



Ambulance crew chief provides aid at Banda Aceh

‘What we saw was a total destruction of mess, stink and poverty’

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NATO's Alliance Ground Surveillance Programme Gains Momentum

This morning, as a result of work done at the twice-annual meeting of NATO's Conference of National Armaments Directors, NATO signed a 23 million Euro contract with the Transatlantic Industrial Proposed Solution (TIPS) consortium, as a key part of the Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS) programme.

This crucial, first major contract with NATO's chosen industrial partner, represents a break-through for the Alliance. It moves NATO, and NATO nations, one step closer in the AGS programme to fielding a state-of-the-art airborne ground surveillance capability. With an estimated cost of 4 billion euros, AGS will be one of the most expensive acquisition programmes ever undertaken by the Alliance, and one of the most sophisticated, technologically.

The goal of AGS is to enable military commanders and decision-makers to have near-real-time radar imagery that is able to spot ground targets and track them.

The contract was signed, in the presence of NATO's Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Alessandro Minuto Rizzo and the Chairman of the CNAD, Marshall Billingslea, together with General Harald Kujat, the Chairman of NATO's Military Committee. Mr Dag Wilhelmsen, General Manager of the NATO Command, Control and Consultation Agency, and Mr Alan Doshier, Senior Vice President of Northrop Grumman Integrated Systems, on behalf of the

By Col. Angel Burgos,
ITW Commander

Nowadays the defence industry is responding to the siren's call of Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS) hardware & software, unaware of all the problems that have plagued countless civilian and military development programs in the past. Nevertheless, new-generation engineers and program managers believe it will be different this time.

The potential benefits of tapping into personal computer, telecommunications and other mainstream software, firmware and hardware, then adapting them to your own applications and systems, are simply too great to ignore.

Airborne Early Warning is but a blip on the horizon of today's hardware and software world, with no influence on the sector's direction. Ideally, NAEW&CF could exert leverage on the massive investments already made in COTS, modifying it for its own purpose. However, in reality it is the consumer who dictates the direction of the commercial hardware and software market, not the defence industry. Therefore a way must be found to control and monitor what's in the best interest of the organization and also what is going on in the market.

Throughout the Cold War, the Western countries spent enormous

amounts of money in the air defence area, to develop and maintain specialized software - mainly under ADA and Jovial programming languages - known as '*purpose-built software*' running and embedded in very specialized systems (aircraft, EW radars, CRC's, etc). While ever-cheaper computing power produces mainstream consumer products, military applications became small, complex, and high-cost isolated islands in an ocean of commercial software.

Today, there is growing pressure to adapt COTS software and hardware for every military application *simply because it is cheaper than writing unique, specialized code*. While defence organizations explore mainstream software and hardware options, military services are evolving ways to test and certify these new systems. Policy standards have been or will be drafted. The rapidly accelerating changes in the commercial software and hardware realm, however, threaten their capacity to control them.

Some of the sophisticated software which is being used nowadays or which will be used in the near future in military aviation is used as well for commercial systems. In reality it was designed for the commercial software sector rather than being written for a specific purpose. So, many systems currently are or will be using Ethernet networking hardware and software

technology to sustain critical functions.

The question is: *What will the cost be?*

Timing issues, incompatible software modules from third party vendors and even hardware limitations could lead to *instability problems*, which can end in nightmares.

In the military environment, acquisition- and contractor officials 'love the concept' because it sounds like a good deal. However, for most high-performance military applications we need to proceed with caution.

The most typical problems encountered by military developers are:

- Not knowing exactly how COTS works and what design philosophy the co-writers followed.
- Mismatches in timing among COTS software modules or applications running on the same network, which leads to writing new interface code for solving timing problems and ultimately increases the software cost.

More reliable, stable COTS may lead to extended use in the future, but a lack of rigorous testing and the potential for single glitches to trigger failures, may prevent its widespread use in critical systems.

TIPS companies, signed the contract. Dr. Tom Enders, Executive Vice President of European Aeronautical Defence and Space (EADS), and CIO of Defence and Security Systems, along with Ambassador Minuto Rizzo witnessed the signatures.

The TIPS consortium brings together the transatlantic expertise of Northrop Grumman, EADS, Thales, Galileo Avionica, General Dynamics Canada and Indra, to provide NATO with a leading edge Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capability, both manned (Airbus A/321) and unmanned (Global Hawk) air platforms, along with ground stations that will present the data from the AGS core. Interoperable, nationally provided ground surveillance assets work with the core, as part of a system of systems. An initial AGS Operational Capability is expected by 2010.

