

Component active in Operations Afghan Assist and Unified Protector

Text and photos Lt.Col. Antje Kalka

Many things have changed in recent weeks since our Component has been actively engaged in two operations. Air crews, staff and ground personnel are deployed at FOB Konya and FOB Trapani.

On the one hand, we are supporting the NATO-led Operation Unified Protector (OUP). With our E-3A we are part of the broad international effort to protect the people of Libya. OUP is NATO's response within the scope of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973 on Libya. All members of the Alliance are committed to meeting their responsibilities to halt the violence in that country.

On the other hand, we are engaged in Operation Afghan Assist (OAA). We are supporting the Commander of ISAF by coordinating and de-conflicting the increasingly busy air traffic over Afghanistan. This operation was endorsed by the North Atlantic Council at the end of last year.

Media interest in both operations is high, and AWACS as "NATO's eye in the sky" is always of special interest due to its unique surveillance capabilities. In the photo you see E-3A Component Commander Brig.Gen. Burkhard Pototzky during his visit to Afghanistan last week. Immediately after landing he explained to the media how the AWACS platform contributes with its surveillance capabilities to the vitally important task of enhancing airspace security.



Component Commander Brig.Gen. Burkhard Pototzky during his visit to Afghanistan last week.

Brig.Gen. Burkhard Pototzky (left) meets with personnel from Geilenkirchen and Konya at Forward Operating Base Konya, Turkey.



**Next NATO Skywatch:
15 April
Submissions due by:
7 April**

**Aircraft Maintenance
See page 6 and 7**





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FOL Ørland personnel to Trapani and Konya

By Janina Bien

On 21 March 2011, 20 personnel from Forward Operating Location (FOL) Ørland arrived on base in Geilenkirchen and were then deployed to the Forward Operating Bases (FOB) in Trapani and Konya. Norway formally approved the deployment of these personnel to those FOBs for approximately four weeks.

A7 (Exercise and Training Division), which is responsible for coordinating and managing Component-wide preparations, exercises and associated activities to ensure successful execution of the mission, was tasked with Logistics Wing to organize the allocation of these volunteers to Trapani and Konya. A small social reception followed after the photo session to extend a cordial welcome to the FOL contingent.

"We very much appreciate your help and your contribution in supporting our colleagues on the FOBs", said Lt.Col. Gerald Probst, Logistics Wing Deputy (LWD).



Capt. Egil Rønning, who has been working for the Component for more than 19 years, took up this theme. "Because of the current

situation, we want to participate and support our colleagues and friends in order to cover these operations," he said.

The Norwegian military during a stop-over in Geilenkirchen on their way south.

Photo Andrea Hohenforst

German politician visits Component

By Janina Bien

On 21 March Mrs. Elke Hoff, a Free Democratic Party (FDP) member of the German Bundestag, and local political representatives visited our E-3A Component. Mrs. Hoff was warmly welcomed by Brig. Gen. Burkhard Pototzky and the visit commenced with an official briefing about the Component. This meeting was organized in order to discuss and give an update on noise-related issues, including preparation for operations in support of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). In addition the attendees received the opportunity to see an E-3A after the meeting.

Mrs. Hoff is a member of the Defence Committee of the German Bundestag as well as a member of its Sub-Committee on Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation. Additionally she is an alternate member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and a spokeswoman on Security Policy for the FDP parliamentary group.

Mrs. Elke Hoff signing the Component guest book.

Photo Andrea Hohenhorst



Volume 27, No. 6

1 April 2011

Commander
Brig. Gen. Burkhard Pototzky
Chief, Public Affairs
Lt.Col. Antje Kalka

Editors
Mrs. Maureen Geraets-Head
Mrs. Janina Bien

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What is communication?

By Capt. Wilko ter Horst

Communication

What is communication? Just spend an hour or so 'Googling' it and you'll find plenty of definitions for what it means.

Academics universally agree that communication is a process of exchanging information. It means trying to make something clear to someone else.

