the text of Article 1, Section 2, paragraph 3a, of the Road Traffic Regulations (Art. 1 & 2 Abs. 3a StVO), which now specifies that motor vehicles must be appropriately equipped for the weather conditions. This specially includes the requirements that vehicles must have suitable tyres and that the windscreen washer system is to be filled with suitable liquid containing antifreeze.

If the police discover that your motor vehicle is not appropriately equipped in this respect, they can impose a fine of €20. If the police discover that your vehicle is hindering traffic because it is not adequately equipped for driving at that time, they can impose a fine of €40.

It is also possible that if you caused damage to your vehicle as a result of

icy road conditions, and your vehicle was not equipped with tyres of the right type, then your insurance company would only cover part of the cost. You are advised to contact your insurance company to obtain information on this subject.

Further information is available from the IMP Investigation Section, Building 97, ext. 4820.

## Vacancy announcement

Applications are invited for the following posts:

*Fireman*, 7 posts, AGK SAF 0570-AGK SAF 0630, Advertisement Numbers 05033-05039, NATO grade C-3, assigned to the Fire/Crash & Rescue Branch, Airfield Services Squadron, Base Support Wing. These posts are due to be filled as soon as possible. Closing date: 31 Jan 2006.

*Senior Assistant (Administration)*, Post Number AGK IWA 0030, Advertisement Number 05042, NATO grade B-4, assigned to the Administration Support Group, Information Support Wing. This post is due to be filled as soon as possible. Closing date: 7 February 2006.

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.*

## The mystery of the anonymous toilet brush

*provided by Building 80*

I came back to work  
After Christmas like you  
I'd had a good leave  
Now back to 'the zoo'

But there on my desk  
Was something quite strange  
A pink toilet brush  
Or am I deranged?

It stood on its own  
Pink flowers and all  
Gleaming and new  
And not very tall.

The desk was empty  
'cept the brush all alone  
I stood in my coat  
And made a small moan

"What's this," I asked  
"Don't know," they all said  
It was put there at Christmas  
When we were all still in bed

So - a mystery again  
And who put it there?  
It's a strange kind of gift  
Or was it a dare?

A feminine special  
With pink daisies all round.  
Was it an unwanted present  
Or something someone found?

The mystery continues  
To this very day  
No-one will own up  
So here's what I say....

I'll keep it here  
For a week or so  
If no-one claims it by then  
It will just have to go!

## Italian Night

The International Women's Club organises Italian Night in the Frisbee Club on 26 January at 1830. A festive evening with games, music, a jewellery stand and a lot of sweets. Don't miss it!



By Mr. H. Wayne Hill

As Americans, one of the food staples we like to eat is chicken. We eat it fried, roasted, baked and barbequed. So if you share American taste for chicken and want to have it rotisserie roasted, then you have to go to the 'Haan' (Chicken) restaurant in Heerlen, The Netherlands.

The surroundings are simple, clean and efficient. Since chicken is the theme you will see all kinds of chicken things around on the walls from pictures to statues.

There is a wall of chain driven rotisserie bars that turn and are filled with chickens in varied stages from pale to golden brown. They give off a visual appeal to spark the appetite. The restaurant's only meat is chicken.

So if you like that, you can have a half, whole, or chicken livers as your main course. They sell side dishes such as French fries, assorted vegetables, mushrooms, and ice cream or fruit for dessert. Don't expect to pay very much either. For a modest €10 to €13 one can go in hungry and come out full with basic food, drink and dessert.

This eatery is ideal for families with children (it's a two minute drive from the indoor playground 'Kinderstad') or if you just want a bite to eat before the movies. The restaurant is across from the parking lot of the Heerlen train station, so parking is handy. Address is Stationstraat 19, Heerlen; phone 0031-45-571-1373; closed Tuesday and Wednesday.

## WANTED SWIMMING INSTRUCTORS

The IYA is looking for certified - German DLRG Bronze or equivalent Red Cross certificate - instructors for its swimming lessons for beginners. They are held at the Hallenbad Geilenkirchen on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1645 to 1745. If you like to work with children aged 4 and up, please call ext. 4954 to get further information.

