



Since its foundation in 1980, the NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control (NAEW&C) Force has served as an outstanding example of the spirit of Alliance Cooperation. It constitutes a highly visible symbol of NATO solidarity and exemplifies a cooperative approach to problem solution.

NAEW & C Force The Spirit of Alliance Cooperation

The acquisition of the E-3A AWACS aircraft, and the modification of associated airfields and ground system, still represent the largest endeavors in the history of NATO multi-nationally funded programs. The E-3A Component in Geilenkirchen/Germany, being one of two Components of the NAEW&C Force, is still the Alliance's only fully integrated multinational flying unit.

Today's evolving security environment is complex and global, and the multidimensional concept of security includes roles such as conflict prevention, crisis and consequence management, peacekeeping, support of peacemaking, disaster response and humanitarian assistance.

Consequently, potential operations for the NAEW&C Force go far beyond its original role of strategic

air surveillance and fighter control throughout Europe. It now covers complex missions for the full spectrum of Air Battle Management, including air-to-air and air-to-ground control, air surveillance and airspace management, air policing, combat search and rescue, force marshalling and threat broadcast.

The E-3A Component in Geilenkirchen, is continuously posturing itself, through additional roles and missions, doctrine, training and key equipment, to adapt to NATO's transformation. Its more than 3100 dedicated and skilled military and civilian personnel represent some of the finest people drawn from the participating nations. They are part of a "NATO success story", and all who have served over the years with the NAEW&C Force can take pride in their contribution to peace and security.



I congratulate all members of the E-3A Component, past and present, on their great achievements and wish you continuing success for the future!

Axel R. Tüttelmann
Major General Axel Tüttelmann



Welcome to the 25th anniversary celebration of NATO's only multinational operational flying unit, which remains a rarity among military units worldwide. The programme for this weekend features entertainment, static display aircraft representing 17 different nations, cuisine from our 15 member nations, classic cars, fireworks and the silver jubilee-painted AWACS aircraft.

Over the past 25 years, the Component has made a significant impact in promoting peace, stability, and global security. In the late eighties and early nineties, our

Dear visitors to the NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen and the E-3A Component Team

E-3A aircraft provided critical air surveillance and control capabilities for NATO that directly led to the end of the Cold War. From July 1992 to December 2004, the Component performed missions in the Balkans to uphold the United Nations' resolutions in the former Yugoslavia.

While deployed to Tinker Air Base, Oklahoma, as part of Operation Eagle Assist, the Component provided surveillance capabilities to the United States following the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks. Almost two years later, E-3A personnel and aircraft conducted surveillance operations during Operation Crescent Guard, initiated by a request from Turkey for NATO assistance due to the threat posed by the Iraqi War.

We have also supported security efforts for many selected major events including the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Greece, the 2005 G8 Economic Summit in the United Kingdom, the 2006 World Cup football competition in our host nation and the 2007 European Defense Ministerial meeting. In 2005, our Trainer Cargo Aircraft

(TCA) transported over 117 tons of relief supplies to the victims of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and 68 plus tons of cargo for the devastating earthquake in Pakistan.

Our influence is not only experienced globally, but also locally. For the second year in a row, the Component conducted an Economic Impact Study, compiling data for 2006. The study revealed the NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen's financial impact on all neighbouring communities. Our contribution was 262.4 million euro within a 200-kilometre radius. The Component's overall impact throughout Europe and North America was 417.8 million euro. The 2006 figures revealed an increase of 17.5 million euro and 20.7 million euro respectively from 2005.

The 3,150 plus military, civilian and contract members serving at the installation generated a total annual payroll of 140,653,107 euro, which is up 5 million euro from 2005. To improve base facilities and to support the people working in them, the Component invested a total of



71,553,157 euro for construction projects, services contracts, materials, equipment and supplies, a significant 9.7 million euro boost from 2005.

Our efforts to reduce engine noise in the surrounding area has also been a priority. We have significantly decreased air movements at Geilenkirchen by 539 from the previous year. Of this total, approximately 351 less takeoffs and landings over the Netherlands occurred.

The Component's proud past is full of many international milestones, but we will continue to fly for peace, freedom, democracy, and the hope for a better tomorrow for all.

