

## Cross Country Run

By Amn Daniel Houben

On 12 November at 1100 the 17th cross-country run started behind the new gym. A total of 112 people of different nationalities and components took part in the contest on this cold winter day. This year, 36 sport enthusiasts from the E-3A component took part, 16 more than the last year. The participants had to run 7,000 meters in two rounds through the woods. After running, the athletes were offered some hot homemade soup in the Frisbee Club and the winners were honored with presents and everyone received a certificate for the run. The team of the E-3A component won this run.

Photo Andrea Hohenforst



Cat. A	Cat. B	Cat. C	Cat. D	Cat. E.
1 Schewe Carsten (Jaboc 31 Boelcke)	1 de Vylder D.B. (AFNORTH)	1 Payne Robert (AFNORTH)	1 Scheeren Willi (Polizei Dueren)	1 Kuhn Marion (PP Aachen)
2 Guette Dirk (Polizei Neuss)	2 Hermes Guido (PP Aachen)	2 Pagnolit Patrice (AFNORTH)	2 Renner Reiner (E-3A Component)	2 Dimter Sandra (E-3A Component)
3 Isenberg Sven (AFNORTH)	3 Schuh Norbert (Jaboc 31 Boelcke)	3 Antoine D. (E-3A Component)	3 Bomans I. (E-3A Component)	3 Gewers Bianca (PP Aachen)

## Air Guard maintenance specialists find challenges, opportunities in deployed environment



A team of maintenance specialists from the Nebraska Air National Guard troubleshoot the Global Air Traffic Management (GATM). Along with improved accuracy in avionics, the equipment enables communication with air traffic controllers through data link and satellite. Nebraska's 155th Air Refueling Wing is the first KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft in the Air Guard, and second unit in the Air Force, to have its aircraft modified with the system. From left to right: SSgt. Jason Lucas, TSgt. Brad Freeman, SrA Conboy and SMSgt. Terry Knapp.

Text and photo SMSgt. Vicky Cerino, HQ Nebraska Air National Guard

In their civilian lives, they are studying to earn degrees at the University of Nebraska. But for two weeks this year, the 'campus' for Senior Airmen Bart Frey, Matt Conboy and Chris McCune, was the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Air Base in Geilenkirchen, Germany.

Working from a small building adjacent to miles of concrete, their books were Air Force technical manuals, and their transportation KC-135R Stratotankers. The maintenance specialists reflect a common makeup of Air National Guard members, two-thirds of whom are considered 'traditional' or part-time Guard members. In their civilian lives, they represent all walks of life and professions, and are active in their communities.

For at least one weekend a month and two weeks a year, Air Guard members put on their uniform to serve their country. During its deployment earlier this year, members of the 155th Air Refueling Wing, Nebraska Air National Guard, adapted to and

successfully supported air refueling missions in an unfamiliar environment for the E-3A Airborne Warning and Control System's training mission.

Deploying to Germany gives the Guard unique experiences not available in the United States. The value of deployments is improved readiness and enhanced combat capability, as well as the opportunity to work with allies from 13 different countries. Maintenance is a critical function during the deployment. With maintenance comes: engine, fuels, electric, hydraulic, avionics, repair and reclamation, maintenance control, crew chiefs and sheet metal experts.

They arrived in GK ready for challenges that require flexibility and creativity. Their goal during their almost two-week rotation is to provide working 'tanker' aircraft so the aircrew can fulfill AWACS' E-3A training requirements. They strive to prevent a Red X aircraft – grounding an aircraft for maintenance reasons. Should they run into any problems, as on occasion they do, TSgt. Tom Heller is ready to go to work.

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3 December  
**Submissions due by:**  
25 November

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## AIR GUARD MAINTENANCE SPECIALISTS

Continued from front page

The supply specialist said it's a good thing if he doesn't have to work during temporary duty assignments.

