



Photo by Andre Joosten

## VIP flies with Squadron 2

Col. Ton van Happen, E-3A Component deputy commander (DCOM), poses for a photo with Lt. Gen. H. Wehren in front of an AWACS on July 3 at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen. The general is the newly appointed deputy chief of Defence for the Netherlands (DCHOD) and is the primary advisor to the Netherlands Minister of Defence for all AWACS issues. General Wehren flew on a mission sortie with with Colonel van Happen and members of Squadron 2, whose objective was to support a Dutch 4vs8 Fighter Weapons Instructor Training mission. During the flight, the DCHOD was briefed on past, ongoing and future operations, fleet modernization and the Canadian withdrawal. He was also briefed on noise related issues such as the Component's very successful noise policy, the economic impact of the NAEW program to the general and local economy, and the need to perform tree maintenance. After his flight, the general expressed his appreciation for the Component's contribution to NATO's mission.

# Safety is the key to mission success

By E-3A Component Public Affairs

The E-3A Component recently held a unit-level safety day on July 5 at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen. Brig. Gen. Burkhard Pototzky, E-3A Component commander, directed all commanders to conduct unit-specific

safety programs for their respective agencies with the assistance of unit flight safety officers and ground safety representatives.

The commander also issued a list of minimum briefing topics, which included annual work center safety

training and lessons learned from work center accidents in 2011 and 2012.

"The environments we work in on a daily basis, whether at home station or down range, can be hazardous," General Pototzky said. "It is up to all of us to ensure we mitigate those

dangers and create the safest work environment possible. With proper training and awareness, we can avoid any unnecessary mishaps that might deter us from completing our mission."

Participation was mandatory for all available Component personnel.

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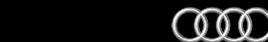
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## Investing in strong partnerships

Story and photo from [www.nato.int](http://www.nato.int)

Cooperative security is one of NATO's three essential core tasks. In an unpredictable, fast-changing and increasingly interconnected world, it is essential for the Alliance to invest in strong partnerships with countries and organizations around the globe.

"Partnerships are key in ensuring we meet the challenges of the coming decades," says NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen.

The Allies' policy of partnership and cooperative security has stood the test of time. Over the past two decades, NATO's partnerships have continued to evolve, adapting to new security challenges.

Today, partners are deployed alongside Allies in operations from the Balkans to Afghanistan. Partners are also working with NATO to address global challenges that require global responses, such as terrorism, piracy and cyber defence.

No one country or organization can deal with the complex and unpredictable challenges of the evolving security environment on its own. Euro-Atlantic security is best assured through a wide network of partner relationships with countries and organizations around the globe. For this reason, cooperative security is identified as one of NATO's three essential core tasks in NATO's new Strategic Concept, adopted at the Lisbon Summit in November 2010.

Allies agreed at the summit that NATO's partnerships "can provide frameworks for political dialogue and regional cooperation in the field of security and defence; contribute to strengthening our common values; and are essential to the success of many of our operations and missions."

At the Chicago Summit in May 2012, the 28 Allied leaders met with counterparts from 13 partner countries from around the globe, which have recently made particular political, operational and financial contributions to NATO-



NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen gave a major policy speech on July 4 to set out his strategic vision for the Alliance, which included forging closer links with worldwide partners in Asia, Africa and elsewhere to guarantee future security in the Euro-Atlantic area.

led operations. It was a unique opportunity to discuss lessons learned from cooperation and to exchange views on common security challenges.

Leaders stressed the need to maintain interoperability and

interconnectedness with partner forces through joint training and exercises, even when not actively engaged in operations.

They also underlined their readiness to cooperate in new areas "in a demand and substance-driven way".

## Component member presented USAF Achievement Medal

By Staff Sgt. R. Michael Longoria

Capt. Francesco Miranda, E-3A Component flight safety officer, was recently presented with the U.S. Air Force Achievement Medal by Brig. Gen. Warren D. Berry, United States Air Forces Europe (USAFE) director of Logistics, Installations and Mission Support.

