



Bringing in the New Year



Photo by André Joosten

On January 11, 2017, the NAEW&C Force and the E-3A Component held the first combined New Year's Reception. The event was a chance for the Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Dawn Dunlop, and E-3A Component Commander, Brig. Gen. Karsten Stoye, to thank everyone for making 2016 a success.

For story and photos, see pages 8-9

SACEUR recognizes NAEW&C Force members' hard work

Story by Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Longfellow

Photos by Sgt. First Class Stefan Hass

On 19 January 2017, General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), presented SACEUR Recognition Awards at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), Mons, Belgium, to three members of NATO Air Base, Geilenkirchen, Germany. Among these award winners, three others were awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM).

The MSM Award recognizes individuals who demonstrate personal initiative and dedication beyond their duties, making a difference both to their colleagues and to NATO as an organization.

Col. Arturo Di Martino's, Operations Wing Commander, superior leadership was the catalyst for delivering unprecedented levels of operational output during the highly challenging and complex reorganization phase of the NAEW&C Force. Under his leadership, the Ops Wing aggressively pursued excellence in performance of over 340 Assurance Measures missions, 40 NATO/national exercises and the training of 395 Airmen from 16 nations. Despite dealing with multiple complex challenges he has always fostered a climate of dignity, respect and adherence to the highest standards of military tradition.

Chief Master Sgt. Ibrahim Olcay, Maintenance Production Squadron Superintendent, highlighted an

E-3A fleet rotodome splice plate misalignment and quickly launched a five agency group, who developed and benchmarked a local repair procedure. This procedure saved the Component \$15 million dollars in contractor fees and was adopted by the NATO Depot Facility in Manching. Also, as the Force retired our first aircraft, he oversaw the establishment of the aircraft ferry flight configuration and partial parts reclamation, enabling 30 technicians for 262 maintenance man hours to recover 2,000 legacy aircraft parts worth \$40 million dollars. Chief Olcay is a great steward of resources and a superior leader in the Force.

Master Sgt. Sergio Fernández Calderón's, Operations Wing Flight Engineer, superior performance,

while serving outside of his primary duties to augment the Component's Standardization and Evaluation Branch, was absolutely paramount to the successful development and implementation of the Component's integration of Flight Performance Software; a 2.3 million euro program that digitized the E-3A performance manual allowing precise computer computations of aircraft performance. Also, he took it upon himself to lead the E-3A Manual 3.2-17 (Aircrew Manual) rewrite efforts. His leadership resulted in the integration of Force Order and Special Departure Procedure guidance, affirming alignment with higher authority regulations and ensuring safety of our aircrews.

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

With the Commander's Corner, our NAEW&CF Commander and E-3A Commander give the opportunity to wing and squadron commanders, and branch and division heads to share their thoughts about current topics taking place at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen. Every month a different writer will highlight a specific topic concerning their discipline.



We often tend to see the end of a year as a kind of caesura, a break in continuity. This is reflected in expressions like "Everything will be better next year" or in setting ourselves goals or resolutions for the year to come. The end of the old year, the beginning of the new year- this gives us the feeling of a break and an opportunity to start things anew for ourselves.

However, this does not come true per se for a living, dynamic and operational entity like the E-3A Component, as we continue to provide our unique service to distinguished NATO commanders in support of NATO operations. This includes our efforts in Support of the Counter-ISIL coalition, our daily business with regards to Assurance Measures over the eastern and southeastern nations of our alliance, as well as Tailored Assurance Measures to Turkey.

Our operations, missions and contributions are not linked to simple dates but continue regardless of season, holiday or day of the week. Still, we can use this predetermined frame of 365 days as a tool of measuring what we have achieved, since - in the style of a famous physical law - performance equals work divided by time. All of you provided an impressive amount of work to generate the performance that we demonstrated throughout the

year in fulfilling all of our operational taskings and keeping up training while facing the one-of-a kind transition to the Force we are today. I would therefore like to congratulate and offer you my cordial thanks for a job well done.

