

Top Gun over the Mediterranean

Training Wing crews participated in Sardinia Tactical Air Ranges Exercise

See related article on page 8



*Israeli Air Force F-15 aircraft ready for the start.
Photo Lt. Col. Raimond Schulz*



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20 November
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12 November



Familiarization Program
faces challenges
of the Force
See page 3



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Familiarization Program faces challenges of the Force

Text and photos Capt. Jolene Ortiona

From 12-15 October, approximately 40 members from Force Command, the E-3A Component, NAPMA and NAPMO/BOD and the E-3D and E-3F Component had the pleasure of a whirlwind tour during the Force Familiarization Program. The Program is designed for new personnel posted to the Force to gather a better understanding of the challenges the Force is facing. It also provides an opportunity for members across the spectrum of the Force to meet and exchange ideas.

This year, Lt. Col. Ger Wagtelenberg and SMSgt. Tom Fawaz, Force Command, were the directing staff for the tour, which began on Sunday 11 October with the arrival of the out-of-town guests to Geilenkirchen.

Monday, 12 October was spent at the Component with briefings from Force Command and Component leadership. The tour members also had a tour of the aircraft and a tour of the flight simulator

Whirlwind tour is not an exaggeration as Tuesday included a

trip to FOB Aktion, Greece complete with a tour and briefings and then flying on to FOB Trapani, Italy. Wednesday was the busiest day because it included breakfast in Trapani, Italy, lunch in Avord, France and finally the tour arrived at Waddington, UK for dinner.

The tour was well-organized and every place welcomed the tour members with kindness and hospitality.

The tour was the perfect forum to build the relationships needed for interoperability between managing members of the Force.



Members of the Force Familiarization Program were greeted with great food and hospitality at every location. A traditional meal of fish and chips was served in Waddington.



The tour members were always happy to disembark the aircraft because it meant a new location and new delicacies.



The flight crew safely delivered the group to all its destinations.

The members of the tour posed with FOB Trapani's leadership.



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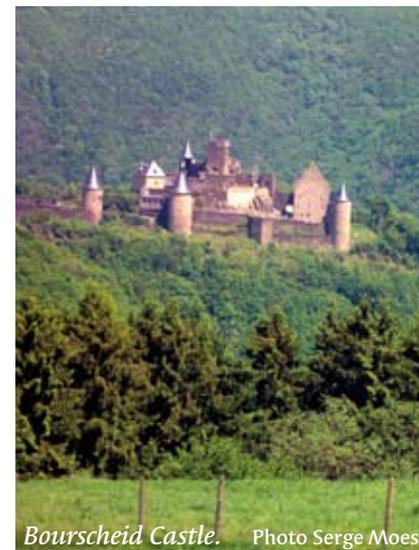
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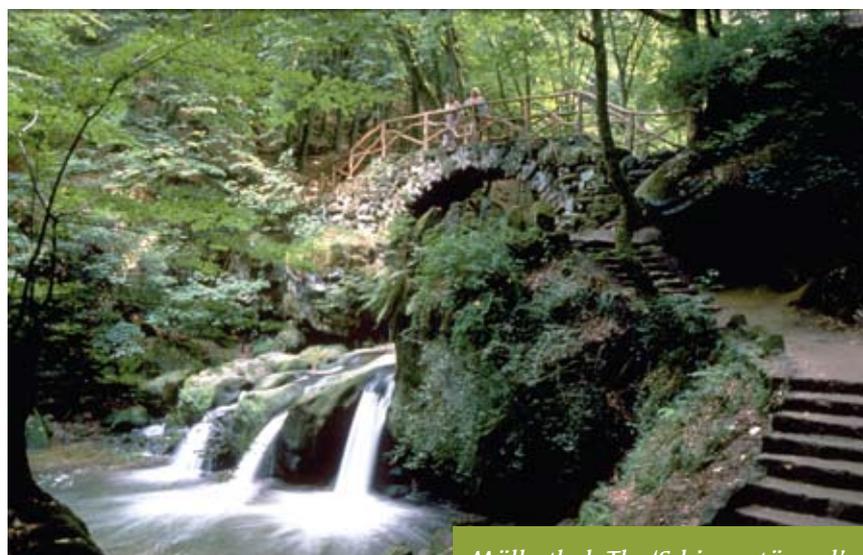
Cultural Corner

