

The Force Commander's Priorities

On Feb. 10 and 11, I held two briefings at the Component outlining some of the main challenges we face in the Force Command and my priorities for NATO's AWACS Force to meet them. While many of you were able to attend the briefings in person, many were not. To ensure everyone has the chance to get this message, I wanted to highlight some of the main points.

The key issue for the future of the Force is deployability. All of NATO is working now to develop systems and capabilities to support the NATO Response Force and out-of-area operations. It's the future of the Alliance, and it's our future as well. Therefore, ensuring our aircraft and personnel can go where they're needed in a timely manner is the highest priority.

The plans on the books today call for the Component to be an important part of future NRF operations, but only if we develop the capabilities necessary to deploy. We need to be able to do out-of-area operations and we need to be able to get out of the door quickly.

While we have some work to do before we are able to integrate in NRF operations, the steps to deployability are clear.

One of the main steps to get the AWACS Force into the fight involves the aircraft itself. We're preparing to operate from some potentially unfriendly areas and we have to equip the E-3A with Infrared Counter Measures, or IRCM. This system will enable the aircraft to defend itself against a variety of surface-to-air threats, and would allow us to fly from airfields currently considered off limits.

Once we get our aircraft into a deployed environment, the next thing we have to focus on is redefining our mission in that setting. To be truly relevant to future out-of-area operations, we have to evolve our role in air-to-ground operations. There appears a less likely credible scenario involving massive air forces that threaten NATO. However, we all know the threat posed by terrorism and can see the importance of NATO AWACS supporting Allied forces in counter-terror operations (one example).

This is a big change for the Component. While we're still going to do air-to-air and battlefield management operations, we have to be able to work more effectively with ground forces and developing those skills is critical. These air-to-ground operations will include close air

support, time sensitive targeting, combat search and rescue, and command and control support. We know many at the Component have already begun working to improve these aspects of our operations, and we are grateful for their efforts.

In addition to changes in how the E-3A is used, the challenge of deploying personnel to potentially austere and hostile environments is enormous. Although these issues can't be entirely solved at the Component level, I want you to know we are working hard to resolve them at the higher levels of NATO and these questions are being closely looked at all the way to the Secretary General's office.

While we work on the administrative questions, I encourage everyone to begin developing an expeditionary mindset. Although some of us may never have to face a deployment, many of us will. It's all of our responsibility to keep ourselves physically and mentally prepared to succeed in these potentially difficult situations. To that end, we have to gear our training, exercises, and planning to support these future missions.

The world has changed and we are changing with it, but none of these issues will be fully addressed overnight.

Many will take a sustained effort throughout the Force, and throughout NATO. As we come up with solutions to problems, plans for the future, and new ways of doing business, I will work to keep you all in the loop.

NATO AWACS has been NATO's flagship military unit for more than 25 years and we will continue to be. You and your predecessors have rightly earned a reputation for teamwork and international cooperation. As we adapt to these new challenges, together we will keep our position as the flagship of NATO for the 21st Century.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Maj.Gen. Gary A. Winterberger
NAEW&C Force Commander

Five Force Command Budget Priorities:

- Infra Red Countermeasures (IRCM)
- Out of Area Deployability
- Comms Connectivity with Ground Forces
- Developing Close Air Support
- Coordinating AGS/NAEW&C Harmonization

Children design 2005 Flight Safety Calendar

By A1C Daniel Houben

Mr. Josef Hess, Chief Ground Safety Branch, had the idea to do a calendar contest to promote safety awareness at the Component. For this contest children had to draw pictures that represent an aspect of safety here on base, both on and off duty. There were different categories the children could pick from like "The AWACS aircraft and winter, snow", "Kids and cars (traffic safety)", "Kids at sports", "Kids and chemicals in the household", or "The AWACS aircraft and Santa Claus".

