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NATO SKYWATCH

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Volume 28, No. 16 | NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen | 28 September 2012

Photo by Andrea Hohenforst

Red Arrows take fuel at Geilenkirchen

A unique, quick visit: The RAF Red Arrows aerobatic team made an operational stop at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen on September 21. Nine flaming red fighter jets took fuel and continued their journey to the Czech Republic to participate in the NATO Air Days at Ostrava. The Component also sent that day one of the NATO E-3A aircraft, full crew and supporting personnel to the air show for a static display.

NATO Skywatch goes monthly

By Staff Sgt R. Michael Longoria and Capt. Wilko ter Horst

The E-3A Component Public Affairs office (PAO) has published the NATO Skywatch approximately every two weeks since the first issue came out on May 31, 1985, but after more than 1.3 million copies printed, the newspaper will no longer be a bi-weekly publication.

The Skywatch will now be distributed 12 times a year on the last Friday of each month, with the exception of December when it will be published one week prior to Christmas.

To account for the change in number of issues printed, the Skywatch will increase the amount of content by more than 50 per cent.

We will also find other means such as the internet and social media to get information out.

Of course, in its 27 years of existence, the Skywatch has gone through several changes.

"During the first decade of publishing the NATO Skywatch, it was a labor-intensive process. Layout back then took at least two full working days. Each step was done manually: First, the text was given to the copy typist at the printer's office and then printed. The text sheets with columns had to be cut and waxed, and then these were pasted onto layout sheets. Converting the photo sizes was done with a calculator," explains Maureen Geraets-Head, PA staff assistant.

"Today, with a special layout computer program, it takes about four hours from start to finish."

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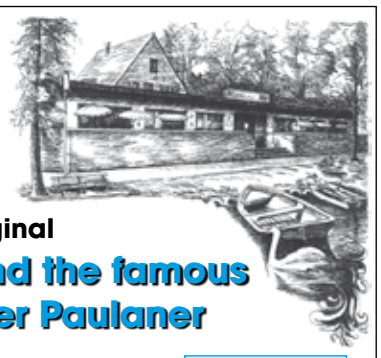

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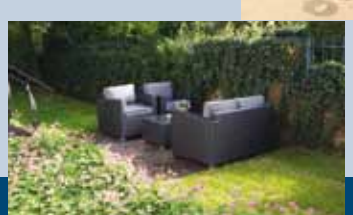

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Training turns operational with Bears

By Lt. Col. Kees Pauw

On Tuesday, September 11, Magic 52 was tasked to perform a simple training mission south of Great Britain.

On arrival in the designated area it was twice instructed by the CAOC to proceed to a more northerly orbit. When it reached the most northerly orbit the tasking was notified: to search for and follow two non-squawking aircraft heading south along the Norwegian coast.

This tasking immediately changed the status of the training mission to an operational mission in which the instructors (as Combat Ready Operators) took over the students' duties. This included the Dutch instructor surveillance controller on board. Immediately after the mission status change, he optimized the system to trace and follow the airplanes. Fairly soon afterwards the first radar contact with them was made.

Continual adjustment of the orbits for Magic 52 enabled radar contact to be maintained further southwards, and the CAOC was constantly able to direct the necessary actions, including the use of the Dutch Quick Reaction Alert (QRA). The Air-to-Air Refuelling (AAR) scheduled to take place in Germany for Magic 52 was relocated to British airspace, and the fuel quantity to be provided was increased. After refuelling, Magic 52 was tasked to follow the planes on their northern track. After it reached the most northerly orbit the radar contact was finally lost.

Also Magic 51, with three Dutch operators including the Tactical Director on board, was repositioned from Denmark toward the north-west. Use of the passive radar system enabled rapid identification of the unidentified tracks as Russian 'Bears'.

Two journalists from the Dutch *Reformatorisch Dagblad* and *BN/deStem* were flying onboard Magic 51. During the flight they were able to see the importance of international and national airspace surveillance/defence and to observe the use of the QRA from a Dutch point of view.

The *Reformatorisch Dagblad* has meanwhile published a positive article on the joint AWACS/RNLAF operation.

Keeping our aircraft safe and mission capable – a team effort

By Col. John Backstrom, Operations Wing Commander

Earlier this year, during descent with wings level, a pilot flying an E-3A experienced an un-commanded rolling motion to the right, while extending the speed brakes.

In other words, the aircraft started banking to the right without the pilot "steering" it to the right. The aircraft reached 15 degrees of right bank and the pilot easily corrected this with control input to the left. The pilot landed the aircraft uneventfully.

Because the un-commanded rolling motion was not severe or persistent and was easily corrected, the pilot, who was also the aircraft captain, did not intend to submit an Aircraft Occurrence Report (Flight Safety Report).

