

Taceval results are in!!

By Col. J.N. Zijlstra

Many Component members, both military and civilian, have been focused on TACEVAL preparation since last July. We have conducted and participated in multiple exercises and deployments, with our deploying personnel going through intensive ICCS/IDT training, having their IPE and personal equipment inspected in processing lines, and setting up/conducting operations in both austere and forward operating base conditions. To support these events, we energized our battle staff, deployment/wing control centers, deployment managers and other

deployment-support personnel to ensure the Component had the resources and personnel to perform these missions.

Thanks to all MOB and FOB Trapani personnel who played a part in making the TACEVAL a complete success. You should rightfully be proud that the Component received an overall SATISFACTORY rating in each of the evaluation areas: Operations, Support, and Force Protection. The TACEVAL certifies the Component's ability to successfully conduct deployed operations – these results have demonstrated this capability to our NATO brethren.

This would not have been possible without the combined efforts of all participating MOB and FOB Trapani personnel. Congratulations and great work!

By SMSgt J. Hijmenberg

Although the names of the "enemies" were made up, the more than 200 Component members who participated in the TACEVAL from 9-18 May felt like they were in places called Nuraghia, Etnaland and Zaraland. In order to get into the right mindset, everyone was told to play as if it were real. Coordination skills were essential.

The ADVON crew arrived at our Forward Operation Base (FOB) Trapani via TCA's on 9 May while the rest of the Component members landed by E-3A's and TCA on 11 May. The last days before the employment phase started were filled with briefings and last reminders about how to handle certain situations.

The Component members and the members of FOB Trapani had to manage intruders, suspicious packages, anti-NATO demonstrations and more. Exercise Magic Venture earlier this year was an excellent training opportunity to prepare everyone for this tactical evaluation.

Approximately 80 evaluators, serving with CC-Air HQ Ramstein



– TACEVAL Division, evaluated the Component's operational readiness. Under the lead of Division Head Col. Sylvain Faulcher, they tested three main areas: operations, logistics and force protection. "TACEVAL is not an exercise", he briefed the detachment at the beginning of the 'drill', "Act as if you were in an actual mission. Do as you would within real national and NATO constraints."

The exercise was conducted in four phases: planning and activation, deployment, execution and redeployment. During the first two phases several tests were already evaluated. Simulator missions had to be flown by the aircrew and people were selected to show their fire fighting and shooting skills.

The NATO Response Force criteria had to be followed from the SHAPE Tactical Evaluation Manual to assess the Component's capability as a tactical air unit and the required military combat readiness.



Photos by SMSgt. J. Hijmenberg

Loading crew verified the secure packing of the pallets.

A historical journey through the E-3A Component's past

By Heidi Soerensen, PIO



TCA charts a course east

By Capt. Bryan Niemiec – NATO Airborne Early Warning Force's TCA 20199 took off from MOB Geilenkirchen on 4 February for a long flight east to Moscow. The mission: pick up U.S. assessment teams and take them to various locations in the republics of the former Soviet Union to determine the specific needs, in terms of humanitarian assistance, as part of the United States airlift which began on Monday. The U.S. government asked NATO to transport their assessment teams into cities of the former Soviet Union. This mission is consistent with NATO's offer to provide support which was made by Secretary General Manfred Woerner at the Washington Conference on Humanitarian Aid held in January. The TCA returned to Geilenkirchen on Sunday. For the TCA crew it was a unique adventure with varied insights gained on the new Republics. Keep a look out for more on "Tails from a journey east".

(photo by Wouter Langen)

In this issue of NATO Skywatch, we will continue to look back at the Component's heritage by running the third original article from the past. Browsing through the large collection of past issues shows numerous articles and photos about the E-3A, but only very few articles were printed about the Trainer Cargo Aircraft (TCA). With this story, we would like to highlight the TCA Squadron and increase your knowledge of this valuable part of the Component, including past and present missions.

This original article is from 14 February 1992 and describes the very first humanitarian mission in the Component's history - executed by the TCA!

Continued on page 8



LEADERSHIP FORUM



Base Support Wing

By 1Lt. J. Braselmann

2007 marks another milestone in the records of the E-3A Component. As we all know, we are heading for a tremendous 25th anniversary party in June.

Earlier this year, there was an historical event of a different kind in the Airfield Services Squadron. 2nd Lt. Christoph Kalt successfully completed his on-job-training at Frisbee TOWER and Frisbee RADAR, thus acquiring the *first* ATC (Air Traffic Control)-license ever in Geilenkirchen.

But let us take a closer look

From the very first day of our Component's existence, all ATC-officers were so-called "licensed" controllers coming from various German Air Force bases. With their arrival at Geilenkirchen, they had to achieve a "facility rating" for our aerodrome, taking into consideration the various aspects and peculiarities of ETNG (i.e. ICAO location indicator of Geilenkirchen Air Base).

In 2005, ETNG became an official ATC-Training Base of the German Armed Forces. Due to the exceptional geographical location of the E-3A Component, with one runway-end literally on the Dutch border,

For the first time ever



Photo by A. Hohenforst

along with its multinational aircraft crews and its unique organizational structures, training represented, and still represents, a very special challenge for every individual also in ATC.