Steve Schmidt
Brigadier General Stephen D. Schmidt

Welcome to the Wings



Headquarters Divisions

The E-3A Component Headquarters Divisions primarily support the E-3A Component Commander (CGC), but also provide assistance to the wing commanders and their units. The Headquarters Divisions represent those functional areas, which report directly to the Commander and to the Deputy Commander (CGD)/Chief of Staff. The Deputy Commander/Chief of Staff is a Dutch position commanded by a Royal Netherlands Air Force colonel, who also serves as the Senior National Representative for the Netherlands at the Component. The following divisions comprise the E-3A Component Headquarters:

Budget and Finance Division conducts the entire Component's financial activities including

The NATO E-3A Component consists of five main functional areas: the Base Support Wing, Information Technology Wing, Logistics Wing, Operations Wing and Training Wing. There are also seven Headquarters divisions, which report to, and provide support to, the Component commander, which alternates between a German and U.S. Air Force Brigadier General.

Over 3,100 multinational military and civilian members serve in the Component. This figure also includes military and civilian personnel employed in support functions including base civil engineering, national support units and morale and welfare activities.

advising the Component Commander on budgets for current and future years and compiling the Component's annual Economic Impact Study.

The Component Standardisation and Evaluation Division assesses all aircrew positions to ensure that the organisation is operating at its best effectiveness. This office also reviews aircrew documents and manuals annually for relevance.

The Legal Advisor's Office provides advice to the E-3A Component Commander on all legal matters including those of the Host Nation of Germany, as well as those Host Nations where the Components had forward operating bases and a forward operating location (Greece, Italy, Turkey and Norway).

The Personnel Division serves as the link between member nations and the Component regarding the overall international management of authorised military and civilian personnel at the Geilenkirchen air base, the forward operating bases and forward operating location.

The Plans and Programmes Division administers a wide range of projects. During crisis situations, it is responsible to the Component Commander for the management of the battle staff. The office also performs site surveys before operations and exercises. In addition, it is involved in aircraft modernization including NATO Mid-Term.

The Public Information Office is the vital connection between the NATO E-3A Component and the neighboring communities. The PIO publishes the NATO Skywatch, and conducts tours for various military and civilian organizations. In addition, PIO coordinates with regional, and international media to publicize/promote Component programmes and personnel.

The Safety Division ensures safe flight and ground operations through multiple safety programmes and is also concerned with environmental protection at the Component.



Operations Wing

The Operations Wing (OW) is responsible for the Component's flying mission. The OW accomplishes this mission by employing 17 E-3A AWACS aircraft and three Trainer Cargo Aircraft. The OW team of dedicated professionals are trained to perform a variety of missions, ranging from peacetime missions to wartime operations as part of the NATO Response Force.

A Canadian Forces colonel commands the Operations Wing and also acts as the Senior National Representative for the Canadian contingent at the Component.

The OW consists of a headquarters staff, five divisions and three flying squadrons. The three E-3A and one TCA squadrons are led by lieutenant colonels from the United States, Canada, Germany and Spain.

Over the last 25 years, the OW has participated in many milestone operations. During the final decade of the Cold War, the E-3A played an important role in the defense of NATO, and it was clear that the international crew concept

was essential to the Alliance. After the Cold war ended, the OW continued to make history with their participation in the Yugoslavia crisis. As the new century began, NATO AWACS was there again for Operation Eagle Assist following the terrorist attacks in the U.S. on 11 September 2001. The OW has also performed critical surveillance and control functions for numerous high-visibility events including the 2004 Summer Olympic Games, the 2006 World Cup and countless NATO Summits and visits from world leaders.

By the beginning of 2007, NATO AWACS had flown nearly 300,000 hours, a testament to the success of the Component during the first 25 years. The OW will undoubtedly continue to carry NATO's torch in the future. Quaeimus! Vigilance! Coniuncti in Opere!

Training Wing

The Training Wing (TW) serves as the central point of training for all Component aircrew personnel. Activated in March 1981 as the Training Centre, the unit changed its name to the Training Wing in 1994. The unit is comprised of an Administrative Support Group, two divisions and one squadron. The TW is commanded by an Italian Air Force colonel who also serves as the Senior National Representative for Italy to the Component.

Regardless of their professional background, every new NATO E-3A crewmember is initially trained by the TW's Aircraft Training Squadron to complete Basic Qualification Training (BQT) in his or her crew position.

The Training Development Division administers the development, review and update of all training courses related to the NATO



E-3A flight and mission crew BQT, Staff Aircrew Training, Upgrade Training and Instructor Training.

