



# First Upgraded NATO AWACS flies above Seattle

Photo by John Parker, the Boeing Company

Boeing Technicians recently completed digital cockpit upgrades to the first NATO E-3A AWACS under a joint Air Force and Alliance engineering and development project. The Diminishing Manufacturing Sources Replacement of Avionics for Global Operations and Navigation (DRAGON) program replaces the E-3A's analog cockpit with digital displays, new identification friend or foe, and upgraded weather radar. The U.S. Air Force and NATO are cooperating on the development stage of the program, but plan to issue separate production contracts. The first Alliance aircraft arrived for upgrades in Seattle, Wash., in August 2013, making its first post-upgrade flight Dec. 31, 2014. The aircraft is expected to be redelivered in 2016, and fleet-wide upgrades to be completed by 2018.

# Component Facebook reaches 5000 likes

On Jan. 14, 2015, the Component was proud to reach "like" nr. 5000 on Facebook. A great achievement. Since the birth of the Component Facebook



page on March 28, 2012, the number of likes grew steadily.

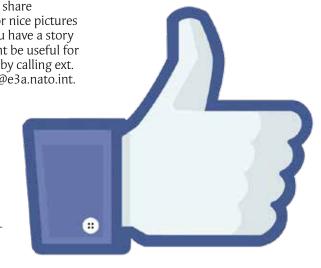
The Facebook page was designed to meet the current demands of communicating with our audience. Not only people from outside the Component follow our activities through Facebook. Also our own people use this social media app to keep informed about all events, exercises and other interesting stuff going on at their home base.

The Facebook page is run by the Public Affairs Office, but also depends on the input from all Component

members who like to share newsworthy stories or nice pictures to be published. If you have a story which you think might be useful for our page let us know by calling ext. 2476 or email us pao@e3a.nato.int.

Don't forget to like us and share our posts with your family and friends!

https://www.facebook.com/NATOE3A-Component

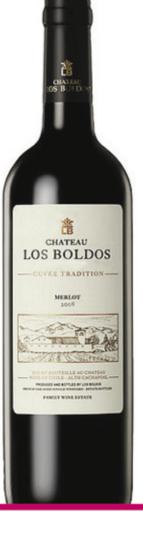


# NATEX • VVIIIC OF THE MONTH

Great Wines from Los Boldos!







# **Cabernet Sauvignon**

750ml / REG 4.95 EACH **2 for 6.89** 

# Chardonnay

750ml . REG. 4.50 2 for 6.29

# **Merlot**

750ml / REG. 4.95 **2 for 6.89** 

YOUSAVE 30%

Friday 30 January – Saturday 28 February







# COMMANDER'S

MEN : WOMEN OF THE E-3A COMPONENT TEM!



# YOU are the best part of the E-3A Component

The best part of any day I have in the Component is the time I spend visiting you in your duty sections. During my tenure as the Component Commander I have never been accused of being shy about visiting an office or a work section to hear what you have to say about our operation. I always leave impressed; your professionalism, knowledge and dedication to the E-3A Component is a role-model example for NATO. Be certain, people like YOU make the E-3A Component something special

Recently, I had the privilege of presenting a retirement certificate to Mr. Heinrich Zupansic. Mr. Zupansic has worked in the Component since 1982 – that's almost 33 years of service to our organization. Most of you probably saw Heinrich in action as he stood the watch at the gates to MOB GK as an elite member of the Civil Guard. What a unique story of service to NATO and the E-3A Component.

Last November, I took my bimonthly trip to the barber shop. It was just another day for me but for Mrs. Monika Bauer it was her 60th Birthday. I couldn't believe it – here it was her 60th birthday – and she was spending it at the Component!



Happy Birthday Monika!

Be certain, every member of our Component is important and each of YOU play an important role in making our mission possible. However, in 2015 the E-3A Component leadership team will make some tough decisions

regarding our NATO Civilian workforce based on the Initial State Peacetime Establishment – or ISPE. Once the ISPE is approved by the Military Committee, the E-3A Component will implement the Civilian Reorganization System (CRS) to start the actions needed to adjust the overall size of our NATO Civilian workforce to roughly 500 personnel.

Our A-1 staff has discussed the CRS process in several forums. In addition, A1CP has hosted several walk-in forums to discuss the CRS with each employee. Many NATO Headquarters have successfully reorganized following a similar process to include our own Component, which just completed a four-year long reorganization in 2013. I respect your candor in providing me the honest feedback when communication about the future is lacking. All of you deserve the best answers to enable you to make informed decisions for the future.

It is important to note, no personnel action regarding our NATO Civilian workforce will be implemented until the End State Peacetime Establishment - or ESPE - for the E-3A Component it is approved by the North Atlantic Council – a decision not expected until July 2015.

I certainly appreciate walking around the Component to see your professionalism, perseverance and PRIDE in our mission. I fully recognize the tensions created when an operational organization, fully committed to an ongoing NATO operational mission, is asked to change. I am always ready to listen to your input and ideas on how we can be more effective as we shape our one-of-a-kind organization to be reliable and relevant in the year 2030.



# Mr. Zupansic retires after 33 years of service

By Ger Brugel

After 33 years of service at the Component Mr. Zupansic is leaving our organization in February 2015.