However, after discussing the event with other senior aircrew, he did submit a report. The main focus of this story is what happened next.

After the incident was reported, maintenance personnel checked all involved systems, as per normal maintenance procedures, without any discrepancy found.

Because an Aircraft Occurrence Report had been filed, a Flight Check Functional (FCF) qualified crew was assembled and, in conjunction with LW Quality Assurance personnel, a partial FCF checklist was created.

The partial FCF was flown and the aircraft passed the checklist items. During some additional checks, with the auto-pilot engaged, the FCF crew was able to reproduce the un-commanded right rolling motion.

With additional information provided by the FCF crew, maintenance personnel were able to duplicate the discrepancy on the ground and locate the source of the problem (two components not related to the speed brake system – one out of tolerance, and the other totally defective).

Sometimes, minor discrepancies are indications that a component is failing and may be the last warning before a complete (or catastrophic) failure.

As well, some discrepancies are elusive (even to our highly skilled maintainers) and it may take a few successive attempts (process of elimination) to identify the root cause.

Our Component maintenance personnel are as good as any, anywhere – but they normally can only fix the problems that they know about, and they often only know about problems observed during flight if the aircrews report them.

If you observe something on the aircraft that does not work the way it is supposed to, write it up and thoroughly debrief maintenance. If the discrepancy has (or could have) a negative impact on safety, file an Aircraft Occurrence Report.

These principles apply equally to aircraft and mission systems, as well as flight deck and mission crews.

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Margraten Memorial Concert 2012

By Capt. Wilko ter Horst
Photo courtesy Pascal Moors

On Sunday, September 9, Component Commander Brig. Gen. and Mrs. Andrew Mueller and Capt. Wilko ter Horst from Public Affairs attended the Margraten memorial concert on invitation of the Margraten Memorial Foundation.

This concert was held at the American Cemetery in Margraten, The Netherlands, for the seventh successive year in honor of the memory of the fallen members of the Allied armed forces of World War II. The annual musical tribute is an expression of gratitude to all those who fell for the liberation of the Netherlands. Thousands of people visited the Margraten Memorial Concert.

This open-air concert was arranged by the Limburg Symphony Orchestra. The program consisted of Messa Da Requiem by Giovanni Sgambati and was performed by the Limburg Symphony Orchestra accompanied by the Brabant Choir.

A total of 8,301 American soldiers – many of them young – lie buried beneath the white gravestones of the only American cemetery in the Netherlands, in the southern Limburg town of Margraten. Those buried there gave their lives in World War II for Europe's freedom.

In 1945, to honor and thank them, the Dutch government gave the United States a perpetual lease on the land for the cemetery. In Margraten and the surrounding area, the sacrifices and achievements of those who fell are remembered in many ways.

The cemetery is usually open daily between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. It is closed to the public only two days in the year, on 25 December and 1 January. When the cemetery is open to the public, the visitor building is staffed and the staff are always willing to answer any questions.

Address:
Netherlands American Cemetery
Amerikaanse Begraafplaats 1
6269 NA Margraten, The Netherlands
Tel.: (31) 43 45 81 208.

Photo StaffSgt. R Michael Longoria

Medals and wings for Dutch AWACS personnel

"Today you have witnessed a dual ceremony regarded within our armed forces as very important. Presentation of medals and wings to personnel working for the Air Force is very special in my view," said the Commander of the Royal Netherlands Air Force, Lieutenant General Sander Schnitger, at Geilenkirchen Air Base, on September 6, to 14 airmen to whom he presented the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) medal, the Operation Unified Protector (OUP) medal, and aircrew wings. Schnitger also spoke of the international employment of air force personnel. "It is no longer conceivable that a mission can be conducted without air force involvement. Not now, and not in the future. This can only be done with your support from here. You, who work with passion for the air force. My sincere appreciation for that."

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High-level visitors on base: Future of AWACS program

By Lt.Col. Knud K. Holmsgaard and Janina Bien

On 19 September high-level guests visited our air base. Around 30 members of the NAPMO Operations, Plans and Logistics (OPL) Committee were invited by the Component to visit the Flight Training Device (FTD) and the Mission Training Center (MTC) at the Training Wing. The members also visited the Logistics Wing to inform themselves about the MIDs (Mission Information Distribution System) terminal. The central topic of this meeting was to discuss the future of the Force, thus also the future of the AWACS program within NATO.

Background information about the NAPMO BOD and the OPL Committee:

The NAEW&C Programme Management Organization Board of Directors (NAPMO BOD) has authority over the management of the NATO AWACS program, particularly with regard to the technical and financial aspects. The BOD consists of one member from each participating nation.