In 2004, 2nd Lt. Kalt started his ATC-career by attending a special course in aeronautical English in Fürstenfeldbruck, Bavaria. His next step lead him to the Technical Air

Force School in Kaufbeuren, Bavaria, where he passed the mandatory 14 months basic ATC-training in theory and simulations and where he was rewarded with a "Student's License."

Geilenkirchen finally received his life traffic assignment in 2006. It was 2nd Lt. Kalt's goal to prove that he was able to transfer his knowledge from school into real world scenarios and solve complex air traffic situations.

1st Lt. Dirk Nass, Tower Watch Supervisor, ATC Instructor/Evaluator and proficiency checker, took on the responsibility for 2nd Lt. Kalt's Radar- and Tower-training. During this winter, 2nd Lt. Kalt received his "Ready Report" for the final test and in February 2007, he was handed over the desired ATC-license, after a demanding three-day checkout. Congratulations!!!

Both instructor, 1st Lt. Nass, and former student, 2nd Lt. Kalt, would like to take this opportunity to express their gratitude for the extraordinary support received from our pilots and air crews, who were willing to perform with highly-appreciated professionalism, and sometimes, with even admirable patience, all kinds of training procedures.

Change of Command at Force Command

By Maj. Gary Jackson, Force Command



Photo by CWO Alda Van Zwieten

Air Commodore Hodgson

On 7 March 2007, at the SHAPE Club, Major General Tüttelmann, invited guests and members of Force Command gathered to bid adieu to Air Commodore Peter Hodgson as he retired from the Royal Air Force after more than 36 years of service. Air Commodore Hodgson had served

as the Deputy Force Commander and the Chief of Staff at Force Command from March 2004 until his retirement. During his tenure the Force faced many challenges. In step with NATO, Force Command continued its own transformation process to better prepare for new roles, such as NRF and an out-of-area deployment capability, which places greater demands on our people and resources. The Air Commodore was also at the centre of the struggle to bring the NATO Mid-Term Modernization programme online. It was also under his guidance that Force Command conducted a long-term NE-3A and TCA fleets sustainability analysis and personnel/C2 structural reviews at both the operational and tactical levels.

Major General Tüttelmann passed his thanks for Air Commodore Hodgson's unconditional dedication to the Force, for his total achievements and the total professionalism and

leadership that he had demonstrated during a time of great change. Upon their retirement to York in the UK, the Force Commander, and everyone at Force Command, wished both the Air Commodore and his wife Gail all the very best during the next phase of their lives.

Air Commodore Whittingham

On 19 March 2007, Air Commodore Dai Whittingham began his appointment as the Deputy Force Commander. Air Commodore Whittingham comes to Force Command with a varied and yet very relevant background. Earlier in his career, the Air Commodore was a fast-air Phantom pilot. Notable however, is that he is also a qualified E-3D pilot, has commanded an E-3D Squadron and served as the Component Commander at Waddington from July 2000 until August 2002. Most recently, Air Commodore Whittingham was the Air Officer ISTAR at HQ Strike Command (now

called Air Command). He understands the AWACS community and is no stranger to the challenges Force Command will face during these days of transformation and change. Of his return to the community, Air Commodore Whittingham said:

"I am delighted to rejoin the NATO AWACS family in this special anniversary year. I look forward to working closely with the GK team in meeting today's operational challenges and in preparing to face the operational environment of the future."



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Training instructor leaves a legacy of service and sacrifice

Text and photo
Lt. Col. Michael P.
Kleiman, PIO

After serving with the German Air Force for 31 plus years, Senior Master Sgt. Eugen Toelle looks forward to his future, which includes retiring in August and devoting more time to family, friends and hobbies, but before thinking about tomorrow's plans, he remains firmly focused on the present and enriched by the past.

During his initial seven years in the military, Sergeant Toelle, a native of Warburg, Germany, worked as a radar operator at a site near, at that time, the border of East Germany. Contemplating a job change, he investigated an assignment with the new NATO E-3A Component in Geilenkirchen, and following a few weeks of leave, returned to a notification of change of station to the AWACS unit with a report date of January 1983. He has been here ever since.

After his arrival at the air base, Sergeant Toelle participated in six months of training to learn the radar system employed in the E-3A aircraft. Following duty in the Operation Wing's Squadron One for seven to eight years, he completed instructor

qualification for surveillance operator and joined the Training Centre (later renamed Training Wing) in that role. A few years later, Sergeant Toelle also became a surveillance operator evaluator. Currently, he teaches basic qualification training for surveillance operator to between 15 and 25 students per class.

"During my 24 plus years serving with the Component, it has been a great experience to meet people from many countries working on the same team. It has been a unique way of life," said Sergeant Toelle. "As an

instructor, my job is to give the students an encouraging environment to learn."

Although his teaching role keeps him on the ground most days, he occasionally participates in training missions to maintain currency.