Captain Miranda has been waiting the last three years for this medal, which was signed by Gen. Roger A. Brady, the previous USAFE commander.

"The medal was given to me for the work I did in 2009, but due to distance and other reasons, it wasn't presented to me until now," the captain said.

Captain Miranda was recognized for his accomplishments while serving on the USAFE Accident Investigation Board as a Host Nation Representative and Pilot Member from the 37<sup>th</sup> Wing, 10<sup>th</sup> Squadron.

The medal was presented for outstanding achievement from March 31, 2009, to April 22, 2009, in Trapani, Italy.

During this period, Captain Miranda worked closely with host nation civil and military authorities to facilitate an aircraft mishap investigation at Aviano Air Base, Italy.

He translated several Italian legal documents to verify the status of the mishap pilot and assisted with evidence collection by analyzing hundreds of pages of electronic and written documents, including aircraft and training records.

Additionally, he collected and photographed supporting evidence and conducted interviews vital to establishing the scope of the review.

Throughout the investigation, Captain Miranda's unique perspective and analysis of the evidence was critical to identify numerous process problems and other key issues that directly contributed to the mishap.

Captain Miranda's in-depth knowledge of F-16 operations and technical maintenance policy and practices was instrumental in maintaining the objectivity of the board process.



Courtesy photo

Brig. Gen. Warren D. Berry presents Capt. Francesco Miranda with a Air Force Achievement Medal on May 23.

His vast safety knowledge and investigative ability, coupled with his can-do attitude, ensured the timely completion of the board and briefings to senior leadership.

"The distinctive accomplishments of Captain Miranda reflect credit upon himself, the Italian Air Force and the United States Air Force," said General Brady.



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Brig. Gen. Burkhard Pototzky  
**Deputy Chief, Public Affairs**  
Capt. Wilko ter Horst

**Editor**  
Staff Sgt. R. Michael Longoria

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# Mont Ventoux... A challenge for most cyclists!

By Geoff Bucknall

Equipe Mont Ventoux, is made up of 21 teenagers, from 14 years to 21 years of age, from the Dutch special care homes of "Gastenhof."

Because of various complications such as: Autism, ADHD, Schizophrenia and serious learning difficulties these kids have, it made a project to get them cycling to the top of Mont Ventoux, very unique.

The equipe (team), most of whom, had never touched a racing bicycle, trained during the winter months at the E-3A Component Gym, spinning their way to fitness in preparation for the conquering of Mont Ventoux, before moving on to training outside.

On June 20, all the young cyclists, including 3 teenage girls, made it to the top with their buddies and



The Mont Ventoux trail is 26 kilometers from the village Sault, to the Mont Ventoux summit with an elevation of 1,912 metres.

trainers, where the emotions of this unique achievement were clearly visible, affecting everyone involved.

Perhaps most important is the fact, these special teenagers joined the project nine months ago and trained right up to the last week. They each achieved their own special goal and boosted their confidence. Furthermore, the whole experience brought me and my son Florin closer!

And, to top it all, more than 5,000 euros were raised for two Dutch charities: Foundation MS Research and Foundation Children Cancer Free.

Equipe Mont Ventoux's entire experience was filmed from beginning at the Component Gym to end, when they reached the summit for documentary series to be broadcasted in September, exact dates not yet known.

Anyone interested can contact me for further information.

On behalf of Equipe Mont Ventoux, our thanks go to Major Peter Gerisch and the Sports Department for use of the Spinning facility and, to the Components Security Forces, in particular Chief Nicola Innaro and the Pass and Permits office, for their excellent cooperation in helping Equipe Mont Ventoux get access to the Component.

For more information or to see more pictures, follow "Equipe Mont Ventoux" on Facebook.

Geoff Bucknall went back down the hill 5 kilometers for the third time. The last time was to motivate his own son Florin up Mont Ventoux to the top.



