



Photo courtesy Italian Air Force

Customs rules apply to all flights from outside the European Union entering Germany. This is also the case at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen.

## Understanding Customs and the Component

By Capt. Steve Waller

Over the past few months there have been a lot of questions raised regarding how Customs procedures are applied here at the Component.

As a result, the following information is being provided, so we can all better understand the relationship between German Federal Customs and the E-3A Component.

In accordance with Article XI of the NATO SOFA agreement, members, civilian personnel and

their dependents of the force shall be subject to the laws and regulations administered by the customs authorities of the receiving State.

Customs authorities of the receiving State have the right to search all members identified above and to examine their luggage and vehicles, and to seize articles pursuant to such laws and regulations.

In order to comply with Article XI, Article XIII of the SOFA requires the force to assist Customs in the execution of their tasks and render all assistance necessary within their power to ensure compliance with the laws of the receiving state, the payment of duties, taxes and penalties payable.

The requirements identified above apply not only to flights entering Germany from outside the European Union, but also when it comes to shopping at the NATEX, purchasing rationed items or fuel.

As Component members it is an individual responsibility to ensure that you know your entitlements and that you complete the necessary declarations when required. If you are unsure of what your entitlements are please refer to E-3A Order 8.1-11 which outlines all the policies and procedures applicable to the Component and its membership.

The Customs process is under constant review in order to ensure compliance with Host Nation

regulations, as well as equitable treatment of our personnel.

On average, it takes approximately 45 minutes to an hour to complete a post-flight Customs inspection, and you can do your part to help the process by being prepared, properly completing the declaration forms and cooperating with the process.

As professionals within NATO and representatives of our individual Nations, let's do our part to support the Customs process in accordance with HN law.

Your continued support and understanding regarding this and other security requirements is greatly appreciated.



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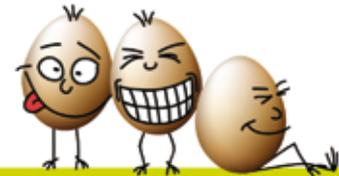


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# COMMANDER'S CORNER

## MEN & WOMEN OF THE E-3A COMPONENT TEAM!



This month, the nations which NATO comprise the Airborne Early Warning and Control Program Management Organization (NAPMO) say goodbye to Brigadier General Ludwig Leinhos as he departs his position as General Manager of the NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Programme Management Agency (NAPMA) for a new NATO position as the Director, C3 Staff, at NATO HQ in Brussels. Since 2009, General Leinhos has led the extensive effort to ensure our fleet of 17 E-3A aircraft remain the most modern AWACS aircraft in the world.

Under his leadership NAPMA has continued the modernization of our E-3A aircraft by establishing the Communications, Navigations, Surveillance, Air Traffic Management Systems (CNS/ATM) upgrade

program which will ensure the viability of our E-3A fleet for many years. In addition, General Leinhos led the effort to deliver two new training devices to the Component to improve our ability to use simulators to conduct training essential for maintaining the operational readiness of our aircrews. Thanks to the vision and leadership of General Leinhos the Component is much better postured for the future. I know all the members of the Component join me in wishing General and Mrs. Leinhos the best of luck in Brussels – we will leave a table open at the Rotodome for you both for sure.

General Leinhos is just another example of what I witness everyday here in the Component – men and women from 17 nations working together to provide NATO the best

Airborne Early Warning and Control capability possible. After watching you in action for the past 6 months, I remain extremely impressed with your tireless efforts to sustain our mission. Each of you serves as an outstanding representative of your nation and a telling example of what is possible under the cooperative efforts of NATO. Early this month I had the privilege of presenting Senior Master Sergeant Karl Heinz Wild a certificate recognizing his 25 years of service in the Component – during this period OR-8 Karl Heinz Wild has flown over 8600 hours in the E-3A.

Regardless of whether you have been a member of the Component for 25 years or 25 hours it is important for me as your Component Commander to hear what you have

to say about our Component. The ongoing force review will set our future course for sure. Your input to this effort is important to me to ensure that the modernization investments of the NAPMO nations executed through NAPMA and the personal commitment of the individual men and women that each of our nations send to the Component will be sustained to ensure the success of this one-of-a-kind NATO organization for many years to come.



MAJ GEN ANDREW M. MUELLER

## E-3A Component commander visits FOB Konya

From FOB Konya

Maj. Gen. Andrew M. Mueller, the NATO E-3A Component commander, visited Forward Operating Base Konya, Turkey, for the first time from Jan. 9 to 11.

During his visit, General Mueller was briefed by Lt. Col. Murat Cetinkaya about the mission and capabilities of FOB Konya.

The commander, accompanied by Colonel Cetinkaya, FOB Commander, also toured the facilities and shops to gain better understanding and got some information from the personnel.

He thanked all members of the FOB Konya for their professionalism, dedication and taking good care of all facilities, tools and equipment.

In addition, General Mueller visited 3rd Main Jet Base Commander, Maj. Gen. Yılmaz Özkaya, in his office.