LUXEMBOURG

Small and beautiful



Bourscheid Castle. Photo Serge Moes



Müllerthal: The 'Schiesentümpel' waterfall in the 'little Switzerland area' of Luxembourg.

Photo Marc Theis

By SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

For many people in other parts of Europe, Luxembourg is best known for its radio and television stations of the RTL Group, the largest TV, radio and Production Company. It is also the uplink home of SES Astra, the carrier of major European satellite services for Germany and Britain. The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, a constitutional monarchy, is an independent sovereign state ruled by a Grand Duke, located between Belgium, France and Germany. The country is 84 km long and 52 km wide and hereby it is one of the smallest countries in Europe.

The written history of Luxembourg starts in the year 963, when Siegfried, Count of the Ardennes, and founder of the Luxembourg Dynasty, had a castle built on the territory of the present-day capital of Luxembourg. This castle was the origin of the establishment of a town, which later was to develop into a formidable fortress, known by the name of 'Gibraltar of the North'.

At its height, the fortress was girdled by three ring walls studded with 24 forts, and linked underground by a 23-kilometer network of casemates. In 1994, Luxembourg City was added to the UNESCO World Heritage list. Also it was the first city to be named

on the fortress and of hiking trails and old gardens. The town itself has old pubs and restaurants and is certainly worth a visit."

When Count Siegfried built his castle he didn't know that his home was to become the cradle of one of the smallest, yet one of the richest countries in the world. The industrial sector, which was dominated until the 1960s by steel, has diversified to include chemicals, rubber, and other products. In the past few decades, growth in the financial sector has more than compensated for the decline in steel. Services, especially banking and other financial exports, account for the majority of economic output.

Luxembourg's contribution to its defence and to NATO consists of a small army, not even 1,000 people. As a landlocked country, it has no navy, and it has no air force. Despite that, it's a full member of the E-3A Component. The country 'rescued' the Component in the early eighties. The international regulations governing military air traffic stipulate that all military aircraft must bear national markings and be registered in a country. So, it was impossible to use NATO insignia to register the Component's aircraft.

Notwithstanding the fact that Luxembourg doesn't have its own air force it offered to register the aircraft and that is why the Luxembourg Lion adorns the tails of the E-3A and Trainer Cargo Aircraft.

The country is divided into two clearly defined regions. The 'Oesling' in the north, which is part of the Ardennes, on the western rim of the Eifel, and covers one-third of the territory. It is a wooded country of great scenic beauty. The 'Good Country' in the centre and the south, covering the remainder of the territory, is mainly rolling farmland and woods. It's bordered in the east by the wine-producing valley of the Moselle, and in the extreme southwest by a narrow strip of red earth which forms the Luxembourg iron-ore basin.

"Luxembourg is a small peaceful island in Europe," said Lentz, who after 22 years in Germany is still proud of his country of birth.

Photos © Luxembourg Tourist Office – London.
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Luxembourg by night.



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The Tactical Leadership Programme opens in Spain

By Maj. Kirk Stahlbaum

In the beginning of October, the Tactical Leadership Programme (TLP) in Spain officially stood up at Albacete Airbase. More than 100 officials from the ten NATO nations participating in TLP were on hand for the opening ceremony, which was hosted by the Spanish Air Force. The guest speaker was the Spanish Air Force Chief of Staff, General Jose Jimenez-Ruiz.

TLP's primary mission is to train mission commanders who, in a span of a few hours, organize, plan, and execute air operations involving multiple military aircraft and aircrew. The 15-sortie flying course syllabus includes offensive air operations, close air support, air interdiction, and combat search and rescue.