Because there is not a supply force at Geilenkirchen for KC-135s, the unit brings along basic equipment and parts to keep the aircraft flying safely and what they think they might need. TSgt. Heller can tap the Air Force supply system if other parts are needed or one can be shipped from a Guard unit in the U.S. "That's just one big stock number out there", said TSgt. Heller, referring to the KC-135R on the ramp. He said the job requires persistence, creativity and good persuasion and bartering skills, some of which he draws upon from his Air Force experience.

This deployment, maintenance specialists encountered minor problems. For one part they needed, TSgt. Heller was on the phone to Mildenhall Air Base, England. The part was available so during one of the mission flights, Nebraska flew one of its tankers to pick it up. The action averted a potential grounding.

Avionics specialist were busy with another 'hiccup' they called it, in the newly installed Global Air Traffic Management (GATM) system. Along with improved accuracy in avionics, the equipment enables communication with air traffic controllers through data link and satellite. GATM has been relatively problem-free. The problems seen to date have been minor.

Since the 155th is the first KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft in the Air Guard, and second unit in the Air Force, to have its aircraft modified with the system, there are few places to get parts for the system. They also have to rely on each other as well to fix problems they encounter.

These challenges are considered training opportunities, especially for SrA Conboy, who is training to get qualified in his avionics specialty. During their time at GK, SrAs Conboy, Frey, and McCune had the opportunity to watch an aerial refuelling. For all three, Geilenkirchen is their first overseas deployment, and for two of the three, it was the first air refuelling they'd seen.

They watched the delivery of about 10,000 pounds of fuel to E-3A AWACS aircraft over an hour-and-a-half – a small amount in comparison to some missions. Fully loaded, the 'flying gas station' is capable of carrying 300,000 pounds of fuel. While the pilots orbited the aircraft in a 112-mile-long air-refuelling track, Boom Operator, TSgt. Andrew Thimgan, was lying down in the belly of the aircraft peering out his 'window to the world' awaiting an AWACS aircraft 'receiver'.

## Farewell from Col. Jos van Dam

On 29 October I officially handed over my position of Deputy Commander/Chief of Staff of the E-3A Component to Colonel Jelle Zijlstra. With this short ceremony a period of approximately 4.5 years ended in which I had the privilege of being attached to this unique unit in a position that is just as unique. On this occasion I take the liberty to look back to this period and share some of my thoughts with you.

A lot has changed in my time within the Component and I am not referring to all the personnel changes that are part of 'normal life in the E-3A Component'. After the terrorist attacks on Sep 11 the operational tempo within the E-3A Component has shown a huge increase. After that horrible event the Component was confronted with a lot of 'Firsts': the first NATO Art V operation (Eagle Assist) and the first Art IV operation (Crescent Guard). Also numerous large scale HVE's needed to be supported including European Soccer Championships and Olympics/Paralympics.

In the meantime the first official AIRNORTH OPEVAL had to be executed while in the same period a PE-change (not the real first but very close to that!) and the introduction of a new CONOPS needed to be digested, as well as the first deployment out of tents. In conclusion it can be said that this was enough to keep us all very busy and I honestly can say that there were some things I had not expected when I entered the Component.

Although there were times when we



were just able to get all the work done in a safe and effective manner, stretching certain elements of the Component to the max. We needed to adjust to the new 'political and operational environment'. In these times of enhanced pressure a lot of people took on the various challenges in a way that I admired very much. It did not matter when or where, deployed or at the MOB, I could count on support out of all areas within the Component for advice, challenging questions, etc. This frankness and the open discussion with all of you were very much appreciated and it gave me a very strong feeling of being part of the team.

Apart from the professional relationship I had with a very large number of you at all levels and throughout the unit the personal relationships and friendships, which my wife Hanneke and I encountered, were very important for us. It gave us the feeling that we were not only part of the E-3A Component team focussing on 'getting the job done', but also of a

unique group of families that are very much attached to the important mission of the Component. Without downscaling the importance of anybody we want to extend a special thanks to the SNR's and their spouses as they also played a very important role in our feeling of being at home within the Component.

We want to extend our thanks for all the kind words that were spoken during our various farewell-events as well as the beautiful gifts that we received. They will remind us of the great times we had and the friendships we encountered!