He started at the Component on Nov. 2, 1982. Over all the years he is a beloved member of the Civil Guard especially in the Bravo-Flight where he worked his entire carrier. All this time he accomplished his assigned and voluntary (October Fest, Children's Festival, a.s.o) work in a more than satisfactionary manner also noticed by his superiors.





NATO Skywatch is an authorized, unofficial

commercial enterprise newspaper published

Volume 31, No. 1

30 January 2015

### Commander

Maj. Gen. Andrew M. Mueller

Chief, Public Affairs Maj. Johannes Glowka

### **Editor**

Staff Sgt. R. Michael Longoria 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 Atlantic Treaty Organization. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute an endorsement by NATO of the products or services advertised. Submissions are due seven days before publication and may be edited for style and space. Email articles and classified advertisements to pao@e3a.nato.int.

For paid advertisements call Hub Durlinger Media at +31 (0)46 4529292, cellphone +31 (0)6 5472 6473, hub@durlingermedia.nl or Houx Digiprint at +31 (0)46 4582111, verkoop@houxdigiprint.nl

Articles may be reproduced after permission has been obtained from the editor, provided mention is made of NATO Skywatch. To read the NATO Skywatch online visit www.e3a.nato.int







Putstraat 31
6131 HH Sittard
046 -850 50 02
www.studio54sittard.nl
www.facebook.com/studio54barenburgerssittard



# Now open in Sittard: Studio 54 Bar & Burgers!

We serve the juiciest and most tasteful burgers in town. We stand for high quality meat, whether that's Hereford beef from a local farm in Kessel (Limburg) or lamb meat from the Dutch island Texel.

Our vision is to serve delicious comfort food in a cozy and intimate atmosphere. Studio 54 Bar & Burgers is a place to enjoy great food, whether you're on your own or with good friends.

Nice to meat you!

# Operation Nikolaus: Training Wing brings holiday cheer to local children

By Staff Sgt. R. Michael Longoria

Children from the local community around NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Germany, spent the day with E-3A Component's Training Wing on Dec. 18, 2014. The visit was part of Operation Nikolaus, or OPN, a tradition which started in the 1980s to bring a little bit of fun and holiday cheer to children from orphanages and child care facilities near the base.

"It has been a busy year for the E-3A Component," explained Capt. Dirk Müller. "We accomplished a lot of missions and operations, but Operation Nikolaus is one that is extra special."

This year, 15 children from the Caritas Heimverbund Kreis Heinsberg arrived at the base this morning and received a warm welcome from Lt. Col. Federico Merola and other members of the Training Wing.

Full of laughter and excitement for the day, the children, ranging in age from 6 to 14, hopped on the 'NATO Express' train for a tour of the base, which ended at the Flight Simulator. After a short introduction and demonstration, each child was allowed to perform AWACS takeoffs, landings and aerial refueling in the high tech simulator. "They weren't always successfully, but they had a lot of fun," said Captain Müller.

After a stop at the Air National Guard to see a KC-135 up-close and a visit with the Fire Brigade, the children headed to the Rotodome for lunch. Then, it was off for the next part of their visit — a trip to the air traffic control tower and the flight line.

"Since everyone had received flight deck instruction in the simulator, a tour of a real AWACS aircraft was essential," said Captain Müller. "They had an hour-long opportunity to explore the plane. They checked out the seats, flight deck, crew bunks, oxygen masks and everything in between. They did so with great enthusiasm and, the entire time, the smiles on their faces grew bigger and bigger."



Next, the children got to witness a demonstration by the Civil Guard and their specially trained working dogs. However, the highlight of the day was yet to come. Back at the Training Wing, the children attended a Christmas party with festive decorations and refreshments.

After a while, Santa, Lt. Olaf Kleinhans, entered the room and, thanks to good coordination with the care-givers, he was able to follow the German tradition of praising each child individually but also by pointing out aspects for improvement in the coming year. Santa also handed out presents, which were selected from each child's own wish list.

Before the group left, Col. Arturo Di Martino, the Operations and Training Wing commander, presented a check to Caritas Heinverbund Kreis Heinsberg, for 1,300 euros. The director of the orphanage said the money would go toward improving the children's computer lab.

"The Training Wing felt blessed to have the opportunity to meet these wonderful children and enjoy the day with them" said Lt. Col. Thorsten Hinrichsen. "We'd also like to express our thanks to everyone who donated, contributed or helped set up to make a dream come true for these children. We look forward to hosting 'Operation Nikolaus' again next year."





# In Memoriam

Short before Christmas the Component received the sad news that Colonel (Ret.) Ger Fehrenbach passed away on Dec. 19, 2014 after a short illness.

Colonel Fehrenbach was former E-3A Component Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff.

He served at the Component from January 1994 to July 1997when he retired from the Royal Netherlands Air Force.



### Please, Mister Postman look and see...

By Theo Collijn

Base Administrative Services Section serves as the central point of ingress and egress for the E-3A Component. Each working day, about 200 letters and 25 parcels are delivered directly to its Central Registry in building 5 from where the majority of items are further distributed within the Component.

Mail carriers such as Deutsche Post, UPS, GLS and DHL have specially designated staff to deliver mail to the Component. These postmen never fail in their professionalism and good humour, regardless of extremes of weather or delays during heightened security at the Main Gate.