What can we expect as members of the Component and part of the NAEW&C Force in 2017?

First of all we will continue to focus our efforts and follow the path of optimization after the transformation to remain an outstanding and effective part of NATO, while constantly improving ourselves and establishing processes.

But besides our structure and internal procedures there are many interesting and new opportunities as well as challenges in our view already.

To name just a few - we will continue to implement the use of the Distributed Training Operations Center (DTOC) into our new and streamlined training process, to both qualify our crews as well as to maintain currency and proficiency. The DTOC allows us to connect with other simulator assets throughout the world and thus creating a virtual training area for our mission crews to step in. Nevertheless, we will of course again participate in a large number of live exercises such as; Dissimilar Air

Combat Training(DACT) at Gando Air Force Base, NEXUS ACE out of FOB Konya, Real Thaw in Beja, Arctic Challenge out of Bodo, Combined Air Operations Exercises and Red Flag Nellis in August. With regards to our flight deck members, we will see the operational use of our first CNS/ATM modified aircraft that will allow NATO E-3As to comply with todays as well as future airspace requirements and therefore ensuring successful and safe operation until 2035. This technical leap unfortunately goes along with the retirement of two more of our aircraft, reducing the fleet to the final number of 14 airframes in 2018. The magnitude of implications this will have on sortie generation - especially against the background of our manifold of operational taskings - is yet to be seen, but rest assured that leadership throughout the levels will do their utmost to safely produce what is needed to fulfill all of our obligations to NATO, as well as to you as the hearts and brains of the Component and the Force.

Besides all the different projects varying from minuscule adjustments to major transformations, there is one more event coming up rapidly that will be visible not only to us, but throughout NATO. This year marks the 35th anniversary of the E-3A Component, which will be celebrated with several events on and off base besides the official ceremony on the

30th of June, to include a "Großer Zapfenstreich" (German Military Grand Tattoo) in Geilenkirchen the evening before, as well as two open days of the Component with public display's during the first weekend in July. While giving us the opportunity to look back and reflect on the developments of the Component throughout the decades, this special occasion furthermore allows all of us to present ourselves to our surrounding local communities, friends and supporters from all over the world as well as to our families and friends. Our 35th anniversary event team is committed to make this great occasion enjoyable and successful for Component members and visitors likewise, while relying on the enthusiasm of all involved.

For your ongoing outstanding commitment to all aspects of our very special field of work, let me once again express my thanks to all of you and I am looking forward to work with you in 2017.

Brig. Gen. Karsten Stoye
E-3A Component Commander



Skywatch
NATO AIR BASE GEILENKIRCHEN

Volume 33, No. 1 27 January 2017

NATO Skywatch is an authorized, unofficial commercial enterprise newspaper published under exclusive written agreement with the NAEW&CF E-3A Component by HOUX DIGIPRINT, Arendstraat 3, 6135 KT Sittard, +31 (0)46 4582111. Opinions expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the official views of, or endorsement by, the North

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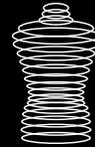
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Mr. Wilfried Oellers

Member of the German Bundestag
13 January 2017



Maj. Gen. Johann Langenegger

Commander 1, Tank Division, German Army
17 January 2017

Karneval is back at the Frisbee Club

By Karma Maurer

"Karneval is back at the Frisbee Club"! Considering all the changes the Component has been through in recent years, it is hard to imagine the last time the Frisbee Club hosted the Component Altweiberfastnacht Party in 2014; thereafter E-3A Club was the location. To bring the life back to the Frisbee Club, hence no longer the Former Frisbee Club, the Frisbee Club will now be the place to go for all future Component Altweiberfastnacht parties. The German Support Unit, in the recent past, hosted a wonderful pre-Altweiberfastnacht Party at the Deutsches Eck, big thanks to them for all their efforts. This, however, will now discontinue; purely the use of the Frisbee Club will be a new standard starting with this 2017 Karneval celebration.