In conclusion I want to emphasise that I am very proud that I was allowed to be part of NATO's only operational flying unit. Also on behalf of Hanneke I thank you all for your friendship and companionship and I can assure you that we will miss you all! Good health and good luck for the future!

**Colonel Jos A.J. van Dam**  
RNLAf

The air refuelling 'ballet' requires delicate manoeuvring between the tanker and AWACS flight crew. The boomer has the critical job of safely guiding and connecting the receiving aircraft to the boom extended about 10 feet below the tanker. It's a dance done typically at 300 miles per hour.

As TSgt. Thimgan readied the boom, the young airmen watched below for the E-3A. One look at the terrain and they knew they weren't in landlocked Nebraska anymore. The land grid of varying shapes and sizes is peppered with windmills. And there is a sea below.

SrA Frey watched his first air refuelling with curiosity, interest and concern. At first, he was a little concerned about the E-3A AWACS aircraft about 20 feet from the tanker. "It looked kind of risky. The other plane was wobbling so much down there. One false move...but once I saw it three or four times, I knew it was safe", said SrA Frey.



## New mayor of Geilenkirchen visits base

On 5 November Mr. Andreas Borghorst, the new mayor of Geilenkirchen, was welcomed by E-3A Component commander Brig. Gen. Axel R. Tüttelmann for an introduction to the NATO Air Base.

In an open atmosphere Brig. Gen. Tüttelmann explained to Mr. Borghorst the air defence capability of the NATO Airborne Early warning & Control Force, the E-3A Component, its aircraft and its anti-terrorism commitments.

Mr. Borghorst mentioned the friendly alliance which exists between the city of Geilenkirchen and the E-3A Component and which he and Brig. Gen. Tüttelmann want to continue in the coming years.



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# Christmas Markets in the region

By Amn Daniel Houben

## Frisbee Club

In a festive atmosphere the Frisbee Club starts its 4th Christmas market from 25-27 November inside the decorated Club. On 25 November (1400-2000), 26 November (1100-2000) and 27 November (1100-1600).

## Aachen

One of the biggest Christmas markets is in Aachen every year, with about 1.5 million visitors on the 'Rathaus' (town hall) with many colourful lights. This is an international market with visitors from the Netherlands, Belgium, France and even from England, too.

It's well known in the whole region and it has a very familiar atmosphere. Adults drink 'Glühwein' while the children enjoy riding a carousel.

The market is open from 22 November until 22 December 1100-2030 every day.

## Cologne

With its attractive Christmas markets, the Cathedral city is a popular destination, especially in the pre-Christmas period. This year seven different markets lure the people to the city.

The Christmas markets are open from 22 November until 23 December, daily from 1100 till 2100. Except the Medieval Christmas market, open from 27 November until 23 December, daily, except Mondays, from 1100 till 2100.

### Neumarkt

The eldest one is the market on the 'Neumarkt', near the Romanic church St. Apostles. Having a warm drink you can have your evening and be inspired by the nostalgic flair.

### Alter Markt

The nicest market in Cologne is the one on the 'Alter Markt'; it's in the 'Kölner Altstadt' near the 'Kölner Dom'. Children and adults walk through a Christmas paradise with a nostalgic carousel, puppet theatre and toy booths.



Photo PIO archive

### Cathedral

Before the impressive backdrop with the landmark of Cologne the Christmas fair in front of the cathedral with 160 admirably decorated pavilions waits for visitors.

Under the biggest Christmas tree of the 'Rheinland' you can choose between lots of different sweets, drink some 'Glühwein' (mulled wine), or watch craftsmen working.

### Rudolfplatz

On the 'Rudolfplatz' is the Fairy Tales Christmas market, especially for the younger visitors. Figures fly around and sit on booths offering a breath of magic. With homey cosiness and a historical backdrop the Christmas fair moves visitors into the right mood for the holidays.

### Medieval Christmas Market

Next to Cologne's chocolate museum the Middle Age Christmas market sets an original tone. Located next to the

Rhine, this market invites visitors to the exciting world of the Middle Ages.