The Component commander also visited Peace Eagle (Turkish AWACS) facilities and exchanged some ideas with leadership and expressed his willingness to work in close cooperation and partnership for some missions in the near future.

He joined the crew during mission planning and had the chance to observe Nexus Ace Exercise during his flight back to Geilenkirchen.

Before leaving, General Mueller expressed his impressions of the visit by writing in the memorial book of FOB Konya. He wrote, "I am very proud to be part of your team, which is leading the NAEW&C Force from the front. You are a great example of



Photo courtesy FOB Konya

what our multi-national team can do! Congratulations on 30 years and

I look forward to 30 more years of success."



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**Commander**  
Maj. Gen. Andrew M. Mueller  
**Acting Chief, Public Affairs**  
Capt. Wilko ter Horst  
**Editor**  
Staff Sgt. R. Michael Longoria  
Maureen Geraets-Head

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## How high are traffic fines?

Traffic rules exist to make traffic safer. If you break the rules and get caught, you will have to pay a penalty.

Since we are close to the Dutch border, it is good to know that the traffic fines in the Netherlands are generally higher than those in Germany.

The most common fines are listed here for you.



### Speeding

DEU  
within the city €15-680  
outside the city €10-600  
NLD  
within a 30 km zone €43-390  
Within the city €26-308  
outside the city €23-390  
highway €23-390



Not wearing your safety belt  
DEU €30  
NLD €130



Running a red light  
DEU starting at €90  
NLD €220



Driving under influence  
DEU €500-1500  
NLD €350-750



Parking offence  
DEU €10-70  
NLD €90



Using cellphone while driving  
DEU €40  
NLD €220

(Source: ADAC, Openbaar Ministerie)

## What is ViPeR?

ViPeR (Virtual Representation of a Person) is a database that can be used to retrieve, display, and allow interaction with records from other base information systems pertaining to you as an individual.

Although this is not a CIS originated product, we do use information stored there to provide you better service and make your jobs easier. For instance, some of us use Outlook as a phone book to quickly look up an office number of a person. However, sometimes the phone number is not correct or left blank.

If you contact the Consolidated Service Desk (CSD) team to update Outlook you will most likely be directed to update the data in ViPeR first. The reason for this response is because an automated script populates the data from ViPeR into the Outlook address book and would overwrite the manual entry that CSD would try to input.

Additionally, the Communications Center team, who helps you with number lookups and connections use ViPeR information, which replaced the old base phone book.

Please ensure you keep your ViPeR information updated, including your contact phone number, and help us provide a better service to you. As always, we are here to help support your mission in the most effective way possible.

ViPeR can be found on the main portal page under component

links. When accessing ViPeR, you will be presented with two choices: ViPeR Data Verification and ViPeR Phone Book. If this is your first time to use ViPeR then go to ViPeR Data Verification and confirm all your details. The other option provides access to the ViPeR Phone Book which is a searchable database of Component personnel.

### Customer Self Help Tips:

Office 2010 – The 2010 Microsoft Office Suite will soon be coming to your desktop and it has a very different look than the current version used at the Component. If you would like to become familiar using Microsoft Office 2010 before it is implemented, we recommend the following site for familiarization training <http://www.gcflearnfree.org/office2010>.



### How to add an OFC office Mailbox to your Outlook 2003

(These instructions require the OFC mailbox to already be created.)

- To add an OFC mailbox:
- From the Tools menu, click Email Accounts.
  - Select View or Change Existing email account.
  - Click Next.
  - Highlight Microsoft Exchange server.
  - Click Change.
  - Click More Settings.
  - Click the Advanced tab.
  - Type the name of the shared mailbox (e.g., e3agk ofc – cis consolidated service desk).

## CSA New Year Reception

By Paul Baker

On Jan. 24, the E-3A Component Civilian Staff Association held a New Year Reception as its first social event of 2013.

CSA Chairman Mr. Guy Vandebek welcomed Component Commander Maj. Gen. Andrew Mueller and other invited members of the Component leadership, and proposed a toast to a successful year 2013 for all members of the Component community.

General Mueller presented an E-3A Component Certificate of Appreciation to Mrs. Brigitte Redgwell for her achievement of 25 years of service to NATO. She joined the E-3A Component Base Support Wing in December 1987

as a translator, and with the Component's reorganization at the start of October 2003 she became a senior translator. She continues to serve in that capacity within Language Services Office.

In a brief address to the audience, General Mueller expressed appreciation of the Component's mission accomplishment in 2012 and commented on the outlook for 2013. While emphasizing the importance of operational readiness, he encouraged everyone to maintain good morale by taking suitable opportunities for relaxation.

"It's OK to have fun at GK," he said, drawing attention to upcoming social events arranged by MWA for the benefit of community spirit.



Photo by Andrea Hohenforst

Maj. Gen. Andrew Mueller presents an E-3A Component Certificate of Appreciation to Mrs. Brigitte Redgwell.

