



## NATO AWACS part of Exercise Ramstein Alloy



Photos by André Joosten

NATO AWACS at Siauliai, Lithuania, during Exercise RAMSTEIN ALLOY 4, where Air Commodore Ian Teakle, NAEWF&C HQ Deputy Commander, answers question of journalists.

### RAMSTEIN ALLOY is a series of regular exercises that takes place in the Baltics three times per year.

During 25-27 April 2017, RAMSTEIN ALLOY 4 served to exercise Baltic Air Policing alert aircraft and to enhance relations and interoperability amongst allied Air Forces. To practice standard procedures in the air, special training zones had been reserved in the Baltic airspace, mainly over Lithuania.

NATO AWACS, the E-3A from Geilenkirchen, Germany, and E-3D from Waddington, United Kingdom, were involved in RAMSTEIN ALLOY 4. Overseen by NATO's Combined Air Operations Centre at Uedem, Germany, and mission control provided by the AWACS and the Karmelava Control and Reporting Centre, Lithuania.

Air Policing over the Baltic States is

conducted by different NATO Allies on a rotational basis. This provides the opportunity to exercise standard procedures and interoperability between various national assets during every exercise of the RAMSTEIN ALLOY series. This time, flying assets included fighter jets from the Netherlands and Germany (presently executing NATO's Baltic Air Policing mission) as well as Polish and Norwegian fighter jets. Additionally a transport aircraft from Lithuania, and USA tanker participated.

It is important to train the drills and routines that are required to handle standard situations, for example in which a civilian aircraft loses communication with ground controls and requires assistance. Besides the rotating Baltic Air Policing nations, RAMSTEIN ALLOY brings together regional Allies to add to

the complexity of such drills, such as cross-border procedures. The same applies to Air Command and Control that is practised during air-to-air combat training, practise diversions and a simulated Search-And-Rescue event. The RAMSTEIN ALLOY series provides a vital opportunity to

exercise all these crucial standards of air safety and security with multiple different assets and nations.

Exercises like RAMSTEIN ALLOY demonstrate the readiness of the Alliance and provides valuable training to the NAEW&C Force.



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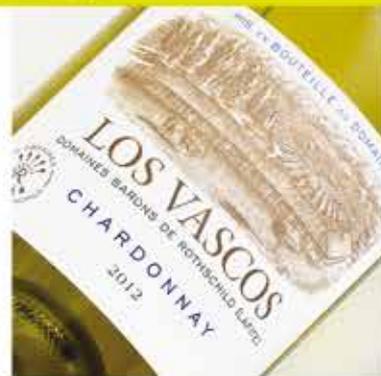
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# COMMANDER'S CORNER

*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.*



## NATO's Financial Regulations: Everyone is accountable!

This one goes mainly to the members of the NAEW&C Force, but it should also be interesting for all our friends outside of NATO. It is about the Financial Control System here at NATO and with this I want to draw your attention to the long ago established, and recently reinforced, rules on the responsibility and accountability for commonly funded resources. Boring stuff – you think?

Maybe not, when you are a member of a sports club, a football (soccer) player or just someone who is frequently watching sports either on Pay-TV or live in a stadium. Then you surely are very interested what is going on currently in the international well known top organisations, being it FIFA, UEFA or IOC etc. You all saw in the last couple of years many negative headlines on their Financial Management, contracting practices or even a number of suspects for corruptions within these organisations, which at least left this awkward feeling in us whether we still can trust these organisations and their leadership.

They are dealing with YOUR funds via your membership fees, ticket prices paid or cost for watching sports on Pay-TV – which are billions of Dollars, due to the sheer size and complexity of those big international

organisations. Whether the reports in the media in general or single legal cases in particular, are always justified, of course, I do not know. But what I know is that the organisations to a great extent lost their reputation of being good stewards for the entrusted funds.

And what about NATO, in this context?

Well, NATO is also a very big and complex international organisation dealing with billions of Dollars or Euros funded by millions of individuals paying taxes in the member countries. But NATO is having a good reputation and no serious negative headlines regarding financial or contractual management had to be published in the past.

The reason for this is a very smart system of Financial Controls which consist mainly of the following elements:

- Organisation (different governance, approval and management bodies with clear segregation of duties)
- Internal Controls (e.g. internal and external audits, Risk Management)
- Good Corporate Governance (strict Rules & Regulations i.a. for responsibilities and accountabilities)

Regarding the organisation of Financial Management at NATO there is always the North Atlantic Council (NAC) ultimately responsible for all resource decisions, either for manpower (PE) or for financial resources. The NAC is supported by a hierarchy of several boards and committees like the Resource Policy and Planning Board (RPPB), the Investment Committee (IC) and the Budget Committee (BC). The BC again is supported by Financial Controllers in each and every NATO organisation, so of course also at the NAEW&C Force. To ensure this support most effectively the Financial Controllers are directly accountable to the Nations and therefore have reporting lines to the BC.