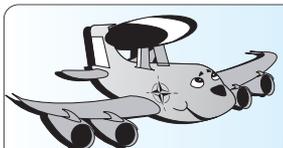
Reflecting on the highlights of 31 plus years of military service, Sergeant Toelle listed the following three events: becoming a member of the NATO E-3A Component; the Berlin Wall coming down along with the collapse of the Warsaw Pact (several

former members have since joined the NATO team); and meeting his wife during the first two years of his assignment here. In addition, he shared his 94 deployments (1,000 plus days) to the Component's Forward Operating Base in Konya, Turkey, provided many memorable moments.

"It has been a great ride. I still want the Component to continue with its high standards, as well as have only safe landings," said Sergeant Toelle.



German Air Force SMSgt. Eugen Toelle points to the NATO E-3A Component's Forward Operating Base at Konya, Turkey. He has completed 94 trips to this location during his 31 plus years of military service.



PLANE SPOTTER

This aircraft landed at Geilenkirchen Air Base

Do you know what it is?

SEE PAGE 12



Photo by A1C Florian Hueftle

25th Anniversary Celebration

16 & 17 June 2007

Tickets on Sale

Tickets are available in the clubs (Sentry, Frisbee, Officers Club) or via internet

www.eventim.de or www.ticketonline.de

Free entrance for children under 14 years



In memoriam

With deep regret the Component announces the sudden passing of Mr. Anthony 'Tony' Clarke on Wednesday, 9 May 2007, at the age of 64.

After serving more than two decades in the British Royal Air Force, Mr. Clarke began his remarkable record with the E-3A Component in 1982, working in the Propulsion Section. In 1988 he became a Quality Assurance Inspector on the Logistics Wing Staff.

Those who had the privilege of knowing and working with Tony considered him a truly accomplished professional. His strong work ethic and dedication to the airworthiness of the fleet is renowned throughout the E-3/707 community worldwide. His lifelong experience and profound knowledge of the E-3A aircraft made him a vital member of the Logistics Wing and the E-3A Component.

Mr. Clarke was well known for his friendly, helpful, receptive attitude and his kind words towards all he came into contact with. Those who regularly depended on his sage advice appreciated his gentle nature and his wise character. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. The Component extends its most sincere condolences to his wife, Maria, his two daughters, Maria and Audrey and his grandson, Noah.

Dedications to Anthony Clarke

Today we have heard about the sad death of a good friend and colleague Tony Clark. Tony arrived at the component during the summer of 1982 as a mechanic in the Jet shop. He came with excellent credentials from the RAF having recently worked at (among several other bases), RAF Larbruch and JHQ Rheindahlen. This softly spoken gentleman from the Isle of Man U.K. was always the first to don his coveralls when work came up leading the young shift at the time with a father-like attitude. This earned him the respect of colleagues and military supervisors in the eighties, which ultimately enhanced his position within the Component. He became shift leader and was then promoted to Aircraft Quality Assurance leaving behind the physical side of the environment in Logistic Wing. This just meant that Tony had a new challenge. Anyone who has ever worked or been on deployment with Tony will tell of his quiet sense of humor, dedication and painstaking attention to detail. Whenever a problem needed tending to or advice was required Tony was always consulted. Make no mistake; we have lost one of the best! Our sincere condolences go out to Maria and their daughters. Tony will be sadly missed.

Jet Shop
Geilenkirchen

As a friend and colleague of Tony Clark, I had the privilege of writing the official memoriam. I'm compelled to try to offer more personal reflection in the following brief comments. We all know the loss of Tony is immense on different levels; his knowledge of the E-3A/707 airframe is unmatched. We all know of his life's work, his dedication to serving his country, and NATO combined, stretching over 47 years of selfless service. However his abrupt and unexpected death has shaken many at a deeper level of course. His family and many friends in the Netherlands, his family in Great Britain, and our NATO family here are all deeply troubled by the passing of this noble, wonderful human being. There really are no words to describe his kind and generous heart, the pleasing feeling he gave everyone, his calm professional manner. Suffice to say it was a privilege to be in his presence, he made you feel relaxed and optimistic, much like the refreshing feeling you get from the warm sun in the morning. It was an honour to have known him.

Mark Beauchamp

Tony's Poem

*As we sit here and remember our dear Tony Clarke of QC fame
Individual memories and ones that we remember the same,
Our english gentleman, our colleague and loyal, true friend
Whose time among us, too short, has sadly come to an end.*

*Every day without fail he came to work from far away
As for sick leave - he rarely missed a day.
He loved to travel and take part in TDYs
All over the globe flying through many skies.*

*An exceptional man who had much pride in his work
You never heard him complain or ever try to shirk.
His diplomacy, knowledge and manner fair and right
Whether to Force Commander or cleaner, Tony was always polite*

*Always the neatest and best-dressed man in QC
But our Tony was color blind, so how could that be?
His dear wife Maria we have to thank for her care
Even his TDY clothes she would carefully prepare!*

*Dear Tony was very active in his private life too
In band and choir Tony always shone through.
He was modest 'bout his talents didn't perform for QC
But now we know he is playing and singing for the Almighty.*

*Though Tony liked to work at his desk, solve problems of all compilations
He mastered the emails and weight and balance calculations
But best of all he enjoyed his 'hands on' inspection
Thanks to Tony Force Command were put in the right direction.*

*Dear Tony we miss you so much its really causing us pain
Your happy smile, your englishness and positive refrain
We hope to see you again one day on that eternal TDY
You'll prepare the way for us and show us how to fly.*

God Bless you and let you rest in peace.