The Tactical Leadership Programme originally started at Furstenfeldbruck AB Germany in 1978. A year-and-a-half later it moved to Jever AB where it remained until 1988. The program then moved to its most recent home at Florennes AB Belgium where it trained NATO personnel for the last 20 years. For more than 30 years the TLP has trained thousands of aircrew, many of whom have participated in



Since 1 October Albacete Air Base, Spain is the focal point in Europe to train mission commanders. Photo courtesy Maj. Kirk Stahlbaum

multiple combat actions around the world since the mid-1980s. Alumni include numerous general officers in the various NATO air forces as well as combatant commanders.

General Jimenez stated in his opening remarks, "Albacete will be the focal point in Europe for our warfighters to stimulate change and to enhance the tactical capabilities of our air forces." While focusing on the recent completion of the 21 million euro TLP complex, complete with new hangar and dormitories for 500-plus visiting students and support personnel, General Jimenez

concluded, "Our aim is learning how to work together in the most effective and efficient manner, giving our pilots and aircrews the tools to win wars, the tools to keep our air forces as relevant in the future as they have been in the past."

In addition to the six 4-week flying courses conducted annually, TLP performs on average 15 academic courses ranging from Electronic Warfare and Composite Air Operations, to Air Defense Systems, Personnel Recovery, and Air-Land Integration. One course a year is held for members of the Partnership

for Peace, eagerly seeking to include basic NATO functions to their emerging joint capabilities.

The first flying course for TLP Spain is scheduled from 9 November to 4 December 2009, and will include participants from the NATO E-3A Component at Geilenkirchen who will perform support for both blue and red forces, as well as act as a white force to enhance training goals and objectives.

For more information about participating in both flying and academic courses, visit the new TLP webpage at: www.tlp-info.org.

New Pizza Oven at Sentry Club!

Services Squadron's Sentry Club pizzas are famous! At the start of the serving line you will see a wooden plate indicating, "We are making the world's best pizzas" and in small letters "and we are the judges". But it really is true - this Italian national dish is one of the most ordered items on the menu. Due to the enormous usage, the old pizza oven broke down just a few days ago.

"As we did not want to disappoint our customers, we had to work fast and replace the oven. Luckily, our Procurement Office found a supplier, who could deliver the new oven in

almost no time," said Mr. Helmut Tellers, the Sentry Club Manager. "Now - with the help of soldiers from the German Support Unit - the 'brand new toy' is in place and working. We would like to thank our customers for their support by offering as special discount in the coming week. If you present the attached voucher when buying a pizza, you will receive a free 'Spirit of Georgia' soft drink on top.

Also, for your further information, the delicious Lindt Fioretto chocolate pralines are now back in stock for the Christmas period. The 850gr bag is on offer for just €6 in all MWA Clubs.

International Dining Hall Thanksgiving Meal



Photo PAO archive

Wednesday, 25 November 1630 to 2100 at the IDH. The dinner is open to all Component ID cardholders plus two guests. Tickets will be on sale until 13 November at the IDH from 1100 to 1300. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Ticket prices as follows: Adults €9; children 3-12 €6; children under 2 free. White/red wine €3 (large), €1,50 (small). There will be five 45-minute interval-eating times from which to choose. Eating times are: 1630-1715, 1715-1800, 1800-1945, 1845-1930 and 1930-2015.

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Collective soul playing at JFC HQ Brunssum

The JFC Community Activities Section (CAS) is extremely proud to announce that Collective Soul will be the next performer in our NATO 60th Anniversary concert series. Collective Soul is one of the most successful rock bands of the last two decades and they continue to enjoy major commercial popularity on alternative and mainstream rock radio.

They have scored 4 platinum albums and 7 #1 singles, in the USA, with standout songs like 'Shine', 'December', 'The World I Know' and others.