Regarding the Internal Controls there is mainly the International Board of Auditors at NATO (IBAN) which is an independent organisation consulting the Nations at the NAC and conducting audits every year in each and every NATO organisation. In addition, within ACO there is an Internal Audit team, reporting directly to COS SHAPE which also audits the various ACO organisations (to include NAEW&C Force) at least once a year.

Last but not least, there are the NATO Financial Regulations (NFR) and the Financial Rules and Procedures

(FRP) which determine i.a. in Article 3 NFR (see box below) financial responsibilities and accountability of EVERYONE at NATO.

Therefore, take care and keep yourself out of trouble but also help NATO staying out of negative headlines, also in future!

### Art 3.3 NFR (RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY)

All NATO staff, military and civilian, are obligated to comply with these NFRs, associated Financial Rules and Procedures and internal implementing directives. Any member of staff who contravenes the NFRs, associated Financial Rules and Procedures and internal implementing directives will be held accountable and may be financially liable for their actions. Serving military personnel may be referred to their respective national authorities for whatever disciplinary action is deemed appropriate. All NATO international civilian, temporary and consulting staff shall be dealt with in accordance with the disciplinary procedures defined under the NATO Civilian Personnel Regulations.

**Dr. Karl Heinz Seekatz**  
Head Finance Division

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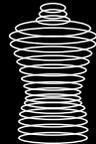
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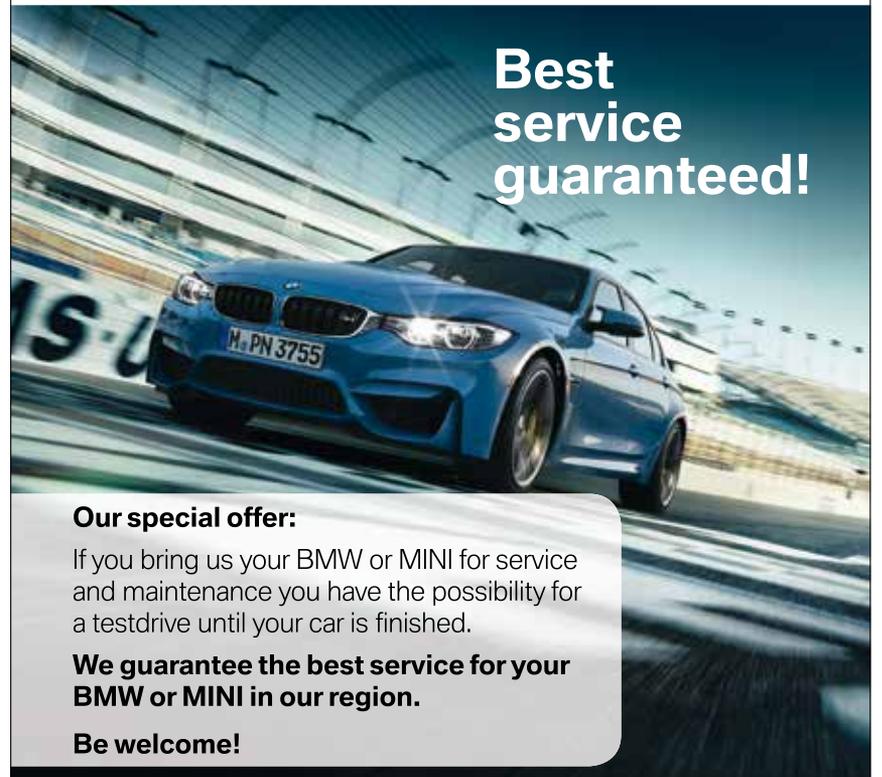
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# V I P V I S I T S



**General Marc Compernel**

Belgian Chief of Defence

30 March 2017

## New website HQ NAEW&C Force goes live

Story by Capt. André Bongers

**The World Wide Web, nobody can think of a world without Internet nowadays. It's an important tool to communicate with people from any place at any given time. Especially for organisations which are not public accessible it provides possibilities to showcase what their mission is about. Since last month our new website gives a crisp and clear overview of the Force.**

The first website was created almost twenty years ago in 1999. This was in the period that only specialized programmers were able to build websites using complex coding. Until now the website was restyled two times. The website was built on Component level which meant that only Component-related matters were published. With the new organisation in place a new website was only a matter of time.

The new website needed to have a fresh and modern design with a clear structure and less layers which complies to today's standards. Another important criterion was that the new page had to be web-based meaning that it can be accessed for editing 24/7 from any location. It also had to comply with the ACO website synchronisation program.