Clowns and musicians provide a spectacle that is far from today. Craftsmen offer their wares in picturesque scenery and many salesmen tell stories in medieval dialect.

### Christmas market on the Rhine

A special attraction is the floating Christmas Market on board of the 'MS Wappen von Mainz'. Over a glass of mulled wine, you can enjoy the view of the Old Town and the cathedral in winter. Visitors on the ship can look for presents for their dear ones at more than 40 booths. The 'MS Wappen von Mainz' you can find in the Old Town near the Cologne philharmonic orchestra house.

### Düxer Advent

The 'Düxer Advent' at the 'Deutzer Freiheit' joins an art and antique market. At every weekend a storyteller in a special costume tells children Christmas tales. In St. Heribert Church there are concerts of organs and at every Saturday before Christmas trombone bands, nativity plays and children choirs prettify your stay.

### Valkenburg, the Netherlands

Sample the seasonal atmosphere in the Valkenburg Grotto, The oldest and largest subterranean Christmas market in Europe! Today, 19 November marks the opening of the Valkenburg's 19th annual Christmas Market, as usual held in its underground grotto. Many hundreds of thousands of visitors have already passed through its labyrinth of passages to take advantage of the seasonal market's special atmosphere. The ancient galleries and the stylish dramatization of an episode from Valkenburg's rich history provide the perfect backdrop to this uniquely appealing occasion. This year's event will centre on the history of the Knight Dirk IV.

The Christmas Market is embellished with song and music and at weekends the visitor can enjoy many cultural

asides. As you wander through the grotto, you will be tempted by many of the seasonal attractions on sale. If you're ever at a loss as to what to buy for that special someone at Christmas, this subterranean bazaar will give you ideas aplenty.

Opening times Mondays-Fridays 1200-2100; Saturdays-Sundays 1100-2100. Entry fee adults €3; children aged 4-12 years €1,5. Directions: The entrance to the municipal grotto is at the foot of the Cauberg Hill. Valkenburg can easily be reached from the A2 and A79 motorways. Car parks are available, all within 10 minutes walking distance.

### Castle Christmas

Another kind of celebrating Christmas is on a middle age castle. Every year there is Castle Christmas on 'Burg Satzvey' with Christmas presentations spoken in Latin and German with medieval dressed actors and vendors. For example the three kings, who dress in oriental garb. Also Mary and Josef seem to appear from the bible and they present the birth of Jesus Christ as it was 2,000 years ago.

In the halls and courtyards there are many booths with historic trade and Christmas presents, and all covered with a sweet pleasant smell of zest, cakes and pastries.

Opening hours every advent-weekend from 1200 till 2000. Entry fee adults €4; children aged 6-12 years €2.50. Distance Geilenkirchen-Satzvey 68 km (via Aldenhoven, Düren and Zülpich).

### More Christmakt Markets

Gangelt, 28 November, 1100 till 1900, display of fireworks.

Geilenkirchen, 26-28 November, 1100-2000.

Übach, 27 and 28 November.

Heinsberg, 22 November till 19 December, daily 1100 till 2000.



