



Oktoberfest 2017



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Longfellow

Brig. Gen. Karsten Stoye, NATO AEW&C Force E-3A Component Commander, tapped the first keg of 2017's Oktoberfest beer at Geilenkirchen Air Base Germany. See pages 8 and 9 for photos.

ATS assumes new commander

Story by Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Longfellow
Photo by Melanie Becker

Lieutenant Colonel Claus Peter Hollendung assumed command of the Aircrew Training Squadron (ATS) from Lieutenant Colonel Michael Rothe during a change of command ceremony at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Germany on Thursday, 21 September 2017.

Colonel Giorgio Santoro, Commander of the E-3A Component Operation Wing, presided over the ceremony.

The ATS was first established in August 1986. Flying the Component's first mission sorties, its crew lead the way, accomplishing the first Component deployment and establishing NATO

E-3A capability in maritime operations. The squadron provides Basic Qualification training and Combat Ready training for 11 different E-3A crew positions in addition to upgrading the instructions on their qualifications.

"I know that all (men and women of the ATS) has been through tough and demanding years, and I know we have not reached the end states yet," Rothe said. "Meaning that the required work is not finished—I thank everyone for your outstanding contribution to make training better and for your marvellous motivation to always go that extra year to make it happen."

After words from the commanders, members from the audience witnessed the passing of the guidon.

The unit guidon serves to identify the unit, is a symbol of the commander's authority and presence, and represents the collective pride and spirit of all military members—past and present—who have served under it. Historically, the guidon accompanied the commander into battle where, in the heat and confusion of the close fight, it emboldened and rallied the servicemembers to accomplish the mission.

Today, the unit guidon continues to be an honoured symbol of the commander's authority and responsibility, and it connects the valorous deeds of past warriors with today's members who continue the proud tradition of selfless service to our nations.

"I am proud and grateful to get the opportunity to serve in this Component and also again in NATO," Hollendung said. "I am coming from outside of the E-3A Component and have not received the same background as everyone else. Therefore—especially in the beginning—I will need your experience and support to make this mission for us successful."



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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.



On Thursday 28 September 2017 I handed over my job as Deputy Component Commander to my successor: Colonel Bas Pellemans. With that my 5½ year tour at the E-3A Component will come to an end. A lot of things have happened during this time. It's too much to sum up in this short story, but some things I want to highlight because they have made a lasting impression on me.

You may be surprised to hear this from me, but this lasting impression is not because of our operational achievements. Don't get me wrong. Indeed these operational achievements are great and we can all be proud of them. But being an operational minded officer myself, and being part of an operational unit such as the E-3A Component, the quest for operational excellence is something I expected to be in the heart and minds of all Component personnel and obviously it is! We will definitely need this spirit in the upcoming months – and maybe even years - when aircraft availability will be low because

of further aircraft retirements and several major aircraft modernisation programmes. This will put pressure on our operational output and on our training opportunities. But with the right mind-set, focus and priorities, we will be able to overcome this hurdle.

Also the Force Review isn't at the front of my mind. For sure the impact was heavy after T-day, especially on the civilian and military workforce and on our established procedures, relations and capabilities. But having seen the E-3A Component before and knowing the skills, the resilience, the mentality and the loyalty of its people, I had no doubt that we would emerge at the end as a still highly valued unit, be it more limited in capabilities than before. The implementation of the Force Review is ongoing. We are not there yet and with some consequences we just have to live. Also some more changes – or optimization as it is called – will be done in the future, and further training will be required in several areas. Nevertheless, I truly believe that we are on an upwards path, especially if we continue in the

same spirit as I have seen so far.

The thing which struck me most during my 5½ years as DCOM was the firm commitment and strong will of all the different nations and its people, to live and work together and to do their utmost to make the E-3A Component a success. Surely, there have to be basic preconditions to make this work, such as facilities, agreements, procedures, resources, etc., but if the basic will and motivation of the people to cooperate are insufficient, or simply not there, then everything is lost. I know for sure that the single most important thing that makes the E-3A Component tick is the people! So, to all the airmen/women, civil and military colleagues and co-workers, regardless of nationality or rank/grade, you are the real centre of gravity of the Force and the most important cohesive part of the E-3A Component. Therefore you deserve our highest attention and respect.

I have translated this believe into action by being open, transparent, respectful, predictable, fair and friendly – but clear and steady - in

everything I have done, said and written, all in order to protect and promote this cohesion and support our people. I have tried hard to put this in practice and I can only wish I have succeeded! Only you can be the judge of that but at least I hope that you have appreciated these intentions.