The BOD mostly meets twice times per year to review the program, address major issues, and to provide policy guidance and strategic direction. It is supported by two committees, which are the Operations, Plans and Logistics (OPL) Committee and the Policy and Finance (PF) Committee.

These committees meet a few weeks prior to each BOD meeting to review issues and provide recommendations within their respective sphere of expertise.

OPL Committee:

In its role as an advisory body of national experts, the OPL Committee considers and makes recommendations to the BOD in the areas of operations, interoperability, technical, logistics, sustainment, configuration, requirement as well as industrial benefits and industrial participation.

PF Committee:

In its role as a body of national experts, the Policy and Finance (PF) Committee considers and makes recommendations to the BOD in the areas of legal, budget and financial procedures, contractual aspects and strategic planning.

Lt.Col. Bernd Lorenzen, Chairman of the NAPMO OPL Committee summarized the intention of the visit. "Today the members of the committee are here to see the outcome of their recommendations done in the past. We would like to inform ourselves first hand, if the outcome of our activities meets the user's needs. Our committee provides the requirements view to the Policy and Finance Committee, which then gives recommendations for funding to the Board of Directors." As former Deputy Commander of the Operations Wing on base during the time period 2006-2008, he definitely knows all the background information that is needed when reviewing such important projects.

"The OPL Committee is an immense important body as the members of this meeting are the nations' representatives and OPL advisers for the Board of Directors", clarifies Mr. Jacek Zablotny, Project Manager for the Mission Training Center. "The BOD is the highest authority of Force Command and the Component as they decide on the amount of people working for the force and most important, to decide how much money is spent on. All in all, these OPL Committee members decide on the future AWACS program."

Photos Andrea Hohenforst

The new system of the Flight Training Device is explained to the OPL Committee members.

With the new investments done with the Mission Training Center (MTC) and the Flight Training Device (FTD), it is now possible to integrate different systems and to train more crews at the same time.

These new training facilities will allow re-organizing the Component training. Providing more capabilities than in one mission and the possibility of exchanging data and voice are only some benefits. Two trainings are possible at the same time as both training crews can both make use of the same communication as being in a real flight in an aircraft.

Col. Marco F. D'Asta, Training Wing Commander, emphasized the importance of this day's visit. "With these new investments we are just at a very important phase in the Component history. As the member nations are constantly cutting down their budgets, the system of the Flight Training Device is an immense chance and there are great potentials in saving money. With the real view training possibility, more training can be done on base instead of being in "real training flight."

The Training Wing Commander also emphasizes that "there are great improvements especially for trainees: all the information will be presented in more efficient and effective ways by making life easier to personnel with different backgrounds. For instructors it will be easier to interfere, to explain and instruct the trainees. Overall these systems allow a more efficient training."

The MTC and the FTD will also have distributed training capability, meaning the possibility to connect with the simulator of other weapon systems of different nations and run common training scenarios that could be the mission rehearsal of a future real operation. More training is possible, which will lead directly to a higher effectiveness rate during operations. However, these new systems cannot completely replace real training flights.

The pilot and instructor Lt.Col. Gero Ronneberger explained the improvements of the new systems as the following: "In the past the Training Wing was often seen as orphans and as different business compared to operations. Now, we are more integrated and we gained more acceptance and importance".

The OPL Chairman Lt.Col. Bernd Lorenzen discussing improvements of the new system with Training Wing Commander Col. Marco F. D'Asta during the visit on 19 September at the Training Wing building.

Photos Lt.Col. Raimond Schulz

Component participates in ILA 2012

By Chief MSgt. Michael Möller

The German Federal Chancellor, Dr. Angela Merkel, and the Deputy Minister President and Minister of Economics of the Republic of Poland, Mr. Waldemar Pawlak, opened this year's ILA 2012.

From September 11-16, the world's longest-running international air show "ILA 2012" took place on the new exhibition grounds at Berlin Expo Center Airport, directly adjacent to the capital's future airport. The ILA Berlin Air Show was organised jointly by the German Aerospace Industries Association (BDLI) and Messe Berlin GmbH.

1,243 exhibitors from 46 countries provided a display of high-tech products from all parts of the aerospace industry. Around 230,000 trade visitors and members of the public came to find out about the products and services being exhibited. Over the course of the show they were able to enjoy a program that featured a total of 36 hours of flying displays.

The E-3A Component under the mission command of Lt. Col. Peter Leufen, with members of Squadron 3 supported by members of other departments of the Component and its Chief of Staff, Col. Werner Nemetschek, participated with one of our AWACS in the exhibition.