*With lots of love and affection,
Denise Richardson*

Norwegian 25th Anniversary Raffle

Win a cruise on "The world's most beautiful voyage."

A cruise is the first prize in the Norwegian 25th anniversary raffle and involves a one-week trek along the coast of Norway for two persons, including full board with the Norwegian Coastal Voyage (Hurtigruten). The prize also includes free flights from Düsseldorf - Norway - Düsseldorf. The total value of the trip is approximately €4500.

The Norwegian Coastal Voyage is

a unique blend of cruising holiday and arctic adventure. The voyage weaves its way along the coast, meandering through thousands of island and skerries on a breathtaking journey from Bergen to Kirkenes. See www.hurtigruten.com for more information.

Raffle tickets are sold by Norwegian Component members, the Norwegian NSU and also during the 25th anniversary celebration, 16-17 June. Drawing occurs 17 June in Hangar 1. You do not need to be present to win. Contact 2nd Lt. Bengt Bergan, OW1V, extension 4125, for more details.



You are cordially invited to the MARGRATEN MEMORIAL CEREMONY

*Taking place at the Netherlands American
Cemetery*

*On the 27th of May 2007
at 1500
(plan early arrival)*

*Wreath presentation by
Colonel Eugene Mittuch*

For more information, contact U.S. Navy LT Robert Haulenbeek, extension 4225.

A historical journey

Continued from front page

The destination was Russia, which was another major milestone in those last days of the Cold War. The crew on this unique mission experienced many challenges including the restriction to land only in daylight, all data was in another measurement system and temperatures were minus 30 degrees centigrade. Despite all of that, the eight people on the TCA returned to Geilenkirchen with a warm and positive feeling, satisfied to be part of a program to help other people with a new start.

Today, the TCA continues to successfully navigate in an ever-changing environment. But let us start the historical TCA journey from the beginning.

The first TCA landed at the E-3A Component on 10 October 1988, the second followed in April 1989 and the third TCA landed in

December the same year. The first three TCAs were originally built by Boeing from 1968 through 1969 and delivered to Sabena World Airlines, where the TCA spent its first twenty years as a commercial airliner. Since 1988, the TCA has successfully flown more than 28,000 hours all over the world. Thanks to a modification period in 1998-2001, two TCAs were replaced and the third was upgraded, and thus, the aircraft continues to play an important role in NATO worldwide operations.

The primary mission of the TCA is the same as it was in 1988: combined training and cargo missions with the overall purpose of supporting the E-3A. This means they support the E-3A pilot training program, transport spare parts or extra crewmembers, support exercises, verify landing strips before the arrival of a deployed E-3A and much more.

"The TCA is in the background all over the world. Wherever the E-3A is deployed, there has been a TCA. We are the "fire brigade in the air for the E-3A," says TCA Flight Engineer

CMSgt Steve Hammond with a hint at the friendly competition between the flying squadrons. "The fastest spare parts provider in the world!"

A normal workday in the TCA squadron is very unpredictable and they are always prepared for short-notice flights. Turnaround time (time between landing and the next take off) can be down to 20 minutes and therefore it is not unusual to fly four or even five missions in one day.

In addition to the first humanitarian flight to Russia in 1992, the TCA was the first ever NATO marked aircraft and indeed the first Component aircraft that landed in Sarajevo in 1996 in support of the peacekeeping efforts in the former Yugoslavia. On that historic mission the TCA transported humanitarian aid, which included, among other things, five tons of baby food and 600 cuddly toys to children in need.

In 1999 the TCA continued to play an invaluable key role in saving lives now flying humanitarian aid to the Turkish earthquake regions – bringing generators, medical

equipment and blankets to the victims.

Recently, the TCA has been involved in two other humanitarian missions. In September 2005, the TCA was tasked to support the humanitarian relief in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in the United States. The TCA transported more than 115 tons of aid; primarily beds and blankets to the victims of the storm. In October 2005, the TCA provided humanitarian aid in Islamabad, Pakistan. They transported more than 20 tons of cargo; primarily tents, heaters and blankets to the victims of the earthquake.

Even though the involvement of the TCA has not been highlighted in the NATO Skywatch archive, the TCA continues to play an important role in all E-3A operations as it has since it arrived in 1988.

Over the next coming weeks, we will continue to publish a series of original articles, and we hope you will look forward to looking back at the Component's past.

