



Photo by Andrea Hohenforst

NATO conducts dual Change of Command

Command of the NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Force and of the NATO E-3A Component both changed hands in a combined ceremony on July 26 at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen. **See related story and photos on page 6-7**

Commander's Corner

By Brig. Gen. Andrew M. Mueller

It is truly a privilege for Keri and I and our family to be rejoining the NATO AWACS team here in Geilenkirchen. As your Component Commander, I look forward to sustaining the proud tradition of excellence which has been the pillar of this one of a kind multi-national organization over the last 30 years.

I know first hand the outstanding capabilities the NATO E-3A brings to NATO Commanders as they carry out the missions of the alliance and strive to improve our ability to continue to deliver this capability in a reliable manner.

I recognize the challenges deployed operations bring to the Component and will work with you to ease the

burden repeated deployments can bring to you and your family.

My previous tour in the Component impressed upon me the importance of professionalism; integrity and teamwork on enabling the sustained success of our unique mission... these are important qualities for every member of the Component to embrace.

As General Pototzky and Mrs. Pototzky leave the Component, I know I am joined by all of you when I wish them the very best in the future as they move on to a new assignment.

Fifteen years ago, Keri and I made many friends here in Geilenkirchen.

We look forward to sharing that friendship again with all the men and women who stand together as the NATO E-3A Component.



Photo by Staff Sgt. R. Michael Longoria

Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller accepts command of the E-3A Component.

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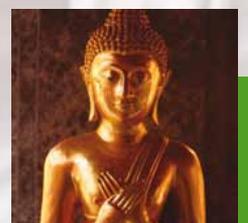
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New IT Wing commander, new Spanish SNR

From E-3A Component Public Affairs

The E-3A Component Information and Technology Wing (ITW) Change of Command and Spanish Senior National Representative hand-over ceremony took place on July 25 in Hangar II at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen.

Rear Admiral Jose Luis Urcelay Verdugo, Military Representative at NATO Headquarters, Belgium, presided over this official event, which included speeches, the handover of the ITW command and the handover of the Spanish Contingent command.

The new IT Wing commander, Col. Juan Ramon del Rio Nieto is not unfamiliar with the Component. From 2002 to 2006, the colonel served as the Chief Military Personnel Branch of the E-3A Component Personnel Division. Colonel del Rio Nieto is the 10th commander of the IT Wing and its 230 international personnel.

Colonel del Rio Nieto was born in 1958 in Madrid, Spain. In 1976, after graduating from high school, he

joined the Spanish Air Force Academy Selection Centre in Granada. In 1978, after spending two years in Granada's University, Col. del Rio Nieto joined the Spanish Air Force Academy as a member of the 34th promotion. In 1982 he was promoted to First Lieutenant and graduated as a ground service officer.

His first assignment was as Security Officer at the Air Combat Command, Madrid (1982-1985) in charge of Headquarters security and ceremonial and training issues.

From 1985 until 1987 he was Security Squadron Commander, Cuatro Vientos Air Base, Madrid. In 1987, Colonel del Rio Nieto was nominated as crypto officer of the Communications Division at the Spanish Air Force Headquarters (Air Staff).

In 1992 he was appointed Aide-de-Camp to the Commander of the Spanish Military Royal House as personal assistant and secretary. He was selected in 2000 to join the Armed Forces Staff College. After being staff graduated he was assigned to the Air Force



Photo by Andrea Hohenforst

Personnel Command. In 2002, he was designated to become Chief Military Personnel Branch of the E-3A Component Personnel Division.

After his tour at the Component he acted as staff officer in charge of Logistics at the Air Combat Command (2006) in Torrejon Air Base, Madrid. In 2006, he assumed command of the Combined Air

Operations Centre (CAOC 8) Support Division, to deal with CIS and Logistics functions in a NATO environment.