I am sure that my successor will continue in this same spirit. I wish him all the best in his new assignment and ask you to support him the same way as you have supported me.

Thank you all for making this assignment the best one in my career!

I also wish you and your families all the best for the future.

"Until we meet again."

Col. René Moerland

NATO AEW&C Force E-3A Component
Deputy Commander



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V I P V I S I T S



Mrs. Ursula von der Leyen

German Minister of Defence

28 August 2017

SACEUR recognizes Force members



Captain Abdul Raheem proactively forecast E-3 aircraft availability during three simultaneous upgrades in order to assist the Component in executing 5,800 flying hours. He was also the architect of the C-ISIL maintenance footprint at FOB Konya, supporting the first C-ISIL missions within three days of receiving the order from SACEUR.



Captain Kirst provided incredible expertise as the NAEW&C Force lead for ESM database update coordination. He represented the Force at the NATO Emitter Database Advisory Group where he facilitated interoperability among participants and coordinated a more efficient means to disseminate E-3A ESM information to the NATO Information and Fusion Cell.

Mr. Ugo Pilato led the maintenance repair of a contaminated rotodome drive, implementing new repair procedures within six days. Additionally, he led the engineering effort to solve an issue of cracked fuel bladders. During this project, he led a cross-organizational team in devising a logistical solution resulting in cost savings of 2 million euros.

This is the end....

Photo by Master Sgt. Stefan Haß

of the former NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Force Command (NAEW&C FC) at Mons, Belgium. More than 35 years after the establishment of this unique command, Colonel (GS) Harald Borst, Director of the so-called Closing Party Peacetime

Establishment and former Assistant Chief of Staff Plans and Operations NAEW&C FC, said a hearty farewell to Senior Master Sergeant Bernd Velling who joined the AWACS Force some 25 years ago in Geilenkirchen and spent his last three years as the interface control officer in the former NAEW&C Force Command at SHAPE, Belgium. Velling is a well-known member of the Force and well beyond as he is an expert of the command and control

heart of our aircraft. His masterpiece was the initial establishment and integration of our platform into the coalition network to support Counter ISIL missions. While Velling will stay for another two months at SHAPE before he leaves for Norfolk, VA, Borst will stay at Mons as the NAEW&C representative to both the Strategic Headquarters Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe and the Allied Ground Surveillance Force at SHAPE.



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CSA recognizes staff members

By Civilian Staff Committee
Photos by Melanie Becker

The Civilian Staff Committee (CSC) hosted its traditional End-Of-Summer luncheon for NATO civilian staff members, leadership and Wing Commanders on Tuesday, 29 August 2017, at the E-3A Club.

Mr. Lon Raets, CSA Chairman, opened this event, where six NATO civilian staff members were recognized for either their 25 years of service with NATO or upon their retirement.

Brigadier General Karsten Stoye, NATO AEW&C Force E-3A Component Commander, presented the 25 years of service and retirement certificates and thanked the recipients for their long-time support to the Component, and wished the retirees an enjoyable retirement. General Stoye also took the opportunity to update the civilian staff about ongoing internal developments.

Recognized for their 25 years of service were: Mr. Josef Hess, Mr. Erwin Creemers and Mr. Jozef Gorski. They received a special certificate from General Stoye and a personalized engraved glass cube from Mr. Raets on behalf of the CSA.



Mr. Marc Willemsen started working at the E-3A Component on 1 Jan 1995 as a B-3 Computer Operator. On 1 Oct 2003, after the PE changed, he became

B-5 Assistant Analyst Programmer at the CIS Division and on 1 Aug 2010 he started as B-5 Principal Technician Application Support. Mark is also known as an active indoor cycling instructor. He retired on 30 June 2017.



Mr. Sumner started working at the E-3A Component on 1 Oct 2003 as C-6 Chief Fireman/Shift leader in the Fire/Crash/Rescue Branch. On 16 Nov 2016 he became Principal Fireman/Deputy Shift leader within the Airfield Services Squadron. He is well-known

to nearly everyone on base who had to go through firefighting training, especially during the Individual Deployment Training and ICCS. He will retire on 30 Sep 2017.



Mr. Jozef Gorski started on 1 Oct 2003 as Senior Fireman/FACC Operator at the Airfield Services Squadron. He retired on 30 June 2017.