## E-3A joins TFM '85

From the Skywatch Archives

**Editor's Note:** This story was featured in Skywatch Volume 1, Number 2. This story is re-printed as it was published on June 14, 1985.

A NATO E-3A aircrew and aircraft returned here June 8 from a ten-day air exercise in Denmark.

Fifty-one aircraft and more than 500 aircrew and support personnel from five NATO nations participated in the exercise.

Tactical Fighter Meet '85 (TFM '85), a new type of air exercise, will be held every two years. Sponsored by the Headquarters Allied Forces Northern Europe (HG AFNORTH), each exercise will be rotated among an AFNORTH nation.

The constant requirement to train pilots in the resource employment and tactics of combine operations led to the development of TFM '85. The value of such realistic training, provided by exercises like TFM '85, has been recognized throughout the

Alliance and answered by exercises like Red Flag and Maple Flag held in North America.

The goal of TFM '85 was to provide an opportunity to exercise tactics and procedure established for the employment of attack, air defense, reconnaissance and electronic warfare units, to practice combined operations and to serve as an incentive to improve interoperability and effectiveness of air forces operating in the Northern region by promoting mutual understanding, confidence and cooperation between participating forces. The participants were organized in two identical teams. TFM '85 was a competition

between the two teams. Each team was ordered to carry out attacks against the same targets.

No live firing took place and the daily result of the competition was judged by a directing staff evaluating tactics and the employment of resources.

The five nations providing aircraft, aircrews, and support personnel for the exercise included: Denmark, F-16s and F-35s; The Federal Republic of Germany, Alpha Jets, RF-4Es, and Tornados; The Netherlands, F-5s; Norway, F-16s; The United States, F-4Gs, EF-111, and F-15s; and the NAEWF E-3A.

# Stay cool to beat the heat

By Master Sgt. Christopher Brown

Summer is here and it's time to get out and enjoy the long summer days. As we already found out, these days can also be very hot. We have had days during the last weeks that were quite warm and we're only a couple of weeks into summer.

In order to protect ourselves from this excessive heat, it's important to become familiar with some preventive measures you can take. While heat-related injuries are avoidable, each year many people succumb to extreme heat.

In fact, from 1979 to 2003 excessive heat exposure caused 8,015 deaths in the United States, where air conditioning is common. We don't usually have the luxury of air conditioning here in Germany and when it gets hot, bad things can happen to those who are unprepared.

Heat-related illnesses occur when the body is unable to compensate and properly cool itself. Normally the body can cool itself by sweating, but under some conditions, this isn't sufficient. When this occurs, the body temperature rises and can have serious consequences.

Several factors affect the body's ability to cool itself during extremely hot weather. When the air humidity

is high, sweat will not evaporate as quickly, preventing the body from releasing heat quickly. Other risk conditions include age, obesity, fever, dehydration, heart disease, poor circulation, sunburn, and the use of prescription drugs and alcohol.

Another factor to understand is the difference between ambient temperature and apparent temperature. Ambient temperature is the temperature of the air without regard to the effects of humidity or the radiant heat of the sun. Apparent temperature is the adjustment based on the relative humidity and the wind speed. This is why, if you look at the weather channel, it may say the temperature is 30° Celsius but feels like 35°.

In order to help you avoid heat-related injuries so that you can enjoy the summer to its fullest, the following recommendations (tools) are provided.

- Increase your fluid intake, regardless of your activity level. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink. During heavy work or exercise in a hot environment, drink two to four glasses (0.5 - 1.0 liters) of cool fluids (non-alcoholic) each hour.
- Replace salt and minerals in your body. If you sweat heavily, your

body is losing salt and minerals that it needs to function properly. A sports beverage can replace the salt and minerals you lose in sweat.