This FREE powerhouse show will be held in the JFC Alliance Theatre, on Tuesday, 17 November at 1930. ALL JFC, NATO, USAG Schinnen and Geilenkirchen Airbase personnel are welcome, so bring your friends for an unforgettable night of LIVE music and FUN!

The venue's maximum occupancy is 350 people. Large crowds and limited parking are expected in the area so personnel are advised to arrive early. Doors will open at 1830 and CAS will have great snacks and beverages for sale at the show site. For more information please contact CAS at 0031 (0)45-526-2626.

International Youth Activities

Registration and further information at the IYA Office in Bldg 95, ext. 4955.

Basketball season

The IYA Basketball season for international boys and girls between 6 and 15 years is coming up. Children and teenagers of all nationalities are invited to learn and play this sport together in our international community. The season - full of fun filled and exciting games and tournaments - will run from December to February. Fee for the season: €27 per player. Registration from 2 to 27 November.

Top Gun over the Israeli fighters attack

Text and photos
Lt. Col. Raimond Schulz



Decimomannu, known as 'Deci', on the sunny Mediterranean island of Sardinia is well known for its European fighter community and outstanding air combat training facilities. STAREX (Sardinia Tactical Air Ranges Exercise) 2009 was the place to be for a spectacular air defence exercise with command and control provided by a NATO E-3A, manned with crews from the Training Wing.

The exercise was hosted by the Italian Air Force and included 5 F-151 Eagles and 5 F-16I Sufas from the Israeli Air Force (IAF). The Italian Air Force contributed with 10 F-16s, 10 Tornados, 6 AMXs and 4 AV-8s from the aircraft carrier Garibaldi and Eurofighter aircraft flying daily sorties out of Grosseto, which is situated in Tuscany on the mainland of Italy. In total more than 40 fighters turned and burned for two weeks, using all methods of advanced air warfare tactics.

Training Wing Exercise Director Major Sergio Manfre deployed 82 crewmembers, split into 2 crews, Advon and maintenance personnel

to Sardinia. As Deployment Commander for this exercise many times, I believe this year's exercise once again offered spectacular training only two flying hours from our home base. A huge 'over-water' Air Combat Manoeuvring Installation (ACMI) around the island offers unique training possibilities with far fewer restrictions than Central Europe. In Sardinia it is possible to drop chaff and flares, fly supersonic and use Electronic Counter Measures Jamming pods. Flying days were divided into 3 periods. Morning and noon events were normally Combined Air Operations (COMAO) - a large scale exercise - with an average of 30 participating aircraft each. Afternoons were reserved for Air Combat training.

Aircraft Commanders Maj. Andrea Franceschinis and Capt. Willem Hadders piloted the first week's A-Crew. They launched every day shortly before lunch to cover the 2nd COMAO event. Final mission details were received via radio from Lt. Col. Fabio Militello while the E-3A was airborne. Weapons Controllers built dynamic mission scenarios and tactics 'on the fly'. Fighter Allocator Capt. Juan Vazquez Moreira designated the flights to his two Controllers: Capt. Yadira Greeson took the Red Air Migs, simulated by Italian F-16s, in the northern part of the training area, and SMSgt. Kris Wouters, controlling the blue force, took the attacking F-15s and F-16s into the southern tip of the STAREX airspace. All Israeli fighters are equipped with a helmet-mounted aiming vision system, the Elbit Dash System, which is worldwide the best. It allows the pilot to visually follow the target and

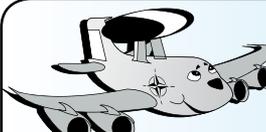
release the Python missile that is so agile that it will kill any airplane in any situation. The true motto of the Israeli pilots is "...you kill what you see."