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# Roto 25: UDM packs her own bags and heads downrange

By Petra Vaessen

On Nov. 26, 2012, Maj. Bill Triche asked me if I would like to go to Mazar-e Sharif (MeS). As Unit Deployment Manager (UDM), this isn't a question I am asked too often, so I instantly checked with my family and my colleague if this would be possible.

Both had no problems with me accompanying Major Triche to MeS for a few days in December 2012. So, yes Sir, I would very much like to have a chance to go to MeS and see how things are done over there.

Major Triche set everything in motion, and I was directed to get prepared for departure. On Nov. 29, 2012, at 1749, I finally got the confirmation I'd been hoping for. I could start packing my bags.

It took four working days and trips to six different buildings on base to gather all the items I needed. To obtain all necessary documentation was not a piece of cake, because in Medical Squadron as well as Human Resource Section regulations are strictly adhered to and made me appreciate the issued documents. In addition, I needed to provide a valid passport and an up-to-requirements vaccination passport.

These four days were also necessary to get my mind set. I am well aware that my colleagues do at least four weeks rotations. A Squadron 1 person said that four weeks is nothing compared to earlier deployments in his career. And then, the moment of truth, my CODSS (Component Operational Deployment Status System) color was green and I was good to go!

Being a UDM, I help squadron members to become and remain deployment ready by monitoring their records and reminding them of any shortfalls. Building a mobility folder for myself made every step come to life.

My trip began at 0530 on Dec. 3, 2012, at hangar 4. I was lined up and Deployment Support Branch performed the necessary checks of presence, gear, documents and issued a gas container. All this before we could enter the waiting room at Flight Booking where also a complimentary breakfast was served.

Before we hopped on the bus to the aircraft, Maj. Gen. Andrew Mueller, E-3A Component commander, accompanied by the departing and newly arrived Deputy Commander, stopped by to talk to the deploying group of people.

He started with "have fun while you are down there" and reminded us to keep three very important things in mind at all times: Force

Protection, the Mission and raise your hand if you need help and do not let complacency get to you.

At the end of his speech, he asked us if we remembered what he had said first, "have fun while you are down there". Finally we made our way on to the aircraft, where I learned that civilians must take their flack vest and helmet as carry on luggage.

Majors Triche and Schur made sure I was aware of everything that was said during the line-up. Major Triche briefed me about the first things to do when we arrived in MeS. He would show me around and asks me to write down anything that was new to me, expressions, words, etc. The first new word was "hooch", a tent where everybody meets off duty, with a TV, lounge seats, coffee and juice bar.

To get to MeS took six hours. While I was reading a book, I saw more frequent deployers using their laptops, notebooks and I-pads.

Upon our arrival, we received a hearty welcome from Chief Mehmet Pak and the people already at MeS. A tour on base by Chief Pak was very interesting. He showed us the gyms, dining facilities, USO and several coffee bars. We also visited the CTK Area and were introduced to the Snap On Database. Although it was still in a test phase, it was a very impressive way to keep track of tools and people signing tools in and out. A bar code for each individual and every piece of tools is scanned and combined. It is also possible to keep track of broken and unserviceable tools. The final aim of this system is to enter the database from Geilenkirchen (GK) and deployed location simultaneously.

The containers at the flight line where our Electronic Maintenance Squadron personnel and CTK are located were quite new; they were placed six months ago.



Photos Maj. William Triche

Our lodging was in area 52, sanitation was very good, separate for females and males. Two people normally shared one room. Boots were placed outside the room in a cabinet and you were advised to check your boots before putting them on in the morning. Boots are sites camel spiders might visit and I am happy to say I have not had the pleasure.

MeS was bright and sunny; you could see the aiguilles behind the fences. Leon Lux, Security Branch, took us to Pass and ID. The newcomers received their card, ISAF pouch, laundry bags and gas canisters.

The tour went on with Chief Pak giving us a flight line tour including a continuous air show of aircrafts and helicopters. Next was a Camp Marmal tour and we even visited the Afghanistan Bazaar.

There were many, many people on the base and a lot of different nationalities like military personnel from Mongolia and Croatia.

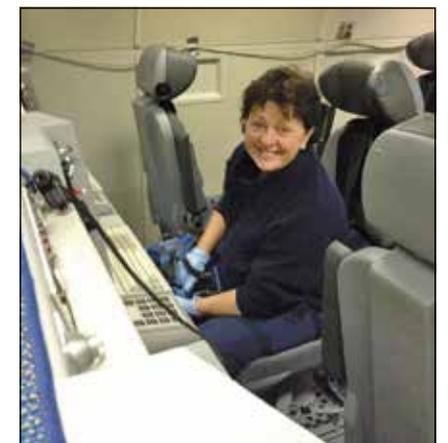
While at MeS, I saw rows of units containing food supplies. When I took a peek in one of the units I was amazed by how much food fit in one container and how fresh it looked. The so-called DFACs (dining facilities) served excellent food in a fast manner, I was pleasantly surprised to learn.