In 2009, he was assigned to the Joint Operational Command, appointed as J-6 CIS Section Chief. He stayed in this position until he was assigned to the E-3A Component, to assume command of the IT Wing.



Courtesy photo

Members of the crew pose for a photo at Bangor Air Force Base, Maine.

To Texas and back

By Lt. Col. Ekkehard Heinichen

Space... the final frontier; this is the voyage of Lt. Col. Frank Bareither and NATO 10. Last month, during their six day long journey, they explored strange worlds and unknown civilizations to boldly go where no man has gone before.

Not quite true, but this flight took him, Maj. Gen. Jochen Both

and Brig. Gen. Burkhard Pototzky, E-3A Component commander, on a training mission to Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, where both generals started their flying career decades ago as student pilots in the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training (ENJJPT) program.

After 11.7 hours with air-to-air refueling and an operations stop for customs and fuel at Bangor Air Force Base, Maine, and a long duty day, all arrived safely and were welcomed by ENJJPT representatives.

The way out there gave them and the new Force Commander a feeling for the challenges facing our crews during current operations in Afghanistan. With temperatures close to 40 degrees Celsius, it was similar to the environmental conditions for deployed crews at Mazar-e Sharif.

While the remaining crew was preparing the next pilot training mission and the way back, Generals Both and Pototzky participated in the graduation ceremony of ENJJPT class 12-06. General Both's speech was highly appreciated and General Pototzky presented a toast to the pilots, who received their wings after 13 months of intense training.

On the way back, an extra day at Bangor AFB provided excellent training conditions to continue pilot training.

A clear traffic pattern with almost unlimited airspace allowed all pilots to reach their desired training goals.

At the end of the day, General Both successfully completed his conversion training. The crew also saw oceanic procedures on the return trip across the Atlantic to Geilenkirchen.

After a very long and successful mission, Colonel Bareither returned with his crew at sunset and all were ready for their next adventures.



A marquee sign at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, displays a message welcoming Brig. Gen. Burkhard Pototzky to 80th Flying Training Wing.



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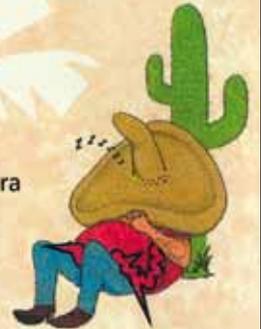
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96TH 4-DAY MARCHES 2012 NIJMEGEN



Photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Longoria
and Wiel Borghans

Step by step

By Staff Sgt. R. Michael Longoria

Step by step, they kept moving forward. Step by step, they kept marching on. Step by step, they made it to the finish line. They, the AWACS International Marching Team (IMT), had completed the 96th 4-Daagse March of Nijmegen, the Netherlands.

The AWACS IMT participated in the four-day March, which began July 17 and ended July 20. This marked the 28th time the NATO E-3A Component was represented at the event.

The "4-Daagse" of Nijmegen is one of the most popular multinational marching events in the world. Every year more than 42,000 civilians and more than 6,000 military participants join the march. Participants come from countries all over the world.

Most civilians walk 200 kilometers in four days and military participants walk 160 kilometers fully packed.

The military marchers spend their nights in "Heumensoord," a tent city located in the rural area of Nijmegen. Each morning, the participants wake up at 2:30 a.m. They must be at the central starting point by 3:30 a.m. to begin the 40 km march for the day. For the military, the first three days finish back at the camp, but on day four, they are awarded the Nijmegen Medal in Charlemagne, an official rest point in Nijmegen.

With their medals now pinned to their shirts, the military marchers

complete the last six kilometers. The last stretch down the "Via Gladiola" is known as the "big parade." The march officially ends in the center of Nijmegen, close to the city hall, where thousands of people welcome the marchers.

Completing the march requires a lot of dedication and a huge personal effort. It's a challenging task to walk 40 kilometers and then to wake up and do it again three more times. It is a mental and physical test. It is definitely something you have to train for. Those who don't train will have aching bodies and blisters on their feet.