The project started in September of last year and drawings were received in October so that final selections could be made in November. Selections were based on how well the drawings represent and permit safety aspects at the Component. The winning entries

were selected by the Safety Division staff members in a group session. Also, because of the unique quality and nature of the drawings, one was chosen to be the calendar cover, 12 additional drawings were chosen to be drawings of the month and four were used as Environmental awareness posters.

The winning young artists aged between 5 and 11 years are Danielle Mackenthun, Josh Roth, Jacob Reynolds, Hannah Stevenson, Evan Moxley, Azza El Mahdi, Jared Perez, Roisin Reilly, Jenna Deutschmann, Carlos Villareal, Adiana Pisula, Katelyn Dottere. All of their drawings are on the calendar from cover to the month of December. The drawings for the safety poster were done by Sarah Roberto, Sean Fleming, Sarah Ariens and Macie Lynch.

On Wednesday January 12, the

winners of the Flight Safety calendar contest were presented. A reception for the winners took place in the Officers' Club and Component Commander Brig. Gen. Axel Tüttelmann was there to honor the winners of the contest.

The reception was hosted by Lt Col Frank Kozian, Chief of Safety, and attended by his Safety staff as well as the 17 children whose drawings were

selected and their parents. General Tüttelmann presented the calendar to all 13 children whose pictures are represented and he also recognized the four children whose drawings were chosen for the Environmental awareness posters.

If you are interested in buying this safety calendar, please contact the Safety Office, ext. 2465 or 2460.



The proud winners posing with E-3A Component Commander Brig.Gen. Axel Tüttelmann, showing their selected drawing.
Photo by MSgt. Mark Boggess



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Defence Ministers review transformation, operations

Meeting in Nice, France, 9-10 February, NATO Defence Ministers confirmed the further expansion of NATO's mission in Afghanistan, reviewed the Alliance's other operations and discussed its military transformation.

The Alliance's ability to deliver effective, enduring multinational military operations was the central theme of the informal meeting.

Ministers were briefed by NATO's top commanders on the status and options for NATO's current operations in Afghanistan, Kosovo, and the Mediterranean, and its military assistance to Iraq. They also reviewed and discussed the factors that affect the Alliance's capability to field complex military operations when and where necessary.

This includes the planning and financing of operations, the decision-making processes, and the 'usability' of member countries forces. "A lot has happened, but we can do better," said NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer at a press conference, "We can do better in getting the forces ready when we need them, we can do better in transporting and deploying them...and sustaining them."

Expanding in Afghanistan, delivering in Iraq

Informal meetings traditionally have no fixed agenda and no formal decisions are taken; they allow Ministers to discuss freely issues on NATO's agenda. However, it was confirmed at the meeting, that NATO had the resources to expand its presence in Afghanistan, into the West of the country. The Ministers also discussed a possible further expansion to the South, and increasing synergies with the ongoing US-led Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Secretary General stressed that NATO's goal to train over 1,000 Iraqi officers per year and to help equip Iraqi forces remains unchanged. "It is my intention and Allies' intention that by the date we have a Summit, 22 February, all Allies will support the training operation, be it by training inside Iraq, outside Iraq, or by contributing to the trust funds for the training mission," Mr. De Hoop Scheffer told reporters.

Component members dominate Ski and Snowboard Championships

Two members of the E-3A Component International Ski Club recently competed in the USAFE Ski & Snowboard Ski Championships, Piancavallo, Italy. CMSgt. John Roberto and Capt. Jeffrey Davis, both members of the Logistics Wing, represented the E-3A Component in the two-day competition consisting of a Giant Slalom and Slalom events.

On the first day of completion the Giant Slalom race was held. The skiers were the first ones to attack this 24-gate course located on the "Sauc" piste. Chief Roberto not only placed first in his category (men's military masters), but posted the fastest time of the day out of the entire field of competitors. Next on the course were the snowboard competitors. Capt. Davis, his first time competing in a snowboard race, captured a second place finish in his category (men's military seniors).



