

California testing advances NATO Mid-Term Program

By Lt. Col. Douglas Kieser
and
Capt. Gareth Carter

When United States Navy assets work with each other, they have a daunting task. Aircraft carriers, destroyers, fighters and airborne early warning and control systems all combine to make a flexible and powerful force. Linking the various players together with voice and data networks is a very complicated job.

This February at Point Mugu in California, this powerful force added NATO AWACS to their 'data link diet' to support tests in NATO's on-going modernization program. The NATO Mid-Term, or NMT, Modernization test team (the 'Bunker') based here at the Component combined with a crack Squadron 1 crew to work with Boeing to put the aircraft through a new phase of tests. The Component Commander, Brigadier General Tüttelmann, joined the team to observe testing and participate in the flying activities.

The NATO test aircraft (tail number 453), which usually operates at Boeing Field in Seattle, had reached a major milestone in its test program. As part of 'Test Directive 253', Boeing had to demonstrate the new mission suite's capability to operate with the US Navy. To that end, E-2Cs from VAW-113 based at Point Mugu, F/A-18s from a China Lake based test squadron, a USAF E-3C AWACS from Tinker AFB in Oklahoma and of course, a standard NATO E-3A from here provided the air assets for the test.

After Boeing completed its testing, the Bunker crew was given the opportunity to conduct an Operational



After its arrival on 1 March in Geilenkirchen the N1 starts the next stage of its testing: can the new system handle operations in the dense air traffic environment over Europe.

Photo Andrea Hohenforst

Assessment of the new system in an operationally robust environment. This type of appraisal by operators is standard in the development of new systems to ensure an effective product.

All the air assets gathered at Naval Air Station Point Mugu (30 miles west of Los Angeles) from 1-4 Feb. Component team members reported that the weather was sunny, the coastline views were fantastic, and the waves were big.

Offshore assets included the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, destroyers USS Lassen and the USS Momsen. The USS Lassen even had a NATO

Surveillance Operator, MSgt Thomas Fillies, embarked as a liaison during the testing. According to MSgt. Fillies, US Navy food is delicious, but the bunks were tight.

Flying a test mission every day, the test team had limited time to mission plan. The Bunker crew helped reduce this risk factor by doing much of the planning and scripting of each test step months in advance. However, high winds, broken jets, and a plethora of other problems threatened the test execution. The previous hard work and planning on the part of all involved paid

off handsomely as they were able to adapt and change, ensuring at least a limited test of the new system. .

The NATO mid-term jet will now progress to the next stage of its testing. The next stop for the test aircraft is a rainier, colder place - Germany. Boeing will bring the aircraft to Geilenkirchen to assess how well the new system can handle operations in the dense air traffic environment over Europe. The Bunker and many other people look forward to flying and operating the advanced AWACS system in our backyard.

Sibling harmonies



The Good Brothers have gained a worldwide audience over the course of their accomplished career. Listen to their sibling harmonies is a real pleasure. The songs come straight from their hearts to your tapping toes and the smile on your face.

Tonight, 11 March, they will perform at the Frisbee Club from 2030 to 0100.

A BBQ is also available; for only €10 per person you may enjoy a delicious BBQ Buffet including salad bar, potatoes and pudding. Open to all Component personnel.

Next NATO Skywatch:
29 March
Submissions due by:
17 March

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Painting Contest**
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Easter Egg Hunt**
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AWACS:

NATO's premier air battle management fleet

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

In 2002, when the nations agreed on the Prague Capabilities Commitment, NATO began a vast force structure change to become a leaner, more mobile force that could be employed across the spectrum of conflict in and outside NATO borders.

As part of that force, the NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control (NAEW&C) Force is posturing itself, through additional roles and missions, doctrine, training and key equipment investments, to adapt to rapid change.

When the Cold War ended, the priorities for the Force changed. The priorities have now undergone another iteration of change based on the creation of the NATO Response Force (NRF), due to be fully operational in October 2006.

The NRF in essence is a catalyst for the Force to prepare for a multitude of missions, from peacekeeping to small anti-terrorist operations, humanitarian interventions, and full-scale conflicts. To that end, the NAEW&C Force has laid out its top priorities to fit into the NRF concept and out-of-area operations.