The Simulator Operations Division maintains, operates and schedules the Flight Simulator, Mission Simulators, Radar Simulator and Cockpit Procedures Trainer. These simulators assist both the Training Wing and Operations Wing in Basic, Combat Ready and Continuation Training. Simulation is a significant tool for the accomplishment of the TW mission and serves as a foundation for readying Component aircrews to carry out procedures and apply corrective actions to any emergency scenario.

Some TW milestones include the first mission training flight (the first E-3A flight flown from the NATO Air Base, Geilenkirchen) in March 1982; official opening of the Software Support and Training Facility, and various test equipment in December 1987; new Cockpit Procedures Trainer delivered in July 1991; Mission Simulators 1 and 2 upgraded in December 1993; in February 2006 upgrade of the flight simulator and handover of the NATO Mid-Term mission simulator in October 2006.



Base Support Wing

The Base Support Wing (BSW) provides a wide range of services to all organisational elements. The unit is commanded by a German Air Force colonel who also holds the position as Senior National Representative for Germany at the Component.

The Administration Division manages records, documents, publications, forms and mail services, as well as the Component's reproduction facilities, a professional photo, video and graphics studio.

The Infrastructure Office initiates, monitors and controls construction work at the Component, the forward operating bases and location. The Infrastructure Office also acts as the Component's focal point for cooperation with the German Garrison Administration and with host nation construction agencies.

The Language Services Office provides centralized linguistic support, particularly translation from and into the official NATO languages (French and English), as well as from and into the Host Nation language (German).

The Medical Squadron provides crash crew medical response capability. They are also responsible for the routine medical and dental care of personnel.

The Airfield Services Squadron supports air operations by providing critical air traffic control, meteorology, fire/crash/rescue, ground radar and radio maintenance services.

The Security Squadron provides 24/7 security for the Component. This includes base entry and perimeter control, flightline and restricted area security. It also trains deployable Component members in the procedures and survival skills required to operate in a harsh environment.

The Services Squadron provides high-quality leisure facilities on the installation. An extensive Morale and Welfare Activities Branch includes sports activities, an international library, youth programs, activities for deployed personnel at the forward operating bases and forward operating location. In addition, the Services Squadron provides food service for all base personnel. This includes the International Dining Hall (troop mess), a Flight Kitchen for aircrews and the Component Officer's Club and Non-Commissioned Officer's Club.

The Motorpool Squadron administers the Component's extensive vehicle fleet and provides ground transport for personnel and equipment. A Special Vehicles Section supports flightline and other operations by performing refueling activities and snow removal. The Motorpool Squadron is also responsible for vehicle maintenance of all Component vehicles.



Logistics Wing

The Logistics Wing's (LW) mission is to provide unparalleled supply, procurement and maintenance support to the Component to ensure the rapid mobilisation of NATO AWACS. The bottom line is the Logistic Wing keeps the E-3As flying.

LW is comprised of the following divisions: Plans and Management, Maintenance Control, Quality Assurance and Procurement and Contracting Division. The unit also has five squadrons. The LW is commanded by a U.S. Air Force colonel, who also serves as the Senior National Representative for the United States at the Component.

The Aircraft Maintenance Squadron is the heart of the maintenance complex. Squadron personnel work two to three shifts in all types of

weather. The unit is responsible for the pre-flight, basic post flight and phase inspections of the E-3As, as well as launch and recovery activities.

The Electronics Maintenance Squadron provides two shift operations to maintain the flight avionics, mission systems, complex radar and communications systems on the E-3A aircraft.

The Supply Squadron provides the equipment, repair parts, consumable items, aircraft fuel and cargo movement capability to satisfy the Component's operational tasks and base support requirements.

Since its inception, the job of the Logistics Wing has remained unchanged. In the late eighties, the LW broadened its scope of overall responsibilities with the arrival of the first Trainer Cargo Aircraft (TCA). This was the first of three TCAs, which would be maintained and managed under a services support contract between the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) and a prime contractor.

Modernisation keeps the aircraft up-to-date. From 1990 until 2000, the Mid-Term modernisation programme provided upgrades and improvements to the Radar, Electronic Support Measures, Joint Tactical Information and Distribution System, replacement of colour displays and computer memory.

In addition to providing more than 49.9 million liters of fuel, the unit's **Procurement and Contracting Division** processed 4,981 orders, totalling more than three million euro for parts and services last year. These include items ranging from paper clips to fire trucks.



