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and the best wishes for health,
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Thank you for your confidence in us.*

*Wir danken Ihnen für Ihr Vertrauen und wünschen
Ihnen fröhliche Weihnachten, Gesundheit, Glück
und Erfolg im neuen Jahr.*

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear members of the
E-3A Component!



As the Component Commander, it is my privilege to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy and safe holiday season. As we enter the holidays and spend time with loved ones, it is appropriate to reflect on all we have been able to accomplish through the Component's hard work and dedication over the past year.

As a team, we have successfully completed Operation Unified

Protector and continue to support Operation Afghan Assist. Despite the challenges of supporting these two operations, we were able to meet all taskings and accomplish our assigned missions. These successes were and are only possible because of the support and acceptance of hardship by the families of our Component personnel.

I would therefore like to pass on my deep thanks and appreciation to the families of the Component personnel

for their tireless supporting efforts and countless sacrifices.

I would like everyone to enjoy the holidays and take the time for a well deserved break. Enjoy the company of friends and family and celebrate the end of a great year. But while you enjoy the season, please remember we have Component members deployed and in harm's way. I ask you keep them in your thoughts and continue to support their family members who are still here. In

closing, I wish you and your family nothing but the best in the coming year and look forward to seeing you in 2012. Happy Holidays and continued success!

Brig.Gen. Burkhard Pototzky

Brig. Gen. Burkhard Pototzky
BRIG GEN BURKHARD POTOTZKY

Statement by the North Atlantic Council in KFOR format on the situation in Kosovo

On 1 December we discussed the situation in Kosovo with our partners in KFOR (Kosovo Force). NATO Allies and KFOR partners are deeply concerned about the recent developments in the northern part of Kosovo, which we continue to monitor carefully. The use of violence against KFOR is unacceptable and we deplore it.

NATO and our KFOR partners welcome President Tadić's statement of 29 November, which must be followed by concrete actions. We urge all parties to exercise restraint and cooperate fully with all international actors on the ground to ensure freedom of movement without delay.

NATO Allies and KFOR partners fully support Commander KFOR, as KFOR continues to act carefully, firmly and impartially to contribute to the maintenance of freedom of movement and a safe and secure environment for all people in Kosovo, in accordance with its United Nations mandate. NATO and our KFOR partners commend KFOR's coordination with EULEX (European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo) in this regard.

NATO Allies and KFOR partners call on Belgrade and Pristina to continue their constructive participation to the EU-facilitated dialogue.

Source: www.nato.int

300th mission flight OAA



End of November, the 300th mission flight on Operation Afghan Assist (OAA) in support of ISAF was successfully accomplished. Thank you to all Component members, who contributed to this success. Congratulations to the 300th mission's crew.

Photo courtesy EG MeS

OPERATION AFGHAN ASSIST



329 DAYS



Volume 27, No. 22 9 December 2011

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

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Thursday, 15th of December 2011, 17.00 hrs

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News says nothing about reality

It's all about the journalist and your quote

By Capt. Wilko ter Horst

An interview in front of a film camera, on the radio or for a newspaper can be stressful, regardless of whether you do it on a daily basis or just occasionally. You find yourself in an unnatural situation, with a microphone or camera in front of your nose, worrying that you are going to make a wrong statement or find yourself misquoted in the newspaper.

Many see the media as a threat, but it's what you say during the interview that can be harmful. Can we control a journalist's pen? No - but we can control how we conduct ourselves during the interview. Simply use common sense, good preparation and the support of

your Public Affairs Officer (PAO). When you stick to a few key rules, the media provide the best and the fastest way to tell your and our message.

Be very careful during informal contacts with a media representative. Having a quick chat with a journalist, talking "off the record" or having an interview without PAO might result in unwanted media attention. First you have a nice chat and the next day your quotes make the newspaper's headline.

Not all journalists are alike. A good journalist will most likely ignore your personal quote or simply not write it up, especially if it is not relevant to the topic. Unfortunately some journalists are looking for a spicy

story and will use your quote or change it to make it a little juicier.