Last December, the Base Support Division's Administrative Services Section expressed appreciation to the designated postmen who deliver the mail and parcels daily to the E-3A Component. They were each presented with a small gift, paid for from Building 5's coffee/soda fund.



# Karin's Guesthouse

Located less than 10 minutes from NATO Air Base!



VAT FORM

FULLY EQUIPPED

SERVICE = KSE ₽

- FREE INTERNET
- PETS ARE WELCOME
- 🏓 FREE ENGLISH 站 TV (up to 150 US & UK TV Channels)

For more information or reservation call:

+49(0)2451-720 15 or +49(0)178-414 08 55 or visit our website www.karins-guesthouse.com

#### Only 9 miles from base and only 1 mile to the centre of Heinsberg.

School bus stop, indoor pool, playgrounds and jogging path, various shopping facilities and restaurants within walking distance.

Fully equipped modern kitchen, washer, dryer, SAT-TV, DVD- and CD Player, free high speed DSL Internet, babybed, highchair, toys, backyard, basket-ball.

Free weekly cleaning

Please ask for our special offer: free rental car and airport shuttle





For further information or reservations please contact Mrs. Cosima Gödde at:

Gästehaus Cosima Kuhlertstraße 71

D-52525 Heinsberg-Schafhausen

Tel.: +49 (0) 2452-930600 Mobile: +49 (0) 170-8066805 www.gaestehauscosima.de gaestehauscosima@t-online.de

### **TEMPORARY** Altes Brauhaus



FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACCOMMODATION FOR SHORT OR LONG-TERM STAYS.

Member Professional Association of Innkeepers International









for details and restrictions

\* Visit

### Apartments feature:

- With or Without Kitchen
- TV/DVD player and hundreds
- English language programming with SKY Satellite
- Free wireless, local and international calling

Free washer & dryer Sauna / Tanning Bed / Aerobics Trainer/Weight Machine



Complimentary coffee & tea bar

Gangelt-Langbroich + 49 (0)2454 936555 Brauhaus@langbro.de www.langbro.de

# Heating oil



# low price top service

Shell

SHELL **MARKEN** 

Bischoff, Vliex & Schöngen, Pfennings GmbH & Co. KG

Berliner Ring 15-17

52511 Geilenkirchen

+49 (0)2451 68001











### MILITARY DISCOUNT CENTRE





### WHY BUY A QUALITY CAR?

- QUALITY CARS ARE DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED TO LAST MUCH LONGER
   QUALITY CARS TRANSPORT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IN THE SAFEST ENVIRONMENT.
   QUALITY CARS HAVE EXCEPTIONAL RESALE VALUES
   QUALITY CARS ARE RELIABLE
   QUALITY CARS ARE A PLEASURE TO OWN

### WHY BUY BMW . VOLVO OR MERCEDES?

- 1) BMW VOLVO AND MERCEDES ARE YOUR QUALITY CARS
  2) MASSIVE MILITARY DISCOUNTS (BUY QUALITY FOR THE PRICE OF AN AVERAGE CAR)
  3) FREE HOME SHIPMENT TO THE U.S.A OR CANADA WHEN YOU RETURN HOME
  4) FREE SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE FOR 3 YEARS (U.S. VOLVO MODELS)
  5) FREE EUROPEAN BREAKDOWN/RECOVERY (INCL. HOTEL, FLIGHTS HOME, RENTAL CAR)
  6) FREE 4 YEAR WARRANTY (3 YEAR EU MODELS)
  7) FREE 12 YEAR ANTI CORROSION GUARANTEE
  8) PURCHASE PRICE IN YOUR CURRENCY AND PROTECTED AGAINST PRICE INCREASES

### WHY BUY FROM ROADCRAFT?

- ROADCRAFT GUARANTEE YOU THE LOWEST PRICE
  ROADCRAFT GUARANTEE THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SERVICE
  ROADCRAFT DELIVER TO YOUR MILITARY BASE
  ROADCRAFT HAVE OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE SELLING TO MILITARY/DIPLOMATS
  ROADCRAFT PROVIDE 24/7 LIFETIME SUPPORT- UNIQUE IN CAR SALES
  ROADCRAFT DO NOT BELIEVE IN PRESSURE SELLING.
  WE VALUE AND RESPECT OUR CUSTOMERS!



www.MilitaryTaxfreeCars.com / ceo@MilitaryTaxFreeCars.com DIRECT LINES: 0031 646855537

# The Component's library finds a new home

By Maureen Geraets-Head

You probably noticed the MWA Library logo on Building 71 posted on the right side to the entrance. Last December, the base library moved from the far corner of the base to a more lively part, close to the Rotodome dining facility and the NATEX grocery store.

The MWA base library's new location is spacious, bright and offers a lot of extras. Rows of bookshelves displaying books in nine different languages ranging from fiction to cookbooks, from to travel to children books and an audio-visual DVD collection are available. Base personnel and their dependants can sign out books or DVDs showing their MWA card.

Within the library there is also a section with six internet computers, a sitting area with a wide-range

selection of magazines, and a special kids-corner for the younger bookworms. At the professional coffee machine you can select your coffee for a small fee. Also a copymachine is available to customers.