Information Technology Wing

The Information Technology Wing's (IW) mission is to design, develop, implement and maintain all data systems for the Component including the forward operating bases and forward operating location, both on and off the aircraft and to provide software-related mission support for NATO operations. The IW is commanded by a Spanish Air Force colonel who also holds the position of Senior National Representative for Spain at the Component.

IW software and data support for systems

onboard the E-3As include the radar software which provides the "eyes" of the system, the electronic support measures which provides the "ears" of the system and the main mission system software which is the "brain" of the system.

Formerly known as the Software Support Center, the unit later changed to become the Mission Support Wing and is today known as the Information Technology Wing. The IW consists of four staff offices and five divisions.

The Operational Programming Division is responsible for maintenance and user assistance of operational software, including E-3A airborne operational central mission system software, ground support software and databases.

The Operational Sensor Software Division manages the development and maintenance of the surveillance radar software and electronic support measures software on the E-3A aircraft, as well as test and diagnostic equipment.

The User Domain CIS Division provides mission planning, data analysis, LAN and Internet support.

The Management and Facility Support Division performs software development and maintenance, offering general information services to Component users.

The Network Domain and IT Security Division administers the operation and maintenance of E-3A ground communication and all information security concerns.

The E-3A AWACS

The AWACS - or Airborne Warning and Control Systems - are modified Boeing 707s (called E-3A), equipped with special radar capable of detecting air traffic over large distances and at low altitudes. The data can be transmitted directly from the aircraft to command and control centers on the ground, sea or in the air. The AWACS fleet is one of the few military assets that are actually owned and operated by NATO. It is the Alliance's largest common-funded project and an example of what NATO member countries can achieve by working together and pooling resources.

25 years of AWACS

Photos courtesy of Photo Section

1982

- **Arrival of NATO 1 – first ever E-3A lands on the Component with a multinational crew of 13**
- E-3A Flight Simulator is activated – Training Wing starts pilot training
- NATO 1 flies its first sortie – 27 “touch and goes” are flown during this single mission
- The first NATO E-3A mission takes off with 36 crewmembers on board
- The E-3A Component is officially activated on 28 June - NATO’s first and only multinational flying unit
- Arrival of three more E-3As - NATO 2, NATO 3 and NATO 4



- Arrival of 5 more E-3As – NATO 5, NATO 6, NATO 7, NATO 8 and NATO 9
- The first Forward Operating Base (FOB) is operational – E-3A’s first landing at Konya, Turkey
- NATO E-3A assists in Danish Search and Rescue mission
- Forward Operating Location at Oerland in Norway is officially activated
- **The E-3A Component “Morale and Welfare” celebrates its first Sports Day.** (Photo from 1987)

1983

1984

- Arrival of 5 more E-3As – NATO 10, NATO 11, NATO 12, NATO 13 and NATO 15
- The first 1,000 safe E-3A sorties are flown
- The NATO E-3A is for the first time on television – filmed by a German news station



1985

- Arrival of the last four E-3As and the NATO E-3A fleet is complete - NATO 14, NATO 16, NATO 17 and NATO 18. All 18 were delivered from Dornier in Oberfaffenhofen and ahead of schedule.
- The overall goal this year is READINESS – “Frisbee Scramble” is the first live exercise
- The E-3A Component reaches “Initial Operational Capability”
- SKYWATCH – the first edition of the E-3A Components newspaper is published and distributed
- **Lord Peter Carrington, Secretary General of NATO visits the E-3A Component**
- Geilenkirchen NATO exchange shopping center opens on the base.
- 1985 is the first busy year – 13,500 safe flying hours, 250 deployments and 30 exercises



- The first NATO E-3A lands at Aktion Air Base in Greece – the second FOB is activated
- Two E-3As participate in exercise MAPLE FLAG in Canada; both are air refuelled by a USAF KC-10 Extender, which marks the 1st time an E-3A is refueled by a KC-10 tanker
- The first NATO E-3A lands at Trapani Air Base in Italy – the third and final FOB is activated
- E-3A plays key role in saving the lives of three fishermen – during a home flight from Oerland, Norway the E-3A receives a S.O.S, locates the position, controls the Search and Rescue (SAR) and thereby saving the three fishermen on board the trawler

1986

1987

- The E-3A Component successfully complete the first ever NATO Tactical Evaluation (TACEVAL)
- The E-3A sets major milestone; completing 50,000 hours of safe flight
- The Component strives to be a good neighbor – 14 meters tall noise barrier is built north of the runway
- The second mission simulator becomes operational
- An E-3A on a routine mission assists in the rescue and medical evacuation of a crashed U.S Army helicopter in Southern Europe