If we expressed this process as a formula, it would look like this:

Communication = information → coding → transmitting → receiving → decoding → information.

We know what information we want to communicate, so we code it by converting the thought into language. This language is the same as the language of the recipient – the person receiving the message. The coded information is then transmitted to that person. This can be done by means of the spoken word, but also by e-mail, SMS or body language, for example. It is

also important that the recipient has a means of receiving the coded message. The incoming message is now decoded by the recipient. Only then is he or she able to process the information.

It is even more important that the recipient notifies the sender of the message that it has been correctly received. This can be done in many ways: sending a reply by SMS, carrying out the task, acknowledging by e-mail, or simply saying you have understood the message.

If any of these steps in the communication process fails to take place, then this is known as malfunction. This malfunction is the reason why a message goes astray. An e-mail does not arrive, there is no incoming connection for the SMS, or the recipient does not understand what someone says.

The communication process looks fairly simple. It is therefore very strange that people often

misunderstand what others tell them or do not understand each other at all. Is communication really so difficult? Yes, it is. In fact you could say it's amazing that it sometimes does work well. This may seem exaggerated, but it's something that happens to all of us on an almost daily basis.

A couple of simple examples:

You go off to the supermarket with a shopping list that you were given as you left your house. It says 'something to go on the bread', 'something to drink for you and the kids', 'just decide what you want to eat', 'something to put on toast' and 'a couple of bottles of soft drink'. Easy, huh? Should you call home or just grab something at random?

Those well-known expressions: 'I thought that you...', 'but you were supposed to...', '...surely I understood what you meant?' Or words to the same effect. We all recognize them.

This is something that happens to everyone, including me. If

communication fails, we often try to remedy the situation by immediately assuming that the other person did not understand our message properly or was not listening to what we said. Apologies on all sides. But we rarely point an accusing finger at ourselves.

Perhaps it is a good idea to look for our own mistakes once in a while. Why did communication go wrong and how can we prevent this next time? Maybe we can try to prevent it by asking the recipient to give us feedback. Did the recipient really understand the message? Did I communicate my message clearly, or was it ambiguous?

So just ask for confirmation or feedback before any further action. This can prevent a lot of misunderstandings and annoyance.

The only way to learn how to communicate is to take a look at yourself.

(Original text in Dutch. Translation by Language Services Office)

Commemoration train stopped in Geilenkirchen

A group of students discussing with one of the organizers of the commemoration train.

Text and photos CMSgt. Claus Cohnen



The map shows the deportation of Jewish children throughout Europe.

German citizens' committees initiated a special train in 2007 to commemorate the Nazi deportation of more than 12,000 Jewish children. The train takes the same route as "Reichsbahn" trains that went to their home towns at that time. A mobile exhibition, installed in several wagons, illustrates the fate of the deportees.

The organizers particularly hope to motivate young people to search for traces of the deported children in their towns. The train stopped in Geilenkirchen last week and is scheduled to visit other stations in the Aachen area until 8 April.

- Düren (1 and 2 April)
- Aachen (3-6 April)
- Schleiden (7 April)
- Hellenthal (8 April)

The "Commemoration Train" initiative now aims to expand this commemorative event to draw attention to the European dimension of this major crime. According to estimates, over one million children and young people from almost all countries on the continent were transported to their deaths by the "Reichsbahn". Many of those responsible for the crime were never punished.

You can also find more information on www.zug-der-erinnerung.de



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Vacancy announcements

AFNORTH International School is registered in The Netherlands as a Dutch foundation. It is a school sponsored by four nations: Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The school's mandate is to educate the children of military members, who are stationed at Allied Joint Force Command Headquarters in Brunssum and the military bases in the surrounding area. Children from various countries may attend AFNORTH International School.

The International Department is looking for a substitute school nurse for the end of school year 2010-2011 and the following school year 2011-2012. The position is an on-call contract. The position is a Local Wage

Rate (LWR) post in scale 7 (Dutch Ministry of Defense civil service scales).