A lot of people think this will never happen to them, but believe me, it will - and without you realizing it. So never underestimate a journalist.

For a PAO it is very hard, often impossible, to get a personal quote or "off the record" remarks taken out of an article. Most likely the journalist will use it and your statement will be in the open. The outcome? I guess you know...

Just some simple tips to prevent this from happening:

Don't be afraid to talk to the media, but:

- Stay in your lane, only talk about your job.

- Remember there is no such thing as "off the record" remarks!
- Don't answer any NATO-related questions without PAO present.
- Check your national communication restrictions via your Senior National Representative. (All national and international news agencies send requests to PAO at the Component.)
- If you feel uncomfortable, call in the PAO representative.
- Do not discuss classified information.

Keep these points in mind, use common sense and realize you are talking to a journalist. An interview should be seen as a risk, but also as an opportunity to communicate our message to the public.

Winter driving information



Winter driving does not have to be a nightmare. So make sure that you and your vehicle are prepared. This is a reminder for all Component members:

1. Use of winter tires

Under German law, the regulations for the use of winter tires in Germany changed with effect from 1 December 2010. The following rules apply:

- Black ice and slippery surfaces caused by packed snow, ice or frost are part of winter weather conditions. During these weather conditions the use of winter tires is mandatory.
- Winter tires are all tires with a snowflake symbol and/or M+S tires with the same symbol and/or mountain pictogram.

Component Security Forces may deny access to the confines of NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen for privately owned motor vehicles (POMV) not equipped with suitable tires.

2. Black ice and dirty roads

Beware of suddenly changing road conditions. In recent years quite a few Component members have found out the hard way that their intended direction of travel did not match the forces of gravity and traction.

Do your tires have sufficient tread and are they suitable for winter weather conditions?

3. Windscreen wipers

You should check your windscreen wipers to make sure the blades are in good working condition and ready for the winter time. Keep your windscreen washers clear of obstructions. Keep the fluid container filled and your wipers in good working order.

4. Excess idling

It is a violation of German Traffic Law and E-3A Component Order 3.4-1 to leave a vehicle in idle for more than three minutes. This means that leaving the engine running while you remove ice and snow from your car windows is prohibited!

5. Use of lights, rear fog lights and parking lights

Please ensure that all your vehicle lights are clean and in working order. Rear fog lights are only to be used when visibility is reduced to 50 meters or less. This also means that you have to reduce your speed to 50 km/h in those conditions. A parking light is only to be used for enhancing the visibility of a parked vehicle.

Fog is one of the most dangerous hazards any driver will have to face. An accident with a vehicle ahead can quickly involve many others. So slow down and keep a safe distance. When following another vehicle in fog, leave enough space to stop. There is always the possibility of an unforeseen hazard ahead, which may cause the vehicle in front of you to make an emergency stop.

6. Clearing ice from vehicle windows

You have to remove ice from all the windows of your vehicle before you drive off. In the past, a vehicle crossing Rommelstraße in the off-base housing area struck a Component member who was walking towards the Main Gate. The operator of the vehicle was waiting for an opportunity to enter Lilienthalallee and, because he had only cleared the ice from a small portion of his windshield, did not see the other Component member walking in front of his vehicle.

To ensure traffic safety on base the IMPs & Civil Guards, as 'Gate Entry Controllers', are ordered to deny access to all vehicles whose windows are not clear of ice.

Finally, please take special care when operating a vehicle during darkness or low visibility. Pay special attention to the important things around you and do not let yourself be distracted, e.g. by advertisement signs.

It's for your own safety!

Vacancy announcements

Applications are invited for the following posts:

Staff Assistant (CRYPTO), advertisement number 11021, NATO Grade B-5, assigned to the Mission Support Branch, Communication & Information Systems Squadron, Information Technology Wing. This post is due to be filled as soon as possible after 31 January 2012.

Closing date: 27 December 2011.