1988

- During an E-3A deployment to Iceland, the E-3A successfully safeguarded the Icelandic airspace against penetrating aircraft
- **The first Trainer Cargo Aircraft (TCA) arrives on the E-3A Component – purchased from Belgium's SABENA airlines**
- President of France; Francois Mitterand, the Chancellor of Germany; Helmut Kohl and King Juan Carlos of Spain all land at the E-3A Component.
- The main goal for the E-3A Component is achieved, when Full Operational Capability is declared



- The second and third TCA arrive at the E-3A Component
- NATO celebrates its 40th Anniversary
- **The first International Children's Festival is celebrated, hosted by the Turkish National Support Unit.** (Photo from 2007).
- An E-3A picks up a MAYDAY and successfully assists a safe rescue of ten crewmembers from a U.S Helicopter, which was forced to ditch in the Mediterranean Sea

1989

1990

- NATO mission changes due to the fall of the Iron Curtain.
- First E-3D begins flight-testing in Waddington, UK
- Squadron II visits the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga
- Orcas Swim team goes to European Championships
- First French AWACS (E-3F) dedicated in Seattle
- Book collection shipped to Saudi Arabia in support of Desert Shield



1991

- Aid for Russia is initiated
- The first NATO satellite is launched
- The Pershing unit at MOB Geilenkirchen is deactivated
- **The Fire Brigade celebrates its 10th anniversary**
- Component Civil Guard team takes first place in the International Guard Dog /Police Dog Competition
- First E-3D (Waddington, UK) deployment to Geilenkirchen
- First Electronic Support Measures (ESM) equipped aircraft takes off from Seattle



- **The E-3D Component, Royal Air Force Waddington in England is declared Initial Operational Capable**
- The first E-3A mission supporting the United Nations' (UN) sanctions in the former Yugoslavia is flown
- NATO E-3A flies over Hungary monitoring the UN's imposed NO-fly zone over Bosnia Herzegovina
- Component TCA deploys to Russia supporting humanitarian airlift

1992

1993

- Component team wins first place of 37 teams in Military Competition "Schwalmtal Patrouille"
- E-3A plays key role in operation "Deny Flight"– UN imposed sanctions to bring an end to the strife in former Yugoslavia. E-3A on station 24 hours, 7 days a week!
- The U.S Air National Guard KC-135 crew flew its first sortie air refuelling the E-3A.
- Pope John Paul II lands at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Trapani in Italy.
- Senior military delegations from Ukraine and Belarus visit the Component with the overall purpose of strengthening the contact between NATO and emerging democratic states in Eastern Europe
- **"24 Hours for Peace" – the new AWACS film is being produced.**



AWA NATO's eye



Airspace Management



Air Policing



ACS: s in the sky



Combat Search & Rescue



Threat Warning



1994

- The 2,000th E-3A sortie is flown in support of operation "Deny Flight" over Bosnia Herzegovina
- Four Serbian attack aircraft violate the UN "no fly zone" over Bosnia Herzegovina – E-3A professionally takes appropriate counter measure
- Again the Component team takes first place in "Schwalmtal Patrouille" Military Competition
- The E-3A film "24 Hours for Peace" is a resounding success – premiere with applause at the gala event
- E-3A Component strives to be a good neighbour with a new environmental programme that includes: nature preservation, water protection, air pollution and noise abatement
- For the first time in Component history officers from Eastern Europe: Bulgaria, Georgia, Lithuania, Romania and the Slovakia Republic visit the NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen



- NATO 3 is the first E-3A to complete 10,000 safe flying hours
- E-3A Component supports Rwanda humanitarian relief flight two times this year
- The first E-3A gets new mission equipment; including color display, data link and anti-jam radios
- **One of the E-3A Components three TCAs logs 50,000 safe flying hours**
- 11 April marks the 1,000th day of Component involvement in the civil war-torn Balkans
- The base newspaper SKYWATCH celebrates its 10th anniversary

1995

1996

- The very first NATO aircraft (the Component TCA) lands in Sarajevo, transporting humanitarian aid to those in needs, including five tons of baby food and 600 cuddly toys
- E-3A's first and only mishap during takeoff in Greece – none of the crewmembers were hurt
- **E-3A Component flies its 50,000th hour in support of international peacekeeping efforts in the former Yugoslavia**
- The TCA flies to Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic on a Partnership for Peace mission