Due to the great weather and the famous reputation of NATO AWACS, between 2,000 and 5,000 visitors per day had the opportunity to have a look at the inside of the aircraft. During the days of the air show many of the crew members were overwhelmed by interesting talks with important guests, representing industry, politics, the military, science and research. Visitors and media showed very great interest in the Component's task, capability and history, and the technically interested members of the public were enthralled by the display of the aircraft.

Also outside the aircraft, all the crew members were very busy answering questions, providing information material and entertaining the crowd, who sometimes had a wait of up to 45 minutes. For many of them it was a fascinating aircraft at a great public event.

During the fair, 282 aircraft were exhibited on the ground and in the air, including the world's two largest airliners, an Airbus A-380 and a Boeing 747-8, as well as a Beluga from Airbus. The A-400M, the world's most advanced military transporter, was on show in the air.

National aerobatic teams from Turkey and Poland put on flying displays and the program of flying shows included a historic 1936 De Havilland as well as Eurofighter, MiG-29 and F-18.

More than 3,000 media representatives from 65 countries provided written and broadcast coverage of the Berlin Air Show. New concepts such as unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) and eco-efficient flight were introduced, as well as industrial innovations and research including cabin concepts for the future, increasingly efficient low-emission engines, new materials and alternative aviation fuels.

Despite some pain in their feet and legs, and some restless days and nights, nearly all crew members including the leadership announced that they would volunteer for the next ILA at the Berlin Expo Center Airport from May 20-25, 2014. It has been a great team effort and a great experience.

Oktoberfest 2012

On 22-23 September another highlight was on our base: the Oktoberfest 2012

With the keg tapping on Saturday evening at 19:30 the Oktoberfest was officially opened by Brig.Gen. Andrew M. Mueller, Force Commander Maj.Gen. Jochen Both together with the chairman of the German NCO Association SMSgt. Klaus Dickel and the member of the Landtag, Mr. Bernd Krückel. More than 3,000 people attended this famous festival and more than 9,500 liters of the special brewed Lambertus Oktoberfest beer was given out. The band was putting the heat on the spectators until 02:30 in the morning.

Photos: Andrea Hohenforst. Design: Visual Media Services

TERRY FOX RUN

Photos Andrea Hohenforst

"We are deeply grateful", says Judith Fox-Alder

By Capt. Craig Derenzis, Terry Fox Committee Public Affairs Coordinator

It was a perfect day for a run: slightly overcast, light mist with a temperature in the high teens. Terry Fox himself couldn't have asked for better.

The 2012 Terry Fox Run took place on September 13, here at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, drawing participants from all over NATO's tri-border region, with runners and volunteers bringing the crowd at the Canadian national support unit to around 150 people.

The cooperation of several on-base agencies allowed participants to run, walk, or bike on and around the airfield, completing either a 5 km or 10 km course. At the conclusion of the inspiring display of athletics, a BBQ and raffle draw brought the day to an end with an impressive €1,400 raised for Deutsche Krebshilfe (German Cancer Help) – and the TF Committee's accumulated annual donation growing to over €2,500!

Mrs. Judith Fox-Alder (TF Foundation International Director – and Terry's sister) made a special acknowledgement of the great success of this year's campaign: "Your efforts reflect those characteristics that Terry stood for, determination to get the job done and to show that every single one of us can make a difference. You have every right to feel proud of your efforts. It makes us even more excited for our upcoming Terry Fox Runs."

As Mrs. Fox-Alder alludes to, it doesn't end there. The local 2012 campaign ended with its final event at the TF Realschule Run Day September 21, followed by the cheque presentation to Krebshilfe on 4 Oct. The generosity of both local and NATO communities has enabled what promises to be a banner year for the campaign.

The TF committee is extremely grateful for the interest, participation, and charity displayed by these communities, and this gratitude is echoed by the greater TF Foundation. Cancer doesn't discriminate according to nationality, and the unity exhibited by our international community exemplifies the type of effort that will help bring an end to the disease.

Thanks again to those who have been involved, whether through donations, participation, volunteering, or coordination – the success of the Terry Fox campaign and the ongoing battle against cancer depends upon your efforts!

NATO OUP Medals for IT Wing personnel

Text and photo courtesy IT Wing

On September 10, the IT Wing Commander, Col. Juan Ramón Del Rio Nieto, presented NATO Operation Unified Protector medals to IT Wing personnel who contributed to that operation.

Out of a total of 25 deployed to FOB Trapani, 14 were eligible for the NATO Medal.

To qualify for this medal one had to have had 30 days of continuous or accumulated service in any single tour, or 60 days in multiple tours. IT Wing deployed 25 people in support of OUP and a total of 961 days of deployment were logged.

Operation Unified Protector started on March 23, 2011, and ended October 31 that same year. It was the first operation for which NATO decided that CHAT was to be the main C2 means of communication.