Vehicle Maintenance Specialist, advertisement number 11022, Grade LWR, assigned to the Maintenance & Repair Cell, Vehicle Maintenance Section, Motorpool Branch, Base Support Division. This post is due to be filled as soon as possible.

Closing date: 12 January 2012.

For further details, please visit the E-3A Component (WSS) Portal under Headquarters/ A1/A1CP/A1CR /Recruitment, the official E-3A Component internet homepage at www.e3a.nato.int or review the advertisement posted in Building 8.

Note: Only applications of qualified personnel will be considered.

THE E-3A COMPONENT DURING

- NAPMO welcomes Czech Republic as new member
- Component supports ISAF, Operation Afghan Assist starts
- Force Commander Stephen D. Schmidt (FCC): *"This is a small step for men, but a giant leap for the Component."*
- Snow chaos on base

January



- Spring on base

April



- Code of Conduct campaign starts
- OPSEC campaign starts
- Website launched in German and Dutch

February



- SACEUR visits FOB Trapani
- 100th mission for OAA
- Royal NLD visit
- Czech Air Force accession ceremony
- COM Call on OUP and OAA

May



- Operation Unified Protector starts
- Brig.Gen. Burkhard Pototzky: *"The AWACS platform contributes with its surveillance capabilities to the vitally important task of enhancing airspace security."*
- On 21 March, 20 personnel from Forward Operating Location Ørland arrived on base in Geilenkirchen to be deployed to the Forward Operating Bases (FOB) in Trapani and Konya

March



- Component Sports and Family Day

June



Events:

Carnival party at the former Frisbee Club on 3 March

International Children's Festival

7 May was a colorful day for the Component as hundreds of children and their parents came together to celebrate the traditional Children's Festival. This year the event was celebrated for the 23rd time, hosted as always by the Turkish National Support Unit



Geilenkirchen blickt auf Europa

On the last weekend of May the Component participated in the military parade in Geilenkirchen on the occasion of the festival 'Geilenkirchen blickt auf Europa 2011: Dänemark'

Terry Fox Run 22 September

Oktoberfest 24-25 September

Cross Country Run

on 4 November with 160 participants, the highest number of participants ever



THE YEAR 2011 - AN OVERVIEW

- New Commander FOB Trapani: Lt.Col. Gabriele Gualazzini takes over
- Germany honors Component member Lt.Col. Brynt Query
- Nijmegen March
- July was the coldest and sun-poorest since WWII

July



- NATO Medal awarded for ISAF (OAA)
- E-3A Component's Safety Day 2011: "Flight safety is paramount because our lives are paramount!"
- 31 October: end of OUP

October



- Computer Upgrade Project completed FCC: "Without this Computer Upgrade Project, NATO AWACS would not be operating in major combat operations today."

August



- TCA farewell event for local dignitaries, media and spotters
- Driest November since records began

November



- New Commander for FOB Aktion: Col. Theodoros Chatzipouflis
- Second TCA retires. TCA LX-N 20000 made its last flight to Manching (Germany) on 26 September

September



- Stand Down Ceremony of the TCA Squadron

December



Operations:

Operation Unified Protector

From 24 March until 31 October

On March 24, NATO Allies decided to take on the whole military operation in Libya under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973. The purpose of Operation Unified Protector was to protect the people of Libya, enforce an arms embargo and maintain a no-fly zone.

Operation Afghan Assist

Started 15 January - ongoing



Air shows:

Air show in Belgium

6-7 July: The Belgian SAR Air Base in Koksijde held its international air show.

Slovak International Air Fest at Sliač

27-28 August: A crew from the Training Wing flew to Slovakia. They received the award for best static display.

NATO Air Days in Ostrava, Czech Republic

24-25 September: More than 225,000 visitors participated.





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Rotodome cooks up Thanksgiving classics

By Janina Bien

Since 1863, Americans have celebrated the end of harvest with a Thanksgiving meal on the fourth Thursday in November. With some Component members so far away from home during this family holiday, Rotodome personnel brought this famous tradition to the base on 23 November.