This gives guidelines for the different NATO HQ's in synchronising their public website setup, contract, hosting, training, maintenance, platform programme, security protection and content management.

Where the internet address of the new website clearly showed that the page

was about the E-3A Component, the new address makes it clear that the website contains more. All aspects of the HQ NAEW&C Force are published. Information can be found regarding the HQ, MSEC, E-3A Component and E-3D Component. Besides this 'static' information there is also the news section on the homepage and we have

the flexibility to build extra pages for special events such as the Open Days.

Together with our social media platforms the new website ensures that we stay connected with our audience in the future! Feel free to visit the new website on: [www.awacs.nato.int](http://www.awacs.nato.int)



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# Grand Military Tattoo – Grosser Zapfenstreich



The Bundeswehr Guard Battalion will perform a Grand Military Tattoo on 29 June 2017, to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the NAEW&C Force E-3A Component. We are proud to receive this special honour. This event takes place at NATO Air Base, Geilenkirchen and will be open to all Force ID card holders and their families.



## BACKGROUND

### Guard Battalion (Wachbataillon)

The Guard Battalion (full name: Federal Ministry of Defense Guard Battalion or WachBtl BMVg (FMoD GB)), which is seen as a 'business card' for the Federal Republic of Germany, is responsible for the ceremonial protocol services of the Bundeswehr. In terms of equipment and organization the Guard Battalion is originally an infantry unit. In this capacity the Guard Battalion is - in a state of defense - responsible for the protection of the Ministry of Defense and the members and installations of the German government.

### Task

The activities and operations of

the Guard Battalion are performed in accordance with international protocol. The musical accompaniment required for the performance of military ceremonials is normally assumed by the Bundeswehr Ceremonial Band or the Bundeswehr Concert Band.

Because of these high-profile representative tasks and the resulting media presence, the Guard Battalion is one of the best known military units of the Bundeswehr. In particular, the solemn pledge ceremony for Bundeswehr recruits held on 20 July in commemoration of the

assassination attempt on Adolf Hitler on 20 July 1944 plays an important role in this context. The ceremony was held at the memorial place in the Bendlerblock in Berlin from 1999 until 2008 and now takes place at the 'Platz der Republik'. The Guard Battalion assumes up to 600 ceremonial protocol service tasks per year, covering a wide range of functions.

### Organization

The Guard Battalion is stationed at the Julius-Leber barracks in Berlin-Wedding. It comprises servicemen from all three services - Army, Navy and Air Force. Depending on their company, the servicemen are assigned to the corresponding service, however, they have the ceremonial protocol uniforms of all services at their disposal. The battalion consists of seven companies, one of them a headquarters and service company. All companies assume ceremonial protocol service tasks.

### Specific features of the Guard Battalion

The unique tasks of the Guard

Battalion are reflected in a large number of specific rules and regulations, which partly differ considerably from those of other Bundeswehr units.

When performing ceremonial protocol duties, the members of the Guard Battalion wear the traditional 'white belt kit', white gloves, and black boots with metal edging on the heels. In accordance with the practice of international protocol, the members of the Guard Battalion are not allowed to wear glasses or beards during official functions, and the battalion only admits servicemen that have a body height ranging from 175 cm to 200 cm. Contrary to ceremonial units in many other countries, the battalion does not use assault rifles for ceremonial functions, but the K98k (carbine 98 short rifle).

Since 2006, the Guard Battalion is also equipped with 105 mm M101 field howitzers, in order to fire gun salutes in honour of dignitaries, in accordance with international protocol provisions.



## Spring 2017 Combined Commanders Conference in Trapani



Participants of the Combined Commander's Conference in Trapani, Italy.

## NAEW&C Force's Road through Full Operational Capability: Senior Leaders Discuss Key Issues and How to Optimize Processes over the Next Year

**Earlier this month, the NAEW&C Force hosted 37 senior leaders and commanders from Force, AIRCOM, ISTAR, and four external agencies for the Combined Commander's Conference at FOB Trapani, Italy. The Conference was first established two years ago and proved itself a successful opportunity for key leaders to discuss strategic topics of interest and to assess the progress of the Force over the year. Of late, commanders have been challenged with limited resources and outdated processes. This month's semi-annual conference was an opportunity for leaders to showcase their innovative ideas to overcome these challenges while highlighting some key issues within their organization.**

The three day conference began with the Force Commander presenting SACEUR's strategic view on NATO in transition, and emphasizing how the NATO AWACS mission and the innovative changes introduced during Force Review will continue to play a key role in NATO's ability to become more

agile and responsive to world threats. Further discussions addressed flying hours, aircraft availability, Optimization and manning requirements, SACEUR's CONOPS for the Force, AIRCOM coordination, maintaining the right operational and training balance with the reduced number of tails in 2017, and how to best ensure the safety record and professional training that is the hallmark of the Force.

