



Photo by Andrea Hohenforst

Off we go... An AWACS takes off from the E-3A Component March 15 at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen.

## AWACS helps locate missing C-130

By Staff Sgt. R. Michael Longoria

While recently deployed to Forward Operating Location Oerland (FOL), Norway, members of the E-3A Component Squadron 2 helped Swedish and Norwegian rescue workers locate a missing aircraft.

Squadron 2 was in Norway participating in Exercise Cold Response when a Norwegian C-130J "Hercules" crashed on the Swedish side of the border.

"The search for the C-130 was in an area with high mountains, with almost no radar and radio coverage," said Lt. Col. Holger Ernst. "AWACS was an extremely capable asset for everyone flying in the area. The crew performed very well."

The crew was originally scheduled to fly a training mission for the exercise but the flight was canceled due to weather and the crew was released.

However, they received a request from the Norwegian National Joint Headquarters three hours later to launch for a real world search and rescue (SAR) mission.

"I consulted the crew and asked for volunteers to fly the sortie," said Lt. Col. Jelle Bode, the aircraft's tactical director. "I ended up with 20 people and, because the aircraft was still pre-flighted, we were able to take off shortly after notification. We were on station 23 minutes after take-off, which is something that has never been done before."

The AWACS crew fulfilled the role as on scene commander and directed all SAR traffic.

"We positioned ourselves in Swedish airspace and worked with a Swedish Radar site to radio relay information between the authorities in Sweden and Norway to all the SAR air assets," Bode said.

In the end, the AWACS crew was able to get the information to the right people and the crash site was located.

Col. Geir Wiik, the chief of the Norwegian Joint Air Operation Center (JAOC), expressed he was "grateful and impressed with the support from the AWACS."



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# New commander, same continued mission success

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. R. Michael Longoria

Back in January, NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen welcomed a new leader to the team. If you didn't attend the ceremony, you may not have noticed the change in management.

Col. Paul "Greg" Bell has been the E-3A Component Logistics Wing Commander for a little over two months and the mission has continued with the same success we are accustomed to. The seamless transition can possibly be credited to Colonel Bell's previous NATO assignment.

"My previous experience, including my time at SHAPE, has helped in several ways," the colonel explained. "For one, I'm familiar with the Alliance mission and the work the Alliance does on a daily basis. I'm glad to be a contributing member to that team."

As a part of that team, his goals and objectives are simple and clear. "My goals are easily measurable," Colonel Bell said. "In the Logistics Wing, we are responsible to provide aviation assets and other equipment, so the Component can accomplish its mission. And as the commander, I will make sure the people in the Logistics



Col. Paul "Greg" Bell, E-3A Component Logistics Wing commander, talks with members of the Logistics Wing while they were out working on the flightline.

Wing are taken care of so they can accomplish our mission."

The 27-year Air Force veteran is very much a people person and is often spotted talking with the men and women in his organization who get the mission done.

"This is not about me," Colonel Bell added. "This is not 'Colonel Bell's Logistics Wing'. It is about

accomplishing our mission and ensuring the people who put in the hard work can be successful."

The 1985 U.S. Air Force Academy graduate believes the reason the Component thrives is the same that makes it different from all his other flying base assignments.

"That difference is also the advantage," he said.

"This is a much bigger and diverse team. It isn't just one military team but a collective group of Nations working together. Each country brings different experiences and perspectives, but a shared commitment."

As the highest ranking American on base, Colonel Bell also serves as the Senior National Representative for the U.S. Forces assigned here.

## Tri-border community commemorates Women's History Month



Courtesy photo

The Women's History Month committee poses for a photo March 26 during "The Moving Wall" Opening Ceremony on NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen. The committee consists of Dr. Donabelle Hess (Right), Kimberly Schlosser (Back right), Latoya Johnson (left), Megan Casciola (back left) and Landie Arnold (front middle).

By Tech. Sgt. Landie Arnold

In honor of Women's History Month, a group of women residing within the Tri-border community (Germany, Netherlands and Belgium) built a commemorative moving wall to honor, celebrate and recognize women globally.