These priorities begin with the need for some type of Infra-Red Counter Measure (IRCM) system to protect our aircraft and crews in any theatre to which we might deploy on short notice. It is clear that without defensive countermeasures, our operational effectiveness will be reduced and the force flexibility of where to deploy would be limited. Our next priority, closely linked to the first, is out-of-area deployability.

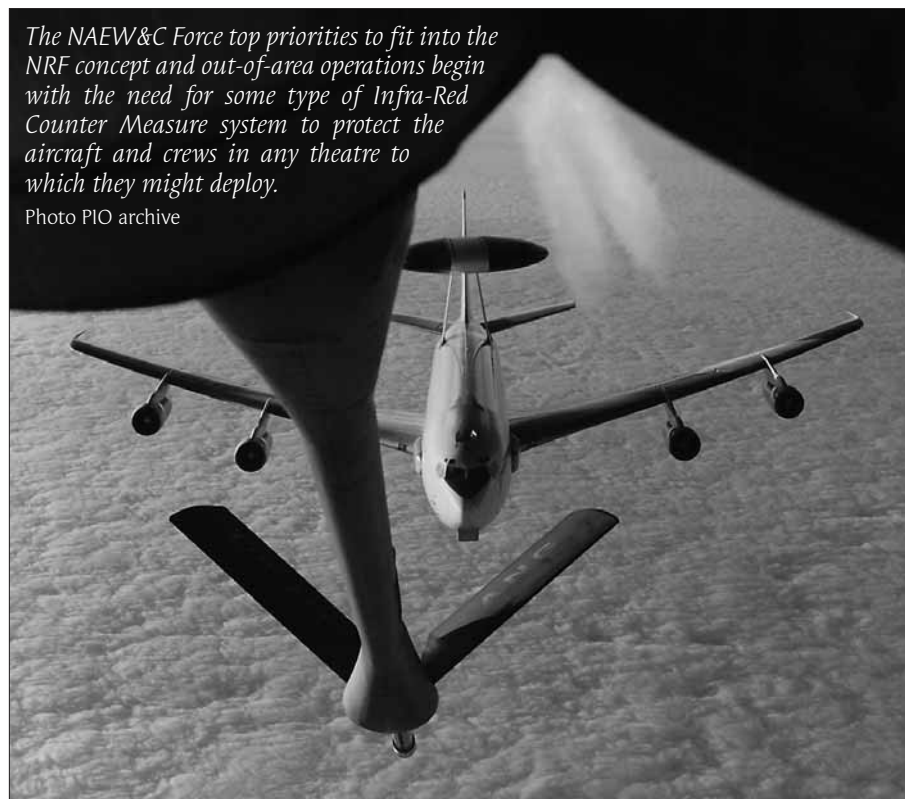
The Force began training for such deployments during some of our exercises in 2004. We will continue to exercise our deployment capability

with gradual "ramp ups" in difficulty throughout 2005 and 2006. Out-of-area deployability presents a host of challenges from political coordination between NATO and host nations to airfield support equipment, security forces, tents, and facility hardening.

Our third priority is improving communications connectivity with ground forces. The NRF is inherently ground-centric, and NAEW&C must maintain close connectivity to improve

The NAEW&C Force top priorities to fit into the NRF concept and out-of-area operations begin with the need for some type of Infra-Red Counter Measure system to protect the aircraft and crews in any theatre to which they might deploy.

Photo PIO archive



our capability effectiveness. Some of the technology enablers for this are satellite communications, Secure VHF-FM connections, and the ability to track friendly ground forces.

Our fourth priority is to improve or enhance our close air support (CAS) capability. We believe that by adapting our doctrine and employing established tactics, training, and procedures in exercises, we will be able to significantly enhance our CAS capabilities.

Our fifth priority is to harmonize our Force with the Air Ground Surveillance capability that NATO is procuring. The reason to harmonize is to improve integration and interoperability with other command, control, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (C2ISR) assets throughout NATO.

Obviously, a tangential benefit is potential reduced costs in the support, training, logistics, and operations

and out-of-area operations.

We are entering operational test and evaluation of our NATO Mid-Term (NMT) modernisation programme, which provides enhanced communications, increased C2 capability, and open architecture to leverage the emerging NATO Network Enabled Capability (NNEC).