- Wear as little clothing as possible. Choose lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing. This will help promote sweat evaporation and cooling by letting more air pass over your body.
- Avoid midday sun. If you go outdoors, stay in the shade or in water when possible.
- Prevent sunburn. Sunburn affects your body's ability to cool itself and causes a loss of body fluids. If you go outside in the sun, you can protect yourself by wearing a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses. In addition, 30 minutes prior to going outdoors, apply sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher.
- Take it slow. You will have a greater tolerance for the heat if you limit your physical activity until you become accustomed to the heat. If you travel to a hotter climate, allow several days to become acclimatized before attempting any vigorous exercise, and work up to it gradually.

For work in extreme temperatures, supervisors should be providing rest cycles for individuals to allow them an

opportunity to cool off and rehydrate. Familiarize yourself with Manual 3.7-1, E-3A Ground Operations in Extreme Temperatures, to aid you in determining the combined physiological effects of ambient temperature, relative humidity and wind speed on the human body in high temperatures, and to find out about work-rest cycle recommendations.

Use risk management and understand that every action has a reaction, whether positive or negative. Avoid hot foods and heavy meals—they add heat to your body. Dress infants and children in cool, loose clothing and shade their heads and faces with hats or an umbrella.

Limit sun exposure during mid-day hours and in places of potentially severe exposure, such as beaches. Do not leave infants, children, or pets in a parked car. Provide plenty of fresh water for your pets in a shady area.

Each and every one of us can have a safe and healthful summer. Just remember that during summertime activity, whether on the playing field, at home or at work, your activity needs to be balanced with measures that aid the body's cooling mechanisms to prevent heat-related injuries.

(Reference: U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention)

## Soccer camp for kids



Photo by Staff Sgt. R. Michael Longoria

The E-3A Component Sports Department, in cooperation with Germania Teveren, will host a bilingual soccer camp for children, ages 7 through 15, from Aug. 6 to Aug. 10 at the soccer stadium on NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen. The camp will consist of high quality practices to improve footwork and coordination as well as technical, tactical and physical development. It will culminate with a Parent-verse-Child Game and Festival. Participants must be a NATO identification card holder or from Germany. The cost for the five-day camp is €112.50. For more information or to register, call Stephanie Chalmers at +49 (0)2451-63-4846 or e-mail her at schalmers@e3a.nato.int.

# SUGGESTIONS FOR A DAY TRIP IN THE LOCAL AREA

## 1 Barefoot path 'Blotenvoetenpad', Brunssum, NL

Ganzepool (road between JFC Brunssum and the West Gate). Entrance: between €6 (adults) and €3 (children), group discounts possible. Open from April until end of Oktober.

[www.blotenvoetenpark.nl](http://www.blotenvoetenpark.nl)

## 2 Glidersclub 'Zweefvliegclub' in Schinveld, NL

Eerste Limburgse Zweefvlieg Club  
Address: Leiffenderhofweg 3, 6451 PR Schinveld, telephone +31 45 5641651  
€40 for a try-out flight, open from May to November daily 1000-1900

[www.elzc.nl](http://www.elzc.nl)

## 3 Wildfreigehege Gangelt

Admission fees: adults €6.50, children €4.50, family €21, also group discount and season tickets, no parking fees. Opening hours: 0900-1900 all-season. In winter until dawn. Address: Wildpark Gangelt, Schinvelder Str., 52538 Gangelt, tel. 02454 2459. You may bring your dog on a lead/ leash. Just the falconry is not to be accessed by dogs.

[www.wildpark-gangelt.com](http://www.wildpark-gangelt.com)

## 4 Aachen Zoo

Aachener Tierpark, in Aachen.  
Opening hours until 15 October: 0900-1830. Prices: for adults €5, children as from the age of 3: €2.50, special discounts for retirees, students and groups.  
Address: Obere Drimbornstraße 44, 52066 Aachen.