Within the International Department the Partner Language team is responsible for teaching German in the International section and English in the German section. The team is looking for two substitute GSL teachers (on-call contract) for the school year 2011-2012. The positions are Local Wage Rate (LWR) posts in pay scale 9 (Dutch Ministry of Defense civil service scales).

For more information please contact AFNORTH International School, attn. Mr. R. Bindels, Ferdinand Bolstraat 1, 6445 EE Brunssum or email to Robert.Bindels@eu.dodea.edu.

Vacancies of International Civilian Consultants (ICC) posts

International Civilian Consultants are civilians employed by ISAF in support of specialized mission requirements, which are normally performed by military personnel or by NATO International Civilians (NIC) in peacetime headquarters. This category of civilians include nationals of NATO member countries or non-NATO member ISAF Troop Contributing Nations (TCNs), which can provide NATO recognized security clearances.

The duty location is Afghanistan. Salaries range from €3,877 up to 7,765. Monthly daily allowances amount to approximately €75.

For details regarding vacancies such as: Journalist, Interpreter/Translator, Human Resources, Theatre LAN/WAN Manager, MS Office Sharepoint Service Engineer, Radio Editor.

Go to: www.isaf.nato.int/article/isaf-vacancies.

Aircraft Maintenance

Text Capt. Ken Fravor
Photos Andrea Hohenforst

Since the inception of various Air Forces around the globe, there have been hundreds and even thousands of stories of pilots and aircrew members, who have performed feats of valor during combat and peacetime operations. Some of these stories that are seldom told are about the aircraft maintainer. The term "aircraft maintainer" is a general one, in that there are many specialties in today's maintenance workforce.

Mission Success

The Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (AMS) is one of the largest squadrons on base and is currently comprised of 221 maintainers who are assigned to four diverse branches. The primary mission of AMS is to generate combat and training sorties safely, effectively and on-time.

This truly international team from 13 technical trades ensures our 17 E-3A aircraft are maintained to the highest standards. The proof of this quality maintenance is the Component's ongoing commitment to simultaneously support ISAF, Operations Active Endeavour (OAE), Afghan Assist (OAA) and Unified Protector missions.

To date, AMS has produced 95 sorties and over 1,140 combat hours in support of ISAF and 52 sorties with 381 hours in support of OAE. Maintaining this combat capability and airworthiness in a fleet of aircraft over 30 years old is no minor feat for the men and women of AMS.

Generate and Sustain

Bringing together and leading this talented team of maintainers is Lt. Col. Heiko Lambert, Squadron Commander, supported by AMS Supervision, Capt. Ken Fravor and CMSgt. Abraham Sezer.

"It is a unique opportunity to lead such a diverse workforce, both military and civilian in dynamic times like these," Lt. Col. Lambert says, referring to his squadron's continued support to generate ISAF and OAE sorties.

The largest entity in AMS is the aircraft inspection and flight line branch. This branch is at the core of the mission, generating and sustaining combat sorties. The generating portion is the task of the flight line section. This section consists of highly trained crew chiefs that launch, recover and service the aircraft in support of 24/7 operations. The sustaining portion is the job of the inspection or "phase" section. This is when the aircraft is removed from the daily flying schedule and placed in the hangar for scheduled maintenance. This is the perfect time to inspect areas that are not normally opened while the

Photo right: Electrical & Environment Technicians Patrick Feyer and Giuseppe Giordano carrying out inventory aircraft parts before performing a maintenance task.

Photo below: Sgt. Randy Dowden assisting Mr. Armin Joeris with engine generator servicing.

Rotodome opens terrace

By Maj. Peter Gerisch

In response to popular demand and just in time for spring, the Services Branch is proud to announce the opening of the Rotodome terrace on 4 April 2011.

An official opening ceremony will take place at 1045 (weather permitting). The terrace is located on the south side of the Rotodome along Cinchan Avenue. It provides

a cozy seating area for 40 patrons. Rotodome customers may take their food trays out to the terrace area and enjoy their meal or even just drink a coffee sitting in the sun.