It's impossible to imagine, but it's a lot more fun than it sounds like. I only walked with the IMT for the last half of the final day to get pictures, so I can't speak for the entire experience.

However, it was so exhilarating to have people line the streets on both sides and cheer you on as you march down the road. I can't even begin to explain how inspiring the atmosphere is; all I can do is highly recommend you participate in it next year.

Whether you want to represent the Component or your country, the 4-Daagse in Nijmegen is a great experience. The Dutch government, military, police, medics, countless civilian organizations and the Dutch population in and around Nijmegen really make the event memorable.

The AWACS IMT is already looking for people to join the 2013 Nijmegen March. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Kai Basse at ext. 3673. Also, log on to www.4daagse.nl.

NATO CONDUCTS DUAL



2



Force Commander's final flight

While visiting the Component troops at Masar-e Sharif, Maj. Gen. Stephen D. Schmidt had his last flight as the NATO Airborne Early Warning & Control Force commander during an Operation Afghan Assist mission on July 15.

Upon return, with the temperature outside at about 45 degrees Celsius, a refreshing hose down was waiting for him.

1 - Courtesy photo

Component Commander in "wet suit"

Brig. Gen. Burkhard Pototzky had a refreshing surprise waiting for him upon his final landing as the E-3A Component commander at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen on July 25.

The Component Fire Brigade was waiting to hose him down. As an added twist, his daughter was in the fire truck to aim the water beam at her father after he exited the plane.

2 - Photo by Andrea Hohenforst

From E-3A Component Public Affairs

Command of the NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Force and of the NATO E-3A Component both changed hands in a combined ceremony on July 26 at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen.

The Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Adm. James Stavridis, presided over the ceremony.

"The NATO AWACS has been extraordinary in fulfilling its missions," explained Admiral Stavridis during his opening remarks. "You embody what it's all about."

The commander of the NAEW&C Force, Maj. Gen. Stephen D. Schmidt, U.S. Air Force, has left his position as Force Commander and his successor



CHANGE OF COMMAND



Photos by Andrea Hohenforst



is Maj. Gen. Jochen Both, German Air Force. Maj. Gen. Both assumed the AWACS Force Command headquarters post. Force Command is co-located with the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe at Mons, Belgium.

"It is first and foremost a great honor for me to stand here in front of the proud men and women of the NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Force," said General Both. "And it is also a great pleasure to assume this extraordinary command. To command the proud soldiers and members of a first class team is surely the most beautiful and satisfying task one can ask for." The general added, "I take the corresponding responsibilities with great appreciation. I am proud to be the command of such a fine team

and I am very much looking forward to working with all of you."

Brig. Gen. Burkhard Pototzky relinquished command and his successor is Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, U.S. Air Force, assumed command of the in Geilenkirchen based multinational flying unit.

"It is truly a privilege for me to return to Geilenkirchen to lead the NATO AWACS E-3A Component," said General Mueller. "From the moment I drove through the gate, I could sense the Component is operating at 100 percent. As your Component commander, I look forward to sustaining this proud tradition of excellence that has been the pillar of this one of a kind multinational organization over the last 30 years."

General Mueller added, "I know first hand the outstanding capabilities the NATO E-3A brings to the NATO commanders as they carry out the missions of the alliance. I will strive to improve our ability to continue to deliver this capability in a reliable manner."

The NATO AWACS Force consists of two Components, the E-3A Component in Geilenkirchen and the Royal Air Force's E-3D Component at Waddington, U.K. The E-3D is composed entirely of British personnel, while the E-3A Component is NATO's multinational flying unit, with international aircrews from 16 nations. The Component also operates three forward operating bases in Italy, Turkey and Greece and one forward operating location in Norway.

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DUK donations thanks to "O'zapft is"

By Janina Bien

When you think about the E-3A Oktoberfest, this is usually directly connected to the German NCO Association (DUK) on base. The association was founded in 1981-82, when NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen looked more like a construction area than an operational air base.