Burg Satzvey's nativity play. Photo PIO archive

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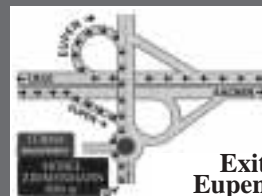
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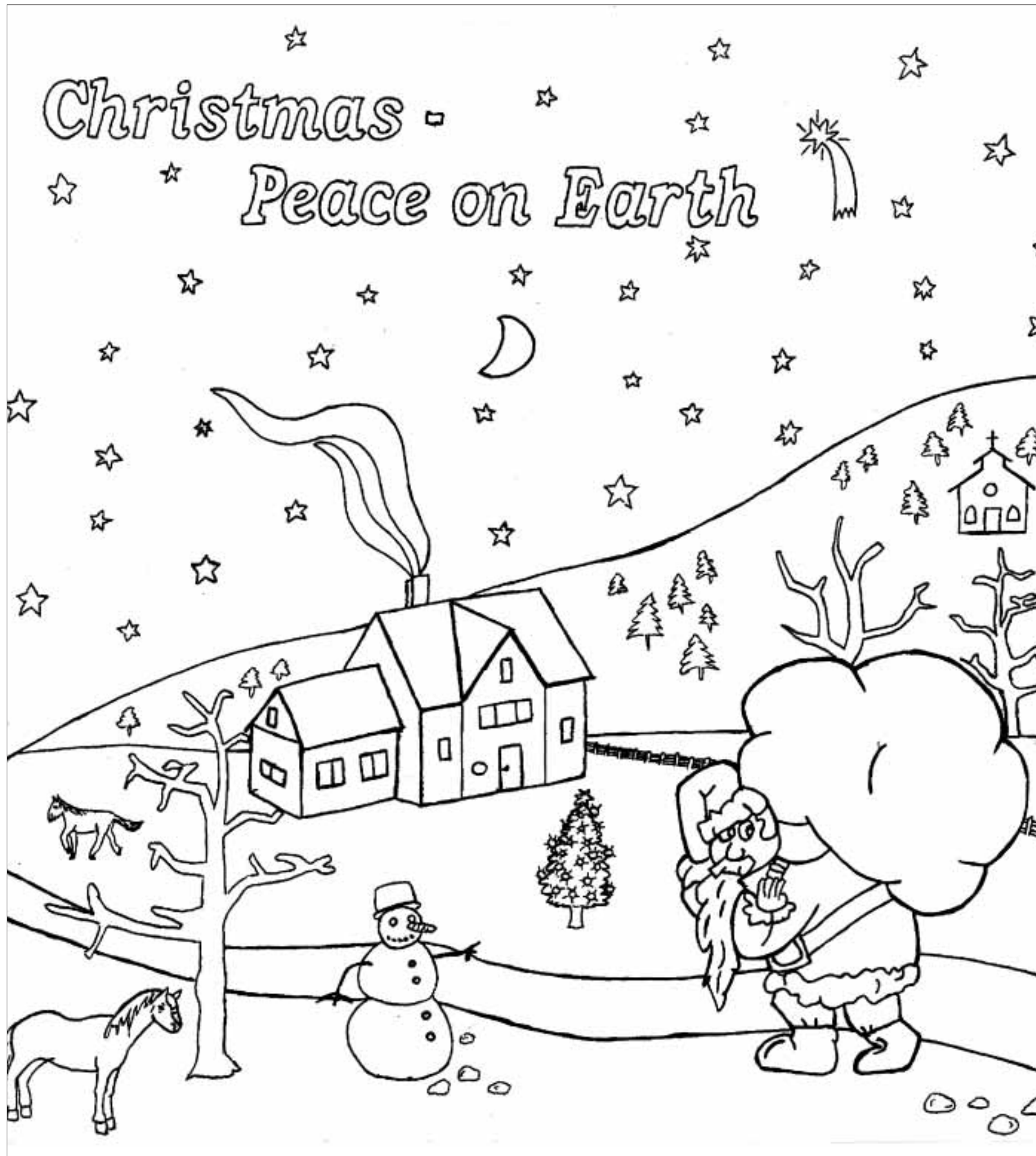
# IYA Christmas Colouring Contest

Young artists of all nationalities are invited to join this year's colouring contest. There are three age groups: 3-5 years, 6-8 years and 9-12 years. Simply colour your picture, but do not use glitter, stickers or cotton.

Send your completed pictures to IYA/SWPY, Mail Stop 34, or hand-carry them to the IYA Office in Building 95 by 8 December.

The three best pictures in each age group will win a prize. The winners will be announced during the IYA Christmas Party on 15 December.

First and last name: _____
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Dear Brigadier General Tüttelmann,

On behalf of the German Women's National Football Team I wish to thank you for your contribution to the safety and security of the sportsmen, sportswomen and spectators during the Olympic Games.