The new retirees received an 18-carat gold AWACS pin or an engraved AWACS watch of their choice from Mr. Raets on behalf of the CSA.

Czech Republic - NATO Days 2017

By Senior Master Sgt. Ingo Senft.

Members of the Component were invited to the NATO Days 2017, combined with Czech Air Force Days 2017 in Ostrava, Czech Republic from 15-18 September 2017.

A small Component delegation represented the E-3A Component with the



famous display truck and information tent to provide information to the public and the other air crews about the aircraft and the Component's tasking.

The AWACS information point was located right in the display area where spectators were asking uncountable questions.

Even though an E-3A could not be deployed, the presence and the

representation of the E-3A Component were highly appreciated by the Czech project management and the spectators.

Many kids came to the AWACS tent to get E-3A aircraft cut-outs, posters and other information material. The well-known AWACS merchandising sale was also a small highlight.

On Saturday and Sunday people had the chance to visit numerous planes and military vehicles on static display as well as to watch the flight displays. Besides the flight displays, a lot of ground demonstrations such as car

ambushing and the training of service horses were conducted.

Visiting the air show were the B-52 and B-1 from the USA, E-7T from Turkey, M-28 Bryza from Poland, DO-228 from Germany and many other platforms from multiple NATO countries.

It has been a great weekend with our Czech friends and we are looking forward to next year's event. The most frequently asked questions were about our aircraft and when there will be a chance to see it.

OCD plays in the mud

Story by Mr. Marc Kooijman
Photos by Mr. Dennis Owens

Sometimes a group of ordinary people comes together to do something nobody expects. As the new Peacetime Establishment came into effect we found ourselves in a new work environment. To forge a better team concept we planned fitness programs, karting, grilling and various dinners. Then we came up with an ultimate test of challenging ourselves with a group strengthening idea: the Tough Mudder!

What is the Tough Mudder? It's an endurance course whose primary purpose is to build teamwork and

camaraderie. The obstacles are designed to combat human fears such as fire, water, electricity and heights. Participants commit to helping others complete the course—putting teammates before themselves. And this we did! Worldwide, an average of 78% participants finishes the course; we finished with 100%!

We are: The Old Computer Dudes (OCD) of Logistics Wing!

This test was not for everyone. It took dedication to commit to a physical conditioning above par for a normal 5 km or 10 km run. Everyone supported the group, joined in workouts together and gave support in other areas.

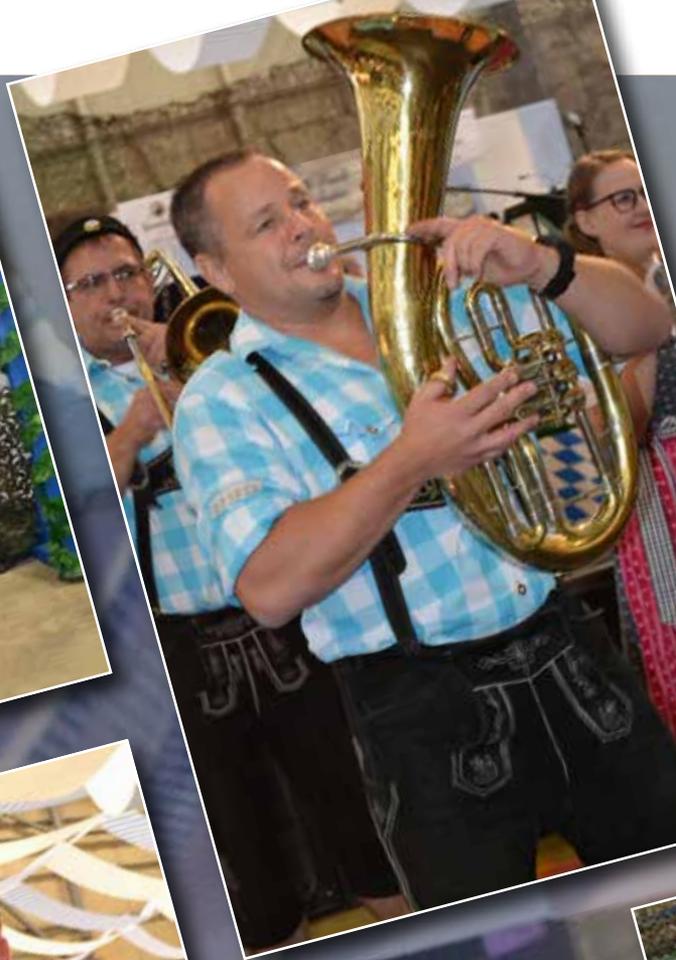
Leading up to the big event we felt ourselves grow stronger and more united.