Accomplishments highlighted within the Force included the update to and the progress being made to offset low in-flight weapons training with the 1st-in-Europe permanent DTOC connection that provides the Aircrew Training Squadron with daily Live-Virtual-Constructive training opportunities. The coordinated efforts of FHR, OW, LW, and MSEC teams—as well as many others in and outside the Force—were also highlighted as having effectively implemented the complex modernization schedule of CNS/ATM, Mode 5/S, and Interim IP Comms while continuing to meet mission tasks for the Alliance.

Leaders also offered some insight on their current infrastructure projects and general process improvements. The E-3A Component Commander and FOB/L Commanders discussed their infrastructure and remodeling projects for the rest of the year and how this would impact operations. In addition, commanders presented their ideas on improving a variety of safety processes, resourcing for aircraft parts, contracting for DLM, reinstating the Force Inspection Program, and filling vacant posts.

Finally, the conference provided an opportunity to recognize personal milestones and farewells. The Head of the Personnel and Manpower Division, Lt Col Roth, was celebrated for his 30 year service anniversary with the German Air Force, and SHAPE Liaison Officer, Col Borst, and the Commander of FOB Trapani, Lt Col Simotti, celebrated their birthdays. Conference attendees also took time to wish the NAEW&C Force Deputy Commander, Air Cdre Teakle, Operations Wing Commander, Col Di

Martino, and Financial Controller, Dr. Seekatz, a fond farewell at their final Commander's Conference.

By all accounts the Conference was a great success. FOB/L commanders appreciated the opportunity to hear of strategic issues at the SHAPE and Force level, and the Force and MOB commanders benefited from discussing issues directly with all commanders, and partner NATO agencies involved in delivering the best ideas, the best collaboration, and the best outcome for the Force mission and personnel.

There is a tremendous amount of work involved in hosting the Commander's Conference, and all of the participants including FCC and COM expressed their personal gratitude to Lt Col Simotti, Chief Ferlito and their dedicated FOB Trapani team for making it a success. Their detailed preparation, organizational support and Sicilian generosity were instrumental in continuing an accomplished 2017 for NATO AWACS.

## Vacancy Announcement

Applications are invited for the following post:

**Service Help/Short Order Cook/Supply Clerk,\*** Advertisement Number 17010, Grade LWR, assigned to the Food & Services Branch, Base Support Wing, E-3A Component, HQ NAEW&C Force GK. This post is due to be filled as soon as possible.

CLOSING DATE: 22 May 2017.

**Service Help/Short Order Cook,\*** Advertisement Number 17011, Grade LWR, assigned to the Food & Services Branch, Base Support Wing, E-3A Component, HQ NAEW&C Force GK. This post is due to be filled as soon as possible. CLOSING DATE: 22 May 2017.

### Technician (Crew Chief),

Advertisement Number 170143, Grade B-3, assigned to the Aircraft Servicing Section, Aircraft and AGE Servicing Branch, Maintenance Production Squadron, Logistics Wing, E-3A Component, HQ NAEW&C Force GK. These posts are due to be filled as soon as possible.

CLOSING DATE: 09 May 2017

For further details, please visit the HQ

NAEW&C FORCE GK (WSS) Portal under HEADQUARTERS NAEW&C FORCE/Personnel and Manpower Division/Civilian Personnel Branch/CPB Recruitment/Recruitment, the official HQ NAEW&C FORCE GK Internet Home Page ([www.awacs.nato.int](http://www.awacs.nato.int)), or review the advertisement posted in Building 8.

NOTE: Only applications of qualified personnel will be considered.

# Commemorating crew of the Flying Fortress



Story by Isabelle Engels  
Photos by Melanie Becker

**On 19 April 2017, Colonel Mote, NAEW&C Force E-3A Component Logistics Wing Commander, an American delegation and I went to the town of Bérismenil, near La Roche-en-Ardenne, Belgium, to commemorate the crew of the Flying Fortress "The Joker". This aircraft was assigned to the 384th Bomb Group (BG) High, in Grafton Underwood, England, in 1944.**

On 13 April 1944, the target was to bomb the ball bearing plants at Schweinfurt. It was a formation of 172 aircraft among 20 from the 384th BG. They got attacked twice. The second time, many allied aircraft got damaged or shot down. "The Joker" got hit but was able to drop the bombs. After the bombing, the aircraft commander, Lt. H. Swanson, inspected the aircraft and discovered that SSgt James Young got killed.

The Flying Fortress lost two engines and it became clear that reaching

England was out of the question. So the crew bailed out. "The Joker" swirled down twice above Bérismenil before slamming into the hill "Les Crestelles", provoking a huge fire. Rapidly, the villagers arrived to extinguish the fire. They discovered James Young's body.