[www.euregiozoo.de](http://www.euregiozoo.de)

## 4 Kletterwald, Aachen

Outdoor climbing activity in the Aachen forest.  
Opening hours Monday-Friday 1500-dawn, Friday-Sunday 1000-dawn. Prices for adults €19, children between €8 and €15, special offers for summer holidays for children.  
Address: Unterer Backertsweg, 52074 Aachen, tel. 0241 51000824

[www.kletterwald-aachen.de](http://www.kletterwald-aachen.de)

## 5 Erholungsgebiet Übach-Palenberg

Open to the public all year around. With playground, water-bikes, miniature golf and restaurant. Address: Im Wurmatal, 52531 Übach-Palenberg

## 6 Snow World Landgraaf, NL

Indoor Ski slopes, open all year. Special summer discounts. Address: Witte Wereld 1, 6372 VG Landgraaf, tel. +31 45 5470700

[www.snowworld.com](http://www.snowworld.com)

## 6 Mondo Verde Park, Landgraaf, NL

Family park with world theme gardens, zoo, funpark.  
Address: Groene Wereld 10, 6372 PW Landgraaf, telephone +31 45 5350161. Entrance between €15 and €9, also with special discounts for families, retirees and groups. Open 1000-1800 daily.

[www.wereldtuinenmondoverde.nl](http://www.wereldtuinenmondoverde.nl)

## 7 Indoor climbing wall Neoliet 'Klimwand', Heerlen, NL

Prices: €10.50 for adults, €8.50 for children, special discounts for children below 5 and families.  
Opening hours in July and August:  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 1800-2300, Wednesday 1500-2300, Saturday 1200-1800.

[www.neoliet.nl](http://www.neoliet.nl)

## 8 Zoo Gaia park, Kerkrade, NL

Open daily 1000-1800, entrance fee €18.50 for adults, €15.50 for children, parking fees per car €4.50.

Address: Dentgenbachweg 105, 6468 PG Kerkrade, tel. +31 45 567 60 70

[www.gaiapark.nl](http://www.gaiapark.nl)

## 9 Mosaqua indoor-outdoor swimming pool with wild-water track, Gulpen, NL

Daily open, entry fees for adults €8.50, children €7.50, check special discounts on their homepage,  
Address: Landsraderweg 11, 6271 NT Gulpen, tel. +31 43-4507400

[www.mosaqua.nl](http://www.mosaqua.nl)

## 10 Canoo and Rafting at the river Maas, Maastricht, NL

Prices per person: canoe and raft €12, discount for groups 12 persons or more, lunch and dinner also possible, return by bus can be arranged, tel. +31 43-4071954. From April to November, in the morning or afternoon. Canoe, rafting or hiking tours.

[www.kanomaastricht.nl](http://www.kanomaastricht.nl)

## 10 Caves in Maastricht

There is a network of underground corridors that can be visited with a guide, for instance the Zonneberg. Daily tours in English.

Bring a jacket – it's cool inside the caves.

Tours for groups available upon request throughout the year. Check online for more details.

[www.maastrichtunderground.nl](http://www.maastrichtunderground.nl)

## 11 Kajak Maasland, Rafting & Outdoor, Lanaken, Belgium

Rafting for 8 up to 21 km, also during the evening possible. From April to end of Oktober, prices varying from €16 in a single canou, double canoe €24, 3-seater €33 and 4-seater €42. Rafting €15 and €10, return by bus can be arranged.

Tel. +32 89 71 73 90 or email: [info@kajakmaasland.be](mailto:info@kajakmaasland.be)

[www.kajakmaasland.be](http://www.kajakmaasland.be)

## 12 Scooter tour in Limburg

Scooter rental, motors and quads.

Address: Fun-Ride, Visésteenweg 131, 3770 Riemst in Limburg, tel. +32 494 320125/ +32 496 15 48 75. Different packages on offer.