The last CHAT messages of the operation to our airborne E-3A read as follows:

[23:01:30] <CJTFUP BWC>
From COM CJTF:"Ceasefire. End of Mission."
[23:01:43] <MX52> c
[23:01:52] <CFACC> MATRIX52, MOOSE: For the past 7 plus months, you were bold, aggressive, relentless but never reckless, and made the success of Operation Unified Protector possible. I am proud of you all. On behalf of a grateful Alliance and partner nations, I thank you for your professionalism and tremendous effort. Job very well done! - MATRIX52, Cleared RTB, Fly Safe
[23:11:51] <CJTFUP BWC> CJFT CUROPS BWC is signing off.
[23:01:58] <MX52> matrix 52 off station, rtb

IT Wing OUP medal recipients currently serving at the E-3A Component are: Sgts. Melinda Daley, Sam Devici, Bradley Dillon, Jean-Paul Keymis, Floyd Ledesma; NATO civilians Mrs. Sharon Krebs, Mrs. Jean MacDonald, Mr. Kevin Farmer. Sgt. John Maris is also eligible for this NATO Medal but his application has been delayed due to paperwork.

Personnel who have already left the Component and received the medal through their respective National Support Unit are: Sgts. Terry Bottom, Christopher Carcia, Kelvin Ruizino. Majors Ronald Young and Steve Lavoie will receive the National OUP Medal through their national chain of command.

Celebrate Halloween with Geilenkirchen's Team 5/6

By Staff Sgt. Ladislav Kucera

"Trick or Treat!" It's October and it's Halloween time! Halloween is celebrated on the evening of October 31, the evening before the Christian feast of All Saints' Day.

The Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base Team 5/6 is upholding the tradition by yet again sponsoring an exhilarating celebration of a magic evening at the JFC Brunssum Conference Center on October 27, starting at 9 p.m.

Team 5/6 has a long tradition of sponsoring variety of events, such as this annual Halloween bash party that has taken place on the last Saturday of each October.

The Halloween parties have been among the many fund-raising events where Team 5/6 gives most of its proceeds back to the community, such as awarding college scholarships to selected AFNORTH School seniors in the amount of $500; sponsored "Santas in Blues" events delivering care packages every year during the winter holiday season to support the wounded warriors program at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center; supporting the volunteer recognition, promotion, and induction ceremonies for members of the E-3A Component and the 470th ABS - the list could go on.

This year's Halloween Bash will be filled with an abundance of food and drinks, plenty of fun, entertainment and favorite costumes.

For more information on this event, check out the GK Team 5/6 Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/#!/events/409266709127318/.

The history of Halloween

Halloween's history goes back to the ancient religion of the Celtic tribes (circa 500 B.C.) from whom came the Britons, Scots and Irish. Present day English, Scots, Welsh and Irish are all descended to some extent from these ancient Celtic tribes. The Celts believed that at the end of summer, Samhain, the lord of death, becomes powerful and overpowers the sun god. On October 31, Samhain assembles all the evil spirits who had died the previous year and allows them to return home to visit the living.

On October 31, after the harvest, the druids would meet under an oak grove or near large stone circles where they performed sacrifices. The priests would light great fires and offer sacrifices to Samhain to ensure that the sun returned after the winter. During the night all fires except the sacrificial one to Samhain were extinguished.

The Vigil of Samhain, as it was called, would keep the sacrificial fire on through the night and the next day embers from this fire would be used to light the fire in each household.

Villagers would try to appease goblins and demons with offerings of food and nuts. They would leave little treats that the household had to offer, to satisfy the hunger of these demons.

People believed that if the demon was satisfied with the treat, it would not trick the person or cast an evil spell. Therein remains the origin of the present day trick or treat.

Virtually all existing Halloween traditions can be traced to the ancient Celtic day of the dead.

To this day, witches, ghosts, and skeleton figures of the dead are among the favorite disguises and Halloween is becoming once again an adult holiday or masquerade, like Mardi Gras. Men and women in every disguise imaginable are taking to the streets of big American cities and parading past grinningly carved, candlelit jack o'lanterns to re-enact customs with a lengthy pedigree.

Their masked antics challenge, mock, tease, and appease the dread forces of the night, of the soul, and of the otherworld that becomes our world on this night of reversible possibilities, inverted roles, and transcendency.

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Photo by Oliver Mainz

Excuse me for a second… I have a special surprise!

Recently, Mrs. Marianne Farver, an employee from the E-3A Component Training Wing, entered a conference room and called a meeting to a halt. Mrs. Farver interrupted the A1 team meeting to surprise her husband, Maj. Peter Farver, with a nice bouquet of flowers. What made the occasion special and worthy of celebration is that the day marked the major's 30th year in the Danish Air Force. Major Farver is the branch head of Manpower Management (A1MM) and has been working at the Component since August 2008.

