



Once a year, Component personnel has to go through ICCS training. New is that now Force Command personnel also has to take part in this special training.

Force Command personnel gets ICCS training

By A1C Daniel Houben

The first ICCS Training at the E-3A Component for Force Command personnel took place on 14 January, from 0800 until 1700. ICCS is the abbreviation for 'Individual Common Core Skills'. Every Component member has to do the ICCS Training once a year to build up his or her skills in first aid, fire fighting, NBC and EOD. Military personnel also have to do shooting practice.

The day for the twenty soldiers of different nations from Force Command started with indoor training at the shooting range with the Heckler &

Koch P7, firing at four targets from a distance of twenty meters. They shot in various positions: lying, standing, kneeling, and also lying on the floor while wearing the NBC mask. The difficulty of this is the aiming, due to the mask.

Next the group had a theoretical introduction to NBC protection, and practical training in wearing the NBC suit, including the mask, as well as the basic knowledge about how to protect yourself against NBC and Air attacks, what to do in case of an attack, and how to decontaminate other people.

The afternoon training program was partly outside and just after lunch it

started to rain, but of course the motivation of the participants was quite good. First Aid training started at 1300 with theoretical training. Then the basic skills were trained on a simulator. The instructors were impressed by how quickly the participants were able to use their skills in practice.

The last and funniest part was the EOD and Fire Fighting training. Everyone learned how to fight a fire and how to help a burning person - please note that this was only simulated with a puppet. Special thanks to the instructors who did a great job by teaching their skills.



Valentine's Day

Say 'I love you'. Surprise a friend or loved one with a free Valentine's Day greeting in the 11 February issue of the NATO Skywatch. Send your message of forty words or less to the Public Information Office at mail stop 33, or email to pio@e3a.nato.int by 3 February.

Submissions should be printed or typed and include your name and telephone number.



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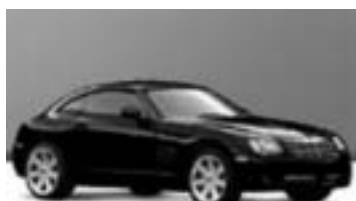


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Afghan President speaks on ISAF, appreciation

By Capt. Virgil Magee, SHAPE/PIO

SHAPE, Belgium - Afghan President Hamid Karzai recently spoke with International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) personnel Jan 8, to discuss his country's future and the role of ISAF. During the session Karzai praised the efforts of NATO, ISAF and coalition nations for contributing to Afghanistan's continued push toward democracy and freedom. "ISAF has a very important role that it is accomplishing very well. It is the provisional security to the citizens of this country, mainly in Kabul, and in other parts of the country. During our elections ISAF provided protections for voters," said Karzai. "I am sure that same security will be provided for the parliamentary elections."

Mandated under chapter VII of the United Nations charter, ISAF was established in accordance with the Bonn Agreement of December 6, 2001. The primary role of ISAF is to assist the Afghan Transitional Authority in providing a safe and secure environment in and around Kabul, Afghanistan.

"We are grateful and tremendously thankful [for ISAF]. It is because of your effort that we are where we are today. It is because of the blood that some soldiers shed that this country is more stable and that we have democracy," said Karzai. "Our people vote now, but it has not come without a cost. This is something we will remember forever in this country. Afghan citizens are once again the owners of Afghanistan and we know how important that is and we are grateful."

In carrying out this mission, ISAF conducts patrols throughout the 16 different police districts in Kabul and its surrounding areas. Over a third of these patrols are carried out jointly with the Kabul City Police.

On a political level ISAF works closely with the Afghan authorities, the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan, non-governmental organizations and other agencies.

Name changes as Iraq mission grows

NATO's training mission in Iraq will soon be growing in size after the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General James L Jones, was authorised to start the next stage of its expansion. The issue of the Activation Order on 16 December, changes the mission's name from NATO Training Implementation Mission to NATO Training Mission-Iraq. The Activation Order follows the directive from the North Atlantic Council that came as NATO's Foreign Ministers met in Brussels on 9 December 2004.