You and your team from NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, with all the other security forces, ensured the happy, smooth, successful staging of the Games in Athens and the carefree enjoyment of them by the participants and visitors.

Yours truly,

Tina Theune-Meyer, coach

## Marathon Man Capt. Frank Rath accomplishes 50th run

By Carol John

On Sunday, 26 September, six dedicated and enthusiastic or maybe even fanatical E-3A Component members ran - or rather stumbled - through the Brandenburg Tower towards the finishing line of the Berlin Marathon, successfully completing this torture in a state of elated exhaustion.

The 42.6 kilometres route guided the runners through the centre of Berlin, past many historical buildings, presenting the ideal opportunity to enjoy the sights while at the same time being distracted from the pain.

Needless to say, upon completion of this self-inflicted misery, the runners enjoyed Berlin by night where the beer

flowed and flowed and flowed ... and did that first beer ever taste good!

Capt. Frank Rath had a particular reason to celebrate since this was his 50th marathon. Bearing in mind he also finished the Cologne marathon two weeks before, this was a real accomplishment. Of course, this won't be his last marathon because, due to his fanaticism, or rather 'addiction', he's already planning for next year. There is no doubt that he'll convince those that said "NEVER AGAIN!" to join him some time in the near future.

Congratulations also go to Sharon Scheulen who completed her first marathon after only six months training. Well done Sharon, and to all who participated - keep on jogging!



Run the Berlin marathon: (from left to right) Yves Therault, Carol John, Frank Rath, Ralph Gülpfen, Sharon Scheulen and Sheila Wilhit.

Photo MSgt. Marc Boggess



Photo PIO archive

## German Reservists host Christmas Market

By Günther Diehm,  
translation by Andreas Hunold

After the huge success last year, the NATO AWACS chapter of the German Reservists Association will hold its second Christmas Market on 4 and 5 December on the premises of the Bundesvermögensamt, Richthofenstrasse - just outside the main gate - in the car garages area, between 10:00 and 20:00 on both days.

All members of the German Reservists Association, all residents of the air base housing area, and the villages of Teveren and Grotenrath and of course all Component members who would like to support the Christmas Market with home baked goods, home made items or any other ideas are Welcome to participate.

This year we would like to stress the flea market theme and whoever would like to clear the attic or basement of unused and unwanted items, this is the opportunity. Vendors will have to pay €10 per day per booth while there will

be no fees for the children's flea market.

Applications are now accepted by calling 02451-63 3957 (Mr. Diehm) or email at [gdiehm@hotmail.com](mailto:gdiehm@hotmail.com).

Commercial vendors who would like to participate can also call above number.

The Reservists Association hopes for a large turnout. Nobody needs to go hungry, as there will be plenty of food and drinks offered in a season's holiday atmosphere.

## Sign up for IYA Family Christmas Market Trip

The IYA is offering a family trip to the traditional Christmas Markets of the beautiful Eifel hills on Sunday, 28 November, 0930-2000. Our first stop will be the picturesque old town of Bad Münstereifel, from where we will travel on to the splendid historic town of Monschau. There will be musicians in costumes and a nativity play will be performed in the court of the castle. Point of departure and return is the parking lot outside the Front Gate. Cost is €9,50 per participant. Info ext. 4954.

# MWA INFORMATION

## December

IDH, Officers', Frisbee and Sentry Clubs now on the BASS LAN System. Menu information under Public Folders/Base Support Wing/Services Squadron/Clubs or IDH. Also, check out the Services Squadron web page for programme information and upcoming events.

### E-3A Component Clubs

Sunday Brunch will alternate between Officers'/Frisbee Clubs. Members from both clubs are eligible to attend. Regular prices: Brunch: Members/€9.20, Guests/€10.70. Lunch: Members/€6.10, Guests/€7.65. Children 4-12 years/half price. Reservations should be made NLT 1200 on the Friday before. Club cards are required. For additional information, please contact the Officers' Club, ext. 4990, or the Frisbee Club, ext. 4994.