The wall recognizes women who have been inspirational and influential in the lives of others. Individuals were asked to send in an inspirational quote and the names, ages and nationality of the woman or women they wanted recognized for publication on the commemorative wall.

The wall will be on display from March 26 until April 1 at various locations on NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen. For more information on the project, log on to <http://www.facebook.com/WomensHistoryMonth>.

### About Women's History Month

Women's History Month originated in the United States as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982 as "Women's History Week." Throughout the next five years, Congress continued to pass joint resolutions designating a week in March as "Women's History Week."

In 1987 after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month." Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1995, Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month."



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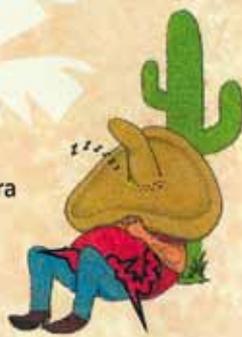
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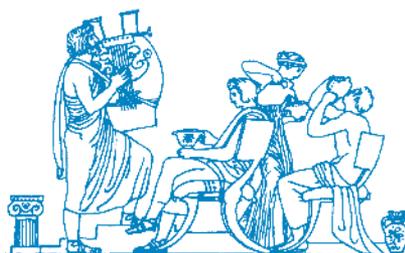
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## NE-3A flight celebrates Black History Month

From the Skywatch Archives

**Editor's Note:** *This story was featured in Skywatch Volume 9, Number 6. This story is re-printed, in its entirety, how it was published on March 24, 1993.*

In the United States the month of February is designated Black History Month. It's a time in which Black-Americans celebrate their African Heritage and the accomplishments of Black-Americans throughout the world.

The celebration period lasts throughout the month, and Black-Americans commemorate their heritage and achievements through a variety of services, programs and events.

The Geilenkirchen Air Base Black Cultural Awareness Committee sponsored a Soul Food Base at the Sentry Club providing free soul food to the NATO community.

Additionally, the annual Black Heritage Banquet was held Feb. 27 with guest speaker Michael Lamberg, president of the NAACP European Division, delivering the keynote address.

But a historic NATO AWACS flight occurred on Feb. 13 here at Geilenkirchen Air Base. Twenty-two E-3A crew members and one flight management specialist united to form an all Black-American aircrew and fly a real-world mission. This Black American aircrew volunteered to sacrifice their entire Saturday and night to be a part of this historic occasion.

Through coordination with the Operations Wing Commander Col. Csaba Hezsely, the Logistics Wing Commander Col. Donald W. Taylor and Flying Squadron Two Commander Lt. Col. Jean Lefebvre, the aircrew was tasked to fly Squadron Two mission B2M206. The mission was in support of the United Nations humanitarian relief flights into Sarajevo airport, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Crewmembers began their Saturday morning with mission and weather briefings at 8 a.m. However, dense fog in the Geilenkirchen area delayed the scheduled 10:30 a.m. takeoff.

But after three de-icing sessions and a momentary break in the



*The crew of the Black History Month E-3A flight poses for a family portrait.*

weather conditions, that were acceptable for takeoff, the determined aircrew took off on their historic mission at 12:24 p.m.

Due to the inclement weather that remained in the Geilenkirchen Air Base area, the aircrew recovered at Cologne airport at 7:30 p.m. They logged a successful 7.2 hour mission. The bus ride back finally passed a lengthy but satisfying duty day of more than 14 hours.

But the entire aircrew agreed that it was a 14-hour day agreed toward NATO mission accomplishment and Black-American history.

Members of the historic Black-American aircrew were Aircraft Commander Capt. Robert Tate; First Pilot Maj. Maurizio Guzzetti; Navigator Maj. Michael Lewis; Flight Engineer Tech. Sgt. Donald Lee; Tactical Directors Maj. Clifford Davis and Maj. David Brooks; Flight Allocator Capt. Mark Nakanishi; Weapons Controller Capt. Alan

Swygart; Surveillance Controllers Maj. Michael Gethers and Capt. Ricky Love; Surveillance Operators Master Sgt. Clarence Davis, tech. Sgt. Milton Holmes, Staff Sgt. Melvin Bright, Staff Sgt. James Carter Jr., Staff Sgt. Lee Frye, and Sergeant Marvin McKinney; Communication Operators Staff Sgt. Karen Brown and Staff Sgt. Alma Breckenridge, Communication Technician Staff Sgt. Earl Nichols; Radar Technician Tech. Sgt. John Simmons' Computer Display Technicians Tech. Sgt. Robert Williams and Staff Sgt. Gregory Williams; Maintenance Supervisor Chief Master Sgt. Larry George; and Flight Management Specialist Staff Sgt. Milton Temple.