After months of dedicated training we were ready! To initiate all athletes to what was coming up, we started with the first obstacle of crawling thru a mud and barbed wire tunnel, then it was off to the some 20 more obstacles on the 16 km run course. The upcoming mud hills, wall climbs, mud hills, Everest climb, wall-rope climb, mud hills, carrying a log up and down mud hills, ice filled pool plunge (named the Artic Enema), Bock Ness Monster, Pyramid climb, mud hills, monkey bar swing/climb, mud hill and at the end of the 16 km course being shocked with thousands of hanging electrical lines to finish the test of endurance. It was an

adventure that sometimes got the better of us. While the race took us apart in three groups to the finish line, we all finished. It was indeed a magnificent feeling! Did we sometimes crumble, yes, we did. But no mud, water, ice, cramps or electricity could stop us. Veni, vidi, vici. And yes, we got the T shirt (and headband)!

We are the OCD!





Oktoberfest





Oktoberfest 2017

For the 35th time, The Deutsche Unteroffizier Kamaradschaft (DUK), the German NCO Association organized the Oktoberfest at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen this past weekend.

In the week prior to the Oktoberfest, Hangar 2 was transformed by some 120 volunteers with decorations in the Bavarian white-blue colours throughout the hangar. DUK members and volunteers worked day and night to be ready for the weekend of 23 and 24 September 2017.

During the Saturday night party, guests showed up in traditional Dirndls and Lederhosen and could enjoy the traditional Oktoberfest beer, the Leberkaes and Bratwurst, and the Wulfershaeuser band playing dance music.

On Sunday, a special family day was organized with children entertainment and an E-3A was on static display.

From 1982 until today, the DUK supported local schools and organisations with roughly 400,000 Euros, all this resulting out of Oktoberfests' profits.

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In the Spotlight

Major Fabrizio Regoli

Head of Current Operations Branch/Pilot
3 years at GK



Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Longfellow

The NATO AEW&C Force E-3A Component's command post is the central command point for mission operations. This is a job for all its specialists to ensure operations and communications run efficiently and effectively under any circumstances.

Major Fabrizio Regoli, Head of Current Operations Branch, keeps his cool-headed professionals to provide essential skills and knowledge to keep the base - and our missions - running smoothly.

"We work like the human nervous system," Regoli said. "We receive information from all over base and take care of the execution phases. We are a vital piece for leadership to get plans executed."

The branch coordinates with other agencies and organizations during planning, executing and evaluation phases of operations. They also initiate, receive and take actions on alert messages.

Not only is Regoli in charge of Current Operations, but he also was the project manager for the updated CNS/ATM (glass cock-pit). He coordinated the crew members training, and training plans and materials.

Regoli has been in the Italian Air Force for 19 years and it began with his fascination with the location of the air force academy in Naples.

"I saw the beautiful landscape around the academy and wanted to see places just like that," Regoli said.

Regoli has been working here at NATO Airbase Geilenkirchen, Germany for three years as a pilot. He said his most accomplished goal was full-filling 500 flying hours in his first year here.

He states while working here he has received different perspectives and opportunities to contribute to change where he works.

"Here we have more freedom to act with our leadership," Regoli said. "This helps to ensure the mission can get done with little setbacks."

Working in NATO, there are always several different nationalities that work with each other.

"Get rid of your stereotypical thoughts on the different nations," Regoli advises. "The sooner you do, the better it will be at work, at home and in personal life."

The Alliance Players presents She Kills Monsters

By Kat Timm

"My party is a leather-clad dominatrix and an elven supermodel?!"

Qui Nguyen's action-packed dramatic comedy "She Kills Monsters" is sweeping across stages in the United States, but is so far almost unknown in Europe. Brunssum's Alliance Players theater group is excited to present it for the first time at a European military base.

The year is 1995, and Agnes' very average life of neon windbreakers, Beverly Hills 90210, and MTV is about

to change. When her family dies in a car accident, Agnes finds a Dungeons & Dragons notebook written by her nerdy teenage sister Tilly. Hilarity ensues as Agnes explores the secret fantasy world of sassy monsters, heroic battles, and shocking family secrets that was so important to her sister.