Next we paid a visit to the Dutch Department. We had a look at their bedroom quarters and their "living room" and the Dutch extend an invitation to take part in sports and to use their facilities. They even proposed to go through formal channels to receive unescorted passes.

MeS by night is different from MeS by day, though. A flash light is essential! I also find out that a bicycle is a valuable means of transport.

Within a couple of days I'd sorted out the three most important MeS gadgets: A flash light, a notebook or tablet and a bike. Equally important is to get into a routine, like; duty, meals, sports and laundry.

Later in the week, I joined our Electronic Maintenance Squadron technicians in their routine of show times and got to talk to my colleagues in a different environment than GK. Especially during the Holiday Season it is important for them that they can stay in touch with GK. Life for the family at home goes on and (lengthy) deployments influence their personal situations. Good contact with home and loved ones can help take some of this strain off.



Petra assists in cleaning oxygen masks on board the NATO E-3A.

Slowly but surely the day of our departure was drawing nearer. Once the aircraft was in place, an oiled machine of technicians swarmed out, pushed the ramp to the plane and was debriefed. Engine and outer aircraft checks, cleaning of oxygen masks and repairs, all these actions merged into each other. Everybody was in a good mood and worked together. Every evening there was a small lottery, he or she who guessed the number of the tire that pointed to the runway won.

My first impression of MeS is very positive and I realize that I've been lucky, a week of sunshine and temperatures around 16° C, no muddy pools, no health problems. But still.

On the day before we went home, to show appreciation, there was a photo shoot of the team at the flight line, a farewell dinner, certificates for the departing team members, a Christmas tree and party lights.

The flight to GK took seven hours and as we were coming down the aircraft stairs, we were personally welcomed at GK. We were reminded to be cooperative when going through customs because it is a customs' courtesy to meet us at hangar 4.

My sincere thanks to Major Triche for offering me this unique opportunity.





On February 7, the former NCO Club, "Frisbee Club" was the scene for the Altweiberfastnacht, a carnival tradition where women rule for that particular day.

A couple of hundred Component members and friends celebrated, - dancing, singing and wearing colourful carnival costumes.

# Who's on the radio?

Text and photo Sander Zijlstra

Welcome to Building 19, also known as DHN 66 or the HF Radio Station belonging to the Operations Wing, Airfield Services Squadron. Hidden between buildings in a bunker, it is easy to pass by without ever knowing it's there.

In this bunker, the radio technicians ceaselessly monitor both long distance and local radio channels to ensure the Component remains in contact with the Forward Operating Bases/ Location, our E-3A aircraft and also all other NATO AWACS aircraft. The team consists of six people, three of them civilians while the other three are military personnel.

Working in shifts from 0600 to 1430 and 1400 to 2230, not to mention 24-hour shifts during missions, these technicians monitor a minimum of six frequencies. Through

these frequencies their signal can be reached in all of Europe/Worldwide not to mention the cargo aircraft.

By sending out a selective call that can be interpreted by a computer, the technicians can establish contact between our cargo aircraft and the Component. Not only that, they can even execute a phone patch. What this means is that they can path the cargo aircraft communications through to the local telephone network. Most communications with the aircraft concern the weather or the mission information, so that the crew is always up-to-date on any changes to both. Operational tasks and mission related information will be sent out via a chat program on a laptop connected to an Iridium satellite link to the HF Radio Station. In the station, the chat information will be distributed to the appropriated offices and therefore speeds up the data flow.



Of course the Component isn't the only place radios are needed, the FOB/L also need to be able to remain in contact. To standardize communication and installation, all FOB/L use the same kind of radio for their operations. For installation or biannual maintenance of the technical equipment, the radio technicians deploy together with members of the IT Wing on a so called TSV (Technical Support Visit). Once the FOB/L are properly equipped, the technicians return to the Component and a team of the FOB/L personnel

begins to monitor the channels on their end. Maintenance is another task for the technicians. Nothing lasts forever, after all, and the radios are no exception. The team takes care of radio maintenance semi-annually, ensuring that the radios function as they should and replace any that do not or have become outdated.

These tasks make the radio technicians a vital part of the Component and, though their building may be easy to overlook, their importance should not be.

# Upcoming Events & IYA Activities

**The events listed below are open to US and NATO identification card holders. For registration or further information on the IYA activities, visit Bldg 95 or call ext. 4955.**

## IYA Music Lessons

At the IYA you can learn to play the piano, violin and the viola. Lessons will be taught, in English or German, by certified instructor Mrs. Jocelyn Liu. These lessons are one-on-one and cost €20 for 45 minutes. One trial lesson is available.

## IYA Dance Classes

Certified instructor Jacky Smeets will be teaching children's dancing classes at the IYA multi-purpose room on Mondays. Ages 3 to 4 will be taught from 1715 to 1800, while ages 5 to 6 will be taught from 1800 to 1845. Classes are €20 per month and one trial lesson is available.