[www.j-pbikes.be](http://www.j-pbikes.be)

## 13 Valkenburg, NL: Valkenier family park

A family park with fun attractions.  
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Address: Koningswinkelstraat 53, 6301 WH Valkenburg, Netherlands, tel. +31 43 6012289

[www.pretpark-de-valkenier.nl](http://www.pretpark-de-valkenier.nl)

## 14 Kasteel Hoensbroek

Hoensbroek Castle is one of the largest and most beautiful castles in the Netherlands. The oldest section of the castle structure dates from 1250, just a 20 minute drive from Geilenkirchen.

Open (almost) every day from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Closed on 24, 25, 31 Dec., 1 Jan. and Carnaval.

Adults: €8.25; kids under 4 year free;

kids 4-12 year: €5.75.

Address: Klinkertstraat 118, 6433 PB Hoensbroek.

[www.kasteelhoensbroek.nl](http://www.kasteelhoensbroek.nl)

# CSA Barbecue 2012: farewell to new retirees, welcome for newcomers

By Paul Baker

Around 170 serving staff members, retirees and guests attended the Civilian Staff Association's very successful Hail & Farewell and Barbecue on June 27.

CSA Vice-Chairman Ben Pereira started this event by welcoming the Deputy Commander of the E-3A Component, Colonel Ton van Happen, and thanked him for making the presentations. DCOM individually congratulated two retirees and presented E-3A Component Certificates of Appreciation to them. In addition, Pereira presented each of them with a CSA gold pin featuring a miniature E-3A AWACS. DCOM and the CSA also welcomed new NATO civilian staff members of the Component to their duties in this multinational environment.

DCOM then spoke for twenty minutes on a variety of current topics. He said the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary weekend had been a great success, also in financial terms, and that it was important for promoting the Component's positive image to high-

level decision-makers and the general public, especially in the local area. He expressed gratitude for the efforts of the many volunteers, including NATO civilians, who helped to achieve this success. He said that although the ACO restructuring process was already under way, the Component was still waiting for a definite decision on the future size of the fleet and the workforce. Approval for refurbishment of the MOB runway was also still pending. Financial aspects would play a key role in all these issues.

After this formal part of the event, all the attendees were invited by the CSA to enjoy the barbecue and the excellent catering arrangements provided by the E-3A Club. The CSA wishes to express its appreciation of the great work done by the Club Manager, René Peeters, and his very capable staff.

### Retirees honored at this event:

Jost Schreiber joined the E-3A Component Logistics Wing in January 1983 as an Aircraft General Mechanic. In March 1987 he was promoted to Senior Aircraft General Mechanic, and in October 2003 he



Photo by Andrea Hohenforst

Deputy Component Commander Col. Ton van Happen, Jost Schreiber, Daniel Verhoeven and CSA Vice Chairman Ben Pereira.

was promoted to Principal Technician (Inspection). He retired from that post at the end of April.

Daniel Verhoeven joined the E-3A Component Logistics Wing in December 1988 as a Junior Avionics Maintenance Specialist and became a

Senior Technician in 1990. In October 1991 he was promoted to Principal Technician (Avionics). He retires from that post at the end of August.

The CSA wishes Schreiber and Verhoeven a very happy and contented retirement.



Photo by Staff Sgt. R. Michael Longoria

## Going for gold

Capt. Mario Di Virgilio, Force Protection & Training Section chief, shows Tech. Sgt. Michael Leard, E-3A Component Logistics Wing, how to operate a MG-3 during a weapons' handling class. Sergeant Leard and several other component members were offered the opportunity to attend a shooting exercise on June 25. Participants fired three different weapons: a MG-3, a G-36 and a P-8. Those who preformed well enough were presented with a gold "Schützenschnur" award, the German Armed Forces Badge of Marksmanship, during a ceremony June 28 on NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen.



Photo by Staff Sgt. R. Michael Longoria

## Tri-Border community celebrates American freedom

*Fireworks burst over a small lake in Brunssum during the 2012 American Freedom Friendship Festival on July 7. The festival, featuring an American Idol show and Firework Extravaganza, started after the Celebrate Brunssum Parade. The entire day featured food and fun for the entire family.*

# World comes alive in Brunssum

Photos and text from World Festival Parade Brunssum

From July 6 until 11, a festive week filled with world dance, song, comradeship and hospitality: that is what the 2012 Brunssum World Festival Parade is all about.