The current expansion of what will be known as the Iraq Training Mission, Iraq (NTM-I) will see up to 300 personnel deployed in Iraq, including trainers and support staff, and will mean a significant increase in the existing training and advice given to mid and senior level personnel from the Iraqi security forces. Currently about 60 NATO staff are working in Iraq. Over the coming weeks new staff will be trained and prepared.

The next stage of expansion, which would lead to a further increase in personnel, will be NATO help in establishing an Iraqi Training Education and Doctrine Centre (TEDC), to provide leadership and management training for the middle and senior level of the Iraqi forces.

Speaking at the Foreign Ministers meeting SACEUR said he was finalising the details of some of the offers, but that the outcome had been very positive, "It means we are really on track to execute training inside Iraq,



Habibullah Qaderi (left), Afghan Minister for Counter Narcotics speaking with Mohammed Haider Reza, Afghan Deputy Foreign.
Photo NATO

outside Iraq, and to co-ordinate military equipment supplies for Iraq." (Information from SHAPE news release)

Progress on weapons cantonment in Afghanistan

A programme to collect artillery, tanks and other heavy weapons from armed factions in Afghanistan has now commenced in the Panjsher Valley, in the northeastern part of the country. Under the nationwide programme, known as Heavy Weapons Cantonment (HWC), arms belonging to armed factions throughout Afghanistan are collected and stored at special government-run cantonment sites.

"This [the start of the programme in the Panjsher Valley] is an important step forward in this programme that seeks to reach the common goal of building an increasingly secure Afghanistan," said Lt Cdr Ken Mackillop, Spokesman for the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, at a press briefing in Kabul on 12 January.

Locking up weapons of war

Once deposited, the weapons cannot be removed from the cantonment sites without the permission of both the Ministry of Defence and ISAF. The programme therefore contributes directly to establishing a safe and

secure environment in Afghanistan. Throughout the country, the process is now 82% complete and some 7,360 operational and repairable heavy weapons are under lock and key in guarded compounds.

The programme is an initiative of the Afghanistan Ministry of Defence. ISAF endorses, supports and facilitates the cantonment of the weapons, including providing logistic support for the collection and transport of the weapons.

(Information from NATO news release)



Spanish Forces patrol at Kabul.
Photo NATO



Helping Iraqi people to train and equip their Forces.
Photo NATO

New facilities for NATO School in Oberammergau

The NATO School in Oberammergau now has new facilities that will double the student capacity of the school and give students access to cutting-edge educational tools.

The new facilities were given their first test during the 2005 NATO Defence Planning Symposium. The event, held at the school from 17 to 19 January, was attended by 27 high level speakers, with a keynote address by the NATO Secretary General, Jaap De Hoop Scheffer.

New facilities for future requirements

The enlargement of the school includes two large classrooms, several small class and syndicate rooms, multimedia tools and space for additional faculty and support staff. These new capabilities will include

the latest information technology available to support education and the ability to conduct distributed Computer Assisted Exercises (CAX) from the school.

This project will allow NATO and partner countries to keep up with future demands for interoperability training among personnel and to further standardize education.

It will also enable the school to further significantly expand its capacity from the current 8,000 students annually. The new facility will officially be opened on June 24th, 2005, when the central conference hall will be named "Manfred Woerner Hall", in memory of NATO's former Secretary General.

(Information NATO news release)



Volume 21, No. 2 28 January 2005

Commander
Brig. Gen. Axel R. Tüttelmann
Chief, Public Information Office
Capt. Robert A. Firman
Editor
SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg
Layout
Maureen Geraets-Head

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Carnival

By A1C Daniel Houben

For many people Carnival is the fifth season of the year. At this time everything is different from normal. Everybody wears a costume and plays a role they are not familiar with, perhaps as a cowboy, pirate, Spiderman, bear, or something else.

The fifth season of the year traditionally opens 11 minutes after 1100 of the 11th day of the 11th month, but the really crazy time with big parades, costume balls, lots of drinking, singing and simply 'letting loose' starts on 'Altweiberfastnacht' every year. That day always comes on a Thursday: this year it is on 3 February, with a big party in the Frisbee Club from 1400 till 2400. The crazy time is over on the following Wednesday 'Aschermittwoch' (Ash Wednesday).