The Norwegian Vikings attack the 2007 Vienna City Marathon

By Maj. M. Ramberg

On the 29 April 2007, one of the biggest marathons in Europe took place in Vienna, Austria. More than 26,000 runners from 80 nations had signed up to run either a half- or full marathon. Among them were also one quarter of the Norwegian contingent assigned to the E-3A Component. Supported by more than 250,000 spectators along the course, all the Norwegian Vikings finished the race in style.

According to team leader and second-time marathoner, Maj. Morten Ramberg, the whole idea to run a marathon started as an internal challenge in the Norwegian contingent last autumn. "Throughout the winter, we have invested long hours of running in the Geilenkirchen and Gangelt area to achieve our goal. We have found out that this is an excellent way of getting to know the local area," said Maj. Ramberg.

The Norwegian Senior National Representative (SNR), Lt. Col. Kjetil Mikalsen, expressed his pride in the achievement of his men. "Unfortunately, I was TDY this year, but next year I'll be on the starting line together



A record number of 26,279 runners from 80 nations started in this year's Vienna City Marathon.



The Norwegian Viking marathon runners pictured from left : Capt. Geir Arne Berntsen, Capt. Aasmund Sandvik; Maj. L Morten Ramberg; 1st Lt. Andreas Johansen and Capt. Freddy Moland.

with hopefully an even a bigger percentage of the Norwegian contingent."

So, the Component is warned, look out for the Vikings – next year they will run a marathon in another major European city with their SNR in the lead.

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. Brunch prices: Members: €10.70; Guests €13.00; Children 4-12 years: half price. Reservations should be made NLT 1200 hrs on the Friday before. Club cards are required. For additional information, please contact the Officers' Club, tel. 4990, or the Frisbee Club, tel. 4994.
- 3 Officers' Club Family Brunch. Frisbee Club closed.
- 10 Frisbee Club lunch/brunch. Officers' Club closed.
- 17 No Brunch due to 25th Anniversary.
- 24 Officers' Club Greek Style Brunch. Frisbee Club Closed.

Officers' Club (SWPO/4990)

- Operating Hours Bar: Monday-Friday: 1100-2100 hrs. Restaurant: Monday-Friday: 1130-1330 hrs. 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 hrs: Happy Hour: Free snacks available. Fridays 1430-1700 hrs: Happy Hour: Free snacks available. *Specials: From 11 to 14 June: Salad Specials during lunch time!*
- 7+8 Club Closed due to Official Holiday.
- Special Notes:*
The Officers' Club has rooms available for your conferences, meetings, presentations, lunches or Commanders' Call. Make your reservations now. *For members living on base – if you like to watch TV*

MWA INFORMATION

June

and/or have a drink during the weekends while the club is closed – collect the key for the Officers' Club Casual Bar at the Pass/Visitors' Office, Main Gate.

Officers' Club Participation in Frisbee Club Events: During Frisbee Club opening hours, Officers' Club members are eligible to utilize 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 €5.00 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 cozy atmosphere and good food! Remember – the Frisbee Club is open for breakfast and dinner to all Frisbee and Officers' Club members (club cards required). Every Monday night: Country Line Dance, at 1930 hrs (4th, 11th, 18th and the 25th)
- 05 June Skat Main Bar 1800-2300 hrs. Every Mon-Thu Happy hour 1700-1800 hrs. Every Friday Happy hour 1430-1900 hrs (including snacks at 1700 hrs)
- Every Monday AND Steak Night (Normal Restaurant times). Friday Night Steak Dinner only – Reservations required!
- Every Wednesday lunch and dinner: special asparagus menus.
- Special Note:*
- 7+8 Club closed. (Official Holiday)
- 15 Club closed. (Function for 25th Anniversary)
- 16+17 Club closed. (25th Anniversary)

Sentry Club (SWPJ/4997)

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.

Last Pizza Order at 1930 hrs, Monday-Friday. A variety of new pizzas is available now, i.e. Pizza "Gyros", Pizza "Calzone" and Pizza "Spinach". We also will add some new toppings. As soon as the preparations are finished, the details will be advertised on our Component information web page. We will also offer little rolls made from pizza dough with herb butter or garlic mayonnaise.

Take advantage of our new Salad Bar. Various types of freshly prepared salads available at a reasonable price.

Do you need support for conferences or meetings? The Sentry Club can assist with coffee, soft drinks, half rolls or freshly prepared muffins. For more information, please contact the Sentry Club management. Need supplies for a party? The Sentry Club is your stop for 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 – a variety of nice new items have arrived!! *Additional information on any of the above can be obtained from the Sentry Club Manager, ext. 4996.*

Sports Department (SWPT/4946)

- 3 Opening Swimming Pool Daily 1100-1900 hrs. First weekend free of charge
- 5 Softball League 1730 hrs, Softball Fields

- 12 Softball League 1730 hrs, Softball Fields
- 19 Softball League 1730 hrs, Softball Fields
- 21 Softball League 1730 hrs, Softball Fields
- 26 Softball League 1730 hrs, Softball Fields
- 28 Softball League 1730 hrs, Softball Fields

International Library

(SWPL/4956)