On 4 and 5 April, weather permitting, the Food Services Section would like to invite you to a free ice cream on the terrace between 1100 and 1400. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Josef Gehlen and Michael Jasch from BwDLZ Aachen constructing the new outdoor terrace to be ready at the beginning of April.

Photo Janina Bien



Maintenance Squadron, an overview

aircraft is executing the daily flying schedule. This process is very surgical in that there are specific "work card" items that must be followed step by step and inspected by all shops before the aircraft is deemed cleared for flight.

Additional Support

In order to generate and sustain sorties, it not only takes the efforts of phase and flight line, but there are

numerous other sections that play a vital role in the daily accomplishment of the Component's flying mission. There is not enough space in this article to give a comprehensive look at all the shops in AMS, but I will attempt to briefly highlight each shop and its contribution to the flying mission.

Under the Maintenance Support Branch, the Aerospace Ground Equipment (AGE) specialists perform

periodic maintenance as well as ensure serviceable AGE is ready to support aircraft maintenance. Also under this branch are the CTK tool rooms and the Squadron's Technical Orders (T.O.) Library. This is where all tools are stored and accounted for after each shift and where all T.O.s are tracked, monitored and updated.

The Fabrication Branch delivers a unique capability. There are

numerous trades assigned to this branch and all are related to ensuring the aircraft structure is sound. They include Non-Destructive Inspection, Machine Shop, Welding, Structural Repair and Life Support.

The professionals from the Electrical/Environmental, Propulsion, Fuselage (Hydraulic) Shop, Fuel System Repair & Maintenance, Heavy Maintenance (R&R) and Wheel and Tire shops are all members of the Aircraft Systems Branch. These highly motivated individuals not only perform routine maintenance, but are standing by before each sortie to resolve any "red ball" actions (maintenance issues that arise within two hours before take off).

There are a few more professionals without whom the AMS mission would fail. They are the admin personnel that process orders, often on short notification. Also, there are individuals that take pride in posting updates to our Technical Order Library to ensure our technicians are using the most up-to-date resources.

Next time you see an E-3A depart, remember the often overlooked or forgotten maintainers that take pride in generating and sustaining the fleet at Geilenkirchen and in deployed locations. AMS is a vital part of the Component's overall team.

Mr. John Amos, Crew Chief Trainer, explains technical order procedures to SSgt. Markus Dovert.



By Natalino Giangiulio

30 March 1861: Two weeks after its official proclamation, Italian unification was welcomed by Great Britain and Switzerland, followed on 13 April 1861 by the United States of America. The belief began to spread that Italian unification might be an element of stability for the whole continent of Europe and that – instead of being a land of conflict – a unified Italy, due to its favorable geographical location, could be an effective obstacle to the expansionist tendencies of both France and the Habsburg Empire.



On 17 March 1861 the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies in Turin approved document number 4671, officially proclaiming Italy as a newly born nation.

The new kingdom was born in about two years, from the spring of 1859 to the spring of 1861, in a peninsula that was previously divided among seven states. The military victory of the Franco-Piedmont forces in 1859

150 years of unified Italy



resulted in gradual crumbling of the various Italian states that had tied their fate to the presence of Austria in the peninsula. This process ended with the proclamation of King Vittorio Emanuele II of Italy.

At the end of World War II, a famous Swiss historian, Mr. Werner Kaegi

wrote: "Italy had a genuine national consciousness five centuries before unification, with ancient cultural origins but without political form".

Special thanks to Chief of Staff and our Civilian Personnel Division, who allowed us to celebrate this memorable event.

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of unification, 17 March 2011 was declared a national holiday in Italy. This event was also celebrated by Italian civilians employed at the NATO E-3A Component in Geilenkirchen.

Photo André Joosten

Component women turn E-3A Club green

By Karen Dale

17 March 2011 was St Patrick's Day. What better day for the Canadian members of the International Women's Club to celebrate the Irish influence on Canada's history!