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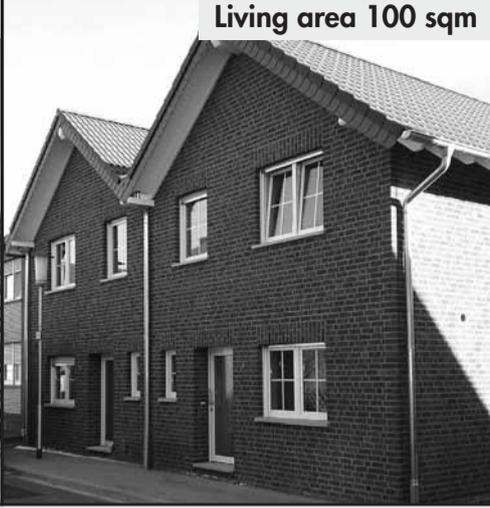
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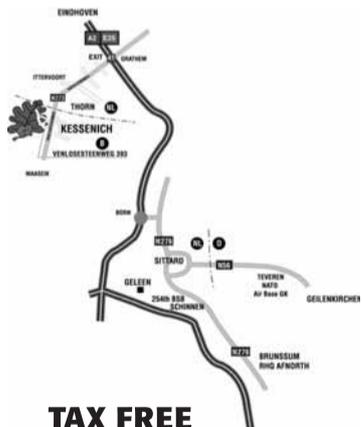
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## Autos

Kia Sorento EX, 04/2003, 2.5 Li. diesel engine, 140 HP, 44,000 km, colour black/contrast coloured body panels, permanent AWD, leather interior, many options. Vehicle has two new front tires, 45,000 km service is included, dealer serviced, first owner, accident free. Asking €15,400, contact Rich Evers at ext. 4694 or at home 02451 71416.

Opel Vectra 1.8, 16 valve, 115 HP, 149,000 km,

1998, dark blue metallic, black seats, set of winter tires on alum. rims, removable towing hook, roof rack transport bars (2 each), 'Remus' exhaust system fitted, 'Irrmscher' suspension system, electronic air-conditioning system, heated front seats, new battery and front brake disks installed, dealer serviced, none smokers car. Car is tax-free, must be seen. Asking: €4950 obo. For more info contact Johan Van Raemdonck, LWAAE, ext. 3674/3655; home 0241/1892448; cell. 0173/7411921.

**IDH, Officers', Frisbee and Sentry 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, tel. 4994.

- 15 Sunday brunch at the Officers' Club with live music from 'Skyliner-Jazzorchester'. Frisbee Club closed.
- 22 Sunday brunch at the Frisbee Club. Officers' Club closed.
- 29 Family 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 (ext. 4994).

*Lunch at the Officers' Club: Monday-Thursday, A la Carte menu served; Monday + Wednesday a vegetarian special also available; Friday buffet style lunch.*

Throughout the month membership appreciation; one time each month for each Officers' 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; Fridays 1600-1800 Happy Hour, free snacks available.*

- 20 'Robert Burns Night' – watch for special flyer.

#### Special Notes:

*The Officers' Club has rooms available for your conferences, meetings, presentations or Commanders' Call. Make your reservations now.*

For members living on base – if you like to watch TV and/or have a drink during the weekends while the club is

## MWA INFORMATION January

closed – collect the key for the Officers' Club casual bar at the Pass/Visitors' Office, MainGate. Officers' Club Participation in Frisbee Club Events: 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 on ext. 4990. After this time, a cancellation fee of €5 per person must be charged for non-excused absences.* Visit the Officers' Club Web Page on the Component Information Portal, through Base Support Wing, Services Squadron, Clubs, for the latest information.

### Frisbee Club (SWPN/4994)

Make a reservation today at the Frisbee Grill and enjoy the cosy atmosphere and good food! *Remember - the Frisbee Club is open for breakfast and dinner to all Frisbee and Officers' Club members (club cards required).* Throughout the month Happy Hour Monday-Thursday 1700-1800, Friday with free snacks 1700-1900. Monday Nights steak night in the Frisbee Grill during normal restaurant times. Open for steak dinners only, normal sized steak €6 and large steak €8. *Wednesday mussels at lunch-time in the Bar. Thursday 'Eintopf' at lunch-time.*

- 19 Indian Curry night, restaurant closed.
- 24 BINGO.
- 26 IWC Italian night.