The second day event was the Slalom competition; this course included 42 gates and was held on the "Alternate Sauc" piste. This race was only for the alpine skiers.

Chief Roberto exploded out of the start gate and led the field again on his first run. The second run was the same with a first place posting in his category and repeating his first day's success as posting the fastest time of the day out of the entire field. His closest competitor was over 3 seconds away, which is an eternity in slalom terms.

This completion is the first part of a two-leg series; the pair is off to Garmisch- Partenkirchen, Germany for the second leg of the series on 12-13 March.

Skier John Roberto (right) and snowboarder Jeffrey Davis both happy with their success on the slopes and ready for the next race in Garmish-Partenkirchen.

Photo Amy Davis

Get ready for the new golf season with IGA

The new season of golfing is right around the corner and the International Golf Association (IGA) of NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen is ready to get you on the golf course. The 2005 membership meeting is scheduled for 16 March in the Frisbee Club at 1600. Joining the IGA gives you the chance to play golf at Openbare Golf Brunssummerheide in Brunssum, The Netherlands, located only five minutes from the back gate. Three nine-hole championship courses await you, each with distinctively different and difficult holes. Membership in the IGA allows you to play every day of the week at your choice of tee times as they are available.

Like competitive golf?

The IGA organizes over twenty tournaments during the year. These tournaments include the IGA Club Championship and our own version of the Ryder Cup. Would you enjoy playing other courses in the area? The IGA offers competitions at 14 nearby courses, all of exceptional quality. Each tournament costs no more than €25, a bargain since all of the green fees at these courses cost substantially more.

Like match play?

Enter the Singles and/or Doubles Match Play Knockout Tournaments. Like friendly fun format tournaments? Every Wednesday afternoon, from 11 May through 28 September, the IGA offers Club Night Tournaments featuring scrambles and many other formats. Want to sharpen your short game? Play on the nine-hole Par Three course.

Just a beginner?

A special membership is available for playing only the Par Three course at a very reduced rate.

The membership package for the IGA is the best golfing bargain around. Full membership costs only €300. That rate is reduced to €280 if you join before 25 March. A Par Three membership is €100 allowing unlimited play on the Par Three course only. Come on by the Frisbee Club 16 March at 1600 to join and to begin signing up for tournaments. Last year 120 members enjoyed golfing with the club. Join in the fun with the IGA. For more information go to our website at www.igagolf.net.

International Youth Activities

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

Easter Egg Hunt

On Monday, 21 March, at 1430 the IYA will sponsor a big Easter Egg Hunt for Component children of all nationalities. Meeting point is the IYA Playground behind Building 95. Join the fun, and meet the Easter Bunny. There is no fee for this event. Rain delay date is Tuesday, 22 March.

Spring Break Programme

Between 21 March and 1 April the IYA will hold two four-day sessions for children aged 6 and up with activities from 0930 to 1630. The children can be dropped off at 0800, and collected no later than 1730. The programme includes fun games, arts & crafts, sports, free play, special projects, and movies.

Session I: €55 for 1 child, €110 for 2 children and €137.50 for three or more children, including lunch on Thursday.
Session II: €66 for 1 child, €132 for 2 children, and €165 for three or more children, including lunch on Friday. Fees also include one field trip per session. Slots are limited.

Spring Break Trips

During the spring break the IYA will sponsor two field trips for international Component children aged 6 years and up:

23 March, 0800-2000, Burgers' Zoo in Arnhem, The Netherlands, with playground, safari, huge indoor rainforest, desert and ocean areas, €25 per child.

30 March, 0800-1930, Phantasialand Amusement Park, boasting roller coasters, playgrounds, shows and a wide variety of small and big rides, €36 per child.

No fee for chaperones. Slots are limited. Point of departure and return is the IYA parking lot next to Bldg 95.