Because there is only one Black-American pilot and fighter allocator assigned here, Major Guzzetti, an Italian pilot, and Captain Nakanishi, an American fighter allocator volunteered their expertise and time to complete the vacant aircrew positions and support this historic mission.

## Secretary General sets out his vision for NATO

Speech by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh

Seeking the right balance between Allies is the key to the continued success of NATO for 2020 and beyond.



*Courtesy photo*

*NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen gives a speech March 23 at the Brussels Forum.*

This can only be achieved by focusing on shared purpose, responsibility and leadership between European and North American Allies.

This is the vision for NATO 2020 that NATO's Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen presented at the seventh annual Brussels Forum of the German Marshall Fund on 23 March 2012.

Addressing more than 200 of the most influential North American and European political, corporate and intellectual leaders, Mr. Rasmussen reaffirmed NATO's undiminished relevance to world security: "It has played a major role in guaranteeing peace in the Euro-Atlantic area for over sixty years," he recalled "and as our mission for Libya showed, our Alliance remains an essential source of stability in an unpredictable world. NATO is the indispensable Alliance".

NATO is based upon a shared purpose that needs to be preserved

in challenging times, despite the financial crisis and declining defense budgets.

"Every cut today will have consequences for our security tomorrow. And for what we are able to do as an Alliance", Anders Fogh Rasmussen stressed.

Spending defense money in a smarter way, through prioritization, specialization and cooperation, focusing 'not just on what we cut, but on what we keep' is the backbone to the shared responsibility concept. By building on past and current operational experiences and skills, the Connected Forces Initiative will also help consolidate Allies and Partners' high interoperability level.

"In Afghanistan, American, European and partner nations have developed an outstanding ability to operate alongside each other", the Secretary General pointed out, stressing, "We need to keep those gains".

Looking back at operations in Kosovo, Afghanistan and for Libya, he expressed confidence in Europe and North America's ability to share leadership: "This shows how different Allies can lead different operations. And that is why I am confident that European nations can share the leadership role within the Atlantic community".