The operating hours are 1100-1500 hrs, Monday through Friday. *Come and visit your International Library at Bldg 96 and browse our wide selection of New York Times Bestsellers or check out one of our DVDs. We have over 200 of them! Relax and enjoy the nice atmosphere while browsing through the daily Stars and Stripes or one of our many magazine titles, including People, Cosmopolitan, Business Week and Travel & Leisure.*

Looking for new music? Check out one of our more than 300 CDs on hand. Movie night tonight? Check out our DVD selection. Taking a road trip? Check out our large selection of audio books on CD & cassette. New selections arrive often! *We are pleased to offer our "retired" videocassettes to you for sale at the reduced price of €0,50.*

International Pre-School

(SWPS/4957)

- 7+8 NATO Holidays – NO School
- 11+12 Registration for the 2007/2008 School Year and Summer Program 2007
- 18 Pre-School Picnic – Last day of School for Pre-Schoolers
- 20 Graduation Ceremony at the IYA at 1800 hrs – Pre-K. Class
- 21 Sleepover Party for Graduates at 1730 hrs. – No school during the day
- 22 Breakfast at the IDH for Graduates and their Families. *We would like to thank all customers for their support throughout this school year! Have a great summer! Pre-School Staff.*

Thrift Shop (SWPG/4919)

Tuesdays + Thursdays
Operating Hours 1000-1400.
The Thrift Shop will be closed on Tuesday 29 May.

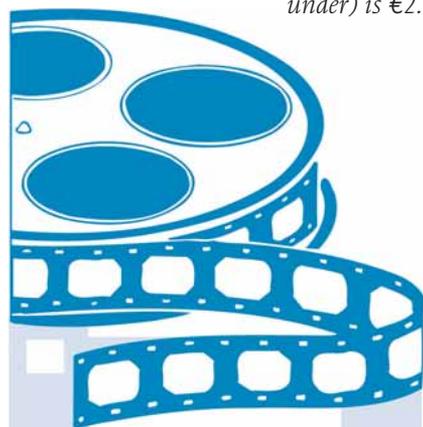
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Skywatch Classifieds are free to all NATO personnel. Advertisements must be printed or typed, and include your name, office symbol and duty extension. The editor will not accept advertisements for services that generate a regular income, or for housing other than vacation rentals. Submissions for the next NATO Skywatch are due to PIO, Mail Stop 33, e-mail: pio@e3a.nato.int, before noon Thursday, 21 June.

Opel Astra, KW/1598cc, 1994, dark green, automatic with approx. 124,000 km; German registration valid until December 2008; includes four nearly new summer tires and four brand new winter tires; Opel dealer serviced from new, original Opel parts; tow bar connection. Bought as seen for €2,000.00 or best offer. For more info, call Mr. Neil Cuthbert, Frisbee Club, ext. 4994 (work), or 02452-65474 (home).

Garage Sale, Ahornstr. 40 52525 Waldfeucht-Hontem, 9 and 10 June 2007 1000-1600 household items, furniture, gas barbecue, table tennis table, skis, ski boots, clothing, shoes, sofa, guest bed, and a lot more. For more info please contact Mr. K. Böttcher 02455-2828

The theatre is located in Building #406, JFC HQ Brunssum, the Netherlands. Doors open 30 minutes prior to film start. Admission for adults is €4 and for children (11 and under) is €2.



I think I Love My Wife (R)

Fri 25 May 07, 1930
C. Rock, K. Washington

Premonition (PG-13)

Sat 26 May 07, 1600
Sandra Bullock, Julian McMahon

Dead Silence (R)

Sat 26 May 07, 1930
Amber Valetta, Ryan Kwanten

300 (R)

Fri 08 June 07, 1930
Gerard Butler, Lean Heady

Meet the Robinsons (G)

Sat 09 June 07, 1300
Angela Bassett, Spencer Fox

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG)

Sat 09 June 07, 1600
Patrick Stewart, Sarah Michelle Gellar

Black Snake Moan (R)

Sat 09 June 07, 1900
Samuel L. Jackson, Christina Ricci

Zodiac (R)

Fri, 15 Jun 07, 1930
Jake Gyllenhaal, Mark Ruffalo

The Last Mimz (PG)

Sat 16 Jun 07, 1600
Rhiannon Leigh Wryn, Rainn Wilson

Contribution to soldiers' integration

By A1C Florian Hüftle and SMSgt Claus Cohnen
Public Information Office

The German Senior NCOs' Association (DUK) celebrated its 25th anniversary on 27 April with a formal ceremony, followed by an evening of dancing and entertainment at the Frisbee Club. DUK Chairman Manfred Cordie welcomed many guests including Leo Dautzenberg (MdB), Bernd Krückel (Mdl) and Geilenkirchen's Mayor Andreas Borghorst.

The first milestone in the DUK's history was the organizing of the Oktoberfest, an event which aims to provide a fun-filled evening and gives comrades from the other Component nations, and their families, a taste of German conviviality. At the first Oktoberfest, approximately 300 guests celebrated in Hangar 2; today, several thousand attend. The proceeds of the Oktoberfest have always gone to charitable causes. Until today, the DUK has been able to donate about 250,000 euro to relief organizations, associations and facilities for disabled people.