A team of five works part-time at the library: Mrs. Emma Champagne, Mrs. Maud Hendriks, Mrs. Jean Jahn, Mrs. Ursula Seidel and Mr. Heiner Hoben, all eager to assist the library customers

Mrs. Ursula Seidel says, "This new, more centralized location is such an improvement. We have new customers visiting us now, who didn't know that the base had a library."

"Each month, we order new books that are on the bestsellers list. With a 200 Euro monthly budget, we are able to buy these new books," Mrs. Emma Champagne explains.



Library personnel Mrs. Emma Champagne (left, pink shirt) rearranges travel books while Mrs. Ursula Seidel and Jean Jahn (right) categorize the returned books.

Book donations are always welcome but not all books will be accepted. They have to be in mint condition and should be current to meet library standards. The new opening hours are: Monday and Friday 1200-1500, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 1200-1700.



Opening of library on Jan. 26 by Maj. Gen. Andrew M. Mueller and Mr. Heiner Hoben.



The new sitting area with magazines and a coffee machine.

# The Parliamentary Commissioner for the German Armed Forces: Hellmut Königshaus

By Maj. J.G. Glowka

Hellmut Königshaus, the eleventh Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces, is visiting the German contingent at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen on a regular base.

# Direct contact to the Commissioner

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces is appointed to assist the Bundestag in exercising parliamentary control over the armed forces. His primary task is to investigate possible violations of the basic rights of members of the armed forces or of the principles of Innere Führung (leadership and civic education) and to report to the Bundestag on the condition of the Bundeswehr.

Every member of the armed forces has the right to contact the

Commissioner directly, without going through official channels.

# Working on behalf of the Bundestag

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces is the ombudsman of the members of the armed forces and at the same time he is tasked to assist the Bundestag in exercising control over the armed forces. He occupies a special position within the parliamentary system - he is neither a Member of the Bundestag nor a civil servant. He takes action upon instruction from the Bundestag or the Defence Committee. The Commissioner can also take action on his own initiative when there are indications of a violation of the basic rights of a member of the armed forces or of the principles of Innere Führung (leadership and civic

### Ombudsman of the armed forces

Every member of the armed forces has the right to contact the Commissioner directly. Thus the

Commissioner acts as the ombudsman of the Bundeswehr. He has to report to the Bundestag on the results of his work at least once per year.









# COMPTUEX 2015 NATO AWACS integrates with U.S. Navy

By Staff Sgt. R. Michael Longoria

NATO AWACS took part in a live, scenario-driven tactical exercise with the U.S. Navy from Jan. 16 to Jan. 28, 2015.

For 12 days, two aircraft and more than 70 personnel from the E-3A Component participated in the Composite Training Unit Exercise, commonly referred to as COMPTUEX 2015, to improve maritime integration by conducting various maritime missions with units from the U.S. Navy, Air Force, Army and Marine Corps.

"This exercise has provided the Component with valuable insight into U.S. naval operations beginning with the mission planning process through execution and debrief," said Maj. Marie Quick, the deployment commander. "The Component aircrew members supporting this exercise have received real-world training they

would not otherwise obtain at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen during a maritime simulation where it is sometimes difficult to simulate numerous external agencies."

Operating out of Naval Air Station Norfolk, Va., Component aircrew members executed several naval missions off the eastern coast of the United States to include surface search control, maritime air control, sector air defense control and maritime strike.

"Any exercise where the Component can train with any military from any country only enhances the capabilities of the E-3A," Major Quick explained. "By participating in the COMPTUEX, the E-3A aircrews have learned how to coordinate missions with the U.S. Navy and execute operations to support their fleet. The experience gained here better prepares the E-3A for any future operations with the U.S. Navy."

In addition to the experience gained by the aircrew, the Component was also able to attain more training for the flight deck during COMPTUEX. The flight deck accomplished more pattern work after completing a sortie as well as other qualifications that are more difficult to achieve at the main operating base. One specific maneuver the pilots practiced was retrograding, which is turning the jet away from an enemy aircraft and descending quickly to create extra distance from the threat.

"Some of this training is difficult to conduct in Europe because of the restricted air space," explained Maj. Gunther Drews, pilot. "By completing this training here, the Component had an added benefit of reducing the amount of noise created at Geilenkirchen."

Of course, the whole exercise was dependent on the work done behind the scenes. Maintenance

personnel and crew chiefs worked continuously to ensure the Component was able to meet exercise and mission requirements.

"The daily flying schedule was an added burden but we concentrated our efforts to ensure Ops always had one jet ready to fly and another on standby," said Chief Master Sgt. Rudi Slot, the deployed logistics officer.

Another key to the Component's overall success at COMPTUEX was the liaison officers (LNOs). Three U.S. Navy officers from the Component translated navy terms and procedures to the Component's Air Force personnel.







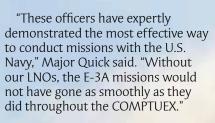
















# Turkish Night at the ISC

By Rebecca Hendrickx

On Jan. 15, 2015, our Turkish ladies from the International Spouses' Club hosted a spectacular evening complete with delicious food, traditional Turkish folk dancing and much more.

When the doors opened at 1800, spouses from all nations of NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen descended on the E-3A club ready to experience a unique night from our Turkish members.