"It was a great success," said Wilhelm Diener, one of the Rotodome's head chefs. "More than 530 people came to the Rotodome

to enjoy the delicious food." The staff prepared a Thanksgiving feast including pumpkin soup, ham, turkey with gravy, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, stuffing, and vegetables, plus a salad bar and apple pie.

"It took us eight to twelve hours to organize, prepare and cook for this year's Thanksgiving lunch, but we all are extremely proud of this fantastic outcome," Mr. Diener said. "The whole meal was freshly made and in total we used 100 kg of turkey, 70 kg of ham and 60 kg of sweet potatoes."



Photos Sgt. Mike Longoria

Monika Pfister and Wilhelm Diener serve food to their customers.

What you can achieve with one euro

By Janina Bien

With a handful of coins you can do a lot. For example, you can donate the coins for the basic immunization (measles, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus) of a child in Eastern Africa. This region has a very high rate of under-five mortality resulting from drought, high food prices and the ongoing conflict in Somalia.

On the day the Public Affairs Office received its annual 'Esprit de corps' funds, I read an article in the local newspaper about a current UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) project for children in Eastern Africa. Spontaneously the idea was born: Let's do something beneficial for those children – and raise awareness that you can achieve a lot with just one euro.

What followed was a quick and spontaneous collection on the lower floor of the Headquarters building. In the end, other offices from the whole base became involved too. Colleagues were soon keen to support the UNICEF project under the motto 'We want to live'.

My initial aim was to collect 50 euro coins. This donation would enable UNICEF to give vital vaccinations to 18 children in Eastern Africa. In a team effort, many small inputs produce a remarkable effect. This aim of collecting 50 euros was soon achieved. In the end we were able to transfer 91.30 euros to UNICEF.

You might think the collected money is only a drop in the ocean. But never forget that many drops together make an ocean. Our donation to Unicef is shown on this published proof of payment.

Changes to the Food Services System

By Maj. Peter Gerisch

The management of our Food Services System on base is always striving to provide customers with the best possible service. Sometimes this is not an easy task, considering the high costs involved and the fluctuating income. Nevertheless, the year started off well at the Rotodome with about 450 customers per day – well on the way to reaching our budget forecast.

Unfortunately, due to the operational support/deployment situation, which was not anticipated during budget preparation, the customer ratio significantly decreased to 300 customers per day. Consequently, this influenced the income and the overall Food Services System financial situation.

In mid-2011, it was decided that something had to be done to improve this deficit situation and an evaluation of the Food Services System services was conducted, revealing that the fast food line (except for pizzas and salads) and the E-3A Club evening operation received the least customer interest. It was therefore decided that the system will be slightly adjusted as of 1 January 2012, as explained below:

Rotodome opening hours

Monday-Friday:
0600-1045 breakfast
(all breakfast options available)
1100-1330 lunch
1100-1900 pizza & salads
1700-1900 dinner



Most important: There are no price increases involved.

Lunch:

serving line 1 (open: 1100-1330)

Menus 1 and 2 will remain the same, consisting of a main dish with either a soup or a small salad or a dessert.

serving line 2 (open: 1100-1900)

The previous fast food line will serve a variety of pizzas and three kinds of freshly made seasonal salads. Vegetarian menu options will be offered as well.

Dinner: service will remain the same (serving line 1, 1700-1900).

We will continue offering two cold drinks free of charge with all meals. Further cold drinks will cost €0.50 each.

New coin-operated coffee vending machines (also providing different types of coffee) will replace the old

ones. A coin will be issued with all meals for a free cup of tea or coffee. These vending machines will also accept €0.50 coins for additional cups of coffee.

E-3A Club opening hours

Mondays: 1100-2200

Tuesdays-Fridays: 1100-1600

The E-3A Club will, of course, remain open longer during official functions, national receptions, etc.

Red Lion opening hours

every Wednesday, 1600-2200

"Bavarian Keller" opening hours

every Thursday, 1600-2200

The Food Services System will continue to organize events such as a Sunday brunch, whisky tasting, Robert Burns Night, Altweiberfastnacht celebrations, MWA Carnival event, catering support for Component Sports Day, etc.