The E-3A Club was decorated in vibrant shades of green, and most ladies attending managed to find some green clothing or jewelry to wear to complete the theme. Piles of leprechaun gold were on every table and members were invited to guess how many pieces there were. Just like fairy gold, the pieces seemed to disappear magically after people had made their guess. Our ladies are so competitive! A Canadian function would not be complete without moose milk and there was a bowlful on offer to greet the ladies, along with special imported Canadian coffee.

The main part of the evening was introduced by the beautiful voice of Nancy Frelander, singing "O Canada", the Canadian national anthem. During the evening the Canadian ladies

entertained us with traditional Irish songs and a slideshow of stunning Canadian scenery. Nation was pitted against nation in a potato sack race. This proved to be a real game of skill on a polished wooden floor! The Turkish ladies leapt to victory to take the prize.

Dinner was a traditional Irish stew, served imaginatively in a bread loaf with coleslaw and pickles in the color of the Irish tricolor. This was followed by the hotly contested raffle.

A big thank you to the Canadian ladies for all their hard work and preparation. Due to spouses' work commitments we had fewer numbers than usual, but they didn't let that spoil the evening.



Next event

The next meeting is on Thursday 14 April and not on 21 April as previously advertised. The Dutch ladies invite you to experience the Dutch "Golden Age", when the Dutch East India Company sailed the spice route to the East and Dutch painters such as Rembrandt were flourishing. There will be Indonesian food to try and real Delft ware to look at and to win in the raffle. A surprise dance group will be appearing. We hope all ladies can join us for this evening, so please mark 14 April in your diary. The entertainment starts at 1900; please arrive earlier to be seated in time.



Photos Janina Bien

By CMSgt. Claus Cohnen

Since October last year the new MWA system has been in place, providing first-hand experience and the dynamic process of improving the food services system is still ongoing. Clients and Rotodome personnel are currently having to cope with additional stress at lunch time, when regular meals and fast food are served simultaneously in the same facility. As cost effectiveness is essential, outsourcing parts of the service to a civil contractor is one of the options under discussion. Leadership obviously wants feedback from Component members and the Rotodome personnel concerned, so a survey campaign has just been launched.

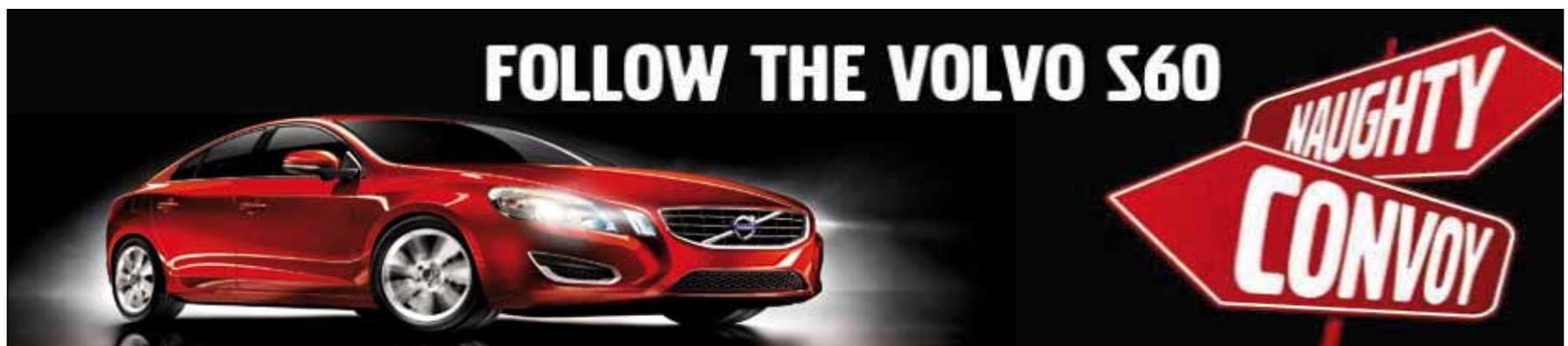
Initial contacts for outsourcing parts of the food services system have been made and proposals submitted. Three well-known fast food chains responded to the Component's initiative, with McDonalds and Burger King offering the "classic" model and Subway presenting an alternative version of Fast Food. In line with the 30% discount for MWA Card holders, all three contractors agreed to recruit at least 30% of their personnel from MWA employees and the new service will operate in the Sentry Club.