Nineties nostalgia and vintage, geeky heroics may lie at the heart of the story, but unique to this play is the riveting stage combat laced throughout... using real steel weapons! Stage combat choreographers Dörte Jensen of Stuttgart and Uta Kraus of Hamburg have been lending their expertise, emphasizing proper

techniques that result in safe and inventive battle sequences. Actors have been spending long hours training with them every weekend in order to memorize choreography and build up the strength and dexterity necessary to wield the heavy swords.

"Our young actors and actresses have shown amazing dedication to rehearsing for this play," says director Brian Huggins. "They are really going to impress everyone. Prepare for action!"

Catch an exclusive sneak peek of the show at the Tri-Border NerdCon opening cosplay party on the night of

6 October. Entrance is included with your NerdCon 2017 ticket. This play is comparable to a PG-13 rating due to some strong language and mature themes. The Alliance Players thank NerdCon members for fantasy costume support, with a big thanks to Mary Beaujean of AFNorth for dedicating her time to bringing many of the classic fantasy monsters to life.

Show Details:

12 October, 19:00

13 October, 19:00

14 October, 13:00

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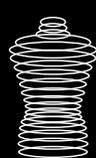




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MWA INFORMATION

UPCOMING EVENTS & IYA ACTIVITIES

(Open to all US and NATO identification card holders)

October

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



4 Oct: IYA resumes Yoga lessons

under the experienced and certified instruction of Veerle Dandoy: IYA Multi-purpose Room, Wednesdays, 1630-1730, registration for new students at 1615. Classes for all levels are designed to build strength, flexibility and endurance. We focus on developing the essential yoga postures and sequences while honing proper technique and alignment. Intermediate and advanced modifications are available for experienced students. There is no cost; the instructor is volunteering her time.

11 Oct: Curry style lunch at the Rotodome

On Wednesday, 11 October from 1100 to 1330 hrs a Curry Style Lunch will be served at the Rotodome. Price will be € 5 (All inclusive).

13 Oct: International Cross Country Fun Run

1100 hrs. at the New Gym, Bldg. 206 Participation for everybody. Entry Fees: NATO Component ID Card Holders €3 and non-Component members €6. Deadline Registration: 6 Oct. Pick up race number and payment is due on event date 13 October from 09:00-10:45! For more info and pre-registration please call ext. 6063 or send an email to ofcgk-swcss@naew.nato.int

23 - 27 Oct: IYA Fall Break program

for children aged 5 and older, 0745-1745: fun games, sports, beautiful playground, movies, seasonal arts and crafts, two field trips. Further information and registration contact the IYA Office, ext. 6033 or 0049-2451-63-6033.

24 Oct: IYA trip to Burgers' Zoo

featuring 8 indoor and outdoor theme sites and playgrounds, for children aged 5 and older, 0815 - 1730, cost is €17. Chaperones go free. The children can be dropped off from 0745 and need to be picked up by 1745. For further information and registration contact the IYA Office, ext. 6033 or 0049-2451-63-6033.

26 Oct: IYA Trip to Toverland

big indoor and outdoor amusement park with a wide variety of attractions for different age groups, for children aged 5 and older, 0830 - 1730, cost is €23. Chaperones go free. The children can be dropped off from 0745 and need to be picked up by 1745. For further information and registration contact the IYA Office, ext. 6033 or 0049-2451-63-6033.

10 - 12 Nov: Foggy Fields Bazaar at Hangar II

Start your holiday shopping early at the Foggy Fields Bazaar sponsored by the American Spouses of Geilenkirchen. We will have vendors from across Europe selling their wares at Hangar 2 on Friday 1200-1800, Saturday 1000-1800, and Sunday 1000-1600. The bazaar is open to all NATO and US ID card holder.

Vacancy Announcement

Principal Fireman/Deputy Shift Leader, Advertisement Number 170456, Grade C-5, assigned to the Fire/Crash/Rescue Branch, Airfield Traffic Control & Airfield Services Squadron, Base Support Wing, E-3A Component, HQ NAEW&C Force GK. This post is due to be filled as soon as possible.

CLOSING DATE: 3 November 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), or review the advertisement posted in Building 8.

NOTE: Only applications of qualified personnel will be considered



Article by Kat Timm

Batman is hanging out with a storm trooper. Pokémon and princesses are watching anime together. 7 October is no ordinary Saturday. It's the TriBorder NerdCon!

What started in 2016 as a videogame tournament between a few friends ballooned into something awesome? More than 200 people came from as far as SHAPE to enjoy the celebration of gaming, fantasy, and all things geeky. Now in its second year, the Tri-Border NerdCon is expecting a crowd of 400 attendants of all ages.