With a truly amazing turnout with about 160 people, there was not an empty seat to be seen. Once our members and guests had taken their seats, it was time to rise for announcements and the playing of the national anthem.

The excitement rose when it was time for food, where we were treated to traditional Turkish Doner meat, rice, bread and salad. Needless to say, it was delicious, without any leftover food to be seen. Towards the end of the meal, the first of the raffle prizes were presented. With a table full of prizes and lots of tickets sold, the ladies waited anxiously for their numbers to be called. Spread throughout the night, the prospect of winning a raffle prize held everyone attention and excitement.

Once the food had been consumed and the dishes cleared, it was time for the entertainment. Entertaining us for the evening was a truly spectacular performance of traditional Turkish folk dancing. Dressed in traditional Turkish outfits, the men and women danced full of passion and pride for their homeland. Performing multiple dances, the routines offered us a glimpse into different regions of Turkey where dancing is used to tell stories. The final performance from the dancers was performed by the



men only, who, wearing daggers and insignia, showed their warrior might full of leaping into the air, fighting style moves and impressive footwork. Showing our appreciation and awe for the dancers, after each performance, a deafening applause resounded around the room with standing ovations and cheers for a truly spectacular performance.

After the dancing, it was time for coffee and dessert, with spouses making a beeline for the mouthwatering baklava, cake and other delicious treats. With the final raffle prizes announced it was time to

dance! With music blaring, spouses and the Turkish dancers danced their hearts out with a multitude of different music.

Congratulations and very well done to our Turkish spouses for hosting a truly unique, spectacular and all around fun night! Thank you to the amazing workers of the E-3A Club for their continued and unfailing hard work who make our events run smoothly.

Next month, our Italian ladies will be hosting their event on Thursday, February 26.' Join us for a night of traditional Italian cuisine, entertainment and fun. Doors open at the E-3A Club at 1800 starting promptly at 1900 with the national anthem. Childcare is 4€ per child if you RSVP by Tuesday, February 24, turning up on the night without having RSVP'd will cost 8€ per child. We look forward to seeing you all there!

For more information about events or membership, please do not hesitate to contact us at iscofgk@ yahoo.com or find us on Facebook by searching: ISC. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page for coming craft events, open to everyone (membership not required).



# Civilian Staff Association hosts New Year reception, recognizing colleagues

By CSA Committee

The Civilian Staff Association (CSA) hosted a New Year reception for NATO civilian employees stationed at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen.

In the afternoon of Jan. 21, 2015, about 100 colleagues from various working areas joined the CSA Committee for a toast to 2015.

Colonel René Moerland, Deputy Component Commander addressed the attendees wishing them a good New Year and reflected on 2014 which was a busy year for the Component with the Ukraine reassurance missions, the runway restoration project, the redeployment from Afghanistan and the reparations for the upcoming Force Review. The latter being of special interest to all civilian personnel is currently for review with the nations and an outcome is to be expected by end of January.

Col. Moerland presented two staff members with an E-3A Component Certificate of Appreciation who recently achieved 25 years of service.

Mr. Frits Boskma joined the E-3A Component Logistics Wing, Electronics Maintenance Squadron, on Feb. 1, 1989 as a Junior Computer Systems Maintenance Specialist. On Aug 1, 1990 his post was converted to Senior Technician. In May 2001, he was temporarily reassigned to the PILS Project Office where he continued to perform his duties until returning back to the EMS Mission Computing Systems Maintenance Shop in August 2005, where he works to date.

Mr. Frank Mondschein joined the E-3A Component Logistics Wing, Electronics Maintenance Squadron, on



Certificates for 25 years of service with NATO were presented to Mr. Frank Mondschein and Mr. Frits Boskma by Col. Moerland. They also received an engraved three-dimensional AWACS glass cube from Mr. Guy Vandebeek, CSA Chairman.

Oct. 16, 1989 as a Junior Computer Systems Maintenance Specialist. On Oct. 16, 1990 his post was converted to Senior Technician. On Oct. 1, 1991 he was selected for the post of Principal Technician (Mission Computing Systems), where he works to date.



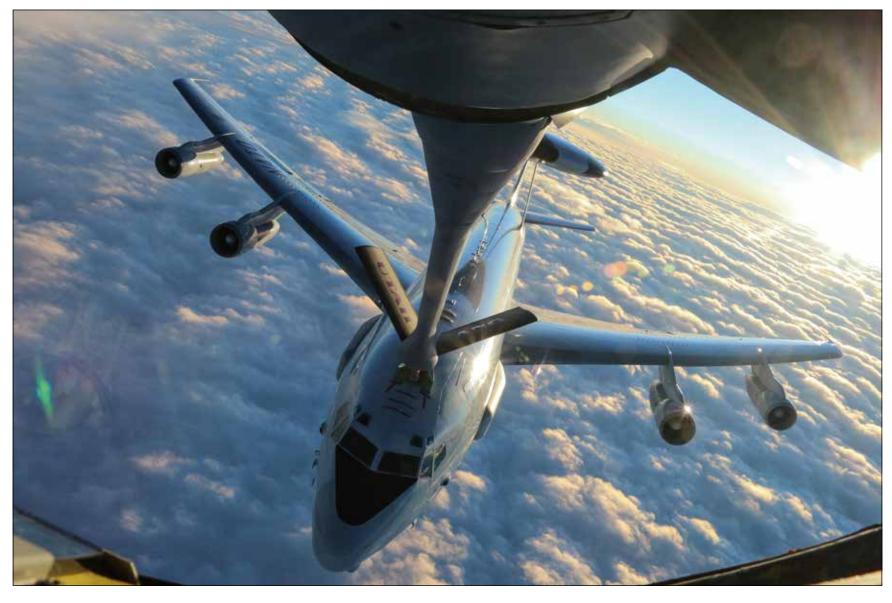
# Utah Air National Guard takes media up in the air