- 05 Sunday Lunch at the Frisbee Club. Officers' Club closed.  
12 Advent Brunch at the Officers' Club. Frisbee Club closed.  
19 Sunday Brunch at the Frisbee Club. Officers' Club closed.

### Officers' Club (SWPO/4990)

Merry Christmas to all Officers' Club members and their families. Operating Hours Bar: Monday-Friday: 1100-2300; Restaurant: Monday-Friday: 1130-1330; Sunday: 1100-1400 (alternating with the Frisbee Club). Reservations are required for Sunday Brunch by 1200 on the Friday before. Club cards required when using the Frisbee Club (ext 4994).

Lunch at the Officers' Club: Monday-Thursday A la carte menu served. Monday and Wednesday. A vegetarian special also available. Friday Buffet Style Lunch Throughout the month Membership Appreciation. One time each month for each Officers' Club member, buy one drink of your choice and get an equivalent drink of your choice free of charge. Club cards required. Tuesdays 1700-1800: Happy Hour: Free snacks available.

Fridays 1600-1800: Happy Hour Free snacks available.

- 31 New Year's Eve Ball – Tickets available from the Manager's Office. Payment now accepted by "EC" bank card. Special Notes: The Officers' Club has rooms available for your conferences, meetings, presentations or Commanders' Call. Make your reservations now. Officers' Club Participation in Frisbee Club Events: During Frisbee Club opening hours, Officers' Club members are eligible to utilise the Frisbee Club for breakfast, dinner and Sunday Brunch (on an alternating basis between the Frisbee and Officers' Clubs). Club cards required when Officers' Club members are using the Frisbee Club. Cancellations for Officers' Club events will be accepted up to two days prior to the event on ext. 4990. After this time, a cancellation fee of €5.00 per person must be charged for non-excused absences.

### Frisbee Club (SWPN/4994)

Merry Christmas to all Officers' Club members and their families. Make a reservation today at the Frisbee Grill and enjoy the cosy atmosphere and good food.

Remember – the Frisbee Club is open for breakfast and dinner to all Frisbee and Officers' Club members.

- 01 Tickets available for the Frisbee Club New Year's Eve Party.  
07 SKAT and BINGO.  
16 International Wives' Club Christmas Dinner.  
21 BINGO.  
Throughout the month  
Monday -Thursday : 1700-1800.  
Happy Hour. Friday : 1700-1900:  
Happy Hour with free snacks.

### Sentry Club (SWPJ/4997)

The Sentry Club now offers a daily special which will be advertised on the notice board at the beginning of the serving line and on the Component Information web page. A daily soup and a variety of tasty, self-made salads are also available.

The Sentry Club Souvenir Shop now has many new items – stop by and see what is available.

The reconstruction work to the old Sports Bar is now finished and the new room is now available for small parties, meetings, etc.

Take advantage of our "off sale" operation. We can provide beer in 30 and 50 ltr containers, different types of soft drinks in 1 ltr bottles and tables, benches and other items to help you arrange your party. Additional information on any of the above can be obtained from the Sentry Club Manager, ext. 4996.

### Sports Department (SWPT/4946)

Throughout December Fitness classes are held Monday-Friday. Details can be found on the web page (Recreation and Sports) or on the flier at the New Gym.

- 01 December Second round of the Squash tournament.  
04 December Pre-Season Basketball Tournament.  
07 December Start of Basketball League.  
14 December Coaches' Meeting for Indoor Soccer League at 1400 hrs in the Sentry Club Sports Bar.

### International Pre-School (SWPS/4957)

Happy holidays to all Pre-School customers.

- 15 December Train ride with Santa: Morning class 1030, afternoon class 1430. After the train ride, Santa will visit the children in their classroom and give out presents.  
17 Christmas Concert at the Base Chapel beginning at 1800. The children will sing Christmas songs to parents and friends and perform a Christmas play. After the concert, refreshments will be served. 20 Dec-03 Jan

- Christmas break – no school.  
4 Jan Back to school.  
Registration for the new school year continues. Afternoon slots available only. A waiting list is available for the morning programmes. For more information about any of the above, please contact the Pre-School on ext 4957.