Only 10 minutes after takeoff from Deci the fighters, with call signs like Sniper, Hammer, Stingray or Arrow, were ready for their 60-minute area time and started the engagement scenarios. With good planned tactics and excellent defensive directions given by Tactical Director Maj. Ignacio 'Nacho' Lanzat the blue F-16 force were able to defend us against the attacking fighters from Israel, which tried to attack our aircraft, call sign 'Magic'. Initially they claimed hits on us. However, after each mission an intensive debrief with video analysis and voice recorder replay assessed the capabilities of the flying and controlling crew and in the above-mentioned event it turned out that the claimed hits on us were invalid shots. So the AWACS crew and the defending Italian F-16 pilots left the ACMI building to go for a 'victory' Espresso.

An unusual sight for European jet jockeys was the long hair of the Israeli reserve pilots. In civil life they have occupations such as computer engineers or students and fly normally only once per week. Sometimes up to 70% of a squadron's personnel are reservists but their performance was still outstanding. The IAF officially claims that it has never lost a fighter in direct air-to-air combat. "This underlines the great achievements of Israeli training," said Maj. Joshua K., an experienced instructor F-15I pilot. Every day they launched all their scheduled sorties without a single abort resulting from technical causes. There is no doubt that the IAF today is arguably the world's best-trained and most capable air arm.

Controlling, pre- and debriefing, and arguing face to face with these experts from Israel and Italy was an absolute highlight for every participating aircrew member. The entire exercise was a fantastic experience for the two NATO E-3A crews.

The events described above continued over the two weeks and a significant improvement in combat tactics was noted. Training Wing is already hoping that NATO AWACS will be back in Sardinia next year and is looking forward to the next STAREX.



PLANE SPOTTER

This helicopter landed at Geilenkirchen Air Base

Do you know what it is?

SEE PAGE 14

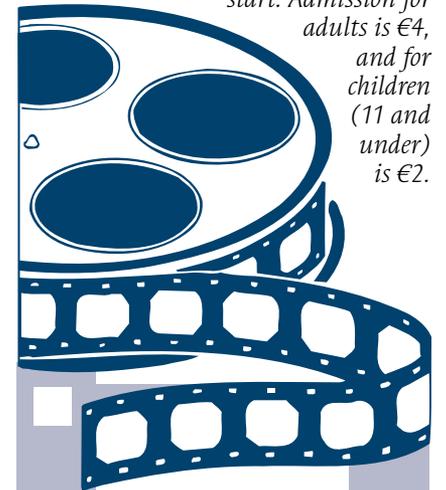


Photo Amn David Pohl

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Italian F-16 on take-off.



Aircraft Commander Maj. Andrea Franceschinis explains
the First Pilot the area east of Sardinia.



The flight is done; the E-3A crewmembers
on their way to the ACMI debriefing.

Gamer (R)

Friday, 6 November, 1930
Gerard Butler,
John Leguizamo

G-Force (PG)

Saturday, 7 November,
1600
Nicholas Cage,
Penelope Cruz

The Final Destination (R)

Saturday, 7 November,
1900
Bobby Campo,
Shantel Van Santen

Inglorious Bastards (R)

Friday, 13 November,
1930
Brad Pitt,
Melanie Laurent

Aliens In The Attic (PG)

Saturday, 14 November,
1600
Ashley Tisdale,
Robert Hoffman

Julie & Julia (PG-13)

Saturday, 14 November,
1900
Meryl Streep,
Amy Adams

Extract (R)

Friday, 20 November,
1930
Jason Bateman,
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MEUBELHOF

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Component members successful in Bodensee-Radmarathon

By CMSgt. Uli Ponssen

On Saturday, 12 September the 'Bodensee Radmarathon', which is a challenging bicycle marathon, took place in southern Germany. Five Component members, CMSgt. Uli Ponssen, SMSgt. Rene Lerche, MSgt. Preben Andersen, Johan van Raemdock (our coach and organizer) and Mike Borchers participated in this bicycle marathon.