With outstanding collaboration between MWA, Deutsche Unteroffizier Kamaroadschaft, (DUK), and International Teveren Karneval Association (IKV) beginning at 11:11 and lasting until midnight, a fully packed entertainment program is awaiting all guests! Admission for all personnel, including invited guests is free. The day will be filled with live bands, whom almost all are from the local area, DJ and performances from the local IKV Teveren. Music will range from the traditional Karneval hits all the way to the classic rock era; a great mix for all music fans.

Traditional Karneval food like currywurst, bratwurst and fries will be provided by a local

catering company and will be available for purchase. A shuttle bus will be available starting at 1030 running until midnight bringing "Die Jecken" (Crazy People) to and from the designated on base parking areas, Frisbee Club and Main Gate every 15 minutes. Taxis will also be available at the Main Gate when needed.

Come and join the fun! Put on some colourful clothes and make-up...be creative, be funny and don't forget to have fun.....Alaaf!!

Karneval is back at Frisbee Club

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Collaboration between Germany and Kenya

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Longfellow



On November 17-18, 2016, two Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) K9 Rangers took part in a two-day introductory training development between the Rangers and the Civil Guard Military Working Dog (MWD) Section.

KWS is mandated to protect wildlife, property and resources of the country. To do so the country has put in place a proactive, preventive and reactive measures to enhance the safety of its wildlife with ground and aerial patrols targeting poachers and providing security for the wildlife, their habitats and the tourists.

KWS manages about 8% of the total landmass of the country. This land contains 23 National Parks, 28 National Reserves at the Coast and four National sanctuaries. Also under the KWS management, there are four Marine National Parks and six Marine National Reserves at the Coast. In addition, KWS manages 125 field stations outside the protected area.

Specialist units such as the K9 unit has tracker dogs that deploy successfully in active operations to track bandits and poachers. There are also "sniffer" dogs at airports and the port that have powerful disincentive to potential ivory or rhino horn traffickers.

For three months there has been a collaboration effort between NABU, KWS and German military to develop a plan for advanced training for the Kenyan Rangers and their working dogs.

"Many rangers lose their lives while protecting animals from poachers," Mark M. Kinyne, KWS K9 Unit Ranger. "Working with the German military, we have high hopes in developing a plan where we can properly conserve and manage wildlife conservation areas and sanctuaries. And the way to do that is to find different ways to train our dogs."

Although two days is a short amount of time to train, dog trainers, Leo Brands and Marcel Brassé, took time with the two rangers and demonstrated the handlers and MWDs ability to perform searches, on and off leash, and biting techniques.

"This will be a long process but we hope to attend a school, bring back the knowledge and spread it in our unit," said Jonathan T. Musuni, KWS K9 Unit Instructor. "Maybe even bringing the Civil Guardsmen to us in Kenya will be beneficiary. It will help us by training with our dogs in country."

Kinyne and Musuni hope to come back for a longer period of time to learn and train.



SACEUR recognizes NAEW&C Force members' hard work



continued from page 1

The SACEUR Recognition Awards was established in order to recognize exceptional service and outstanding individual achievement.



Lt. Col. Claudio Scapigliati, Communications and Information Systems (CIS) Squadron Commander, exhibited superior leadership throughout the reorganization phase of IUT-Service while managing a 144 person workforce. He successfully spearheaded an enormous amount of key projects, expertly managed the implementation Voice over IP and led the complex NATO Computer Incident Response Capability Project.



Squadron Leader Claire Adamson, Force Command Executive Officer, manages the outer office of two Flag Officers and carried out the task of Director Management for the NAEW&C Force, covering 200 plus SHAPE and HQ NAEW tasks. As the sole point of continuity within an 11-person front office, she continues to provide clear direction enabling and encouraging efficiency. She organizes high profile events including Commander's Conferences.



Mr. Ioannis Kosmas, CIS Squadron Senior System Engineer, completes numerous engineering and management projects, providing first-role support and engineering expertise on all life cycle aspects of IT/CIS systems and services to the Component. He developed a method to sum up 192 CIS services in 57 categories resulting in a standardized CIS support reference for a multi-million Euro project.