1997

- **This year marks five years of continuously NATO E-3A operations in the former Yugoslavia**
- First E-3A deployments are made to Hungary and Poland – Partnership for Peace
- NATO Airbase Geilenkirchen (NAB) is used as “point of embarkation” for troops and cargo to the former Yugoslavia
- The E-3A Component members representing 12 nations raised DM 12,000 for the Red Cross to benefit those left impoverished by the catastrophic flooding in eastern Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic



- Spain joins the E-3A Component
- The E-3A Component goes online-www.e3a.nato.int
- **NATO E-3A pays a friendly visit to Bulgaria, Macedonia and Lithuania – Partnership for Peace**

1998

1999

- British Prime Minister Tony Blair lands at the E-3A Component
- **50th Anniversary of NATO is celebrated – pictures of the special painted E-3A are all over the world**
- E-3A Component successfully completes NATO air operations in the former Yugoslavia. E-3A operations have been sustained for more than seven years
- Component TCA flies humanitarian aid to the Turkish earthquake regions – bringing generators, medical equipment and blankets to the victims
- Tragedy struck 13 January when a US Air National Guard KC-135 from the 141st Air Refuelling Wing here on TDY from Washington State crashes



2000

- OPEVAL results are received – many areas of excellence
- Grand Opening of the Natex grocery store
- 4 Component members finish the Grizzly Run in the United Kingdom; Leon Brands, Ger de Hoog, Jos Huits and Barend Van Luit
- Program Integrated Logistics System (PILS) contract is signed
- **US President Clinton lands at Geilenkirchen**
- 84th Nijmegen Four day walk – many E-3A Component members participate in world's largest walking event
- Component gets its own intranet



- **After 9/11 Article 5 of the NATO Treaty is invoked for the first time in history, NATO AWACS arrived in the United States in support of Operation Eagle Assist**
- Security Squadron hosts first Security Squadron Police Liaison Day
- Supreme Commander of the Swedish Armed Forces, General Johan Ivar Hederstadt, visits NATO Air Base, Geilenkirchen
- Since 1984, 2,000,000,000 litres of drinking water have been produced on base
- Safety Division (SOC) launches first Intranet home page on the Bass Lan System

2001

2002

- **5th Annual International Canine Biathlon**
- U.S Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld visits the NATO Air Base to say thank you to the Component for the support in Operation Eagle Assist
- Norwegian Minister of Defense, Kristin Krohn Devold, visits the NATO Air Base to show support for our service after 9/11
- E-8C Joint Stars visits NATO Air Base
- German Air Force Chief of Staff visits NATO Air Base German Element
- USAF C-5B Galaxy landed at the NATO Air Base to unload NATO cargo after the completion of Operation Eagle Assist
- The German contingent and base members raised €7,777.77 to help the victims of the "flood of the century" in Germany



2003

- A new CAE flight simulator has its inaugural 'flight'
- Article 4 of the NATO Treaty is invoked by Turkey; NATO AWACS provides airspace surveillance and early warning of Turkish airspace in support of Operation Crescent Guard; Feb – April
- 20th Anniversary of Oktoberfest; as with every year, the Deutsche Unteroffizierskameradschaft (DUK) donates the proceeds; this year-- 15,000.00 to public institutions
- NATO E-3A Component Web Information Services Environment (WISE) is established
- **N-1, the new NATO Mid-Term jet arrives home at the NATO Air Base welcoming in a new era**
- The Information Technology Wing is officially stood up



- E-3A Component flies to Latvia and Lithuania in support of Partnership for Peace
- Seven new nations become NATO members; Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia
- Airborne Collision Avoidance System II (ACAS) and Reduced Vertical Separation Minimum (RVSM) upgrade are accomplished on the NATO AWACS
- Construction on a new multi-purpose room breaks ground at the elementary school on base
- Crews deployed to FOB Aktion, Greece in support of the 2004 Summer Olympic Games
- **Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General James Jones visits FOB Aktion to support the efforts of those providing air surveillance for the Olympic Games**
- NATO AWACS participated in RAF large field exercise in St. Mawgan, England for the first time

2004

2005

- **TCA deploys to Pakistan to assist in the relief effort with over 70 tons of cargo for the victims of the earthquake**
- Construction began on the new Security Forces facility
- Canadian Ambassador to NATO, Jean Pierre Jureau, honours the Component with a visit
- Due to NATO Response Force requirements, Close Air Support training is now under way
- 2nd Turkish Day celebration on base is a great success
- TCA carries blankets and tents to the US to support the victims of Hurricane Katrina
- Dutch Secretary of Defense, Cees Van der Knapp visits the E-3A Component
- Individual Deployment Training (IDT) begins on base