The circuit around the lake is about 220 km long. Due to the unique location of the Bodensee it took the participants through three different countries: Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

For the Component members the marathon started in Meersburg, Germany north of the lake. Near

Bregenz they had to cross the border to Austria. After about 40 km the tour went on through Switzerland for approximately 75 km until they reached the historical city of Stein am Rhein. Back in Germany for another 30km in a hilly area they arrived at a car ferry, which took the cyclists back to Meersburg. Upon arrival in Meersburg there was final challenge waiting for the team. A steep hill was in front for the last 2 km before reaching the finish.

For the whole period of the ride the team stayed together and they all finished the marathon successfully. It took the team 7 hours and 40 minutes to get around the lake in perfect weather conditions. A special thanks to Johan who had the brilliant idea for participating in such an event.



The Bodensee challenge is taken, (from left to right) SMSgt. Rene Lerche, MSgt. Preben Andersen, CMSgt. Uli Ponssen, Mike Borchers and Johan van Raemdonck. Photo courtesy CMSgt. Uli Ponssen

Trick Or Treat



Text and photo Amn David Pohl

Children from the Geilenkirchen Elementary School visited several locations around the base on 23 October in order to celebrate Halloween. Halloween actually takes place in the night from 31 October to 1 November (All Saint's Day). Emigrants from Ireland brought this custom to America at the end of the 19th Century. Its earlier name was 'All Hallows Evening'.

Trick-or-treating is a customary celebration for children on Halloween. They go in costume from house to house, asking for treats such as candy or sometimes money, with the question, "Trick or treat?" The word 'trick' refers to a - mostly idle - threat to perform mischief on the homeowners or their property if no treat is given.

This year more than 160 kids enjoyed the Trick-or-Treating-parade. Many organizations participated and provided the youngsters an enjoyable day, like Squadron 3, which not just handed out candy, but creepily decorated their hallway into a haunted attraction with tombs, cobwebs, mysterious music and a lot of fog.

The costumes of the children were more than diversified: Not just Spider-Man, the Masterchief (from the videogame 'Halo'), devils and wasps were seen as well as magicians and witches, even a clown and a princess could be located.

Foggy Fields Bazaar

Europe's best holiday shopping comes to the Tri-Border region on Friday, 20 (1000-1800), Saturday, 21 (1000-1800) and Sunday, 22 (1000-1600) November.

28+ Vendors from wine, cheese, pottery, rugs, artwork, jewellery,

furniture, tapestries, bar accessories, and other great gifts will be at NATO Air Base, Geilenkirchen, Hangar 4. All NATO ID card holders are welcome and... Euros will be accepted!

For more information please call Rhonda L. Perez at 0049 (0)2451 99 3384.

Photo PAO archive



Christmas Fair

On Saturday, 14 November from 1100-1500 at the AFNORTH International School an extensive range of vendors will be around at the Christmas Fair. Besides a grand draw, there will be games, arts and crafts, face painting and much more will be organized. Of course Santa will be around as well. Admission is €2 per adult; children are free. Military ID or passport is required.

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You will certainly experience the authentic Greek cosiness during one of our Greek nights with live music, dance and excellent food and drinks.

Those who would like to pre-taste the wonderful cuisine of El Greco, can already visit our website www.elgreco-heerlen.nl

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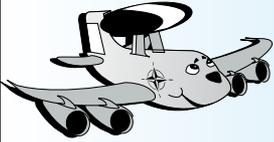
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PLANE SPOTTER

The helicopter that touched ground on the ramp in front of Hangar 4 at the end of October was a Eurocopter Fenec of the Royal Danish Air Force.

The AS550 is a lightweight, multipurpose military helicopter manufactured by the Eurocopter Group. Based on the AS350 Ecureuil and AS355 Ecureuil 2 series, they are named after the Fenec Fox. The powerful Turbomeca Arriel 2B turbo-shaft engine (632 kW) can perform a maximum speed of 259 km/h/150 knots and passenger capacity is up to 4 persons.