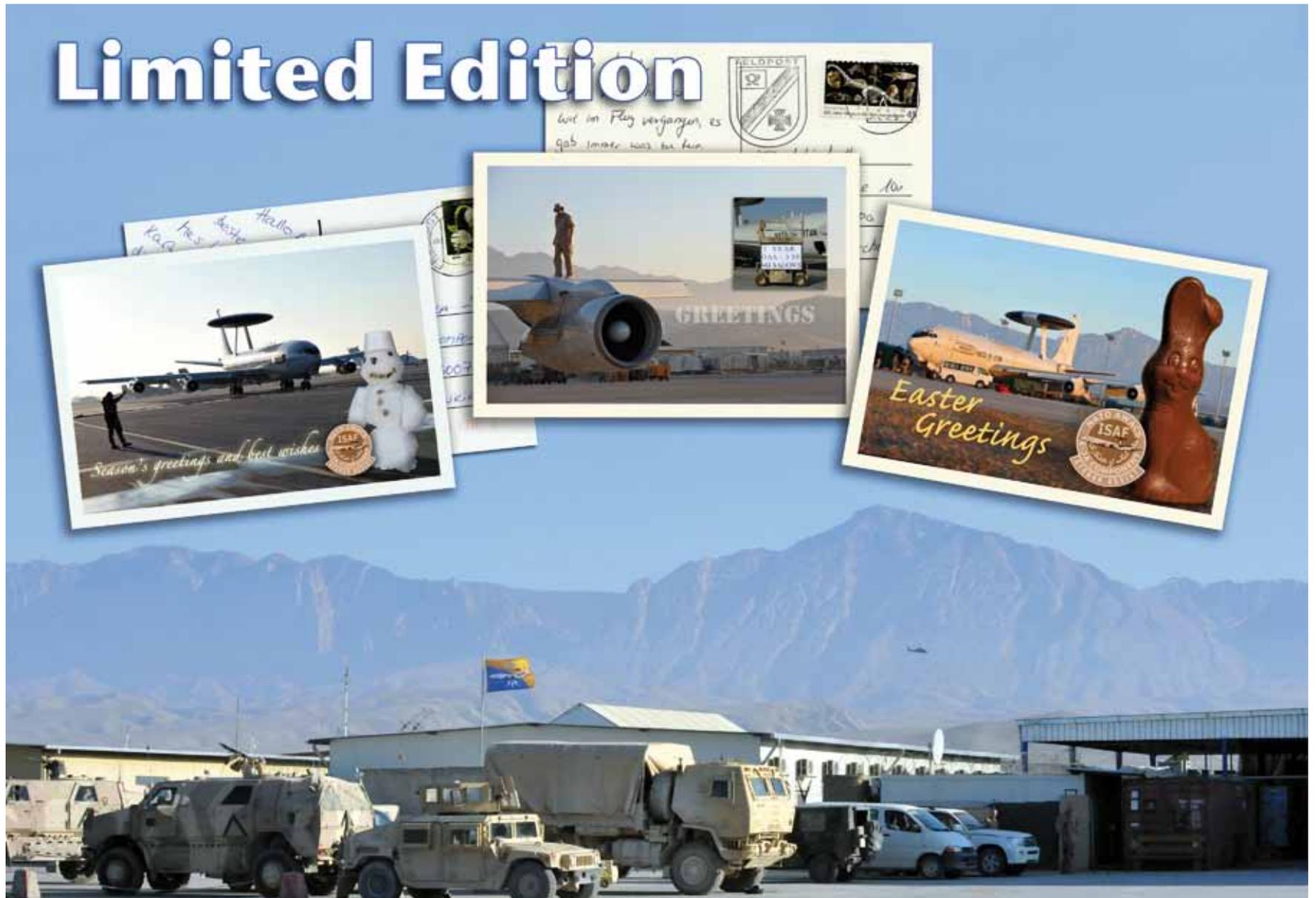
That task can only be successful if anchored strongly in the unique security partnership network that NATO has been developing over the last years.

"By working together with our partners, we enhance our own security. We enhance the security of their regions, and of the security of the world we live in".

The full speech transcript is at the link:

[http://www.nato.int/cps/en/SID-706126D1-9C2D22FB/natolive/opinions\\_85443.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/SID-706126D1-9C2D22FB/natolive/opinions_85443.htm)

# Limited Edition



From E-3A Component Public Affairs

Nowadays, as a result of e-mails and SMS texting, a handwritten letter or colorful postcard has become increasingly rare. But because online and mobile telephone communication in conflict areas is sometimes unavailable, some armed forces provide free postcards to deployed soldiers.

Our Component members deployed in Afghanistan can obtain

free postcards from the German field post office at Camp Marmal, but the motifs on those postcards do not have much to do with our Operation Afghan Assist. After returning from Afghanistan, Wiel Borghans of Visual Media Services Branch and Lt. Col. Antje Kalka of Public Affairs Office spontaneously decided to remedy this situation.

From photos taken in Mazar-e Sharif, they selected E-3A specific ones as postcard motifs. And to make

the Component's postcards truly unique, a deployment-related feature is sometimes added. "The Christmas postcard showed a little snowman that our personnel had made. And the chocolate bunny on the Easter postcard was bought at NATEX," says Kalka.

Once a month, 500 copies with a new motif are shipped to our deployed personnel. When these E-3A postcards are sent back from Afghanistan, the stamp bears the

unique German field postmark, with the result that they are already coveted collectors' items.

The first postcard was a last-minute project. Without the support of Louis Hendrix, who printed the postcards at record speed, and Angelika Koerfer, who successfully delivered the package to the aircraft just a few minutes before it departed for Afghanistan, our comrades and colleagues would never have received the Christmas postcard in time.