Story by Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Longfellow
Photos by André Joosten

New Year Re

On January 11, 2017, the NAEW&C Force and the E-3A Component held the first combined New Year's Reception. The event was a chance for the Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Dawn Dunlop, and E-3A Component Commander, Brig. Gen. Karsten Stoye, to thank everyone for making 2016 a success.

Gen. Dunlop stated that making 2016 a success was no small feat. Not only has the Force completed 33 months of continuous



Assurance Measure missions, but we accomplished this while reaching Initial Operational Capability (IOC) and executing the new mission tasked by the North Atlantic Council (NAC) to support the coalition in its efforts to the Counter Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (C-ISIL) mission.

Along with the base populous, numerous local political dignitaries were present. The outstanding working relationship we have with both the local communities and external agencies enables NATO Airbase Geilenkirchen to focus on the mission at hand.

The local mayors were joined by other governmental representatives who took the opportunity to spend an afternoon socializing with members of the Force. During the

reception, the NATEX showed their support of the base by hosting a small, but excellent, wine tasting event.

Previous commanders from within the NAEW&C Force and German Air Force also attended the reception. Among them were former JFC Brunssum Commander, Gen. (retired) Leopold Chalupa, former E-3A Component Commander and German Air Chief, Lt. Gen. (retired) Stieglitz, and former Forcer Commanders, Maj. Generals (retired) Both and Ehmman. Furthermore, a few former Base Support Wing commanders were present.

In a room filled with previous and current commanders and leaders of the Force, Gen. Dunlop highlighted that the "success of any organization is the accomplishment of every individual... Every single person in this room can take credit for what NATO AWACS was able to do in 2016."

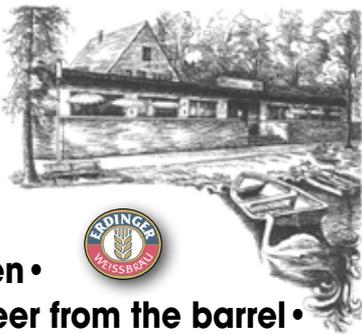
As we progress into 2017, we should continue to perform at a level equal to or greater than 2016 as we deliver ready, responsive Airborne Early Warning, Battle Management and Command and Control capability to operational commanders in support of NAC-approved taskings.



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THANKS FOR ASKING!

Communication is the most critical element in every organizational success, and your questions are helpful for ensuring that together we make smart decisions for the NAEW&C Force. The Ask the Commander forum in Skywatch is an opportunity to provide suggestions to the leadership team on how we might do things better here at GK. While there are many areas in which we are doing well, there is always room for improvement – and your feedback is critical to this.



Q: As 12 o'clock is lunch break rush hour, could large visit groups be sent for lunch later than 12:30?

A: I agree that because of the limited catering facilities on base, it is important to ensure proper planning and de-confliction where possible. During 2016 the Airbase hosted a total of 166 visitor groups - 30% of these groups had lunch at the Rotodome. Supporting the visitor groups to NATO's only Airbase means that we can cultivate strong relationships with the tri-border community, by educating the local and regional population on the Airborne Early Warning, Battle Management, and Command and Control capability the NAEW&C Force delivers to operational commanders in support of NAC-approved taskings. We provide the visitor groups with tours and briefings showcasing the logistics, operations, and support the nations have invested in and answer questions directly to mitigate

any misconceptions. To alleviate the impact of these visitor groups on our base working population, Public Affairs (FHP) will ensure that as part of the visit coordination process the lunch is scheduled for 1100 or after 1230 (our busiest time is 1200-1230). FHP will contact the Services Branch to ensure sufficient food is available and that the visit is posted on the Food and Services website.

Q: What is going on the back gate? How long is the construction expected to last? This morning it took me 25 minutes to get through the gate and during this time only two cars exited the base...why not make it in-bound traffic only in the morning.