The special-varnished copy, which landed here with three other Fenecs', shows that the 12 eurocopters of the Royal Danish Air Force have summed up 50,000 flight hours within 18 years. Also the two small signs, one with reindeer and the second with a camel, above the cockpit show that the helicopters from the squadron were launched in action from the north in Norway to the south in Iraq.

The eurocopter is also being used by the French and Ecuadorian Air Force and also the Malaysian and Argentine Navy.

E-3A Component International Ski Club

By Tony Dale

The E-3A Component International Ski Club, also known as NATO Ski Club GK, is not only offering its members discounts at Snow World in Landgraaf, NL but also has some very good deals on ski and snowboard trips to the Ski Amadé in Austria with more than 860 kilometres of ski pistes and 270 lifts.

Six days, Sunday to Saturday, including accommodation, breakfast and dinner, 5 days lift pass, ski or snowboard instruction for 5 days

(4 hrs/day) at all levels plus evening entertainment will only cost you from €576,50 for an adult in a double room, €547,50 for a youth (16-18 years), €479 for a child (12-15 years) and €446 for a child (6-11 years).

For more information visit our website www.SkiClub.de or mail to info@SkiClubGK.de

The E-3A International Ski Club is open to all personnel affiliated with NATO and/or military organizations in the tri-border area, including those at JFC HQ Brunssum and USAG Schinnen.

Ed Seaman, a long time member of the NATO Ski Club, ready to go down no. 8 in San Cassiano, Italy. Photo courtesy NATO Ski Club GK



E-3A Component sports events

E-3A Component Geilenkirchen

INDOOR SOCCER TOURNAMENT 2009



Deadline Registration: 11 NOVEMBER 2009
Tournament Day: WED 18 NOVEMBER 2009
Game Times between 10.00-15.00 hrs

E-3A Component Geilenkirchen

TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT 2009



Deadline Registration: 8 NOVEMBER 2009
Tournament Day: 11 NOVEMBER 2009
Place: New Gym Time: 10.00-14.00 hrs

E-3A Component Geilenkirchen

SQUASH TOURNAMENT 2009



Different categories:
Men Recreational
Men Competitive
Ladies Open Class
Deadline Registration: 25 NOV 2009
Tournament : 1 Dec-18 Dec

E-3A Component Geilenkirchen

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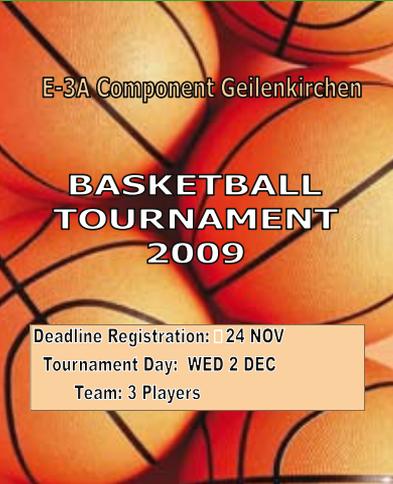


Every Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11.00-12.00 hrs and every Thursday 18.30-19.30 hrs
JUST SHOW-UP!!!

New Gym Multi Purpose Room
Instructor: Bert Hendriks

E-3A Component Geilenkirchen

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT 2009



Deadline Registration: 24 NOV
Tournament Day: WED 2 DEC
Team: 3 Players

For more info please call Bert Hendriks at ext. 4921 or by email bhendriks@e3a.nato.int

Closure of New Gym

Due to a thorough cleaning and high-quality sealing of the hallways the New Gym is closed on Saturday, 21 and Sunday, 22 November.

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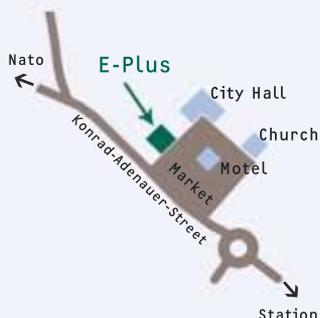


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