In 1946, a memorial got erected with the names of all villagers killed during WWII as well as James Young's name. In 1984, the B17 memorial was revealed.

Since 1992, we visit yearly or nearly to Bérismenil. In 1994, I started to search the crew. I found nine of them or their families. Some crew members returned in 1995. It is only in 2015 that I located James Young's family in California.

On 18 April 2017, his cousin, Diane Young, four out of five children, Mark, John and Sally his wife, Roger and Michele and Eric her husband, as well as Maggie (Sally's sister) arrived at La Roche-en-Ardenne, to attend a very special memorial day.

The day was sunny but windy and really cold. Mayor Gilloteaux and other distinguished guests joined Diane Young's family as well as children from the local school. Several wreathes were laid at the World War II memorial, than the one from the World War I. The children sang the Belgian anthem before going back to school.

The other hero of the day was Sylvain Colla, the last eye witness of that tragic crash. Coincidence, he turned 91 on the day of the ceremony.

At the B17 memorial, Mayor Gilloteaux emphasized the eternal gratitude we owe to these courageous soldiers, airmen who came from so far away to liberate Europe from the oppression without forgetting to remind us the resistance members who helped The Joker's crew, with some of them getting arrested and shot down.

Col. Mote said, "We celebrate the memory of one US Airman, a member of the greatest generation, whose selfless service and untimely death symbolize the world's fight against tyranny 70+ years ago and today. We celebrate the sons and daughters of Belgium, who know well that freedom isn't free. He concluded "May the cause of freedom always ring true and may we remember the words of Edmund Burke who said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

Diane Young expressed her gratitude for such a welcome and such a warm hospitality.

We walked to the crash site where Sylvain Colla shared with us what he saw and what he did on 13 April 1944. He told us how much he got

impacted by that day. Overwhelmed by emotions, he stopped several times to talk. He was living once again the crash. He concluded that he will carry this until the end of his live and that after he will be reunited with the crew up there.

I had the pleasure to present to Diane Young pieces of The Joker, pieces found on the crash site some years ago.



Finally, Young's family and some guests went to Brigitte Mottet's house. Her father was the Mayor of Samrée-Bérismenil during the war and also the chief of a resistance group. The dining table was covered with an American and a Belgian flag. I read a speech written by Brigitte. She stated that her father found James' wallet, the wallet he had to destroy for safety reasons. When we removed the flags from the table, all of us discovered James' silk road maps from his escape kit. We were all amazed to see them. Diane and her family were impressed when we donated these maps to them!

A day filled with emotions. And for me, with their visit, the circle of my research is closed. To the crewmembers, I can say: Fly safe and thank you for all you did, so we can live in a free Europe.



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million upgrade. Finally, LaBranche was hand-picked by the Logistics Wing Commander as the NATO Boeing modification flight line project officer. She contributed to a team of 25 personnel consisting of eight technical specialties at an off-site location. While there, the team produced 825 man-hours covering 3,700 inspection items. She was responsible for populating the electronic aircraft documentation system, aircraft documentation forms and identifying safety of flight items for airworthiness. Her hard work paid off immediately with the on-time delivery of the world's first E-3A Glass Cockpit aircraft.

#### Other accomplishments

TSgt Tara Labranche was the recipient of the United States NATO AWACS Maintenance Group Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award. This award recognized her as the top leader among 51 USAF Non-commissioned officers.

## Component member receives ACO Military Member of the Year award

Photo by André Joosten

**Technical Sgt. Tara LaBranche was recognized by Force Commander Major General Dawn M. Dunlop on 13 April 2017, during the "First Thursday" event at the E-3A Club. Reason: LaBranche is one of the four winners of the Allied Command Operations (ACO) Command Military Member of the Year 2016 (MMOY) competition.**

"In the second week of April, I received the official letter from General Scaparrotti, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, informing me about winning the MMOY award. This award is a pretty big honour for me and also the fact that my peers see me as someone who deserves this", tells LaBranche.

LaBranche works as Maintenance Operations Controller and Flight line Expeditor in the NAEW&C Force E-3A Component Maintenance Production Squadron.

When her Supervisor asked LaBranche to put an award package together, she didn't know exactly what this was for. Nominees from SHAPE and its subordinate headquarters competed

for ACO honors as the command's top junior rank, non-commissioned officer, senior non-commissioned officer and junior officer of the year.

#### Shift expeditor

LaBranche accomplishments were out of the ordinary: She was shift expeditor many times, including two high visibility events for both the Warsaw NATO summit and the World Youth Day. She rectified a phase inspection backlog prioritizing three simultaneous inspections and 11 critical grounding discrepancies. This led to 1,200 flying hours being returned to the Component for mission execution.