The tradition of 'Altweiberfastnacht' goes back to the 14th Century when the women started to have their own parties and gained control over the men by storming the town hall and winning the power over the city for a few days. Today everybody is reminded of this old tradition when the women snip the ties of every man they see. So every man makes sure that he is wearing an old tie!

Some say that tradition of Carnival even goes back to 4th Century where it was a significant festival of the ancient world and was intended to remind people of the time of Saturn's rule in which there were no slaves. During that festival nobody was allowed to do anything serious. The work in the whole town came to a standstill and schools were closed. Everyone made noise, drank, sang, danced, played and joked. Men and women, free citizens and slaves exchanged their clothes. The free citizens entertained the slaves during those days and did the work the slaves would normally do. That's the reason for wearing costumes today.



But today Carnival is not only costumes and snipping ties; it's a big business with really big festivals and organizations with huge numbers of people in Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium. Nearly everybody goes to parties and parades throughout the weekend, from Thursday till Tuesday, to sing, drink and have a lot of fun in this crazy time. In the evening there are always big events in large tents in different cities, with live acts, dancing groups and crazy actors who make the visitors laugh.

In the mornings and afternoons there are normally the big carnival parades with self-made carnival floats decorated to match the slogan the organizing group has chosen. There are really funny vehicles like submarines, Snoopy, polar bears, etc...and of course

the members of that carnival group are costumed in the same way. Especially for the children it's a big event, because the members of the many carnival groups in their big carnival vehicles with loud music and funny dancing throw sweets, popcorn, chocolate, or even CDs and many other things to the children and people along the streets to make them happy.

Every year millions of people watch these spectacles live or on TV. There are parades in every big city, such as the one in Cologne, the hometown of carnival where 'Die Jecken' (Crazy People) from all over Germany come to see the parade on 'Altweiberfastnacht' and celebrate Carnival.

We hope that every Component member will have a crazy Carnival time with a lot of fun.

Vacancy announcements

Applications are invited for the following post:

Cook, AGK SWF 0220, Advertisement Number 04072, NATO Grade C-3, assigned to the Food Management Section, Food Services Branch, Services Squadron, Base Support Wing. This post is due to be filled as soon as possible. Closing date: 16 Feb 2005.

Senior Assistant (Manpower), Post Number AGK CPM 0040, Advertisement Number 04064, NATO grade B-4 assigned to the Manpower Management Branch, Personnel Division, E-3A Component Headquarters. This post is due to be filled as soon as possible. Closing date: 18 Feb 2005.

For further details, please visit the Component Information Portal (WISE) under Headquarters, PEC, Recruitment/Services Section or review the advertisement posted in Building 8.

NOTE: Only applications of qualified personnel will be considered.

Due to unforeseen circumstances the advertisement for the post of Assistant (Supply), post number AGK LSM 1540, advertisement number 04069 is withdrawn.

Indoor Soccer League 2005

Text and photo A1C Daniel Houben

On 24 January the Indoor Soccer League 2005 started at the New Gym with ten teams – HQ FC Bayern, Italia, Tommy-Tiger, Supply, NSNO, AMS, NSTU, IT Wing, SWC and ManU.

Games will be played on Mondays and Wednesdays at 1715, 1815 and 1915. One team consists of four field players and one goalkeeper. Game time is 25 minutes per half time and every team has to finish games with at least four players.

To get to know each other there was a 'Pre-season Indoor Soccer Tournament' on 21 January. Four teams took part in the tournament, and the game time was 18 minutes.



Games were hot-tempered and thrilling, and everybody's motivation was extremely high. In the end the 'Supply' team won the tournament

with 7 points, second was AMS with 6 points, HQ FC Bayern was third with 4 points, and ManU was last with 0 points.

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Autos

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Valentines Treat

Alliance Players presents A.R. Gurney's 'Love Letters', a special Valentine evening treat for you. Show times at JFC HQ Brunssum Brit Hall on the following dates: 12 February at 1930; 13 February at 1830; €20 per couple, includes tickets, treats and sweets.