As there was no social community on base at that time, the first soldiers arrived and they were desperately looking for a leisure time activity that could be shared by all of them. Soon more and more leisure time activities became vivid and since 1982, the Oktoberfest has been celebrated on base.

The base's Oktoberfest is famous and known by many people in the surrounding communities. It can be seen as an important institution that brings together Component members, their friends and families as well as people from the neighboring regions. They all share

the cultural habit of the Oktoberfest, originally a Bavarian tradition, and enjoy the special brewed Oktoberfest Air Base beer.

The revenue of this special weekend has always been donated to social and charitable organizations in the local communities of Geilenkirchen. Recently, the chairman of the German NCO Association Senior Master Sgt. Klaus-Ulrich Dickel presented seven donation checks, including a €500 check to the day care center of Teveren.

In total, they donated €3,000 from the revenues of last year's Oktoberfest.

"On behalf of the other comrades on base, I was extremely proud of our activities. When handing over the donations to the social institutions, it was fantastic to see people, especially the kids, being happy and smiling," says Sergeant Dickel. "It is great to see that you can have a nice party like the Oktoberfest and give a donation afterwards as well."



Photo courtesy Georg Schmitz

The chairman of the German NCO Association (DUK) Senior Master Sgt. Klaus-Ulrich Dickel (left) together with some kids of the day care center in Teveren and their Kindergarten teachers.

Oktoberfest ticket sale starts

The German NCO Association (DUK) would like to invite all Component members, their families and friends to the 30th annual MOB Geilenkirchen Oktoberfest. It will take place in Hangar 2 on September 22-23.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. on Saturday, September 22, for an evening of delicious food, special Festbier and live entertainment.

On Sunday, September 23, the doors will open at 10:30 a.m. with the traditional 'Frühschoppen' at 11 a.m. and entertainment for the kids.

Tickets will be on sale for €10 at the German NCO Association

(DUK) office, Building 46, ext. 3465, from August 20 until September 20, Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-15 p.m. Each NATO ID holder is entitled to purchase a maximum of five tickets.



Please use Component Form 34.17 to register your external guests; this will simplify your purchase of tickets.

If you sponsor anyone who does not hold a NATO ID, you have to register their full name, date of birth, nationality and national passport number when purchasing the tickets.

Name changes on tickets after purchase have to be registered at the DUK office, Building 46.



Chernobyl children visit base, boost immune system and have fun

From the E-3A Component Public Affairs

About 20 children from Chernobyl, and their host parents, spent the day with members of the E-3A Component on July 24.

The base visit was set up by "Help the Chernobyl Children," a German non-profit organization founded in 1992 to aid kids from the Chernobyl area after the 1986 reactor incident.

The children range from 6 to 17 years old and are at high risk of cancer with a lower life expectancy due to living in the area of the Chernobyl incident. They spend four weeks here in Germany annually in an attempt to boost their immune systems in the hope it will prevent or at least delay the onset of thyroid cancer.

The children and their host families arrived at the gate in the morning and headed to the flight line for a fire brigade demonstration and a tour in and around an AWACS aircraft. Then, they boarded the NATO train, which offered them a good opportunity to get a closer look at the air base environment and enjoy the sunny weather.

The last stop of the day was at the pavilion near the New Gym. At the picnic area, they were treated to hot

dogs and popcorn provided by the Top Three Association. After lunch, the children participated in a dodge ball game with some members of the Component.

If you are interested in finding out more information about the organization or if you are interested in becoming a host parent for the kids in next summer, please contact the chairman or visit their official homepage at www.helft-den-tschernobyl-kindern.de.