#### COMPTUEX

Further, LaBranche organized the repair of an aircraft supporting Naval COMPTUEX. During the generation for this exercise she quickly mitigated a mission critical part shortfall by coordinating with a sister base with capability for manufacturing a normally outsourced hydraulic line. She liaised with the maintenance team that fabricated four lines, which ended a 72-hour not mission capable status and saved \$15,000 of outsourcing fees.

This action allowed for the on-time take-off of for the aforementioned exercise. As well, the Component achieved a phenomenal 100% mission capable and mission effectiveness rate. In short, her efforts were crucial to the Combat Readiness Certification for 13 ships in two international Carrier Strike Groups.

Next, LaBranche oversaw an engineer-directed One-Time Inspection for landing gear tires for the entire fleet of E-3As. She coordinated the inspection throughout three separate on-base sections and two deployed locations. All of the defective parts were identified and replaced within 24 hours, which returned the fleet to mission capable status and avoided the potential for a catastrophic tire failure.

#### Aircraft modernization

LaBranche then was shift expeditor during the Component's most recent aircraft modernization effort. She coordinated the preparation and generation of two high value deployments to test the newest E-3A communication upgrade. Her diligence helped produce 12 sorties which collected 399 data points that were required for the validation of the \$7

Additionally, TSgt Labranche was selected as the United States NATO AWACS Maintenance Group Professional of the Quarter award for being the top maintenance technician. Furthermore, she partnered with a private entity team called History Flight for the recovery of a WWII-era U.S. pilot who was previously missing in action. The team excavated and chronicled 8 tons of debris. Her actions led to the repatriation of the U.S. WWII Veteran to the U.S., echoing the ethos of "Never Leave an Airman Behind."

Finally, TSgt Labranche pushed her self mentally. She earned an Avionics System Technology Associates degree by acing her final 2 courses in Speech and Management.

The other three MMOY recipients for 2016 are: Junior Rank: Leading Writer Christina Faulkner, Base Support Group Staff Assistant, Headquarters Maritime Command; Senior NCO: Sergeant First Class Jon Smith, Special Agent, Allied Command Counterintelligence; and Junior Officer: Captain Joshua Withington, Deputy Current Operations Branch Chief and Information Operations Chief, NATO Special Operations Headquarters

The ACO MMOY programme was implemented in 2013, to recognise the superior performance and professional excellence of junior ranks, NCOs and junior officers, and their significant contributions towards the success of Alliance operations.