A: Thank you for your question, in the 29 Jul 16, Skywatch 11 'Ask the Commander', we provided more detailed information, but basically the West Gate will be completely re-constructed as part of the ongoing

Intruder Detection System project. The HN Construction Office started work on the West Gate in September 2016 and the work is expected to last between six to eight months.

The initial contract included the complete closure of the West Gate during this time. When we learned of this, we asked for a solution that would allow the gate to remain open throughout the construction period. The most affordable, best option was to create a temporary road controlled by traffic lights, allowing both in and outbound access at all times which was important to many of personnel and their families. I understand there were some problems initially with the traffic lights. This has now been rectified by changing the green light timer for the incoming traffic in the morning (some reprogramming) and the time is now optimised to ensure a good flow of traffic, allowing more cars through at any one time.

We know the importance of the use of the West Gate, which is why I was fully committed to keeping it open during the construction. Additionally, there is full justification to extend the opening hours for both the families and mission, which has changed with the arrival of the NAEW&C Force HQ. Therefore, when the works on the West Gate have been completed it will reopen with revised hours remaining open all day.

If you have any questions for the Commander, please contact FHP at ext. 2476 or their inbox at ofc-hqfhp@naew.nato.int. If you want to submit anonymously, you can use the boxes at the Rotodome next to the Skywatch newspaper stands. Asking questions and receiving answers will not only help you but others working on base.



Photo by André Joosten

A little more than changing oil

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Longfellow

Need to take your vehicle in for inspections, oil changes, tire rotations or modifications? Where do you take it? Only probably to the best mechanics you know and trust.

That isn't any different than the NAEW&C Force and E-3A Component at NATO Geilenkirchen Air Base, Germany, using the Motor Pool Squadron's Maintenance Branch to service and maintain its fleet of 130 vehicles.

With six civilian employees and two military branch supervisors, the team is responsible to service and maintain the vehicle fleet, which includes mopeds, sedans, mini buses, trucks, emergency and other specialized vehicles, such as runway sweepers up to Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Trucks (ARFF) with 24.0 L V 12 engines (an engine with 24,000 cm³ displacement and 12 cylinders which are arranged in a V form), and 1,000 horsepower.

There are three specialist sections of the branch—electrician, car body repair mechanic and car mechanics.

"Each one of these sections has its own responsibilities," said Master Sgt. Michael Hoven, Maintenance Branch deputy supervisor. "Without just one doing its job, the mission these vehicles are used in will not succeed."

The function of the electrician, he/she repairs and modifies electrical systems fitted on all Component vehicles. The electrician also modifies the vehicle illumination systems on the account of changed asphalt on the flight line, engine pre-heating, communication and battery preservation systems, and emergency light and acoustical warning systems.

Another reliable and competent specialist in the branch is the car body repair mechanic. The expert



specializes in accident repair, body work and paint preparation for partial body spraying activities. The mechanic also repairs body parts, panels and doors and even welding activities are involved.

Three car mechanics are responsible for diagnosis, service and repair of the vehicle fleet. Diagnostic assessments,

gathering of information data as well as knowledge and understanding of modern air pressure brakes are all part of their range of work activities in the work shop.

In these modern day times, sanitation trucks, special winter and snow removal gear, fire engines/trucks with specialized structures, such as petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) and de-icing vehicles are all checked, monitored, serviced and repaired by the maintenance branch.

To be able to face all the challenges modern car designs present, a thorough, professional knowledge should be based with the capability to operate newly presented technical systems.

"It is imperative to the Motor Pool Maintenance Branch personnel to possess a very broad technical know-how, as well as a solid and long-lasting job experience," Hoven said. "A car mechanic and electrician with only