2006

- **The Component celebrates the Hungarian accession and welcomes the first Hungarian Air Force personnel to the base**
- FOB Trapani celebrates its 20th Anniversary
- After years of discussion and debate, 6 hectares of trees were cut from the Schinveld Forest, allowing for a safer flight path over the Netherlands
- Secretary General of NATO, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, visits the NATO Air Base
- E-3A Component goes to Cape Verde for a NATO Response Force (NRF) Exercise
- NATO E-3A Component is fully NRF capable.
- Poland announces its intention to join NATO AWACS in 2007



- Component's first deployment to Hungary; a great success
- NATO Skywatch is published in colour
- Celebration of 25 Years of NATO successful command and control 16-17 June
- **25th Anniversary aircraft unveiled**
- 25th Anniversary flight with the original crew honoured as well as the anniversary of the first simulator 'flight'

2007

Interesting facts 1982-2007

- The base was originally built by the British Royal Force after World War II
- The first ever aircraft landed on base the 25 Nov 1981. The runway existed but was not operational. A BEAF Mirage III in distress saw the runway and landed safely, with only 2 minutes of fuel. The pilot did not know which country he landed in, but was happy that the new runway at the E-3A Component saved his life
- In 1980 a total of 111 civilian and military employers were working on the base and today, 25 years later, a total number of 3,188 civilian and military employers are stationed here
- In 1982 a total of 566 flying hours were performed. The hours peaked in 1995 with 19,572 flying hours due to the peacekeeping mission in the former Yugoslavia. To date 325,000 flying hours are logged at the Component
- Since 1982 more than 25,000 ID-cards for military and civilian personnel have been made
- The Rotodome (the E-3A radar) has a diameter of 30 feet and is 6 feet high and it rotates once every 10 seconds
- Three E-3As in overlapping orbits can provide complete coverage of Central Europe
- An E-3A cost 70 million US dollars in 1977, today it costs 309 million US dollars
- The overall Economic Impact created by the Component in 2006 was 416.6 million Euros
- In May 2007, alone, there were more than 500,000 hits on www.e3a.nato.int
- There were more than 100,000 visitors at the E-3A Component in the last 25 years.

25 years of the MOB

*June 2007 sees a big celebration at the MOB - 25 years multi-nations working together - a special anniversary.
A concept born in '78 so daring and futuristic - in cold war years when 'the threat' was realistic.*

*The initial start of the whole concept being - 24 February 1982 the first aircraft we would be seeing
On this day all people living in the area looked into the sky - And watched an aircraft attached to a huge Frisbee flying by.*

*Those early years of ground-breaking adventure and commitment - Where first people had to improvise with their office equipment.
New rules, new ideals, inventing and adapting old ways. - Some say this simple life was happier in those pioneering days.*

*As the Component started to grow and change - We added some FOBs, FOLs and started to widen our range.
TDYs they went to mostly those places with a few - And to more exotic locations that gradually grew.*

*Together with our friends of the UK E3-D - We report to Force Command at SHAPE in Mons B.E.
18 Aircraft at the MOB was our original count - Until July '96 when the Aktion birdstrike made 457 a jetty mount.*

*Thus our fleet was reduced and the tailcount down to 17, - Though we rejoiced cos' no serious injury to life there had been.
From then on with reduced fleet we had to accomplish - FC's requirements - fulfill the mission - no time to languish.*

*Along came our trainer/cargo fleet of three in turn - TCAs have already helped where E3As still must learn
In crises and flood lands to bring aid and supplies - NATO compassion pouring out all over the world's skies.*

*Sadness among happy history of the MOB to be cherished - The National Guard tanker crash and with it the crew perished.
Their monument in a forest site and next to our HQ, - Remember their sacrifice as we remember the "Few".*

*Our mission in the Cold War was known and understood - To protect our freedom and from tyranny, fight for good.
After the Wall came down in '89 and end of Warsaw Pact - The Western World and NATO had to change their act!*

*NATO existence relying on others aggression and hate - Paradoxically we would prefer this was not the world's fate.
We are needed to protect our lands from evil that brings fear - With actions to destroy everything we hold precious and very dear.*

*The Gulf War, Nine/Eleven, the Olympics and watching the Pope - Leading up to our role - NRF - yes, we can cope.
When we're needed we'll make the grade and fulfill our role - At the centre of NATO and our nations, we'll be the very soul.*