Text and photos Capt. André Bongers

Air-to-air refuelling is one of the most fascinating aspects of aviation one can think of. Flying high above the earth getting two massive jets so close together and finally making contact, receiving fuel through a boom is unique. The Component is proud to have the Air National Guard at our side to provide us with the training needed for the E-3A flight crews. The Air National Guard (ANG) units rotate with a frequency of two weeks. This means that every ANG unit from the U.S. has the opportunity to come over to Geilenkirchen for their and our training. This January the UTAH ANG showed up at Geilenkirchen. This unit is also the homebase of our ANG liaison officer Lt.Col Mark Pehrson.

Because media wants to have the complete picture about AWACS operations, an air-to-air-refuelling flight is often asked. The UTAH ANG was a proven concept during their previous deployment to Geilenkirchen. This tour at Geilenkirchen they, once again, where more than happy to welcome media on board. Unfortunately the weather didn't turn really good so some flights were cancelled, but still the media who flew with ANG was more than happy. These flights were also a nice opportunity for PAO to take some shots of this remarkable event high in the skies.











For a professional Family PhotoShoot at home

fotografie

For ideas please visit www.zonfotografie.nl or www.facebook.com/zonfotografie You can also call Laura +31 6 52542516

# Airport Shuttle Service

Phone: +49 (0)2452 - 7777

Also reservations by www.city6000.de



- car cleaning
- Permagard protective coating
- dent removal without repainting
- spot repair

valid on a total treatment of euro 125,-

Heerlen • Breukerweg 195 • Heerlen • +31 (0)45 - 522 59 00



**KOHL automobile GmbH** 

Tel. +49 (0) 2452 / 91 35 0

Filiale Heinsberg

Industriestraße 53 52525 Heinsberg

We proudly introduce Allianz (iii) and welcome ALL NATIONALITIES.









www.kohl.de

Call 02451 2983

### **HOTEL ABDISSENBOSCH**



New cat-place where your cat can move freely. Roomy outside place, playgrounds, central heated. Grooming salon, also Do-It-Yourself

Monday-Saturday 08:00-12:00 and 16:00-19:00 hrs. wash salon for pets.

Sundays and holidays closed for bringing in or picking-up.

Opening hours:

FOR 37 YEARS THE ADDRESS WHERE YOUR PET FEELS AT HOME

Vogelzankweg 230 • NL-6374 AH Landgraaf • phone +31 (0)45 5317217 www.dierenhotelabdissenbosch.nl (also in English und auch im Deutsch)







# Maintenance makes the mission happen

Text and photos by Staff Sgt. R. Michael Longoria

Two E-3As left NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Germany, on Jan. 12, 2015, destined for Norfolk, Va., so the E-3A Component could participate in COMPTUEX, or Composite Training Unit Exercise.

This live, scenario-driven tactical exercise replicates conditions in a forward theatre and gives the Component an opportunity to conduct effective maritime integration with the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force. However, it was almost a lost opportunity for the NATO AWACS. During the trans-Atlantic flight, one jet was diverted to Langley Air Force Base, Va., due to weather and the other landed in Norfolk with a cracked window.

"If it wasn't for maintenance, the jets would just be sitting on the ramp broken and the operational mission



would be cancelled," said Chief Master Sgt. Rudi Slot, the deployed logistics officer. "We do our part, so they can do theirs." Both issues created unique challenges for the Component but the deployed maintenance crew worked relentlessly to get both aircraft fully mission capable and on station for the start of the exercise. One specific issue was the need for a rare part that the maintenance crew didn't have readily available.

"The deployed team had to reach back to Geilenkirchen to get the window shipped to Norfolk," said Staff Sgt. Amelia Granados, the supply liaison. "We received exceptional support from the Component's supply squadron."

Chief Slot added these jets require detailed maintenance on a daily basis even when they are deployed from the main operating base. In addition, the daily flying schedule is an added burden for the crew chiefs.

"It is tough at times due to the limited equipment and manpower we have while deployed," he explained. "We just have to buckled down and concentrate our efforts to ensure the jets are mission ready."

Thanks to the effort of all maintainers, crew chiefs and support personnel, both NATO AWACS aircraft were up and running by Jan. 16 to meet the demands and objectives of COMPTUEX.

"With their hard work and dedication, the Component has been able to utilize this opportunity

and our aircrew is gaining valuable experience while training with the

U.S. Navy," said Maj. Marie Quick, the exercise's deployment commander.