### International Library (SWPL)/4956

Monday-Friday Operating Hours: 1100-1600.

Visit the International Library and browse through all the New York Times' Bestsellers which are available for you to check out. New titles arrive frequently and if you can't find what you're looking for, ask the friendly librarians, and, if it is available in the Library but has already been checked out, they will hold it for you as soon as it is returned.

Books in German, French, Italian, Greek, Turkish, Dutch, Danish and Norwegian languages are also available at the Library.

There is also an area where you can just sit, relax and enjoy the great atmosphere in the Library by browsing through the many newspapers and magazines. We have many titles available, to include, "People", "Consumer Reports", "PC World", "Smart Computing", "Muscle & Fitness" and many more.

### Thrift Shop (SWPG)/4919

Tuesdays + Thursdays Operating Hours: 1000-1400.

- 16 Last day of operation prior to the Christmas break.  
11 Jan First day of operation after the holiday period.

### International Youth Activities (SWPY/4954/5)

Registration and further information at the IYA Office in Bldg 95, ext 4954/5, opening hours: Mon-Fri: 0815-1300

#### IYA Christmas Moonlight Family Steam Train Ride

Santa Claus and his elf are already planning to join the traditional International Youth Activities' Moonlight Ride for international Component children and their parents on the historic Selfkant Steam Train. On Friday, 10 December, at 1900 we will get on the train at Gillrath Station, and travel to Schierwaldenrath in the restored antique wagons built between 1889 and 1956. There will be one short stop on the way when our two special passengers arrive in a carriage drawn by a horse. Santa and his elf will welcome all the children and present them with a bag of Christmas goodies on the journey to Schierwaldenrath. There everybody has the opportunity to enjoy refreshments in a heated tent listening to Christmas songs, before returning to Gillrath. Tickets at €6 per child and

€9,50 per adult include "Brötchen" with coffee, Glühwein, hot chocolate or a soft drink at Schierwaldenrath, plus Christmas goodies for children, and can be purchased at the IYA Office starting 2 November.

Wanted: Teachers for IYA Instructional Classes  
The IYA is looking for instructors for Taekwondo, Judo, Trampoline and Tumbling. If you are interested, or if you would like to offer an additional sports, music or crafts course, please call ext. 4954.

IYA Trip to Kinderstad Indoor Playpark and Taurus Laser Arena  
On 22 December the IYA is offering a trip for ages 6 and older to Kinderstad Indoor Playpark and Taurus Adventure World, Europe's biggest laser arena, which offers a thrilling adventure in five mazes divided over three levels in an open arena packed with high tech gadgets. The bus departs at 0900 and gets back at about 1730. Cost is €26 per child with no cost for chaperones.

#### IYA New Year's Special Day Programme

On 3 January, 0800 to 1730, the IYA is offering a Special Day Programme full of fun activities for ages 6 and older. Cost is €10,50, including lunch.

#### IYA Christmas Party

On Wednesday, 15 December, 1500 to 1730, the IYA is offering a Christmas Party for all international Component children at the E-3A Component Officers Club. Children under the age of 6 must be accompanied by an adult; parents of older children are also very welcome to attend. Play seasonal games, win a prize at the wheel of fortune, enjoy seasonal refreshments, and meet Santa – he even has a little gift for you. Bring your camera: children and families can have their photo taken with Santa at no cost. During the party the winners of this year's Christmas Colouring Contest will receive their awards. There is no fee. Please call ext. 4954/5 to sign up. Children enrolled in the December IYA Afternoon Club are automatically registered.

#### IYA Advent Break Programme

From 20 to 23 December the IYA is organising a four-day session for children aged 6 and older with activities from 0930 to 1630. The children can be dropped off at 0800, and collected no later than 1730. The programme offers fun games, arts & crafts, sports, free play, special projects and movies. Cost is €56 for one child, €112 for two children, and €140 for three or more children, including field trip to Kinderstad Indoor Playpark and Taurus Adventure World, Europe's biggest laser arena, on Wednesday and lunch on Thursday.

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