## IYA Evening Power Yoga

At the New Gym Multi-purpose Room under the experienced and certified instruction of Mimi Vidaver-Davis, Registered Yoga Alliance Teacher. Classes are held on Mondays, 1730-1830. Cost is €5 per class or €15 for 4 classes. Register in class. For further information call ext. 4955.

## IYA Core and more Fitness Programme

Certified Instructor Lisa Hineswill be holding fitness classes at the IYA Multi-purpose Room. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 0930-1015. Cost is €5 per class or €15 for 4 classes. Register in class. For further information call ext. 4955.

## IYA Lunchtime Yoga

Registered Yoga Alliance teacher Mimi Vidaver-Davis will be teaching classes at the IYA Multi-purpose Room. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1100 - 1200. Cost is €5 per class or €15 for four classes. Register in class. For further information call ext. 4955.

## IYA Evening Hatha Yoga

Registered Yoga Alliance Teacher Shannon Bupp will be teaching Hatha yoga class at the New Gym Multi-purpose Room. Classes are held on Wednesdays, 1730-1830. Cost is €5 per class or €15 for 4 classes. Register in class. For further information call ext. 4955.

## Rock Climbing Clinics

CYSS Sports and Fitness hosts will host eight two-hour rock-climbing sessions from February 27 - April 24 at the nearby Rocca indoor facility. The clinics are for 2nd through 12th grade enrolled students with CYS Services and having a valid health assessment.

Costs are \$125 and include transportation, 2 hours of professional instruction, a snack and a competition. Call Parental Services at 31(0) 45-526-3121 for more information.

## CDC/SAS Parents' Night Out

Sign up March 20th for the parents' night out on March 22nd from 1800-2300. For \$20 per child, and \$18 for each sibling, CYSS will take care of your children for the evening at JFC Brunssum BLDG H-501. CYSS registered children from infant to 6th grade are welcome. Call 31(0)45-526-3121 to sign up.

## IYA Easter Egg Hunt

The IYA Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Monday, March 25 at 1430 on the sports fields. Age groups: 1 to 3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12. Games and Easter egg hunt. Don't forget to bring your Easter egg baskets. For more info please contact the IYA on ext. 4954 or 4955

## Spring Break Getaway – Malgrat De Mar, Spain

From the March 29 to April 7. Open to US and NATO ID Card holders and guests. 7 Overnights, 7 breakfasts and 7 dinners at a four star hotel. Single room: US \$ 639; Double Room: US \$489; Under 12s: US \$389.

For more information, call DSN 360-7561/0031-(0)46-443-7561

## IYA Keukenhof and Gouda Trip

Join the IYA on a trip to the Keukenhof and Gouda on the 13th of April. Fees are €40/€28 for ages 12 and up, €31/€22 for ages 4 to 11 and €22/€15 for ages 3 and below. Lower fees with valid MWA card only. For more information call IYA office at ext. 4955.

## Day Trip to Paris

Organised by USAG BENELUX-Schinnen FMWR Trips & Tours. Day trip to Paris on Saturday, 16 Mar. \$75. Sign up deadline: 9 March.

For more information, call the Schinnen Fitness Center DSN 360-7561 / Com 0031 (0)46-443-7561 or email: usarmy.schinnen.imcom-europe.list.schinnen.fc@mail.mil

## Children's Spring Soccer Camp

From the 2-5 April, the Sports

Department will host a four-day Youth Summer Soccer Performance camp. Open for children aged 7-15 years old.

Cost: €105 including T-Shirt, surprise gift, lunch and lessons. Slots are limited. To register, please contact Stephanie Chalmers at the Sports Department, ext. 4946.

## Children's Spring Soccer League

Cost: €35 (with a valid MWA card) or EUR 50 (without a valid MWA card).  
Pre-Bambinos 2009-2008 birth year  
Bambinos 2007-2006  
Pee Wees 2005-2004  
Minors 2003-2002  
Bantams 2001-2000  
Juniors 1999-1998

To register, please contact Stephanie Chalmers at the Sports Department, ext. 4946.

## Children's Baseball League

Season runs from 18 April-8 June 2013. Cost: €50 (with a valid MWA card) or €65 (without a valid MWA card).

Age groups:  
Pre T-Ball 4-5 years  
T-Ball 6-7 years  
Machine Pitch 8-9 years  
Majors 10-12 years

To register, please contact Stephanie Chalmers at the Sports Department, ext. 4946.

## IYA Trip to Bruges

The April 27, the IYA is organizing a trip to Bruges. From 0730 to 2030, explore the beautiful city and enjoy the famous chocolate. The standard fee is €26 and €18 with a valid MWA card. Registration and further information at the IYA Office, ext. 4955.

# Public Affairs officer awarded MSM by Sec. Gen. of NATO

The acting chief of Public Affairs for the E-3A Component was recently awarded the NATO Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) by the Secretary General of NATO.

Capt. Wilko ter Horst was presented the medal by the Component Commander, Brig. Gen. Andrew Mueller, during a commander's call Jan. 28 on NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Germany.