Run and support

For the third time in a row, the Tri-Border breast cancer Geilenkirchen 5 km run is scheduled for October 12, starting at 1:30 p.m. in front of the Component's Gym building. Please register by 12 October by email: geilenkirchen.team56@geilenkirchen.af.mil

The email should have the following information: Name, email address, registration fee preference, male/female, and Yes/No racing for a prize, and Yes/No for babysitter service.

The fee is € 15. Payments can be made the day of the event beginning at 1:30 p.m. (please email first and indicate your registration fee preference) or in person via a registration point of contacts, listed below.

Registration fee preferences:
Your € 15 registration fee can be applied one of three ways:

- Pay Team 5/6 directly and we will contribute your donation to the CFC-O (receive a T-shirt)
- Pay Team 5/6 directly and we will contribute your donation to the GK A&FRC (receive a T-shirt)
- Complete a CFC-O Pledge Card and donate to the charity of your choice (unfortunately, no T-shirt if this option is chosen).

Questions? Call one of the following persons: Ms. Donna McQuaig ext. 3791, Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Gonzalez ext. 3320, Tech. Sgt. Mishaki Mason-Harris, Tech. Sgt Valerie Nelson ext. 2235, Tech. Sgt. Auchekia Miles 2727, Staff Sgt. Kayla Bilger ext. 2242. Staff Sgt Misty Horton US Clinic, Staff Sgt. Anthony Petrowich ext. 7353, Staff Sgt. Ken Lemanski ext. 2227.

It is no coincidence that the important period in China's history is referred to as the Golden Age. One of the important elements laying the foundation for this prosperity was the Silk Road, a network of trade routes that got its name from the trade in Chinese silk that began during the Han Dynasty. The Silk Road brought the Orient into contact with Western culture and allowed good and lucrative trade relations to be developed.

This exhibition is presented to the public until 20 October.
Address: Minderbroederkerk, Boomgaarstraat, Maaseik, Belgium

For more information: www.degoudeneeuwvanchina.be

It's that time again!

The International Women's Club has an exciting 2012-13 schedule featuring many of our NATO countries.

Come join us as we celebrate our diversity and our common friendship.

As always, the doors open at 6 p.m. and the evening begins promptly at 7 p.m. at the E-3A Club on base.

Don't forget the raffle prizes provided monthly by the host country and tickets sales end when the evening begins.

Always worth the wait! We hope to see you soon!

2012-13 schedule

- Oct 30 cools us down with a change of pace; International Coffee Morning (Tuesday 9:30 a.m.)
- Nov 15 reeves up the festivity with Turkey.
- Dec 4 is red hot with Italy.(a Tuesday evening)
- Jan 17 starts our year off right with Spain.
- Feb 21gives us the wining combination of The Netherlands and the United Kingdom.
- Mar 21 brings another country proud of the red, white and blue, USA.
- Apr 18 heralds spring with the magic of Norway.
- May 14 ends our season with Member's Only Bingo and Germany. (a Tuesday evening).

MWA INFORMATION October

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

Food Services System
POC: Mr. Rene Peeters, ext. 4990, email rpeeters@e3a.nato.int
Visit the Services Branch, Food Services System WSS Page for the latest programme information and upcoming events.

Rotodome closed October 15-24
Due to renovation work in the kitchen area, the Rotodome will be closed from 15 to 24 October 2012.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served at the E-3A Club during this timeframe.

Rotodome Pizza
Please call ext. 4937 to pre-order Pizza. During the busy lunch-time periods, we cannot guarantee the pizza will be available exactly at the requested time - pizzas are freshly made and require preparation time. All pizzas are available for take away.
Visit our Component's Food Services System WSS page for detailed information on menus/food items and price structure.

Customers wishing to receive the menu per email are requested to send their email address to rpeeters@e3a.nato.int for inclusion in the automatic distribution list.

MWA Card
MWA cards are being issued in building 80 (Services Branch Accounting Section), room 13. Office opening hours: Mon-Thurs: 0900-1130 & 1300-1500; Fri: 0900-1130. A MWA card costs €60 for everyone for a period of twelve months – payment only in cash. As a MWA card holder you will receive a 30% discount on all food/beverage items purchased at the E-3A Club/ Rotodome, and also on participation in all MWA programs on base. You will also receive the Food Services Newsletter and the weekly Rotodome menu per email, if you wish.

Attention MWA Card holders
You are kindly requested to check the validation date on your MWA card. If it has expired, and you would like to continue enjoying the (approx.) 30% discount on our MWA services, please make sure you renew your MWA card during the above-mentioned office opening hours. Please be aware that frequent checks are being carried out by our staff members in the various MWA areas.