The Chernobyl Nuclear Accident

The Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station included four nuclear reactors, each capable of producing one gig watt of electric power. On April 26, 1986, the operating crew planned to test whether the Reactor No. 4 turbines could produce enough energy to keep the coolant pumps running until the emergency diesel generator was activated in case of an external power loss. During the test, power surged unexpectedly, causing an explosion and driving temperatures in the reactor to more than 2,000 degrees Celsius - melting the fuel rods, igniting the reactor's graphite covering, and releasing a cloud of radiation into the atmosphere.



Photos by Andrea Hohenforst

A tour and demonstration by the Component's Fire Brigade was part of the program for the children from Chernobyl.

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TERRY'S DREAM: the 2012 Terry Fox Campaign - New Year, New Venue, New Goal!

The 2012 Canadian Contingent Terry Fox Committee would like to take this opportunity to once again invite the entire E-3A Component and NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen to be a part of this year's campaign to raise money for cancer research.

This year marks the 32nd year that people from all over the world join together and run, walk or bike in support of Terry's dream of raising money for cancer research.

Over the past 30 years, the Geilenkirchen Terry Fox Campaign has donated more than €266,500 directly to the German Cancer Society (Deutsche Krebshilfe), helping them to continue their quest in search of a cure.

Originally from British Columbia, Canada, Terry Fox was 18 years old when he had his right leg amputated above the knee due to cancer. While in hospital, Terry was so moved by

the suffering of cancer patients that he decided to run across Canada to raise awareness and money for cancer research. He called his journey the "Marathon of Hope".

With little fanfare, Terry began his run April 12, 1980, on Canada's east coast. Terry ran 42 km every day, the distance of a marathon. After 143 consecutive running days and 5,373 km, Terry was forced to end his run when the primary cancer spread to his lungs. Terry died a short while later on June 28, 1981, at 22 years of age. Terry was gone, but his legacy was just beginning.

Thirty-two years later, Terry's "Marathon of Hope" is still running strong. In the thirty one year existence of the "Marathon of Hope," the Terry Fox Foundation has raised more than \$550 million dollars in more than 50 countries. This year, a run will once again be held on the NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen.

The Terry Fox Run will start from the Canadian NSU at bldg. 98 on September 13. After the completion of the run, the Terry Fox Committee would like to invite the participants to the Canadian NSU for a social gathering and BBQ/Grill reception.

All proceeds will be part of this year's goal. More details will be posted in future advertisements. Additional fundraisers for Terry Fox this year include:

- **Raffle Draw** (more than €500 in prizes) - tickets will be sold at all the events and can be purchased by contacting the Chair or Vice-Chair.
- **August 10 - Car Wash** (Building 65N, near the Natex Garage)
- **August 19 - Information & Registration Day** (Terry Fox Halle in Niederheid) - Bring the family to



- sign up for clubs/teams, receive a new haircut by the Coiffeur Team Pfeil Hair Salon from Heinsberg and enjoy a delicious BBQ.
- **September 7 - Pancake Breakfast** (Terry Fox Halle in Niederheid)
- **September 21 - Geilenkirchen Realschule 4th Annual Run**

Bring the whole family and get involved in this worthwhile cause. Most of us may know someone who had cancer or been affected by cancer. This is an opportunity to enjoy team spirit in an International setting, be part of a worthwhile cause and honoring someone you may know who has been affected by cancer. Your continued support is appreciated.

For more information, please contact the Chairperson, Sgt. Randy Dowden at ext. 3664 (or 01773 474137) or Vice-Chair, Sgt. Richard Lachance at 02451 717 136.

Crime alert... Be warned!

On behalf of the Provost Marshal

According to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office there has been a series of robberies and express kidnappings on or around the motorways connecting Amsterdam - The Hague - Rotterdam - Antwerp - Ghent - Dunkirk and the Channel Ports, particularly toward the southern end of the route.

Perpetrators of these robberies have been using threats of violence and are carrying knives and/or firearms.

The perpetrators have generally been gangs with Eastern European connections, and are sometimes using UK - registered vehicles.