## Up, up and away

Story by Capt. Wilko ter Horst

Once there was a little girl who let up a balloon with a name card attached. She waved it good bye assuming nobody would ever find it. "Don't believe in fairy tales, no cards have ever been returned," her teacher once said. She never forgot those words.

Guess what? Fairy tales do exist and they always have a happy ending.

Chief Master Sgt. Olaf Wilksch from flight line safety office discovered the little girl's balloon near the flight line taxi track with

an attached card and passed it over to the Public Affairs Office (PAO) not wanting to spoil her dream. PAO contacted the Dutch address on the card and they were thrilled to hear that we found the balloon and card.

Every year at Carnival the local school of a small village in the south-west of the Netherlands releases 100 balloons with name tags. The one that traveled the furthest distance wins a little prize.

As for a fairy tale with a happy ending, this balloon travelled 175 kilometers and she won!

Chief Master Sgt. Olaf Wilksch poses for a photo with a balloon and name card at the exact spot he found it.

Photo by Staff Sgt. R. Michael Longoria



# Component fights fires with education and awareness

The E-3A Component Fire Department and Medical Squadron hosted a Fire Safety Day March 23 to help the education of individuals and raise awareness about fire hazards in private homes or apartments.

"The best thing to do before a fire starts is to make sure your family is as prepared as possible," said Hermann-Josef Kanter, fire prevention officer. "You should make sure your family knows how to prevent a fire but also is aware of what to do the moment a fire starts, including simple things like what number to call and how to get out of the house."

Fire trainers and specialists from the Medical Squadron also covered other topics including the importance of smoke detectors, what to do in case of a fire, how to fight a fire, what medical equipment to keep on hand and how to use it and how to do cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

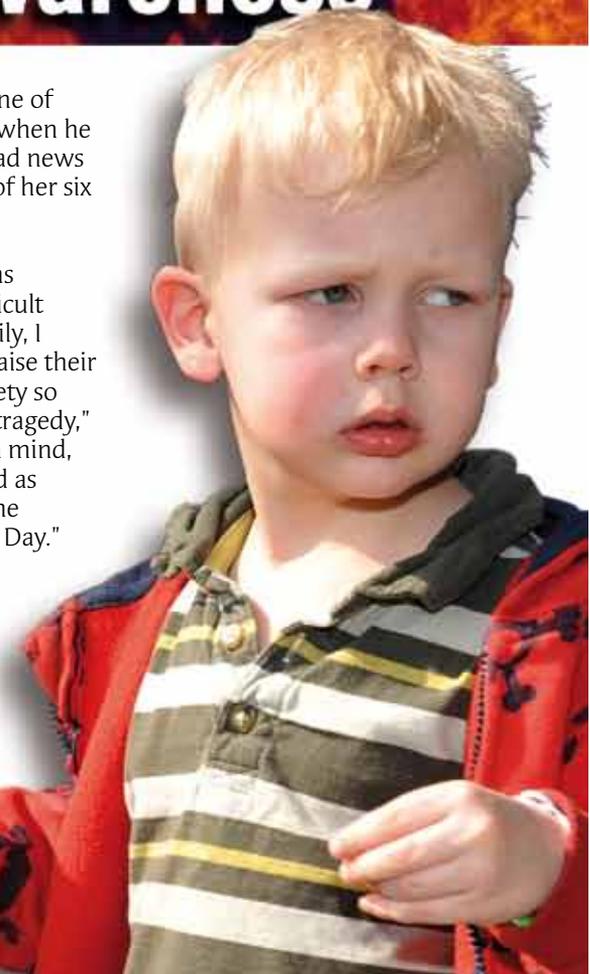
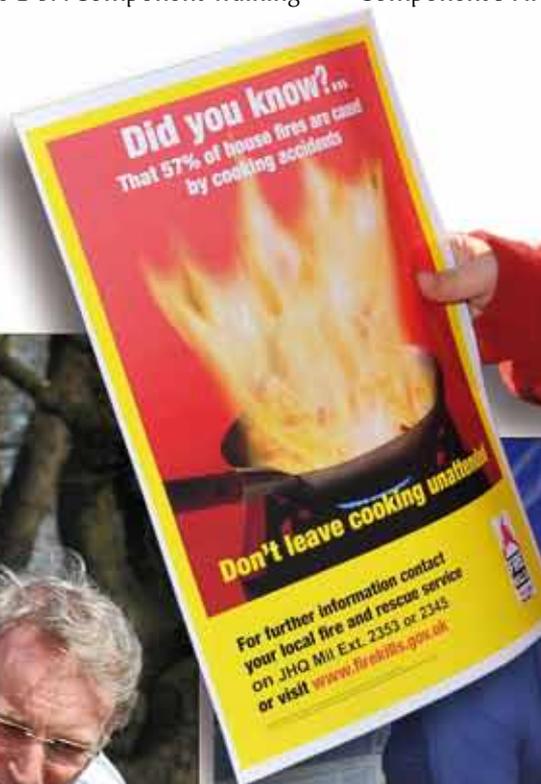
According to the Component Fire Department, two adults die a week and more than 200 children die a year as a result of residential fires in Germany alone.