Shopping Cards
It is now mandatory for E-3A Component personnel to present a valid shopping card to shop at the NATEX facilities. Pick up your shopping card as soon as possible at building 80, room 13. Opening Hours: Mon-Thurs, 0900-1130 and 1300-1500; Fri: 0900-1130

"SPOIL ME" DAY SPA NOW OPEN, building 81
"Spoil Me" Day Spa now open for business in bldg. 81 next to the Beauty/Barber Shop / MWR Store. The spa specializes in skin care, waxing and threading (hair removal). For a full menu of services for men and women, stop by the office or check out the "Spoil Me" Day Spa Facebook page. To make an appointment, contact Nehir Mullen at 01516 1603434

E-3A Club
NEW opening hours: Mon-Wed: 11a.m.-4 p.m.; Thurs 11 p.m.-9 p.m. Happy hour prices on beverages from 4-6 p.m. Fridays 11.a.m.-6 p.m.
The Red Lion Bar is open every Wednesday, 4 p.m.-10 p.m.
The Bavarian Keller is open every second Thursday from 4 p.m.-10 p.m.
Special Events (See Food Services Web Page for details):
Oct. 26 Whisky Tasting (Limited Seating)
Nov 21 Special Thanksgiving Lunch at the Rotodome
Coffee & Cake €3,55, Toasties, and "Bockwurst with salad" are served every day as of 1100. Coffee-to-go is also available. Additionally, a small warm dish with bread is available from 1100 - 1330. Price for MWA member: Euro 2,50/ non-MWA members Euro 3,50.

The E-3A Club is equipped to cater for all special functions, official dinners, conferences, meetings, etc., on a limited basis. Please contact Mr. Peeters, ext. 4990 to arrange details.
The Kegelbahn, located in building 60, is open for use on a rental basis. Please ask the Activity Manager for a free slot.

Sports Department (ext. 4946)
Opening hours: Mon-Fri: 6 a.m. - 9 p.m. Weekends: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

No Sports staff available at the New Gym Mon – Thurs after 5 p.m., Fri after 3.30 p.m. and at weekends. Patrons wishing to check out equipment need to do so before the above-mentioned times. Management apologizes for this inconvenience.

All Component personnel are authorised to utilise the sports facilities free of charge. However, participation in fitness classes with instructor, i.e. spinning, aerobics, dance classes, etc. is restricted to personnel in possession of a valid MWA membership card. Dependants are required to be in possession of a valid membership card to utilise the Gym. Daily checks will be conducted.

Special Events
Oct 1 start of winter schedule Old Gym, New Gym & Multi-Purpose Room
Oct 11 Volleyball tournament. Deadline Registration Oct 10
Oct 17 Table tennis tournament. Deadline Registration: Oct 15
Oct 24 Indoor soccer tournament. Deadline Registration: Oct 19
Nov 9, 11a.m. International cross country run. Deadline Registration: Nov 9, 10.45 a.m.

Fitness Classes
Come along and try out one of the many fitness classes offered at the Sports Department. See schedule on the Sports Department WSS Page.

International Library (ext. 4956)
Operating hours 1100-1500, Monday through Friday.

The International Library, situated in building 96, offers a large variety of books, periodicals, audio and video materials. The regular book collection contains over 12,000 books and is divided into 9 language categories: Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Norwegian, and Turkish. In addition to the regular collection, there is a paperback book exchange, the McNaughton book collection, assorted university text, and a large juvenile section with over 2,500 children's books. 40 periodicals in English and the daily 'Stars and Stripes' can be read in the relaxed atmosphere at our library. Our audio resources include more than 500 music CDs and 50 language courses and audio books. Also, more than 650 DVDs for adults and children are available as well as 6 public computers for internet use. Come and check out our new collection of CDs and DVDs.

All is free of charge for all NATO ID card holders (small charge for usage of copy machine (A3 and A4) and printer for Internet pages).

International Youth Activities (ext. 4954 or 4955)
Registration and further information at the IYA Office in Bldg. 95, ext. 4955.

Dance Classes
The IYA Dance program under the experienced and certified instruction of Jacky Smeets is starting at the IYA Multi-purpose Room the week of 1 October. Cost is €20 per month. The following classes are offered:
Tots (ages 3 to 4) – Monday, 5.15 p.m.- 6 p.m., Lil Stars (ages 5 to 6) Monday, 6 p.m.-6.45 p.m., Dance Sensation (ages 7 to 8) Thursday, 6.15 p.m.-7 p.m., Dance Sensation (ages 9 and up) Thursday, 7 p.m.-7.45 p.m.
The first classes on 1 and 4 October are free.