# Component, Tri-border community makes donation to local animal shelter

By Staff Sgt. R. Michael Longoria

Spearheaded by the efforts of Melissa Busta, the wife of a NATO AWACS pilot, the E-3A Component and Tri-border communities made a sizable donation to a local animal shelter.

Mrs. Busta raised 1,500 euros and gathered four car loads of items for the Dierenbescherming Limburg. "We are completely overwhelmed by the generosity of the members of the community from the bases in Schinnen, Brunssum and the NATO Air Base," said Arjen Hilhorst.

"Melissa asked the members of the military community to make a donation for our pets as a Christmaspresent and they did!"

Mrs. Busta put up collection boxes and stood outside at various locations in the freezing cold to collect items for the shelter. "I just love animals and I wanted to give back to the community I live in," she explained.

In addition to the money raised, Mrs. Busta gathered 100's of dog/cat treats, 55 kilograms (kg) of cat litter, 105 kg of dog food, 30 kg of cat food, five large boxes of dog toys, a large box of cat toys, two cat beds, four dog beds, five small animal carriers, four cat trees/scratching post, and eight boxes full of blankets and towels.

"When Melissa brought the presents, we were so surprised to see all the stuff," Mr. Hilhorst said. "Melissa brought dog and cat food, nice toys, lovely warm blankets, scratching posts and a check with a beautiful amount."

While the majority of the credit goes to Mrs. Busta, she and the shelter want to send a special thank you to the Tri-border girl scout troop #28 from the AFNorth International School, Camilla Davis and "Nashy",

and Becky Gobernatz and "Benny" as well as everybody else who helped out with this project and donated money or presents.

For more information about the shelter, visit http://limburg.dierenbescherming.nl/ or https://www.facebook.com/DBLimburg.



Mrs. Busta presents cheque to Mr. Hilhorst.

Courtesy photo



# MWA INFORMATION February

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

# **Upcoming Events & IYA Activities**

(Open to all US and NATO identification card holders)

Points of contact: IYA Events: Mrs Neuhalfen, ext. 4954; Sports Events: Mr Stelten, ext. 4920; Food Services: Mr Peeters, ext. 4990.



### **IMPORTANT NOTICES!**

### E-3A Club CLOSED

05-17 Feb due to build up/tear down of two large carnival events. 26 & 27 Feb due to Special Functions.

### **Rotodome CLOSED**

12 Feb as of 1330 hrs due to Altweiber Carnival Celebration. Normal breakfast and lunch service.

#### Pizza at Rotodome

As of 03 Feb: Pizza Special at the Rotodome. Weekly change of seasonal pizzas. No pizza service on Tuesdays.

### **International Library**

International Library has changed its location to Bldg 71 (former NATEX Casual Mode).

New Opening Hours: Mon & Fri: 1200-1500 hrs.

Tues, Wed. & Thurs: 1200-1700 hrs.

#### 05 Feb: Indoor Soccer Tournament

1130-1400 hrs, New Gym. Deadline Registration: 03 Feb. Register by contacting the Sports Department: Email ofc-bpws@e3a.nato.int or call tel.ext. 4946

### 06 Feb: MWA Carnival Dinner Dance Night

Full entertainment programme starting as of 1800 hrs. Tickets cost: Euro 40 (MWA Card holders can purchase up to 2 tickets for Euro 35 each). Carnival Dress is highly desirable. Call Mr Schumm, ext. 2477 or Mr Peeters, ext. 4990 to reserve your tickets!

### 12 Feb: "Altweiberfest" Celebration at the E-3A Club

Thursday, 12 Feb in Building 50 (E-3A Club). Open from 1400-2330 hrs. Snacks available from 1400 to 2200 hrs. No entrance fee. For your entertainment: DJ Patrick will play Carnival and dance music. At 1511 hrs: visit by the international Karnevalsverein Teveren. A shuttle bus from the club to Geilenkirchen (train station), Teveren, Gillrath and Niederheid areas will be available starting at 1700 hrs.

### 25 Feb: Table Tennis Tournament

1100-1300 hrs, New Gym. Deadline Registration: 20 Feb. Register for an event by contacting the Sports Department: Email ofc-bpws@e3a.nato.int or call tel. ext. 4946

### 26 Feb: Volleyball Tournament

1300-1500 hrs, New Gym. Deadline Registration: 23 Feb. Register for an event by contacting the Sports Department: Email ofc-bpws@e3a.nato.int or call tel. ext. 4946

### 27 Feb: Bavarian Breakfast at the Rotodome

### **Volkshochschul German Language Courses for Adults**

Classes are held in Bldg 141. The basic price for intensive courses (twice a week) is  $\in$  108 for 30 mornings/evenings. The basic price for standard courses (once a week) is  $\in$  54 for 15 evenings. Fees apply to courses with 10 or more participants.

If between 6 and 9 students wish to participate in a course, it may be held for a higher fee per person. Register in class. Further information at x 4955 or 0049 2451 63 4955.

The following courses are offered:

A1.1 - Beginners, Schritte plus 1 Tue & Thu, 1030 - 1200, instructor: Meral Alkan-Oncu, Room 109, starting 3 February 2015. Mon, 1900 - 2030, instructor: Manuela Gerstenecker, Room 118, starting 26 January 2015. A1.2 - Advanced Beginners, Schritte plus 2

Mon & Wed, 1030 - 1200, instructor: Meral Alkan-Oncu, Room 109, starting 2 February 2015.