*Sadly, a minority of our neighbors don't seem to care - 'Bout prosperity to the region that the Base brings to share.
They fought us for the tree tops and went to their government - But in the end they lost to better sense and good judgment.*

*So here we are 25 years further on despite critic and skeptic - Bigger, better looking, greener and more athletic!
Welcome the next 25 years with open arms and great expectations - After all, its all for one and one for all our nations.*

Denise Richardson, NATO Civilian, LWCMP

25 years of E-3A Component commanders



Brigadier General Stephen D. Schmidt, USAAF
07 Sep 2005 – present



Brigadier General Axel R. Tüttelmann, DEUAF
25 Sep 2003 – 07 Sep 2005



Brigadier General Gary A. Winterberger, USAAF
29 Sep 2000 – 25 Sep 2003



Brigadier General Klaus W. Rimmek, DEUAF
05 Jan 1981 – 27 Jun 1984



Brigadier General Klaus-Peter Stieglitz, DEUAF
22 Sep 1998 – 29 Sep 2000



Brigadier General Hugh L. Cox III, USAAF
27 Jun 1984 – 16 Jun 1987



Brigadier General Maurice L. McFann, Jr., USAAF
22 Aug 1996 – 22 Sep 1998



Component Nations



Brigadier General Albert Weber, DEUAF
16 Jun 1987 – 22 Aug 1989



Brigadier General Jay D. Blume Jr., USAAF
22 Aug 1989 – 15 Sep 1992



Brigadier General Friedrich-W. Ehmman, DEUAF
15 Sep 1992 – 19 Apr 1995



Brigadier General Robert T. Newell III, USAAF
19 Apr 1995 – 22 Aug 1996

Our Forward Operations



FOL Oerland, Norway

Forward Operating Location Oerland was established in 1983. It is an integrated part of the NATO E-3A Component but all personnel are Norwegian. Currently, there are 32 officers working on the base. The Host Base is Main Air Station Oerland which is the home of the 138 Air Wing. The 138 Air Wing consists of one Fighter Squadron, one Ground Based Air Defense Unit, and one Force Protection Unit earmarked to support any international operations that the Royal Norwegian Air Force may take part in. In addition the Norwegian Defense Logistics Organization has a big unit on base also supporting the FOL. There is also a detachment of Seaking Helicopters performing Search and Rescue.

Oerland is known for it's nice surroundings with an ever-changing weather. (We have only four seasons but sometimes it seems like they can all occur on the same day). At present, Lt. Col. Per Birger Mathisen is the Commander of FOL Oerland.



FOB Trapani, Italy

Forward Operating Base Trapani, Sicily, is located inside the host military base 37th Wing Trapani. FOB Trapani is known for its sunny and warm climate, paired with the Italian way of life, it completes the picture, making it a place worth mentioning.

In September 1997, FOB Trapani personnel deployed to FOL Oerland to support the NATO Air Meet, establishing a new way of seeing things by both nations. This resulted in the birth of a new highly integrated maintenance team; joining the experiences of north and south; the exercise was a success. At present Lt. Col. Antonio Eramo is the Commander of FOB Trapani.



FOB Aktion, Greece



Forward Operating Base Aktion is located near the picturesque town of Preveza. Currently 28 military personnel and 23 civilian personnel work on the FOB supporting

NATO operations. The weather is generally fair with hot summers and mild winters. The people are very friendly and hospitable. The surrounding area has magnificent small islands and beautiful beaches. The facilities are one of the best and everyone is sure to have a great work environment and an opportunity to relax while staying at FOB Aktion. At present Col. Charilaos Lamprou is the commander of FOB Aktion.

FOB Konya, Turkey

Forward Operating Base Konya is located in the middle of the vast plains of Anatolia. Konya is a historical city dating back to 8,000 B.C. Today, there exists outstanding cooperation and understanding with the 3rd Main Jet Base of the Turkish Air Force, which houses FOB Konya in its perimeter. The base provides a leading national and international training environment with immense activity, including the Anatolian Eagle Exercise facilities, Turkish Stars Aerobatics Squadron and other flying units. Some 2200 plus successful sorties have been flown since the maiden flight on 25 October 1983. FOB Konya has proved to be a qualified, reliable FOB with high standards, in times of peace and crisis. At present Lt. Col. Oguz Caglar is the commander of FOB Konya.