Buy the tickets from Hank Slaughter at the Geilenkirchen Medical Centre or at the door.

For directions to JFC HQ Brunssum Brit Hall, please check our website at <http://www.allianceplayers.com>



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.

- 6 Both clubs closed due to Carnival.
- 13 Chinese-style brunch at the Officers' Club. Frisbee Club closed.
- 20 Family brunch at the Officers' Club. Frisbee Club closed.
- 27 Sunday brunch at the Frisbee Club. Officers' Club closed.

Officers' Club (SWPO/4990)

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.*

- 3 Closed at 1400 due to Carnival.
- 7 Component Holiday, closed.
- 8-10 Herring specials during lunch time.

MWA INFORMATION February

- 14 Bring your Valentine to the Officers' Club for lunch!

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 per person must be charged for non-excused absences.

Sentry Club (SWPJ/4997)

The Sentry Club now offers a daily special as well as soup and salads. Specific information provided on the notice board at the beginning of the serving line and on the Component Information web page. *Room also available for small parties, meetings, etc. – call 4997 for additional information. At the 'off sale' operation, the Sentry Club can provide Warsteiner Beer in 30 and 50 ltr containers, different types of soft drinks in 1ltr bottles and tables, benches and other items to help with your party. The Sentry Club Souvenir Shop also has many gift ideas – stop by and see what is available. Additional information on any of the above can be obtained from the Sentry Club Manager, ext. 4996.*

Frisbee Club (SWPN/4994)

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 (club cards required).

- Throughout February Happy Hour Monday-Thursday 1700-1800; Friday with free snacks 1700-1900.
- 1 SKAT (No BINGO).
- 3 Carnival 'Altweiberball' 1400-2400. Club opens at 1400, DJ 'Ronnie' and the 'Anderkovver' Band. Additional special entertainment.
- 4-7 Closed for cleaning after Carnival celebrations/Component Holiday.
- 14-18 Turkish Week with Turkish specials during lunchtime.
- 15 BINGO.
- 17 International Wives' Club Turkish Night.
- 23 Belgian Mussel Night with entertainment from Mr. Lou Muzzillo.

Sports Department (SWPT/4946)

- Throughout February basketball league + indoor soccer league.
- 26 Invitational volleyball tournament.
- 28 Deadline to register for badminton tournament.

International Pre-School (SWPS/4957)

- 2 Carnival party.
- 7-11 Carnival break.
- 14 Back to school.
- 21-25 Teacher Appreciation Week – a special event planned by the International Pre-school Support Association (IPSA). *Registration for the new school year continues. Afternoon slots only available. A waiting list is available for the morning programmes. For more information, please contact the Pre-school on ext 4957.*

International Library (SWPL/4956)

Monday-Friday operating hours 1100-1600. *New arrivals: More than 80 CDs with up-to-date music and music collections from various artists and decades (from the 50s to the 90s) are now available at the Library. Did you know that USAFE has created USAFE Libraries Online at <http://usafelibraries.org> and, do you use NET Library? Or – did you know that you can now read*

books on your PC at home and that a lot of databases are also available. For more information about these things – visit the International Library at Bldg 96.

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.

International Youth Activities (SWPY/4954/5)

Registration and further information at the IYA Office in Bldg 95, ext 4954/5, opening hours Monday-Friday 0815-1300.

IYA Winter Break Programme

From 8 to 11 February the IYA will organise 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 must be collected no later than 1730. The programme offers fun games, arts and crafts, sports, free play, special projects and movies. The cost is €57,50 for one child, €115 for two children, and €143,75 for three or more children, including field trip to Technopolis interactive science and technology museum and Kinderstad indoor play park on Tuesday and lunch on Friday.

IYA Trip to Technopolis Interactive Museum and Kinderstad Indoor Play Park

On Tuesday, 8 February, the IYA is offering a trip for ages 6 and older to Technopolis interactive science and technology museum and Kinderstad indoor play park. The bus departs at 0800, and gets back at about 1800. Cost is €27,50 per child. This trip is free to chaperones.

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