Mon & Wed, 1730 - 1900, instructor: Manuela Gerstenecker, Room 118, beginning with Schritte plus 1, Lesson 6, starting 26 January 2015.

A2.1 – Pre-Intermediate, Schritte plus 3

Tue & Thu, 0900 - 1030, instructor: Meral Alkan-Oncu, Room 109, starting 3 February 2015.

A2.2 – Intermediate, Schritte plus 4, Lesson 12 Mon & Wed, 0900 – 1030, instructor: Meral Alkan-Oncu, Room 109, starting 2 February 2015.

**IYA Music Lessons** - piano, trumpet and vocals under the experienced and certified instruction of Mrs. Hilde Ubben (Conservatorium Maastricht): lessons are one-on-one, in English or German. Cost is € 20 for 45 minutes. One trial lesson available.

Further information at x 4955 or call Hilde Ubben at 0031 683773384, hildedirigent@hotmail.nl.

### **Wanted: Teachers for IYA Dance Classes**

The IYA is looking for instructors for Ballet, Tap Dance and/or Jazz Dance classes. If you are interested, or if you would like to offer an additional course, please call x 4955 or 0049 2451 63 4955.



# Photography Workshop with Dennis Owens 14th & 15th March 2015

Have a nice camera and want to know how to use it to it's fullest? Let's take your photography to the next level and beyond with this information filled two-day photography workshop lead by Event and Studio Photographer Mr. Dennis Owens.

Subjects covered during this workshop will be ....

- Know your Camera
  Really Understanding the Basics of Photography
  Proper Exposure
  Creative Exposure

- Rules of Composition
- Creatively Breaking the Rules of Composition
- Creative White Balance
- The Histogram, why is it important
- Use of Flash
- Use of Multiple Flashes Low Light Photography Techniques

- Creating Time Lapse
  Creating Hyper Lapse
  File Management of your Photos
  Editing your Photos in Lightroom
- and much more...

For information about this workshop and to reserve a seat please contact Mr. Dennis Owens at info@dennisowens.com or 0175 360-4353 to sign up. Price for this two-day (16 Hour) workshop will be EUR125.00. Schedule will be 09:00-17:00 Saturday and Sunday the 14th and 15th of March 2015 at Kirchstr. 14 52511 Teveren, the Canadian Legion.

What to bring... Please bring your own lunch, camera, owner's manual for your camera, something to take notes with and an appetite to take your photography to the next level!





Our finance offer for you

Audi A1, 3-door, Attraction 1.2 TFSI 63 kW (86HP), 5-gear, basic price ex works (incl. VAT), Color painting: 'brilliant black', interior: black/ titan-grey. Additional special features: comfort drive package, depot package, air-conditioning (manual), middle armrest (front), heated seats (front), radio Chorus, side airbags (front), head airbag, electronic mirrors, ESP, electronic window lift, start/stop system, central locking with radio control, and much more.

### Financing example:

- Dealers' price is
- overcrossing / registration document down payment 18,71%
- net amount of loan
- interest rate
- amount of loan
- Contract period: 36 months Nominal interest rate

Annual percentage rate

35 monthly rates Ending rate with 10,000 km/year 15.379,00 € 597,99 € 2.990,00 €

12.986,99 €

814,07 € Audi 14.255,60 € p. a. 2,41 % automobile

149,00 € 9.040,60 €

 $\mathbb{Q}$ 

### Visit. Watch. And discover.

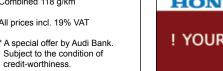
The Audi specialist in your region.

Fuel consumption: Out of town 4.4 I/100 km Combined 5.1 I/100 km

CO. emissions Combined 118 g/km

All prices incl. 19% VAT

Subject to the condition of





3,90 % Landstr. 48-50, 52511 Geilenkirchen 49,00 € Telefon: 02451-987011





### Conen GmbH



### ! YOUR AUTHORIZED HONDA & ACURA PARTNER!

Service & parts for american & european spec. HONDA & ACURA Glass exchange & chip sealing Bodyshop & paint shop car detailing TAX FREE

> Conen GmbH - Erkelenzer Str. 76 - 52525 Heinsberg-Dremmen Call Erik Thönnissen at +492452951018 e-mail erik@honda.ps



# 485,156 AMERICAN MOTORISTS CAN'T BE WRONG!

You may be surprised to learn that the most popular luxury SUV sold in the USA is made by Lexus – it's a fact! During the period 2010-2014, a total of 485,156 Lexus RX models were sold in the USA, beating its German-built competitors every year for five consecutive years and in doing so confirming it as the most popular and sought-after luxury SUV in America! The RX is just one of the full range of Lexus models offered exclusively to DOD/Military personnel through the new Lexus Military Sales Program at Pentagon Car Sales. Check out the RX SUV at one of our showrooms today, or for details visit us atwww.pentagoncarsales.com.

# NOW IT'S AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY - AT PENTAGON CAR SALES!





### **WWW.PENTAGONCARSALES.COM** SALES@PENTAGONCARSALES.COM

The new Lexus Military Sales Program serves all US Military/DOD members based on active-duty outside the USA. If you are unable to visit one of our showrooms, please request info via our website.