Take advantage of the Rotodome's discount card, which will come into effect as of 1 January 2012. Purchase 10 meals at the Rotodome and you will get your 11th meal for free. Pick up a card free of charge at the Rotodome cashier's desk. Show your card every time you purchase a meal and the cashier will clip off one of the 10 Rotodome logos printed on the card. Once the card has been clipped 10 times, you will get the 11th meal for free.

We appreciate your understanding and look forward to your continued support of the services provided.

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Holiday operating hours

Services Branch 2011/2012

E-3A Club

22 Dec	breakfast & lunch, open until 1400	23 - 26 Dec	1000 - 1600 (no staff available)
23 Dec - 2 Jan	closed	27 - 29 Dec	0600 - 2100 (staff available 0800 - 1700)
3 Jan	normal operating hours	30 Dec	1000 - 1600 (no staff available)
		31 Dec	1000 - 1600 (no staff available)
		1 Jan	1000 - 1600 (no staff available)

Rotodome

22 Dec	breakfast & lunch, open until 1400
23 - 26 Dec	closed
27 - 29 Dec	0600 until 1400, Fast Food line closed
30 Dec - 1 Jan	closed
2 Jan	normal operation

Billeting Section

23 Dec - 1 Jan	closed
2 Jan	normal operation

VAT/Disbursing Office (Bldg. 80)

23 Dec - 1 Jan	closed
2 Jan	normal operation

MWR store

23 - 26 Dec	closed
27 - 29 Dec	normal operation
30 Dec - 1 Jan	closed
2 Jan	normal operation

Sports Department

22 Dec	normal operation
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Sauna

23 - 26 Dec	closed
27 - 29 Dec	normal operation
30 Dec - 1 Jan	closed
2 Jan	normal operation

Tanning Beds	normal operation (24 hours)
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IYA

23 Dec - 1 Jan	closed
2 Jan	normal operation

Library

23 Dec - 2 Jan	closed
3 Jan	normal operation

Thrift Shop

15 Dec	last day of operation
4 Jan 2012	first day of operation

International Women's Club

By Karen Dale

The members of the International Women's Club (IWC) will celebrate Christmas together on 15 December and this event will be presented by the ladies of The Netherlands and The United Kingdom.

These two nations share many things, they both have a queen, they both have a long maritime heritage and both fly the red, white and blue. Why not share festivities? Doors open at 1800. Please arrive early so the evening can start on time at 1900. We hope to share a cosy Christmas evening to get everyone in the festive spirit. There will be an extra special raffle with wonderful prizes, and also a chance to buy good quality handbags at excellent prices.

In October and November we have seen two very different and very enjoyable evenings. The E-3A club was decorated beautifully in red, black and gold for this event, presented by the German ladies. In co-operation with NATEX they put on a fashion show, presenting the new autumn clothing. Many of the outfits were modeled by some of the clubs own national representatives; move over Claudia Schiffer and Kate Moss! Mrs. Pototzky presented all the

models with a rose in appreciation. Fun games were followed by a deliciously hearty German dinner and raffle. Many ladies were also lucky enough to win beautiful autumn table decorations.

November saw Turkey as hosts. All the guests were presented with a small gift on arrival and then sat down to an interesting and informative slideshow about the country and a quiz for the observant. We were served a delicious menu, a chance to try out some Turkish delicacies. The highlight of the evening however was an appearance by a group of whirling dervish dancers. The silent audience watched spellbound while the dancers performed, accompanied by *Sufi* music played on traditional instruments. It was a privilege to witness his deeply spiritual performance, and have its symbolism explained.

Many thanks to the German and Turkish ladies for these great evenings.