The groups that participated came from South Africa, Argentina,

Austria, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Spain, France, Greece, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Estonia, Swaziland, Thailand, Venezuela, Congo, Tahiti, Bulgaria, and Cameroon.

These groups performed for five days at various locations in Brunssum. The highlight of the week

was the parade through the center of town with all participating folklore groups and bands.

This World Festival Parade takes place once every four years (Leap Year) and dates back to 1953. In that year, out of a sense of solidarity with the victims of the flood disaster in Zeeland, the Carnival celebrations were cancelled and a modest three-day folkloristic festival was held instead.

Over the years, this initiative grew to become the largest world dance festival in the Netherlands and one of the largest in Europe. The 10<sup>th</sup> International Folkloristic Parade in 1992 was actually the biggest CIOFF (International Council of Organisations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Arts) festival in the world with over 35 countries participating.

The first CIOFF World Folkloriade in 1996 marked a new high point, for which a total of 75 groups from 60 different countries came to Brunssum for a period of 10 days to sing, dance and make music.

In 2004, the Parade started to explore new paths by focusing on contemporary dance and music culture via themes such as Salsa and Flamenco, in addition to more traditional dance and music genres.

In 2012, the Parade returned to its 'roots', with a five-day festival focusing on comradeship and 'digging & dancing' with a great many links to the mining history of Southeast Limburg.





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# Game, Set, Match

By Pascal Hiller

The International Tennis Club recently started its 2012 Tennis Season on NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen.

The club meets every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. and hosts several tournaments during the season. The season will conclude with the "Closing" Tournament of the Tennis Courts on Oct. 6.

The International Tennis Club has four clay courts located on base next to the E3-A Club. To use the courts or participate in the tournaments, fill out a membership application and pay the applicable fees.

For Component personnel, the fees are 35 euros for a single membership

or 65 euros for a family membership. For non-Component personnel, the fees are 65 euros for a single membership and 35 euros for each additional family member. There is also a 10 euros deposit for the court key.

Personnel without a NATO identification card need a "Polizeiliches Führungszeugnis" to get a membership. The form can be downloaded on the E-3A portal Tennis Club Page or a copy can be picked up from Pascal Hiller or Claus Jensen in the Radar Shop.

For more information or to become a member, call extension 3734 or log on to the E-3A portal and click on the "Component Links." The "Tennis Club" site is located under "Club Pages" on the "Moral and Welfare Activities" link.



Photo by Staff Sgt. R. Michael Longoria

*A member of the International Tennis Club prepares to hit a ball during a tennis match on NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen.*

## Dive into competition with the Orcas International Swim Team

By Lois Whelan

The Orcas 2012/13 Competitive Swim Season will begin on August 14.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Ted Dempsey founded the team in August 1987 and this will mark the Orcas' 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of competition with the European Forces Swim League (EFSL).

Today, our team includes an average of 50 or more swimmers who compete throughout Germany, Belgium, Italy, Spain and England.

The Orcas provide a competitive swim team while promoting personal and team pride and displaying good

sportsmanship within a co-operative spirit. In addition to the EFSL competitions, the Orcas also conduct recreational and social activities to build relationships with other swim clubs in the surrounding areas.

All tri-community children ages 6 to 19 are eligible to join the team if they can swim 50 meters of a recognized stroke. In addition, the Orcas team may also contain a limited percentage of host country (German/Dutch) children who are not otherwise eligible.

We offer a two-week trial period for all new swimmers interested in joining the team. The Orcas practice



Courtesy photo

*The current Orcas International Swim Team poses for a group photo.*

every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the JFC Brunssum pool.

Come join us and see Europe one pool at a time! For more information, check out [www.gkorcas.org](http://www.gkorcas.org).