Full program aircraft production begins in 2006 and ends in 2009. However, the complexity of NMT taught us a lesson - we need to change the nature of our acquisition programmes from a block to a spiral development approach to reduce the fielding time for operational requirements. The rapid acquisition we are attempting with IRCM should provide a blueprint for the future. A NATO initiative, led by Allied Command Transformation (ACT), will provide a Joint Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (JISR) concept that will fuse information systems together into a comprehensive network to provide the right information, to the right person, at the right time.

The NAEW&C Force, along with several agencies throughout NATO, is working on a networked capability that is standardized and interoperable among various air, land, and maritime systems.

This improved ISR capability, perhaps one day to be provided by an overall C2ISR Force, will greatly enhance effects-based operations across the spectrum of employment. As we look to the future of the NAEW&C Force, it is clear that its missions are evolving to meet the diverse asymmetric threats the Alliance faces today.

While we continue to be NATO's premier Air Battle Management fleet, we must also prepare for employing across the spectrum from Article V to Joint operations to NRF missions. The NAEW&C Force is shaping itself to meet just such threats - not stovepiped, but integrated with other NATO Joint forces. *(Information from SHAPE news)*

Hellenic Independence Day

The Greek Contingent will celebrate the Hellenic Independence Day on 17 March. A Te Deum will take place at the Base Chapel at 1400 followed by a reception at the Officer's Club at 1500. A number of approximately 200 persons have been invited to honour with their presence the commemoration of the day.

Join the

The Turkish Support Unit organizes the 17th Children's Festival on 17 April at the Astra Theatre. Connected is a painting contest with great prizes for age groups 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12.

This year's theme is 'Helping each other'. Paintings in any form is accepted but should be in A-4 paper size and have to be sent, not later than 7 April, to NAEW&CF E-3A Component, NSU Turkey, Stop # 8, Post



box 633007, 52511 Geilenkirchen. Each participant should write name, age, nationality, address and phone number on the back of his/her painting.

For each age group are to win the following prizes: 1st prize a bicycle, 2nd prize a scooter, 3rd prize a camera. All paintings will be displayed during the festival.

painting contest!



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Easter Egg Hunt

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



Component support to UNICEF beats €20K

Even though the tsunami disaster in Asia was already several months ago, people have not forgotten about the victims - especially the people of the E-3A Component. Thanks to continuing contributions and a fundraising effort through the NATEX, the new total contributed to UNICEF from the E-3A Component has reached €20.283,46. The Component account is still open at Dresdner Bank on base and deposits can be made directly. For more information, contact Capt. Firman at the PI Office, ext. 2480.

Vacancy announcement

Applications are invited for the following post:

Senior Assistant (Personnel), AGK CPC 0060, Advertisement Number 05011, NATO Grade B-4, assigned to the NATO Civilian Personnel Section, Civilian Personnel Branch, Personnel Division, E-3A Component Headquarters. This post is due to be filled as soon as possible. Closing date: 5 Apr 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.

New Golfing Season begins

The new season of golfing is right around the corner and the International Golf Association (IGA) of NATO Airbase 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. 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.

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

The Singles or Doubles Match Play Knockout Tournaments give you a chance to go head to head against

other members. For a friendlier tournament, you can play every Wednesday afternoon at 1630 from 11 May through 28 September in the Club Night Tournaments featuring scrambles and much other fun formats.

Also available at the course is a complete driving range facility with covered tees, two putting greens, a bunker and a chipping area. Adjacent to the driving range is a nine hole Par Three course ready to help sharpen your short game.

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. Membership information is available at the website www.igagolf.net or by contacting IGA President Mark Graves at ext. 2025.

Aerobathon

The E-3A Component's first ever Aerobathon will take place on 15 March 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.

Wanted: Ladies volleyball players

The VCG Gangelt presently has 2 ladies teams, ages 17 to 35, which often compete in the region. They are looking for new players of any nationality with previous experience at playing volleyball at College level. Please no beginners.

A free trial period can be accommodated with one of the two English-speaking teams.

Practice times are every Tuesday and Thursday from 1830 to 2030 at the Gangelt Sport Halle, year round. Competitions are on Saturdays at 1500 and the season runs from September to April.