2011/2012 program

15 Dec	The UK and The Netherlands
19 Jan	Italy
29 Feb	USA
22 Mar	Norway
19 Apr	Spain
24 May	Bingo (members only)

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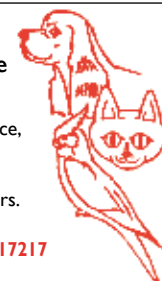
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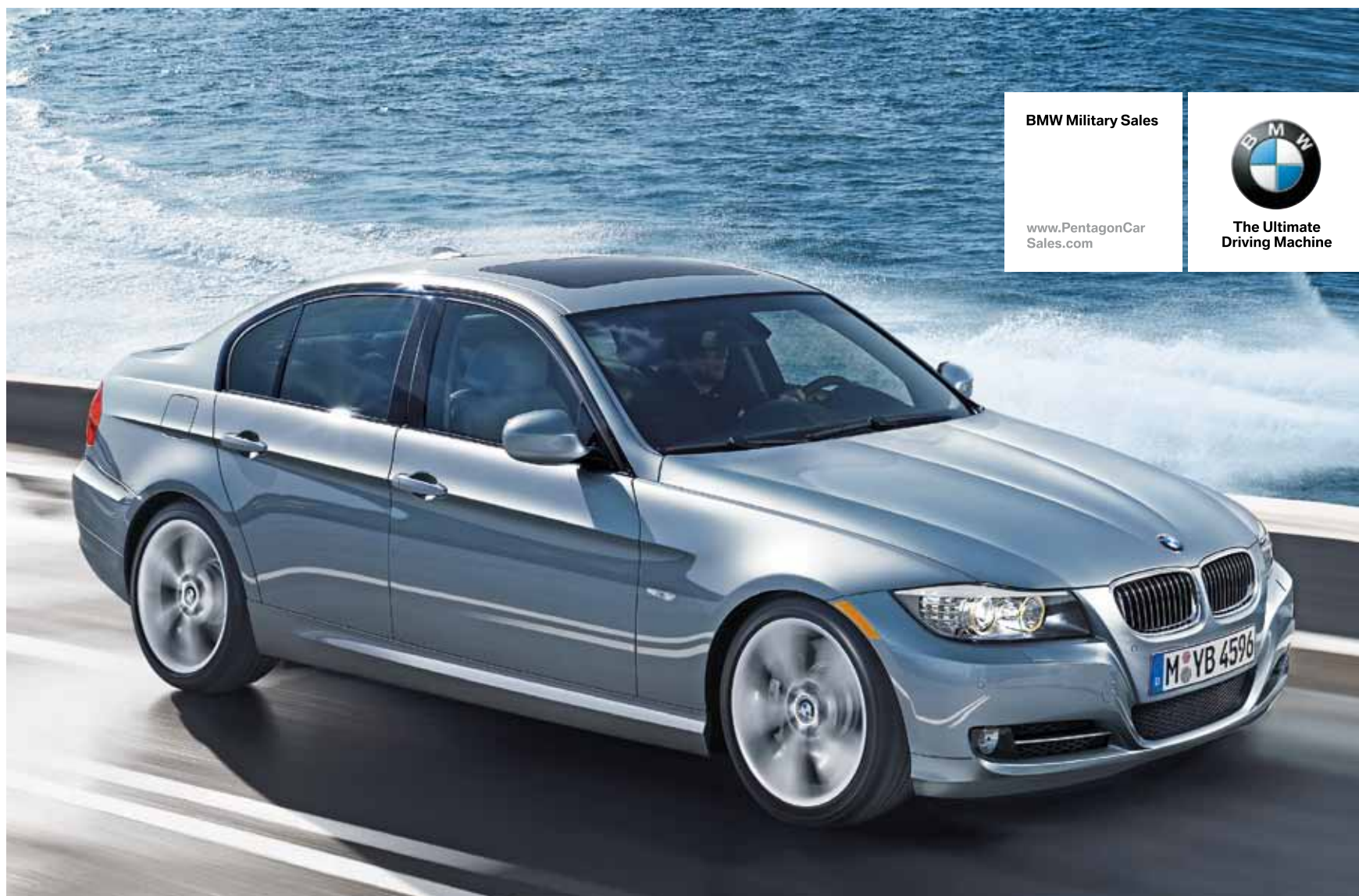
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