In the early hours they have been flagging down vehicles, seeming to seek assistance, from by-passers and/or kidnapping single drivers, outside petrol stations or 24-hours stores. They have been robbing victims on the spot or taking their victims under force to the nearest ATM to extract as much cash as their cards will allow.

Tips:

- Avoid almost abandoned and/or outlying parking lots or gas stations, especially during night time. Don't stay overnight or rest at such places.

- Be vigilant when people ask for your assistance on the highway.
- Be alerted when "friendly" strangers offer you help when your car breaks down, a flat tire for example. Some criminals use this as an opportunity to rob you.
- Check the vehicles around you and watch out that you are not being followed. Criminals look at restaurants what money or valuables you have with you, how you pay etc and try in that way to select their victims.
- Don't make your car or yourself a display. Hide you valuable items.
- Make copies of your passports or other ID cards and documents, to have this information still available.
- Note bank account cards/credit card nr and emergency numbers on a hard copy and keep this separated, so that you can block your accounts, inform your insurance and other agencies. If they steal your telephone or other electronic device, you don't have any of this information available anymore.
- Report suspicious or criminal behavior to the police. Always make a report at the police station, when you are a victim of crime.

(Source: UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en>)

MWA INFORMATION August

MWA Card Issuing Office

MWA Cards are issued in Building 80, 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 9 to 11:30 a.m. on Fridays. An MWA Card costs 60 Euros and is valid for 12 months – payment only in cash. MWA Card holders receive a 30% discount on all food/beverage items purchased at the E-3A Club or Rotodome, and also on participation in all MWA programs on base.

Shopping Cards

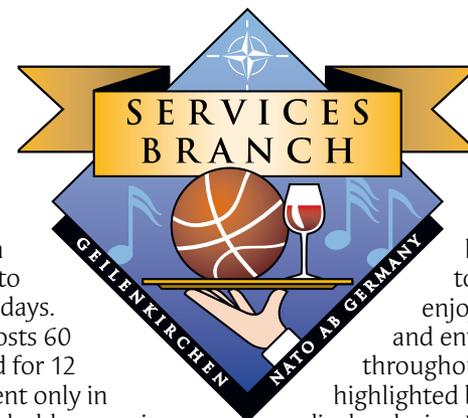
E-3A Component personnel have to present a valid shopping card to shop at all NATEX facilities. Shopping cards may be picked up Building 80, room 13, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 9 to 11:30 a.m. on Fridays.

Shopping Cards for non-Component personnel

Non-Component personnel, who currently enjoy tax-free shopping privileges at NATEX stores here, may continue to do so for rationed and non-rationed items with the current system.

Upcoming IYA Trips

Aug. 8: Walibi Amusement Park
For children ages 5 and up from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The price for the trip is 31 euro without an MWA card



or 23 euro with a valid MWA Card.

Aug 11: Rhine in Flames

The IYA is hosting a trip to Koblenz to enjoy live music and entertainment throughout the city highlighted by a firework display during Rhine in Flames, Europe's largest parade of brightly decorated boats. The price for the trip is 22 euro without an MWA card or 15 euro with a valid MWA Card.

Aug. 15: Zoom

The IYA is hosting a trip to Zoom, a big zoo in Gelsenkirchen with rides and playgrounds, for children ages 5 and up on Aug. 15 from 8 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. The price for the trip is 21 euro without an MWA card or 13 euro with a valid MWA Card.

Aug. 25: Eltz Castle and Cochem with Weinfest

The IYA is hosting a trip to Eltz Castle and Cochem with Weinfest. The trip includes a visit to a huge medieval fairy-tale castle and a traditional festival on the River Mosel. The price for the trip without and MWA card is 32 euro for those 18 or older; 30 for those ages 6 to 17 and 22 euro for children 5 and under. With a valid MWA card, the price for the trip is 22 euro for those 18 or older; 20 for those ages 6 to 17 and 15 euro for children 5 and under.



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