The general gave a short speech (see below) prior to presenting Captain Ter Horst with the medal.

The NATO Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) was first awarded in 2003 to commend NATO staff whose personal initiative and dedication went beyond their duty to make a difference both to their colleagues, and to NATO as an organization. The MSM can be awarded to Military and Civilian staff alike. When assessing nominations for the award, there are several criteria that are taken into consideration such as showing exceptional leadership or personal example; making an outstanding individual contribution to a NATO sponsored programme or activity; or enduring particular hardship or deprivation in the interest of NATO. The Medal is the personal Award of The Secretary General of NATO, who signs each citation.

Capt. Wilko ter Horst, Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNLAf), is awarded the MSM for 2012. Captain Ter Horst is the driving force in the Public Affairs Office and has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and outstanding management ability.

Through Captain Ter Horst's enthusiasm and commitment, the focus of the office was reoriented by addressing strategic opinion leaders, national media and national defense public affairs agencies. He is the key actor in the difficult base noise issue. He quickly established and improved working relations with surrounding municipalities and their authorities in the Netherlands. During the period of dual support to Operations Afghan Assist and Unified Protector, he deployed numerous times, working relentlessly to organize and perform media events.

Immediately upon return after ever deployment he went back to work, ceasing any claims for overtime and declining compensatory time off. He remains on call permanently, monitoring media releases and reacting swiftly when required. His sense of duty is far beyond the normal all of duty.



Photos by Andrea Hohenthorst

He played a key role in the media success of the E-3A Component 30 Year Anniversary. He has demonstrated his competency as a leader and quickly established excellent team work, including the integration of two new arrivals. Lastly, he has initiated innovations such as social media as a tool for relations management to inform the local area.

Captain Ter Horst has contributed significantly to the success of the NAEW&C Force and to the NATO mission.

He has performed at all levels far above what is expected in the performance of day-to-day duties. He serves as an example to his peers and inspires

all those who work with him and he is most deserving of this prestigious medal.

It is my honor to present Captain Ter Horst with the NATO Meritorious Service Medal.

Between 2004 and 2012, 27 Component members (18 Military and 9 NATO civilian employees) received the NATO Meritorious Service Medal.

Seven medals were presented to Headquarters staff and Logistics Wing personnel, five to personnel of the Operations Wing, four to the IT Wing and three members of the former Base Support Wing.

## WILCO: It's not just a name

"Wilco" is a military acronym for "Will Comply." When that is also the first name of a military officer, that name may seem cliché. But, for Royal Netherlands Air Force Capt. Wilko ter Horst, that name has epitomized over 29 years of exceptional military service and an interesting history.

The story behind the name begins in the spring of 1964. Wilko's father was a pilot in the RAAF and was in the midst of flying a routine training mission on April 22nd. Out of the blue, the Air Traffic Controller called over the radio to inform that his son was being born and that he needed to land quickly and rush to

the hospital. His father replied with "Wilco" and promptly flew home.

"I don't know what went through his head at the moment," Wilko said, "but arriving at the hospital, my father was convinced that his last radio call was going to be his newborn son's name." And so, Wilko was named; though, to make the name a little more Dutch, his father changed the C to a K.

In 1983 Wilko joined the RAAF as a medic, but within a year, he started working in air traffic control. That position combined with a unique first name led to some interesting experiences.

"Believe me," Wilko stated, "working in ATC and having Wilko as a first name is not one of the best combinations. Imagine how many times a day I looked up when somebody said 'Wilco!'"

"Since 2010, Wilko has continued his Air Force career working in the Public Affairs Office of the NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Force (E-3A) in Geilenkirchen, Germany; home of the NATO "Eye in the Sky" AWACS aircraft.

Once again, dealing with aircraft, Wilko was presented a daunting task: communicating with the local community concerning the

distinct sound of AWACS aircraft taking off and landing. "We strive to be open and transparent with our community," said Wilko, "and explain what NATO E-3A Component does and why we do it. In nearly three years we've decreased our noise complaints and increased our community support by nearly 60%."

Though his first name has assuredly made for an interesting military career in the RNLAf, Wilko said it's not just a name, but it's how he works "Will Comply... and I still do." In recognition of Wilko's outstanding efforts and work at the E-3A Component, he was awarded the NATO Meritorious Service Medal, in January for his exceptional and remarkable NATO service.

From [www.aco.nato.int](http://www.aco.nato.int)

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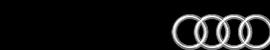
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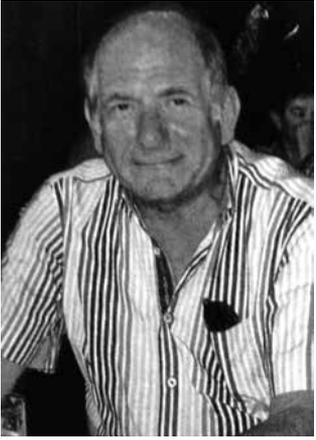
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## In Memoriam Volker Nitsche



Sadly our friend, and former colleague, Volker Nitsche passed away in his sleep on the morning of Jan. 15, 2013.