Aerobathon

The E-3A Component's first ever Aerobathon will take place on March 15 from 1000 to 1400 at the New Gym. This is a chance to try any of the following classes: Indoor Cycling, Step Aerobics, Floor Aerobics, and Dance Step.

All levels available, from Beginners to Intermediate or Advanced. Open to all Component members and dependants. Free of charge. Please call today to sign up, ext. 4946.

Twelve of the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders will be stopping by for a short visit from 1100-1200. Come out and get a picture and autograph.



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GREECE

Text and photos Martin Bosman

For many years I've been going to Greece - NATO Greece on TDY to FOB Aktion. As many of us have experienced, it is a very nice part of mother earth. The Greek government has, with help of the European Committee, put lots of financial support into these areas, which is obvious.

If we think of how the seafront looked in Preveza some years ago, when the tunnel wasn't there, then today the people of Preveza can be very proud of the boulevard that has been built. There is also the old city of Nicopoulos, just north of Preveza. This city goes back to the times of the Romans. This is also the place where the Battle of Aktion took place, a fight between Marcus-Anthonius and Cleopatra. Many ruins from those days still exist.

The same goes for Vonitsa. I remember from the old days that when you came into Vonitsa that it was just a sad place, although it's on the Gulf of Amphilogia with a nice seafront. Today it looks stunning. Here the government also made some money available for restoration of the village.

But I have to say something about Parga. This is a very touristy village on the mainland, about 70 kilometres north of Preveza. Those who have been there will likely agree with me that it is a pretty little place, although in the season it is full of tourists from all over the world. Still it remains a lovely little village with hundreds of little shops and many restaurants. One of those restaurants, which rises above all the others, is Capello. This restaurant is just magnificent and can compete with the top in Europe, and yet remains inexpensive.

I'm probably not the most objective



Parga Bay.

person to talk about Greece, because I met my wife Maggie there while I was on TDY and she was living and working there. It is a wonderful place, as are the Islands in the area, like Lefkas, Ithaca, Kefanolia, and the famous Scorpios, Onassis' private place.

The Ionian Islands, like Corfu, Lefkas, Ithaka, Kefalonia and the most southern Zakintos, are beautiful - beaches, good food and wine. There are places on these islands where time has stood still. Many of the little islands, like Kefalonia, are paradise. It also has its own airport at Agostoli, on the west side of the island. It has some sad memories from the 2nd World War though, which can be read in the famous book 'Captain Corelli's Mandolin'. It tells the story of Kefalonia during the 2nd World War.

And then of course Lefkas Island itself is what most of those who have been TDY to Aktion know. It has a lovely town and there are many shops, restaurants and bars.

I hope you have enjoyed this

description of the area where many of us often go TDY. Mags and me? We are just waiting for the day that

we can stay forever on our boat 'Zonnemaire' and sail to all the beautiful spots on the Med.



Maggie in a small Greek restaurant.



Bridge at Patras.

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24-26 Feb: The Incredibles.

Starring:
Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter, Samuel L. Jackson, Jason Lee.

Rating: PG, Animated, adventure.

Duration: 115 minutes.

Review:
Bob Parr was known to all as Mr. Incredible, but now the erstwhile superhero has retired to a quiet life in the suburbs and a job as an insurance salesman. But after a mysterious communication summons him to a remote island, he springs back into action, along with his superpower-endowed family.

International Dining Hall (IDH), Officers', Frisbee and Sentry Clubs also on the BASS LAN System. For menu information see 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.

06

Sunday Lunch at the Frisbee Club. Officers' Club closed.

13

Family Brunch at the Officers' Club. Frisbee Club closed.

20

Sunday Brunch at the Frisbee Club. Officers' Club closed.

27

Easter Brunch at both Frisbee and Officers' Clubs (1100-1400) at special price of €11,50 and €12,80 for members and guests respectively. Watch for special fliers.

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.

14-17

Seafood specials during lunch time.