Before making a definite decision on the proposed new service, leadership wants to hear the views of the Component members.



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MWA Card Issuing Office

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E-3A Club upcoming events

- 24 April Easter Brunch
- 28 April Spring Dance
- 8 May Mother's Day

Brunch

20 May Whisky tasting (limited seats)

Sports Department

Opening hours Mon-Fri: 0600-2100. Weekends: 0800-2000 (summer schedule hours) (Hours extended in accordance with MWAC meeting minutes 09/10, dated 12 Nov 2010)

No Sports staff available at the New Gym Mon-Thurs after 1700 and Friday after 1430.

Patrons wishing to check out equipment need to do so before the above-mentioned times. Management apologizes for this inconvenience.

All Component personnel are authorized to utilize the sports facilities free of charge. However, participation in sports classes with instructor, i.e. spinning, aerobics, dance classes, etc. is restricted to personnel in possession of a valid MWA Membership Card. Dependants are required to be in possession of a valid membership card to utilize the Gym. Daily checks will be conducted.

Summer utilization schedule for Old Gym, New Gym and Multi-Purpose Room, Deadline registration 15 April 2011. Start: 2 May 2011

Upcoming Sports Events

Jogging Cross, 3.5 km or 7 km 13 April, 1130-1300. Different age categories. Deadline Registration: 11 April 2011

Outdoor Soccer League, 4 May-8 June Participation for E-3A Component, JFC Brunssum, USAG Schinnen and ZVBw Niederheid. Deadline Registration 15 April 2011. Playing period: Week 18, Week 23 (4 May-8 June). Game days/times: Mon & Wed 1100 & 1200, 2 fields.

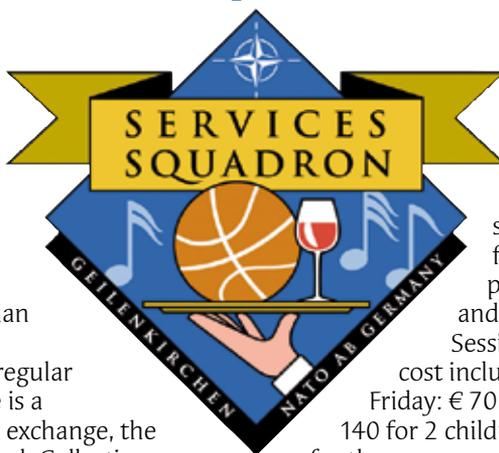
Opening Swimming Pool 4 May 2011, at 1100

International Library

Operating hours 1100-1500, Monday through Friday, ext. 4956. The International Library, situated in Bldg. 96, offers a large variety of books, periodicals, audio and video materials. The regular book collection

MWA INFORMATION

April



contains over 12.000 books and is broken into 9 language categories: Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Norwegian and Turkish. In addition to the regular collection, there is a paperback book exchange, the McNaughton book Collection, assorted university text, and a large juvenile section with over 2.500 children's books. 40 periodicals in the English language and the daily Stars and Stripes can be read in the relaxed atmosphere at our library. Our audio resources include more than 500 music CDs and 50 language courses and audio books. Also, more than 650 DVDs for adults and children are available as well as 6 public computers for Internet use. All is free of charge for all NATO ID card holders (small charge for usage of copy machine (A3 and A4) and printer for Internet pages).

International Youth Activities

Information and registration at the IYA Office in Bldg 95, ext. 4954, 4955

Easter Egg Hunt & games

On Monday, 18 April, at 1430 the IYA is sponsoring a big Easter Egg Hunt for all children on the IYA playground behind Bldg. 95. Make sure to join the fun, meet the Easter Bunny, hunt for eggs and enjoy seasonal games and attractions. There is no fee. Rain delay date is Tuesday, 19 April.