"Thirty percent of those fires occurred because children had little or no fire safety or awareness training," said John Ratzer, deputy fire chief. "This is why it is so important for children to understand the dangers of fire."

Senior Master Sgt. Manfred Scholl from the E-3A Component Training

Wing had to deal with one of these tragedies head on when he received the extremely sad news that his niece lost three of her six children in a home fire.

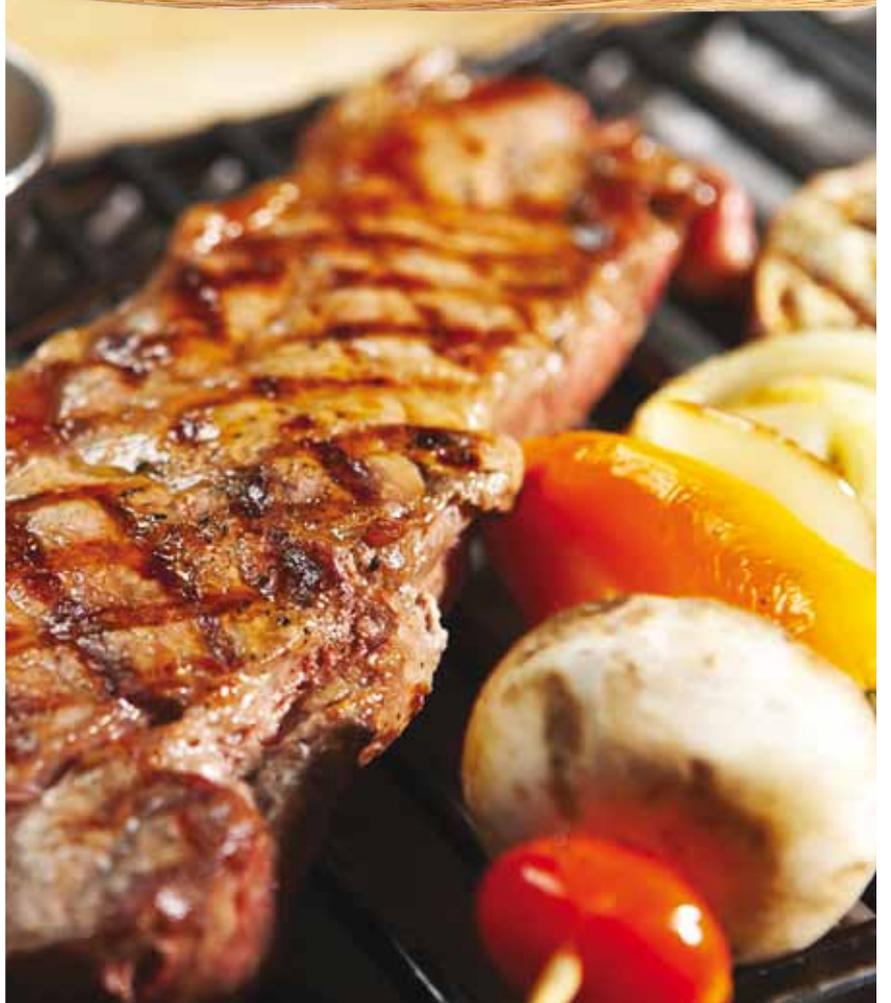
"While this incident has brought forth a very difficult time for me and my family, I encourage everyone to raise their awareness about fire safety so they can avoid a similar tragedy," Scholl said. "With that in mind, I hope everybody learned as much as possible from the Component's Fire Safety Day."