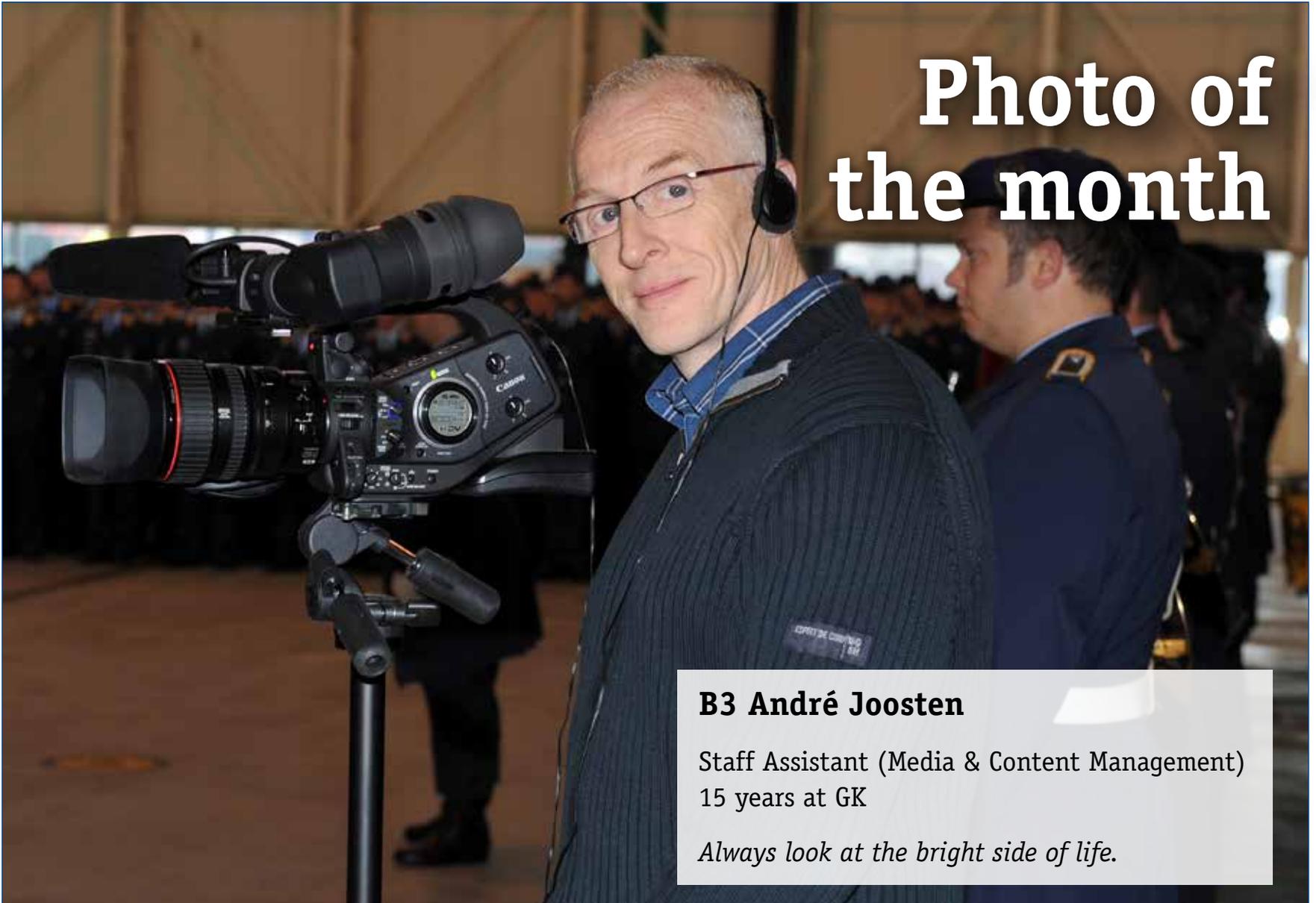


an elementary training would quickly reach his or her professional limit with the years to come only be faced in a future and goal-orientated manner."

"As a result of mutual consideration in the Motor Pool work shop area, utilization of each and everyone's personal strengths and talents, periodic training and self-improvement measures of both civilian and military personnel, the Component fleet is in good hands when serviced and repaired by the Motor Pool Maintenance Branch staff," Hoven said.



Photo of the month



B3 André Joosten

Staff Assistant (Media & Content Management)
15 years at GK

Always look at the bright side of life.

Mr. André Joosten provides visual media services which include graphic design and production, photography, and video and reproduction.