True to its roots, NerdCon 2017 is jam-packed with opportunities to unleash your inner gamer. In addition to a new "nostalgia" wall of vintage video games, this year's Con includes prized tournaments in Smash Brothers, Streetfighter 2, Pokémon DS Sun and Moon, and more. Dive into the world of old school gaming with a fifth edition Dungeons & Dragons adventure, a Magic: the Gathering tournament, a

challenging zombie survival game, and other multiplayer roleplaying board games.

Strut your stuff in the cosplay costume contest for kids and adults, view your favorite animes, or bring your drone and compete with other flyers. Paint a Warhammer figurine, buy and sell handicrafts and collectibles, and check out the latest from popular vendors like Magus Games and Dutchbricks. There's a ton to do! It all starts with a cosplay party on Friday night, featuring a sneak peek of the upcoming Alliance Players show, "She Kills Monsters"!

No matter your fandom, there's a place for you here. To NerdCon president JoAnn Tubbs, the event is a way for people to relax, build connections with others, and let their true personalities shine. "This is what we love to do," she says. "And we want to share it with people."

NerdCon is open to the public. Bring cash for snacks or tournament entry (€2-€5 each).

Ticket purchasing information and schedule of events can be viewed at

<https://www.facebook.com/TriBorderNerdCon/>.

Main Event Details: Saturday, 7 October, 10:00 - 20:00

**JFC Brunssum International Conference Center,
Rimburgerweg 46, 6445 PA Brunssum**

Ticket prices: presale/door
Kids under 15: €8/€10
Adults: €10/€12

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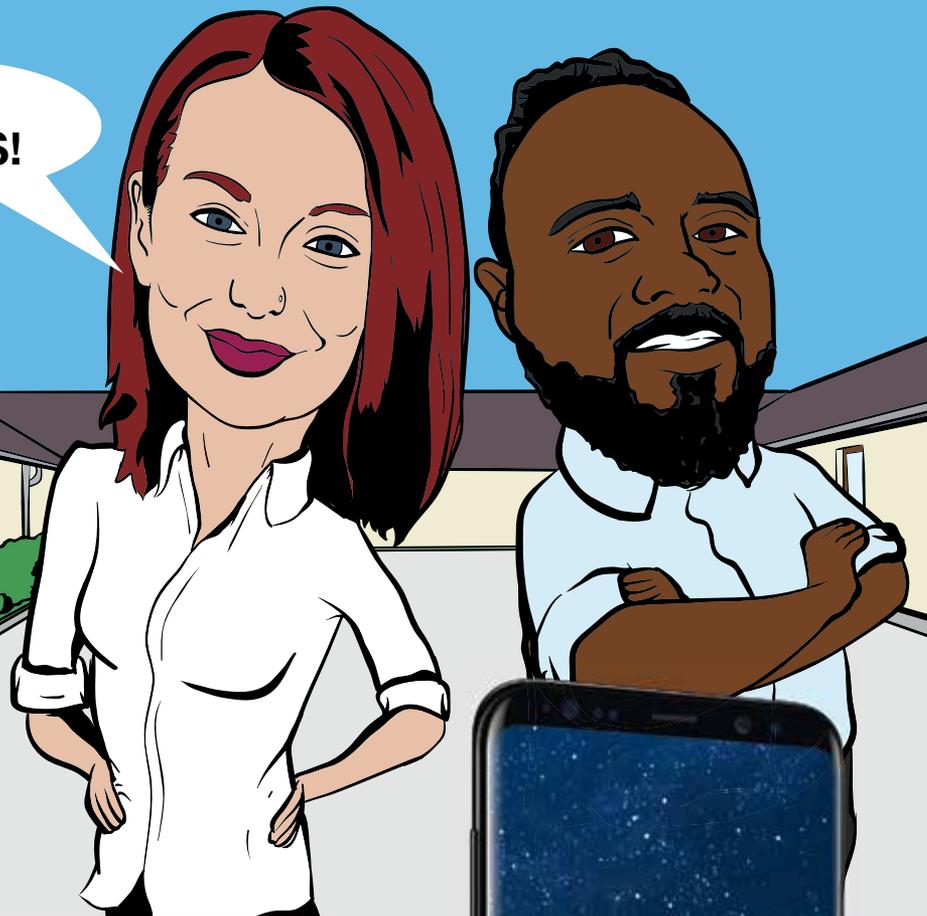


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