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# Springtime Blossoms On The Component

These photos were taken by  
Andrea Hohenforst from around  
the E-3A Component to  
highlight the arrival of warmer  
temperatures, buzzing bees  
and blooming flowers at  
Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base.  
The first official day of  
Spring was March 20.



# 30 Years E-3A Component Jubilee Event

*Dear Component members, please mark your calendar for one of the highlights we all will face shortly.*

**On 16 and 17 June, the NATO E-3A Component celebrate its '30 Years Jubilee event'.**

**The 17 nations on base are looking forward to this weekend full of events that will have something interesting to offer for every person of every age.**



## Friday 15 Jun 2012

### Spotter's Event (1000-1600 Hrs)

Location: Bldg 21  
Further details will follow

### Pool party (1400-2200 Hrs)

Main purpose: welcome party with visiting aircrew members participating in the static display.  
Location: swimming pool (if renovation is timely completed), otherwise Frisbee Club. Free entrance for Component members & display aircraft crew.

## Saturday 16 Jun 2012

### Hangar party (2000-0500 Hrs), maximum 5,000 visitors

Tickets: 15 € (pre-sale)  
Day ticket: 17,50 €  
Minimum age: 18  
• A top party band and DJ  
• Firework @ midnight

## Saturday 16 Jun 2012

### Public day (1000-1800 Hrs), maximum 20,000 visitors

- Static display from several participating countries
- 3 E-3 (AWACS) aircraft will be accessible for the public
- All kinds of entertainment
- Children's activities
- "Nations corner" (food, drinks,.....)

## Sun 17 Jun 2012

### Public day (1000-1800 Hrs), maximum 20,000 visitors

- Static Display from several participating countries
- 3 E-3 (AWACS) aircraft will be accessible for the public
- All kinds of entertainment + a demo of the Belgian National Taekwondo Team
- Children's activities
- "Nations corner" (food, drinks,.....)

|  | Day Event Sat 16 Jun<br>Day Event Sun 17 Jun<br>1000-1800 Hrs<br>Max 20,000 tickets/day | Hangar Party<br>Sat 16 Jun<br>2000-0500 Hrs<br>Max 6,500 tickets | Spotter's Event<br>15 Jun 2012<br>1000-1600Hrs<br>Max 250 tickets         |
|--|---|--|---|
| Active duty Component members (excluding dependents) | Free access   |  |   |
| Non-Component members (Adults)                       | Pre-sale: 5 €<br>Day ticket: 7.50 €   | Pre-sale: 15 €<br>Day ticket: 17,50 €                            | 15 €<br>(Tickets and registration only available via the Spotter's Clubs) |
| Non-Component members (Children)                     | < 6 years: free<br>6-13 years: 2,50 €<br>As of 14 years: 5 €                            | N/A<br>(Minimum age: 18)   |   |
| Parking  | 2 €   | N/A  | N/A   |

## GOOD TO KNOW

Ticket sales will start 16 April 2012 and will be announced via multiple channels. The Component is not allowed to exceed the maximum number of visitors. We therefore expect that all tickets will be sold out well before the event.

The tickets are event-specific, i.e. separate tickets for

- the spotter's event on Friday 15 Jun
- the public day on Saturday 16 Jun (children/adults)
- the hangar party on Saturday evening (minimum age 18 !)
- the public day on Sunday 17 Jun (children/adults)

### WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITIES/ ATTRACTIONS CAN I EXPECT DURING THE EVENT?

#### During the daytime event:

- A static display with numerous jets, helicopters and historical aircraft
- 3 E-3A aircraft will be open to the public
- All kinds of entertainment (bands, dance groups,...)
- On Sunday afternoon, there will be a demo by the Belgian National Taekwondo Team
- Nations corner with typical food and drinks
- A large children's entertainment area (> 500 m<sup>2</sup>)

#### During the hangar party:

- A top party band and DJ from 2000-0500 Hrs
- A spectacular firework show @ midnight

Further details can be found on the event web page on Sharepoint.