The members of the DUK have organized countless events of various kinds, averaging about 35 per year. The number of members has now settled around 200. "Today, on our birthday, we look back at our association's work with great pride," said Senior Master Sergeant Eugen Toelle.

Component Commander Brig. Gen. Stephen D. Schmidt and

Geilenkirchen's Mayor Andreas Borghorst praised the DUK for its activities and its commitment to the common good.

Maj. Gen. Thomas Gericke, Commander of the 1. Luftwaffen-division (Airborne Division German Air Force) responsible for the German contingent at the E-3A Component, came from Fürstentfeldbruck to Geilenkirchen especially for the DUK's anniversary event. He briefly addressed the Component's importance within NATO and then presented awards to 10 members of the DUK for their 25 years of loyal membership. They were Günter Diehm, Klaus Dietzel, Axel Friedrich, Werner Ganzer, Johann M. Graf, Thomas Häusler, Wolfgang Haut, Rolf-Dieter Herzig, Uwe Knorst and Georg Neumann. With applause from the audience, Chairman Manfred Cordie awarded honorary membership to SMSgt Toelle for his particularly meritorious achievements.

He concluded his speech with a never before-seen ceremony: "I make a bet!" he continued. "I'll bet, that I get one of you in less than one minute out of his uniform jacket," he addressed to the military audience. Then he ordered OR7 Dieter Mertens into Initial State in front of the spectators. "Oberfeldwebel Dieter Mertens, in the name of the Federal Republic of Germany, I promote you to the rank" Standing ovations interrupted the sentence, and it became impossible for General Gericke to continue. Then, with a big smile, General Gericke and Colonel Mack took off the "old" and put the new master sergeant equipped jacket on him (Mertens). Eyes wide open and with a blushing face, Master Sergeant Mertens closed the buttons. It was a unique, never before-seen promotion.

Finally, the excellent cold and warm buffet, prepared by the Frisbee Club Staff, opened the informal part of the evening in a nice atmosphere.



Committee members and special guests celebrate the 25th anniversary of the DUK. Photo by SMSgt. Claus Cohnen



Squadron 1 changes commanders

Operations Wing Commander Col. Manfred Arndt hands the unit guidon to Lt. Col. James Casey after Lt. Col. Matt Phillips relinquished command. The ceremony took place at the Officer's Club on 30 April 2007.

Photo by MSgt Mark Boggess

New golf course opens in GK

On 3 June, the "Sportpark Loherhof" celebrates the opening of its new 9-hole golf course with an "Open House" day. It is the completion of the third phase after the construction of a sports and leisure center in the nineties and the Golf Driving Range in November 2006. "Golf for All" is the motto for the Loherhof Team. Guided by trainers, every visitor has the opportunity to "sample" golf beside various activities and programs for the kids. A special offer on the annual fee is arranged for new memberships.

The event starts at 1100 in the Sportpark, close to GK-Huenshoven (Pater Briers-Weg).

Shooter (R)

Sat 16 Jun 07, 1900
Mark Wahlberg, Kate Mara

Reign Over Me (R)

Fri 22 Jun 07, 1930
Don Cheadle, Adam Sandler

Are We Done Yet? (G)

Sat 23 Jun 07, 1600
Ice Cube, Nia Long

Pride (PG)

Sat 23 Jun 07, 1900
Terrence Howard, Bernie Mac

Component member wins USAFE Project CHEER USAA \$3,000 cash

By USAFE Services-Combat Support and Community Service

According to HQ USAFE SERVICES in Sembach, Germany, the Project CHEER winner of the \$3,000 cash prize compliments of USAA was

announced on 18 April 2007. The winner is: SMSgt David Kish from NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen. The European USAA Military Affairs Representative, Ms. Audrey M. Thompson, contacted SMSgt Kish to give him the good news!

SMSgt Kish and his family have had a tough time recently with three family deaths in the last year. With the last loss, the Kish family dipped into their savings to assist the surviving family member with the funeral costs and services. The Kish family had been saving their money for when they returned to the US and for vacations while they were still here on what SMSgt Kish refers to as his "last paid vacation" since military members are lucky enough to be stationed in places many other people have to spend a life savings to see.

in San Antonio, Texas. "I forgot all about the \$3,000 and wasn't running around saying look what I won, but look who wrote me! It was a very nice day and a great gift. Plus I got a splash of re-bluing and mentorship from a former CMSAF as well! This will get the family back up on their feet considerably faster! We will try to do something CHEERful with the winnings... the last R stands for recreation... right?

Thanks again to USAFE Project CHEER and one of their many sponsors, USAA." commented SMSgt Kish.

They were just starting their financial recovery when they received the news of winning the \$3,000 from Ms. Thompson. SMSgt Kish stated "I never win anything, so I was really blown away by the news." Shortly thereafter he received an e-mail from Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (CMSAF) #12 Eric Benken, (retired) who is with USAA

The Project CHEER program runs from November through March annually. This year's sponsors were USAA, Exchange New Car Sales, Harley Davidson motorcycles, Sony Playstation, Edelweiss Lodge and Resort, AMF, Special Made Goods, UBI Soft, Armed Forces Vacation Club, TKS, Anheuser Busch and Service Credit Union.