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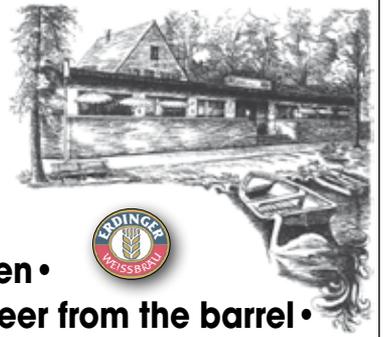
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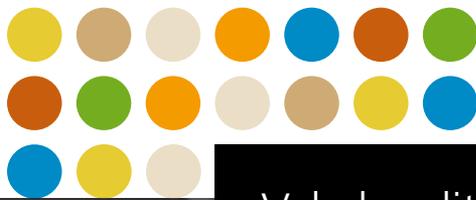
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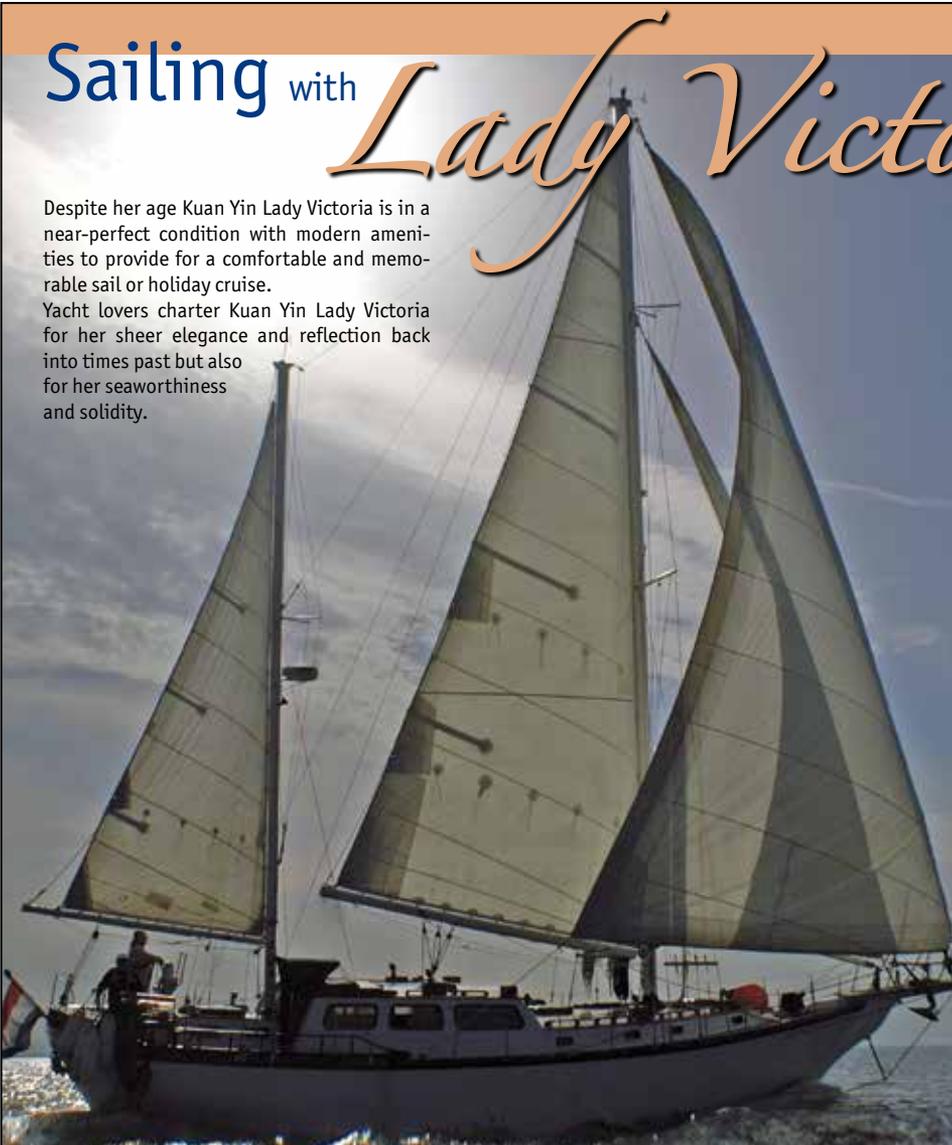
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Lady Victoria's home port is Enkhuizen, which allows for a direct access to the IJsselmeer, Holland's largest inland sea. Sailing trips to historic places like Urk, Medemblik, Lemmer, Hoorn, Volendam are all within day's reach.

But it is also possible to make sailing tours to the Waddenzee with the Dutch islands Terschelling, Vlieland or Texel or even the German isles in the Baltic are within reach.

Day trips From Enkhuizen to Amsterdam with a lunch stop over in Marken and the crossing of several locks is a trip much asked for.

With the proven seaworthiness of Kuan Yin Lady Victoria it is also possible to make the crossing to England. Tours like these are negotiable but always depend on the weather conditions.

Or why not go and see the Norwegian fjords starting from Bergen up the Norwegian coast.

It is up to you to come up with suggestions.



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Recently, this CIS Team was recognized for several great accomplishments by Major General Dawn M. Dunlop, NAEW&C Force Commander, during the First Thursday event at the E-3A Club.

They developed the first NAEW&C Force CIS Service Catalogue from October 2015 for publication in February of 2016. They submitted the CIS Service Catalogue in February 2016 with a request for a Price Proposal from NCIA for taking over the CIS services in the Service Catalogue.

The team met with NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCIA) in person and through VTC regularly to discuss open questions on the services and initiate a mitigation plan for bridging the CIS service provision due to loss of military personnel. They implemented the mitigation plan (bridging) by start hiring contractors to replace military using NCIA Service Support Contracts.

Also, they received the NCIA Price Proposal and developed a Business Case document, which was completed in November 2016, comparing continuation of the mitigation plan (bridging) until 2021, when NATO IT Modernization is planned to be implemented for the Force.

The partial outsource of CIS Services starting in January 2018 to NCIA, based on the Price Proposal received.

This plan results in a total savings of approx. 5,3 Million EUR within a three year timeframe.

Congratulations to the CIS Team with this special recognition!

## IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that we heard the news of the death of our colleague, Mr. Ger Brugel, on 08 April 2017. He had been fighting a serious illness for several years.

Ger Brugel joined the E-3A Component on 02 September 1985. After a short period working as a cook, he became a Civil Guard in 1987. Taking initiative, and willing

to take up responsibility, made it possible for him to become Deputy Shift leader and later Shift Leader.

In his work he showed excellent professionalism, care for his colleagues and a great drive and dedication to provide safety and security to the Force. He continued doing this, even when his health made this difficult to do, deserving our deepest respect and gratitude.

The NAEW&C Force community extends its deepest sympathy to Ger's wife, Anja, and their two children, Bjorn and Alisa.