For more information, please contact Mr. Hank Hinzen Tel: 02454 6854 or email: hinzen-pasch@t-online.de

IYA

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

Trampoline

On 6 April the IYA is beginning its Trampoline program for boys and girls aged 5+ under the experienced and certified instruction of Mr. Frank 'Balu' Schneising, Official Trampoline Referee

Olympic Games 2004 at Athens, licensed by the German Sports Association. Classes are held at the New Gym on Wednesdays from 1805 to 2000. Cost per month is €25 for the first child, €20 for the second, and €15 for the third and each additional family member.

Tumbling

The IYA is starting a Tumbling program for gymnastics and fun for boys and girls aged 4 and up under the experienced instruction of Mrs. Carey Hicks at the New Gym Multi-purpose Room on 6 April. Instruction is on Wednesdays from 1500 to 1600. Cost per child per month is €14.

Music Night 2005

'Aktion Heinz Esser' is a fundraising event for a bone-marrow transplant compatibility test. The Band 'Struwwelpeter' will play on 2 April, 2000, at Hochneukirch in the Peter –Bamm-Halle.

In a joint effort with the Services Squadron and the German NCO Association a bus will be made available for the journey from the base/Geilenkirchen to Hochneukirch and back. Cost for transportation and entrance ticket is €15; ticket sales: Carol John, Services Squadron, ext. 4900 and Capt. Frank Rath, NSGE, ext. 2136. Prize for a ticket only is €10.

More information on this action can be obtained from www.alle-helfen-heinz.de

Autos

Dodge Caravan, 1989. Old, but runs fine. No second row of seats, just lots of space. €600 obo. Call Mrs. Sumet, ext. 2490 or 01634390193.

1997 Ford Scorpio Cosworth, 2,9 ltr/207 HP, 232,000 highway km, fully loaded, automatic transmission, charcoal grey, dealer inspected, €4,500. Call Mr. M. Thijs at ext. 2410.

Renault Scenic RX4, May 2000, 2.0 ltr/140 HP, 133,000-highway km, full equip., AWD, new tyres, 6 CD charger, silver, Renault inspected, €10,000. Call Maj. Jose Botija at 2416.

Miscellaneous

Air conditioner. Like new. Rarely used. Complete with all accessories and handbook. Price €120. Call 02451 5723.

SKYWATCH

CLASSIFIED

Skywatch Classifieds are free to all NATO personnel. Advertisements must be printed or typed, and include your name, office symbol and duty extension. The editor will not accept advertisements for services that generate a regular income, or for housing other than vacation rentals. Submissions for the next NATO Skywatch are due to PIO, Mail Stop 33, e-mail: pio@e3a.nato.int, before noon Thursday, 17 March.

Babysitter wanted for occasional TDY's and weekends. Three children aged 17-15-9. Possession of car and/or USEUR Driver's license essential. Call Mrs. Sumet, ext. 2490 or 01634390193.

Home day-care. Friendly, active home day-care mother with certificate's and lots of playing space has place for new 'take care kids'. Fore more info call 02451 913983.

Vacation rental

To rent modern house in beautiful and historic Tuscany (Italy). Located in a selected medieval village of the Etruscan coast (1 km from unspoiled sandy beaches), 100 km south of Pisa, 200 km north of Rome. Fully equipped for up to 10 people (4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, TV, large terrace, garage, washing machine, small garden and BBQ), 3 Golf Clubs in the vicinity (e.g.

Punta Ala). Brochures of the village, details and pictures of the house available. Contact Mr. R. Vassallo, SHAPE 254-3712, Office 0032-65- 44 37 12, Home 0032-65-73 04 83, e-mail rvassallo@skynet.be

Czech Republic shopping trip

Camilla B. Lockhart no. 68 is sponsoring a shopping trip to Cheb and Karlovary Vary in the Czech Republic. The chance to shop for crystal and clothing at the same time.

Departing JFC HQ Brunssum at 29 April, 2300. Returning 1 May, 0300. Cost €65 per seat (limited seating; passport is required). For more info call Kimberly Parks at ext. 4800.

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.

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*

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.

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. 4 Apr. 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 until 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 until 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!