SMSgt. Kish receives the check from Audrey Thompson.



Photo by Andrea Hohenforst

International Youth Activities

Further information and registration at the IYA Office in Bldg 95, ext. 4955.

IYA Summer Break Program

Between 25 June and 17 August the IYA is organizing weekly sessions for children aged 6+ with activities from 0930 to 1630. The children can be dropped off at 0800, and picked up no later than 1730. The program includes fun games, swimming, arts & crafts, sports, scavenger hunts, free play, special projects, and movies, but will also depend on the weather. Cost is €36 per child, including lunch on Friday, plus the cost of the field trip. The 3rd child only pays half price, and additional children are free. Slots are limited.

IYA Summer Break Trips

for international Component children aged 6 and up:

- Bokrijk Open Air Museum and Playground*, B, 27 June, 0830-1730, €13
- De Efteling Amusement Park*, NL, 4 July, 0800-2000, €35
- Beekse Bergen Safaripark & Playground*, NL, 11 July, 0800-1900, €30
- Movie Park Germany*, 18 July, 0800-2000, €31
- Rurse, cruise/hiking/swimming*, 25 July, 0800-1730, €17, (castle

visit instead of swimming in colder weather)

- Bobbejaanland Amusement Park*, B, 1 August, 0800-2000, €32
- Duisburg Zoo*, 8 August, 0800-1730, €18
- Phantasialand Amusement Park*, 15 August, 0800-1930, €40.

Chaperones go free. Slots are limited. Point of departure and return is the IYA parking lot next to Bldg 95.

IYA Trip to "Happy Mosel": cycle, skate or hike along the beautiful Mosel River

Join the IYA on Sunday, 3 June, 0730-2100, to discover the unique landscape of the river bends, historic towns surrounded by tall cliffs with vineyards, romantic villages and medieval castles. On both sides of the famous Mosel River roads are closed to vehicle traffic and restricted to cyclists, skaters and pedestrians. Booths are set up, where you can buy local specialties, wine, refreshments and souvenirs. There is live music and other performances. You can go at your own pace – all age groups are participating, from kids to senior citizens. Point of departure and return is the parking lot outside the Front Gate. Cost is €18 per person. The high-standard bus is equipped with a special trailer for your bikes.

Vacancies

Applications are invited for the following posts:

Mess Attendant, AGK THSWF 0450, Adv. No. 07014, Grade Local Wage Rate (LWR), assigned to the Food Management Section, Food Services Branch, Services Squadron, Base Support Wing. This post is due to be filled as soon as possible. **Closing date: 31 May 07.**

Scientist (Meteorology), AGK SAM 0040, Adv. No. 07013, NATO Grade A-2, assigned to the Meteorology Branch, Airfield Services Squadron, Base Support Wing. This post will become vacant on 01 October 2007. **Closing date: 14 June 07.**

Senior Assistant (Item Management), AGK LSM 1110, Adv. No. 07015, NATO Grade B-4, assigned to the Stock Control Section, Materiel Management Branch, Supply Squadron, Logistics Wing. This post is due to be filled as soon as possible. **Closing date: 21 June 07.**

For further details, please visit the Component Information Portal (WISE) or review the advertisement posted in Building 8.

Note: Only applications of qualified personnel will be considered.

The Alliance Players Proudly Present

Steel Magnolias

A stage play by Robert Harling

On Wednesday, 30 May at 1900, The Alliance Players will host a charity performance of *Steel Magnolias* at the Alliance Theatre, JFC HQ Brunssum.

All the proceeds from this performance will go to the very worthy medical and humanitarian organization: *Doctors Without Borders*.

Besides enjoying a wonderful play, the audience can look forward to a raffle and door prizes donated by local businesses and individuals.

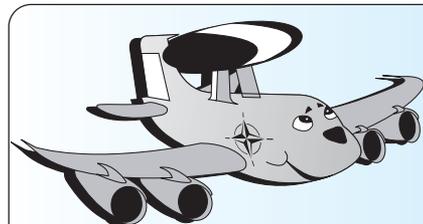
We're hoping for a big turn-out, so be sure to spread the word of this special charity evening.

Regular performance dates for *Steel Magnolias* will be:
 Thursday, 31 May at 1930
 Friday, 1 June at 1930
 Saturday, 2 June at 1930
 Sunday, 3 June at 1400

All shows are performed at the Alliance Theatre, JFC HQ Brunssum.

We have a wonderful and very talented cast, including: Pam Ericson, Dani Martin, Mary Vasko-Kingma, Sharon Jensen, Charlene Gibson and Diana Faris.

anniazw@hotmail.com
 0049 2454 938285
 0049 163 271 5451



PLANE SPOTTER

It was a Dutch Navy Lynx Helicopter in GK on 8 May for a navigation training flight.