Easter Break Trip Legoland, Sea Life for children aged 5 and older: 20 April, 0830-1745. The children can be dropped off from 0745. Legoland boasts a 4D cinema, dragon ride and adventure trail. Exhibits include Hall of Heroes, cities, landscapes, animals, etc. Construct projects with thousands of Lego bricks in the Build and Test Centre. See the wonders you can create with hands-on tuition from professional Lego model builders, and discover how the bricks are manufactured on the factory tour. At Sea Life you watch sharks, rays, green turtles, seahorses, star fish and many more marine inhabitants through giant panoramic windows. Enjoy the views of the walk-through tunnel and the huge tropical sea tank. Cost is € 32 per child, € 25 with your valid MWA Card. Chaperones go free. We stop for lunch at the famous food court of the Centro mall in Oberhausen offering a wide choice of food counters. Or you can bring a packed lunch.

Easter Break program for children aged 5 and older: 11-21 April, 0745

to 1745. Enjoy fun games, exciting contests, egg hunt, arts and crafts, sports and hikes, free play, special projects, movies and much more.

Session I, 11-15 April, cost including lunch on Friday: € 70 for 1 child, € 140 for 2 children, and € 175 for three or more children. MWA Card prices € 52.50 for 1 child, € 105 for 2 children, and € 131.25 for three or more children.

Session II, 18-21 April, cost including field trip to Legoland and Sealife on Wednesday and lunch on Thursday: € 82 for 1 child, € 164 for 2 children, and € 205 for three or more children. MWA Card prices: € 62 for 1 child, € 124 for 2 children, and € 155 for three or more children. Daily rates: € 17 without lunch, € 21.50 with lunch. MWA Card prices: € 12 without lunch, € 15 with lunch.

Trip to the Rhine Valley with cruise

Enjoy the magnificent scenery of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with its enchanting historic castles and

green vineyards on a panorama cruise from St. Goar to Koblenz on Saturday, 21 May, 0800-2000. You will have the opportunity to walk around the beautiful old town of St. Goar and visit the famous city of Koblenz with all its attractions, stores and restaurants at the confluence of the Rivers Rhine and Mosel. Our luxury bus departs from outside the Main Gate. Cost including your ticket for the 2.25-hour cruise is € 42.50 for ages 14 to adult, € 27 per child aged 4 to 13, and € 20 per child aged 0 to 3; MWA Card holders € 32 for ages 14 to adult, € 20 per child aged 4 to 13, and € 15 per child aged 0 to 3.

Trip to Bruges

On Saturday, 9 April, 0730-2030, you can join the IYA to explore one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. Walking along the maze of winding cobbled alleys and romantic canals, you imagine yourself to be in medieval times. In 2000, UNESCO included the entire historic city center on the World Heritage list. Beside the wealth of architectural and artistic treasures you will find a huge variety of stores, cafes, pubs and restaurants. Our luxury bus departs from the parking lot outside the Main Gate. Cost is € 23.50 per person, or € 16.50 per person for MWA Card holders.

Thrift Shop

Opening hours 1000-1400 every Tuesday and Thursday, ext. 4919.

Book and DVD donation

By Mrs. Belinda Vogel-Smith

The E-3A Component community has again demonstrated its unified readiness to support a worthwhile campaign. We have received an overwhelming response to our appeal for book and DVD donations for deployed personnel. Our sincere thanks to all the donors.

The first boxes have now been flown out and were enthusiastically received. The campaign is still on-going. Donations can be handed in at the Central Registry in Building 5 or forwarded through the internal mail.



Mrs. Belinda Vogel-Smith (left) and Mrs. Angelika Körfer sorting out hundreds of books at the Central Registry.

Photo Andrea Hohenforst



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This special is valid until 30th of September 2011, not valid in combination with other promotions



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