### Sentry Club (SWPJ/4997)

'Fioretto' Pralines (700 g) now available in the Souvenir Shop priced € 5,50 per bag. In addition to the daily special, the Sentry Club will also offer a weekend special which will include a soup or dessert as well as the main course. The weekend special will be advertised in the Sentry Club and also on the Component information web page. *The Sentry Club can assist with coffee, soft drinks, half Brötchen or freshly prepared muffins.* Take advantage of the Sentry Club off sale operation. We can provide Warsteiner Beer in 30 ltr and 50 ltr containers, various

soft drinks in 1 ltr bottles and tables, benches and other items to help in organising your party. Please be sure to order in advance as certain items (e.g. tables, benches, beer wagons, etc.) must be ordered from the supplier.

*Visit the Souvenir Shop – new items have arrived in time for Christmas shopping.*

Additional information on any of the above can be obtained from the Sentry Club Manager, ext. 4996.

### Sports Department (SWPT/4946)

- 20 Pre-season indoor soccer tournament: 1300-1700 in the New Gym.
- 23 Start of the indoor soccer league – Mondays+Wednesday 1715 in the New Gym.

### International Pre-School (SWPS/4957)

Places are still available for afternoon programmes only. For more information call the school on ext. 4957.

### Thrift Shop (SWPG/4919)

Tuesdays+Thursdays operating hours 1000-1400.

### International Library (SWPL/4956)

Monday-Friday operating hours 1100-1600. The Library offers a large variety of books, periodicals and audio/video material. The regular book collection contains over 10,000 books, in nine language categories (Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Norwegian and Turkish). *As well as the regular collection, there is a small paperback book exchange, the McNaughton book collection, Embry-Riddle University books and a large selection of over 2,500 children's books. The audio resources include over 200 CDs with all kinds of music (25 new arrivals monthly, rotating every three months). The video resources offer educational videos, geography, sports, history as well as family, children's and classic movies; 100 DVDs are rotated every two months.* Additional library services include copying facilities, an Inter-Library Loan Service from other US Air Force and Army libraries and 4 computers with internet access available free of charge to patrons. *A wealth of information can be easily accessed from the Library website - [www.usafelibraries.org](http://www.usafelibraries.org). Browse book reviews, download tax forms, get help with elementary and high school*

*homework and prepare for and take CLEP tests online.*

### International Youth Activities (SWPY/4954/5)

IYA Special Day Programs: The IYA is offering Special Day Programs full of fun activities for ages 6 and older on Friday, 20 January. Cost is €10,50, including lunch, per child per day. Registration and further information at the IYA Office in Bldg 95, ext. 4954/5, opening hours Mon-Fri, 0815-1300.

### Volkshochschule language courses

The winter-spring session of Volkshochschule language courses is starting the week of 16 January. Classes are held in Bldg 141. Basic price for intensive courses: €84 for 30 mornings/ evenings. Registration in class. Further information at ext. 4954.

The following courses are offered:

*German: Room 118, A1 - Beginners – Intensive Courses, Berliner Platz 1, Lesson 1 Mon & Wed 1000-1130, instructor N.N.; Mon&Wed 1730-1900, instructor: Christine Mertens.*

*A1 - Advanced – Intensive Courses, Berliner Platz 1, Lesson 7, Tue&Thu 0830-1000, instructor N.N.; Tue&Thu 1730-1900, instructor Christine Mertens.*

*A2 - Intensive Courses, Berliner Platz 2, Tue&Thu 1900-2030, instructor Christine Mertens, starting with Lesson 1; Mon&Wed 0830-1000, instructor N.N., starting with Lesson 17; Mon&Wed 1900-2030, instructor Christine Mertens, starting with Lesson 19.*

*B1 - Intensive Course, Book 3, Lesson 30 Tue&Thu 1000-1130, instructor N.N.; this course directly prepares you for the Zertifikat Deutsch, an internationally acknowledged degree. You will have the opportunity to take this exam.*

*English Room 109: A1 - Advanced – Intensive Course, The New Cambridge English Course 1, Lesson 11, Tue&Thu 0830-1000, instructor Susan Olson. A2 – Intensive Course, The New Cambridge English Course 1, Lesson 14, Tue&Thu 1000-1130, instructor Aileen Porter. B1 - Advanced Conversation Class. Mon 1000-1130, instructor Aileen Porter. Increase your fluency by discussing current topics and interesting texts; the basic price for this course is: €42 for 15 mornings. More info ext. 4954.*

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