He was in medical retirement after his first battle with cancer, but a more aggressive form of the disease returned and unfortunately he lost this battle.

It takes a certain type of person to arrange their own funeral. Volker decided who would carry his casket, the music to be played and even managed to dictate a message for the assembled crowd at the service in Baesweiler.

Volker joined the component in 1982 and worked in the Jet Shop until his premature retirement. Given the chance he would still be working now. The usual clichés seem quite boring when used to describe Volker's career.

He came from the old school of engine technicians from the F104 starfighters. Responsible, enthusiastic, professional, passionate, are all words that can be used to describe his professional character.

This only tells half the story. In private he was a bundle of energy, always with original ideas. He was crazy about carnival having lived in Cologne for a period in his life and carried this on to his life in the village of Loverich. There was never a dull moment when he was around.

His English was perfect and he would only have problems in the early days with English jokes. He used to quip, "Tell me an English joke on Friday and I'll laugh on Monday!" Everyone remembers his laugh, the "yuk, yuk, yuk" and his shoulders moving in rhythm.

He holds a special place in our Jet Shop history. He is survived by his wife Marion, his father, his sister Diana, Marion's daughter Tamara, son-in-law Dirk and grandson Fynn.

## New players welcome for handball in Übach-Palenberg

By Koos Brongers

We are looking for handball players to join our handball club in Übach-Palenberg. We have three men's teams playing in different categories. The first team plays in the Verbandsliga and trains Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1930 - 2200. The second team plays in the Kreisliga and also trains Tuesdays and

Thursdays from 1900 - 2200. The third team plays in the Kreisklasse and trains Fridays from 2000 - 2200. We also have one ladies' team in the Kreisliga, which trains Wednesdays from 2000 - 2200. And we have youth training at various times.

For more information or to join the club, call Koos Brongers, ext. 4666 or 0176-96634297.



The E-3A Component spends a small fortune on its yearly budget for heating, cooling, lighting and other energy uses. Your utility bill at home may be an inconvenient truth as well. You and your co-workers can help reduce operating costs in the office and at your home. You have countless possible ways of saving energy without putting convenience at risk. This will protect the environment by cutting back greenhouse gas or carbon dioxide emissions.

### REFRIGERATORS

Refrigerators and freezers do really have great energy saving potential. Here is a tip on how to save 10-15% of your electricity consumption. In the kitchen, do not place your refrigerator next to the oven. Put your freezer in a cool location. Do not keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 7 °C (44 °F) for the fresh food compartment and -18 °C (0 °F) for the freezer. Regularly defrost the interior and remove the dust from the cooling coils on the back. Make sure door seals are airtight. Look for the EU ENERGY LABEL or the US ENERGY STAR when buying energy-efficient freezers or refrigerators.

### LIGHTING

An average household dedicates 10% of its energy budget to lighting. Turn off lights at home, in offices,

## Spring showers bring Orca swimmers

The Orcas will soon begin their Spring Swim Season. The Spring Season will run from March 5 to June 8.

During this season, the Orcas do not have competitive events, but only one fun meet at the end of the season. Orcas will train Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week at the JFC Brunssum pool, starting at 1845 with the focus on techniques and training, where the coaches

introduce and improve individual strokes.

"It is a great opportunity for children aged 6 to 19 who want to improve their swimming techniques in a non-competitive atmosphere," said Lois Whelan.

For further information and registration details, visit the Orcas website at [www.gkorcas.org](http://www.gkorcas.org).

conference areas and lunchrooms when rooms are out of use for more than 10 minutes. Use task lighting instead of overhead lighting. Replace incandescent light bulbs with linear fluorescent tubes or compact fluorescent light bulbs. Fluorescent lamps are five times more efficient than incandescent bulbs to produce the same amount of light, and they last longer. Light emitting diodes (LEDs) offer better light quality than incandescent bulbs, last 25 times as long, and use even less energy than compact fluorescent light bulbs. Controls such as timers, motion sensors and photocells save electricity by turning lights off when not in use.

### COOKING

Match the size of the kettle or pan to the heating element. Use a lid to cover the pan; it's faster and it uses less energy. Use pressure cookers and microwave

ovens whenever it is convenient to do so. They will save energy by significantly reducing cooking time.

### DISHWASHERS

Wash only full loads of dishes. Scrape off large food pieces and residues. Soaking or pre-washing is only recommended in cases of burned-on or dried-on food. Regularly check and clean the dishwasher drain. Look for the EU ENERGY LABEL or the US ENERGY STAR when buying energy-efficient dishwashers.

### APPLIANCES

Turn off all printers, copiers and fax machines, kitchen equipment and lights. Shut down computers and monitors when not in use. Plug everything into a power strip that can be turned off. Look for the EU ENERGY LABEL or the US ENERGY STAR when buying energy-efficient appliances.