## HIT.... MEN!!!!

From E-3A Component Public Affairs

More than 200 people from military bases around Europe attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual GK Brown Bottle Ballbuster, a yearly softball tournament held by the NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen Hitmen.

The base's varsity softball team hosted the tournament from June 28 until July 1.

"Another great weekend of European softball has just finished up," said Tech. Sgt. Jacob Wilson, Hitmen head coach. "I want to give a huge thank you to all the teams that came down. We all thoroughly enjoyed your company."

Eight men's teams and five women's teams entered the three-

day tournament. The Ballbuster featured a round-robin competition on Friday and Saturday and a double-elimination tournament on Sunday.

At the end, the teams from Ramstein and Spangdahlem Air Bases stood atop the leader boards, finishing first and second in both divisions, respectively.

In addition to all the softball, the tournament offered camping and plenty of food, including pulled pork barbeque sandwiches.

"I really enjoyed myself at the GK," said PJ Wyatt. "That is the most fun I ever had at a softball tournament. I'm looking forward to next year."

The GK Hitmen finish third, their best finish in the tournament's history.

## UPCOMING IYA TRIPS

### July

#### July 18: Movie Park Germany

The IYA is hosting a trip to Movie Park Germany, a big amusement park, for children ages 5 and up on July 18 from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The price for the trip is 31 euros without MWA card or 23 euros with a valid MWA Card.

#### July 25: Rursee

The IYA is hosting a trip to the Rursee, which includes cruise hike and castle visit, for children ages 5 and up on July 25 from 8 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. The price for the trip is 20 euros without MWA card or 12 euros with a valid MWA Card.

#### July 27: Bavarian Breakfast

A Bavarian breakfast will be held at the Rotodome July 27 from 07:00 to 10:45 a.m. The breakfast includes a warm breakfast, Weißwurst, sweet mustard, a pretzel and Hefeweizen ("trüb", dark or alcohol free) for 5 euros without MWA card or 1.65 euros with a valid MWA Card.

#### August 1: Bobbejanland Amusement Park

The IYA is hosting a trip to the Bobbejanland Amusement Park for children ages 5 and up on August 1 from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The price for the trip is 31 euros without MWA card or 23 euros with a valid MWA Card.

For more information or to register for one on the activities above, contact the IYA Office in Bldg 95 at ext. 4954/4955. For more upcoming activities, visit the IYA WSS page.

# THIS WEEK'S TOP-TEN AT PCS!



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2	2012	BMW 328i Coupe	Stock	Liquid Blue	\$ 45.975	\$ 40.190	<b>\$ 38.190</b>	<b>\$ 7.785</b>
3	2012	BMW 135i Coupe	Demo	Alpine White	\$ 44.450	\$ 39.215	<b>\$ 37.660</b>	<b>\$ 6.790</b>
4	2012	BMW 328i Coupe	Stock	Sapphire Black	\$ 42.225	\$ 36.540	<b>\$ 35.040</b>	<b>\$ 7.185</b>
5	2012	BMW 128i Coupe	Stock	Crimson Red	\$ 42.025	\$ 37.890	<b>\$ 35.890</b>	<b>\$ 6.135</b>
6	2012	BMW 328i Sedan	Demo	Sapphire Black	\$ 44.520	\$ 39.935	<b>\$ 37.560</b>	<b>\$ 6.960</b>
7	2011	BMW 328i Coupe	Stock	Crimson Red	\$ 48.525	\$ 42.340	<b>\$ 38.995</b>	<b>\$ 9.530</b>
8	2012	BMW 328i Coupe	Stock	Titan Silver	\$ 47.575	\$ 42.090	<b>\$ 39.995</b>	<b>\$ 7.580</b>
9	2012	BMW 328i Sport Wagon	Stock	Sapphire Black	\$ 42.075	\$ 36.590	<b>\$ 35.090</b>	<b>\$ 6.985</b>
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