"My job is creative work in many means," Joosten said. "Creative in creating graphics, photo and video. We are flexible in jumping from one job to another, prioritizing and scheduling jobs."

The Visual Media Services supports customers in every wing, branch, section and office. "For example, we support safety with posters and folders—training with illustrations, photos and video productions. We represent and support the base with overall designs on special occasions such as the 25 and 30 year anniversary events."

Joosten's favorite part of his job here is the variety of work in his profession. "We are involved in various items that need a design—the welcome sign, road signs, posters, folders, presentations, emblems/patches, photos, illustrations and video productions. To be part of the success of the 25 and 30 year jubilees with our designs for posters, tickets, folders, stickers, patches and the airplane design."

With such a creative and visual job there will always be opinions about the work produced. "Sometimes you must be able to put your own opinion and experience aside to please the customer."

MWA INFORMATION

UPCOMING EVENTS & IYA ACTIVITIES

(Open to all US and NATO identification card holders)

February / March

Visit the Services Branch WSS Web Page for the latest program information and upcoming events

POC: IYA Events: Mrs Neuhalfen, ext. 4954; Sports Events: Mr Henrichs, ext. 4902; Food Services: Mr Peeters, ext. 4990



31 Jan: Volkshochschule English Language course for adults starts

A2.1 – Pre-Intermediate, New English File Pre-Intermediate.
Tuesdays, 1000 - 1300, instructor: Sonja Kolacz-Prather, Room 118, the basic price is € 117 for 15 weeks. The class is held in Bldg. 141. Register in class. Further information at ext. 4954 or 0049 2451 63 4954.

2 Feb: "First Thursdays" at the E-3A Club

Next event takes place at 15.30 hrs on Thursday, 02 February 2017 at the E-3A Club. This is an excellent opportunity for all to come to the E-3A Club to eat, drink and socialise with colleagues and leadership. A great time shall be had all!! Dress: Uniform of the Day or Civilian. FREE SNACKS!

23 Feb: "ALTWEIBERFEST" Carnival Party at the Frisbee Club

Thursday, 23 February, doors open at 1030 hrs., the event starts at 1111 hrs. ENTRANCE FREE!

24 Feb: Bavarian Breakfast at the Rotodome

31 Mar: Bavarian Breakfast at the Rotodome

Team GK brings happiness to local orphanage



Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Longfellow

This year, 13 children from a local orphanage received a visit from the jolly, old-man in a red suit, himself. Children of the Orphanage in Wegberg, were invited to NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen to tour the E-3A Component.

Operation Santa Claus was started in the early 1990's and originally called Operation Nikolaus. This was started to help children who were less fortunate to have a brighter holiday season. This year for the third year in a row, was hosted by the Aircrew Training Squadron (ATS).

The ATS welcomed the children at the Main Gate on 20 December. The children

visited the Fire Brigade, the Air National Guard, ate at the Rotodome Dining Facility and took a tour in the Air Traffic Control Tower. They also received a show from the Civil Guard K-9 unit. Wives of the Italian members prepared snacks during Santa's visit.

"I took the nice armchair as my residence," Santa said. "Old bones

need to rest after the journey from the North Pole to Geilenkirchen without snow."

Each of the brave children of the Orphanage was monitored throughout the year of their good and bad habits. Then the gifts were presented.

"This is why we do this," said Capt. Olaf Kleinhans. "Providing some positive moments to these young humans."

A special gift was given to Mr. Fester, the head of Wegberg—an extra €500 for the institution.

"This is a lot of work, involved by many sections on base, but a glance in the kids' eyes is worth all the time we spent," Kleinhans said.

Many thanks to Motor Pool for providing transportation, ATS for their hosting, Air National Guard for Tanker support, Flight SIM Team for their patience during the numerous take-offs and landings, Fire Brigade, Tower, Logistics Wing for providing an E-3A and the little NATO train. Also a thank you goes out to the Civil Guard for the show, the Rotodome for the lunch, and the Italian community for the donations and snacks.



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