### VISITORS

- The event will be open for Component members and non-Component members.
- Volunteer support will be critical for the success of the event. You are always welcome to send an e-mail to E3AGK OFC - 30 Year Jubilee, and we will work out a schedule with a good balance between working and enjoying the event.

### RESTRICTIONS

- For everyone's safety and security, a number of restrictions apply:
- All visitors will be searched when entering the event area.
- Bringing beverages (bottles, soft drinks) and bags onto the terrain is not allowed.
- Dogs & pets are not allowed.
- There will be a zero tolerance for vandalism, violence and inappropriate behaviour. Violators

will be turned over to the German Police and escorted off the terrain.

- Smoking is only permitted in clearly marked designated smoking areas.
- For safety reasons, barefoot walking or beach-type footwear (flip-flops) is not allowed during the hangar party (inside and outside).

### TRAFFIC

- The Main Gate will only be used for vehicle traffic entering the base (4 lanes).
- The West Gate will only be used for vehicle traffic exiting the base.
- Pedestrians and bicyclists with a valid entrance ticket can enter via the main gate and proceed to the event area via the main road, using the access point near Bldg 217 (Hangar I area).

### PARKING

#### Parking availabilities:

That depends on which part of the event you are visiting:

#### Visitors of the day events:

(Saturday/Sunday, 1000-1800 Hrs): Parking will be in the Northern area.

- All vehicles have to leave this parking lot before 2000 Hrs.

#### Visitors of the hangar party:

(Saturday, 2000-0500 Hrs):

- You can park in the vicinity of Hangar II (same parking concept like Oktoberfest).

#### Visitors of the day event and the Saturday evening hangar party:

- For the daytime event, you have to park in the Northern area, and you will have to remove your vehicle from that parking NLT 2000 Hrs. However, for your convenience, we offer the option to drive from the event parking lot to the Hangar II parking area (using the same route you would use coming back from the IDT area).
- Of course, there will be signs to route the traffic.

### TAXIS

- All taxi companies in the local area have been informed that this event is taking place so they can schedule their capacity accordingly.
- Keep in mind that taxis will not be allowed to drive on base.
- During the hangar party, there will be NATO shuttle buses between the Main Gate and Hangar II.
- Additionally there will be shuttle busses between the bus station outside the Main Gate and the Geilenkirchen train station by the local bus company. The bus schedule is synchronized with the train schedules.

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| 3  | 2011 | 328i xDrive Wagon | Demo          | Sapphire Black | \$ 50.575 | \$ 45.040            | <b>\$ 41.500</b>  | <b>\$ 9.075</b>     |
| 4  | 2011 | 335i xDrive Coupe | Stock         | Alpine White   | \$ 55.100 | \$ 50.515            | <b>\$ 48.015</b>  | <b>\$ 7.085</b>     |
| 5  | 2012 | 328i Coupe        | Stock         | Titan Silver   | \$ 47.575 | \$ 42.090            | <b>\$ 40.090</b>  | <b>\$ 7.485</b>     |
| 6  | 2012 | 335i Coupe        | Stock         | Sapphire Black | \$ 52.425 | \$ 46.040            | <b>\$ 44.040</b>  | <b>\$ 8.385</b>     |
| 7  | 2012 | 328i Coupe        | Stock         | Titan Silver   | \$ 46.800 | \$ 41.345            | <b>\$ 39.345</b>  | <b>\$ 7.455</b>     |
| 8  | 2012 | 328i xDrive Coupe | Stock         | Mineral White  | \$ 49.725 | \$ 43.940            | <b>\$ 41.940</b>  | <b>\$ 7.785</b>     |
| 9  | 2011 | 335i Coupe        | Stock         | Crimson Red    | \$ 48.525 | \$ 42.340            | <b>\$ 39.340</b>  | <b>\$ 9.185</b>     |
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