# MWA INFORMATION

## March



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

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

### MWA Card

MWA Cards are being issued in Building 80 (Services Branch Accounting Section), Room 13. Office opening hours: Mon-Thurs 0900-1130 and 1300-1500; Fri: 0900-1130. An MWA Card costs €60 for everyone for a period of twelve months. Payment only in cash. As an 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 programmes 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.

### Food Services System

POC: Mr. Rene Peeters, ext. 4990, email rpeeters@e3a.nato.int

### Rotodome

Normal Opening Hours: Mon-Fri: 0600-1900 serving breakfast, lunch & dinner along with a wide variety of pizza and salads.

28 Mar: Closed as of 1330 (normal Breakfast and Lunch service)

29 Mar: Closed (Good Friday)

01 Apr: Closed (Easter Monday)

Open during the weekend 16-17 March, 1100-1500 in support of NATEX's "Special Sales" weekend

The Rotodome is the main MWA food facility open to EVERYBODY, also for families with children.

### 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 made fresh and require more 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.

### E-3A Club

Opening hours:

Mon thru Wed: 1100-1600

Thurs: 1100-2100 Happy Hour prices on beverages 1600-1800

Fridays: 1100-1800

28 & 29 March: Closed (Easter holidays)

31 March: Open for Easter Brunch (reservations required)

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 to 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. The Kegelhahn, located in Building 60, is open for use on a rental basis. Please contact Mr. Peeters, ext. 4990 to arrange details.

**Special Events** (See Food Services Web Page for details):

- Fri 22 March Mongolian BBQ at the E-3A Club
- Sun 31 March Easter Brunch at the E-3A Club
- Fri 19 April Steak Night at the E-3A Club
- Fri 26 April Bavarian Breakfast at the Rotodome

### Red Lion

The Red Lion Bar is open every Wednesday, 1600-2200

### Bavarian Keller

The Bavarian Keller is open every second Thursday from 1600-2200

### Sports Department

Longer weekday opening hours: Mon-Fri: 0600-2300!!

Weekends: 0800 - 2000.

No Sports staff available at the New Gym Mon - Thurs after 1700, Fri after 1430 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.

- 14 Mar Volleyball Tournament. Participation for E-3A Component, JFC Brunssum, USAG Schinnen and ZVBw Niederheid. Deadline Registration: 12 March. Event Day: 14 Mar 1230-1530, New Gym.
- 15 Mar Basketball Tournament. Participation for E-3A Component, JFC Brunssum, USAG Schinnen and ZVBw Niederheid. Deadline Registration: 15 March. Event Day: 18 Mar 1300-1600, New Gym.
- 19 Mar Indoor Soccer Tournament. Participation for E-3A Component, JFC Brunssum, USAG Schinnen and ZVBw Niederheid. Deadline Registration: 13 March. Event Day: 19 March 1100-1600, New Gym.

You can register for an event by contacting the Sport Department. ofc-bpws@e3a.nato.int Or ext. 4946.

### 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

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 nine 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 the English language 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 six 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 size) and printer for Internet pages).

### International Youth Activities

Registration and further information at the IYA Office in Bldg 95, x 4955.

### IYA Easter Egg Hunt & Games

On Monday, 25 March, at 1430 the IYA is sponsoring a big Easter Egg Hunt for children of all nationalities on the IYA Playground behind Building 95. Make sure to join the fun, meet the Easter Bunny, hunt for eggs and enjoy seasonal games and attractions. There is no fee. Rain delay date is Tuesday, 26 March. No registration necessary, further information at ext. 4955.

### Thrift Shop

Opening hours 1000-1400 every Tuesday and Thursday.

Located in Building 65 next to the NATEX Gas Station & 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 (5 clothing, 5 other) to sell per visit. Six 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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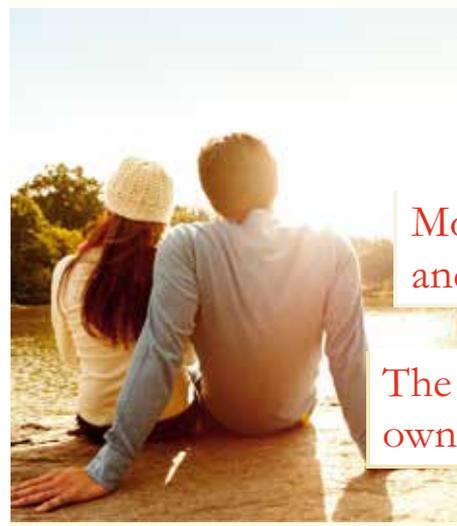
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\*2012 BMW 128i Coupé (ex-factory) with Automatic Transmission. Total vehicle cost \$27,400. Deposit \$1,000. \$26,400 financed for 60 months - 2.89% APR (inc. 35% reduction for direct deposit and automatic payment - qualified borrowers only) at SCU. Prices and rates are subject to change without notice.



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