Yoga
Yoga lessons under the experienced and certified instruction of Mimi Davis, Registered Yoga Alliance Teacher, are starting at the IYA Multi-purpose Room on 2 October. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m.-12 a.m. Cost is €5 per lesson. Register in class.

Swimming courses
For children aged 4 and older at the Hallenbad Geilenkirchen: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1645 to 1745 for Beginners, and 5:45 p.m.-6.45 p.m. for Advanced Beginners. Our certified instructors speak English and German, and work with the children in small groups. Cost for 12 lessons is €78,50, pay only €55 with your valid MWA Card.

Trip Christmas market Trier
Get in the mood for the season at one of the loveliest Christmas Markets on Saturday, 1 December, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Enjoy the romantic atmosphere between the enchanting Christmas booths on the medieval Main Market in front of the Cathedral. And the oldest city in Germany has much more to offer.

Visit the Roman Baths, Amphitheatre, Porta Nigra, the Karl-Marx-House, or the many beautiful churches, not to forget the stores, and great places to eat and drink. Our luxury bus departs from outside the Front Gate. Cost is €22 per person, pay only €15 per person with your valid MWA Card.

Family steam train ride
Santa Claus is already planning to join the traditional Moonlight Ride on the historic Selfkantbahn. On Friday, 14 December, at 7 p.m. we will travel from Gillrath to Schierwaldenrath in the restored antique wagons. There will be one short stop on the way, when our special passenger arrives in a horse-drawn carriage. Santa will welcome all the children and present them with a Christmas bag.

At Schierwaldenrath we will enjoy refreshments and Christmas songs, before returning to Gillrath. Tickets at €7 per child and €12 per adult include "Brötchen" with hot chocolate, coffee, Glühwein, or a soft drink, and also goodies for children, and can be purchased at the IYA Office.

Thrift Shop
Opening hours 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday, ext. 4919.
Located in Building 65 next to the NATEX Gas Station and garage. Items include: New and used men's/women's/children's clothing, handbags and accessories, household appliances, small furniture items, entertainment/electronics, decorations, toys and seasonal items.

The Thrift Shop will also sell your goods! Patrons can bring 10 items to sell per visit. 6 weeks before moving – 20 items to sell per visit. 15% of sales is given to support Component MWA funds. Please visit us to see the items and bargains offered!

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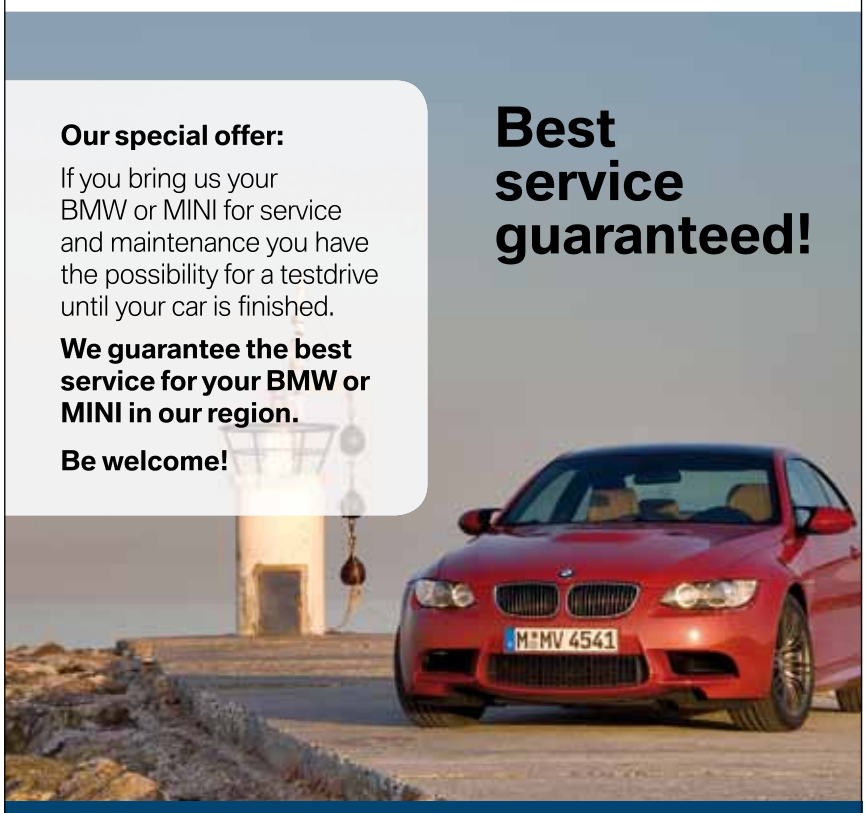

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