**KARSTEN STOYE**  
Brigadier General, DEU AF  
Commander, NAEW&C Force E-3A  
Component



# MWA INFORMATION

## UPCOMING EVENTS & IYA ACTIVITIES

(Open to all US and NATO identification card holders)

### May

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



#### IMPORTANT NOTICES!

E-3A Club closed due to Special Functions:

- 01 May (Official Holidays)
- 04 May
- 10 May
- 17 & 18 May
- 22 May
- 25 May (Official Holidays)

#### Rotodome

26 May: Bavarian Breakfast at the Rotodome

#### International Library

A new Language Program is now available online for everybody (Transparent Language Online). For more information come and see at your Library at Bldg. 71.

#### MWA Events/Activities

IYA Rhine Trip with Cruise: St. Goar - Koblenz

Enjoy the magnificent scenery of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley, UNESCO

World Heritage, with its enchanting historic castles and green vineyards on a panorama cruise from St. Goar to Koblenz on Saturday, 6 May, 0745-2000. 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 € 38 for adults, € 28 for ages 14 to 17 (student-ID required), € 20 for ages 4 to 13, and € 14 per child under 3 with MWA-Card, € 57 for adults, € 42 for ages 14 to 17 (student-ID required), € 30 for ages 4 to 13, and € 21 per child under 3 without MWA-Card. Further information and registration at the IYA Office in Bldg. 95, x4954 or +49 2451 63 4954.

Rent the IYA Center for your family celebration, party or special event for € 35 per day or € 55 per weekend. MWA Card Holders pay only € 20 per day or € 35 per weekend.

**IYA Music Lessons - piano, trumpet and vocals** - under the experienced and certified instruction of Mrs. Hilde Ubben: lessons are one-on-one, in English or German. Cost is € 20 for 45 minutes. One trial lesson available. For detailed information contact Hilde Ubben at +31 683773384, hildedirigent@hotmail.nl.

## The International Tennis Club

Summer is here and we are looking to do more sports again. Why not try your hand at tennis? The International Tennis Club (ITC) provides a perfect opportunity to start a tennis career. All tennis skill levels are welcome.



The International Tennis Club was founded many years ago at the E-3A Component. The club has 4 clay courts, next to the E-3A Club and two hard courts, next to the Frisbee Club.

We have got a fully equipped clubhouse where you can take a shower after the match and relax with a soft drink on our nice terrace. A flood-lighting system is installed on court number one that also gives you the opportunity to play during night hours.

This season, a professional trainer is available. Details on times and fees are provided upon request.

Everybody can become a member by paying the membership fees and filling out a membership application form.

Off base members are also welcome to join the ITC if they provide a current police clearance certificate (Polizeiliches Fuehrungszeugnis) and have an on base sponsor.

The annual fees for the 2017 season are:

- Comp. Member:
- Single membership € 35.00;
- Family membership € 65.00
- Non-Comp. Member:
- Single membership € 65.00;
- Any further member of family € 35.00
- Court key (Deposit) € 10.00

You can pick-up the application form and court key from Elisabeth Powell, LWCM, H3, room 145 ext. 3571, or you can download the application form from the ITC page on the E-3A Component Portal.

The International Tennis Club is organizing a few tournaments and social events for the whole family during the season.

Looking forward to seeing you on the courts!

For additional information call:  
President: Pascal Hiller ext. 3591  
Vice President: Marcel Weckseler ext. 3734

Treasurer: Dirk van Velthoven ext. 3734  
Secretary: Elisabeth Powell ext. 3571  
Sports activity/Event manager: Jason Dagosta ext. 3734

## Inside and outside construction ongoing for new Joint Mission Center

Story by Maureen Geraets-Head

**The project originally started in 2007 with the preparation of the first cost estimates. The actual construction works have started in May 2016. The complete, ongoing restoration of Building 203, the new Joint Mission Center, includes several stages.**

Starting in the basement, firstly, the humidity problem had to be solved. The basement itself will have room for two Mission Briefing rooms to parallel brief the mission crews, including the meteorological briefing.

Secondly, an additional stairway had to be built for safety reasons, providing access to the basement from the outside.

Other rooms will be adapted to allow the Electronic Library to move back into the Building This way the flight crew can receive all needed information for their flight in one stop.

Overall, the building will be a Class II area. An air conditioning system will be installed throughout the building. Also, it will have offices and a waiting room with kitchen for the crews. There will be a crew bus parking lane in front of the building.

Building 203 is expected to be ready for its new tenants in the first quarter of 2018. Once the refurbishment is finalized, this building will belong to the E-3A Component Operations Wing. They will plan the move of furniture & equipment, the installation of phones and PCs to accommodate their requirements. Total cost: 3.5 Million Euro.



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