18

Mongolian BBQ. Reservations required. Watch for special flier.

MWA INFORMATION March

25+28

Officers' Club closed due to Component Holidays.
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.

Sentry Club (SWPJ/4997)
As well as the daily special, the Sentry Club will now offer a weekend special comprising soup and a main course. The Sentry Club is also able to support conferences and meetings with coffee, soft drinks, brötchen (rolls) or muffins.
The "off sale" operation can also provide beer in 30 and 50 ltr containers, various soft drinks in 1 ltr. bottles and tables, benches and other items to help in organising your party. Please order in advance.
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 March Happy Hour: Monday-Thursday 1700-1800. Friday with free snacks: 1700-1900

01

SKAT and BINGO.

04

Indonesian Buffet prepared by traditional Indonesian cook.

11

Friday Country Night with live

music from Canadian Country Band (2030-0100). BBQ also available (1800-2100).

15

BINGO.

17

International Wives' Club host an American evening.

25-26+28

Frisbee Club closed for the Easter Holiday.

29

BINGO.

Sports Department (SWPT/4946)
Throughout March Indoor Soccer League continues on Mondays and Wednesdays 1715-2015 in the New Gym.

02

Sports Advisory Council Meeting 0900 in the Officers' Club Conference Room.

08

Coaches' Meeting for Outdoor Soccer League at 1400 in the Sentry Club Q&Q Room.

18

Deadline to register for Racquetball Tournament with different categories offered.

19

International Basketball Tournament 0900-1800 in the New Gym. Teams from Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands will be invited to participate.

International Pre-School (SWPS/4957)
18 Easter part and Easter Egg Hunt at 1100.
21-03 to 1-04 Easter Break, no school.
04 Back to school.
Registration for the school year continues. Afternoon slots available only. A waiting list is available for the morning programmes. For additional information, please call the Pre-School on ext. 4957.

International Library (SWPL)/4956
Monday-Friday: 1100-1600. Online Databases available at the International Library. Visit the Library and get your own user account number to enable access all the databases available. Whether working on a research paper, pursuing your own special interest or helping children with homework, these databases provide a wealth of information in well-organised and easy to use sites. To provide a few examples: Auto Repair Reference Centre: Full text searchable manuals for repair procedures and service bulletins on almost all makes, models and years of American spec. cars.

Countrywatch: This site provides country specific geo-political intelligence on 192 countries all over the world.

Gale Group: This site provides information on health, wellness and social issues as well as chapters from reference books. Additionally, pointers for writing papers and creating visual aids. Excellent resource for research papers, full text articles, etc.

Thrift Shop (SWPG)/4919
Tuesdays and Thursdays, operating hours 1000-1400.

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

Baseball Season
The 2005 Baseball season is about to begin. The following leagues will be offered to all international Component children: T-Ball for ages 4-6, Machine Pitch for ages 7-9, Majors for ages 10-12 and Juniors for ages 13-15. The programme is building up Baseball skills continually. Our youngest players hit the ball from a "T", at the next level a machine pitches the ball and finally, in Major and Junior leagues, the players are able to pitch themselves. We are especially hoping European children will take the unique opportunity to play these traditional North American sports together with the Canadian and American children here in our international community. Fee for the season is €40 per child, including T-shirt, ball, cap and participation award. Registration from 1 to 31 March.

Spring Soccer Season
The IYA is offering Spring Soccer for international boys and girls born between 1990 and 2001 again. Children and teenagers of all nationalities are invited to learn and play this sport together. The season - full of fun-filled and exciting games and tournaments - will run from the beginning of April to the middle of June. Fee for the season: €25 per player, including participation award. Registration from 1 to 31 March.

Volunteers Wanted for IYA Baseball and Spring Soccer
As usual the IYA can only offer its seasonal sports programs with your dedicated volunteer help. Call x 4955 to sign up as coach, assistant coach or referee/umpire for any of our leagues!

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