When the current definition phase effort has been successfully completed, NATO will launch the next stage with a 500-million euros Design and Development contract. This is planned for the end of this year, or early in 2006.

NATO to discuss supporting African Union in Darfur

On 26 April, following a request by the African Union, NATO has agreed to open exploratory talks on possible Alliance logistic support to the African

Union's peacekeeping operation in Darfur.

The President of the African Union, Alpha Oumar Konare, made the request for consultations in a letter to the NATO Secretary General on 26 April. The President suggested that the African Union Secretariat and NATO Headquarters begin discussions on the possibilities of NATO providing logistical support to the African Union.

"Nations agreed that talks should begin," said NATO Spokesman James Appathurai, "to ensure transparency and co-ordination where necessary with the European Union and United Nations, and that these consultations should go forward in a pragmatic way."

President Konare is due to visit Brussels on 17 May.



Dag Wilhelmsen, General Manager NC3 Agency, signs on behalf of NATO the contract.
Photo NATO



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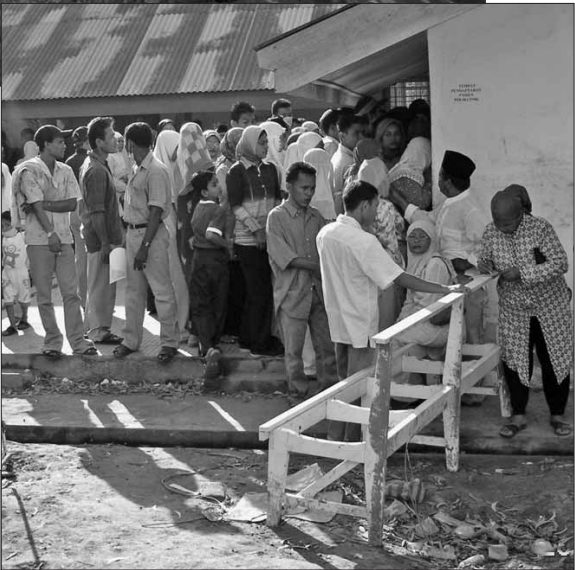
Ambulance crew chief provides aid at Banda Aceh

By SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

When I'm doing this interview it's 29 March, one day after a major earthquake struck off the west coast of Indonesia again, killing hundreds of people. Southern Aceh witnesses speak about a 'heavy, heavy shaking' lasted about three minutes. The quake's magnitude was 8.2 with the main jolt location near the coast of northern Sumatra and was centred on the same fault line where the 26 December earthquake launched a Tsunami that left more than 300.000 people dead or still listed as missing. "The first thing that I want to do is to jump into an aircraft and help those people again", says the person opposite me.



Cleaning of the hospital in the first days after the Tsunami was priority. Then the patients could be welcomed for their treatment.



**Photos
EKT German Army**

The tent camp of the German medical army headquarters was set up near the old hospital at Banda Aceh.



Speaking is Günther Hellmann from the military hospital on base. From 18 February till 12 March he was in Banda Aceh as member of a German Medical Army Unit to rebuild the destroyed central hospital as well as to ensure the medical treatment for the local population. "The first thing that we did after arrival was 'to visit' Ground Zero, the inundated harbour and town areas. What we saw was a total destruction of mess, stink and poverty. Streets that end in the sea, destroyed houses... and in some areas body bags along the roads." More than 30,000 people have been confirmed killed in the capital of Banda Aceh alone.

Hellmann works as ambulance crew chief at the E-3A Component. The trained commando is Reserve Captain in the German Air Force. Due to his frequent contacts with his national medical army headquarters he heard about the need for specialists. After consulting CPO he got permission to join the humanitarian mission.

A tent camp was set up near the old – destroyed – hospital at Banda Aceh. Next to the eight sleeping tents there were four tents for medical care, and one for pharmacy, kitchen, shower, and restrooms each. "Per sleeping tent were six camp beds", says Hellmann, "of course, as most of us know, it doesn't give much comfort in these situations. A private atmosphere you can forget. With your colleagues you live in a small area with almost not a moment for yourself. Dixie toilets were placed in the restrooms area; with afternoon temperatures from around 55° Celsius you can imagine the situation. A comfort was the air condition within the sleeping tents, although it was a noisy one. All in all, with my background, a condition to deal with."

Hellmann was committed as staff – and security officer directly responsible to his commander, a German Colonel doctor. "As staff officer it was my task to brief and advise the commander about the actual situation in the area. They made decisions I had to put forward down the chain of command. As security officer I had contact with lot of agencies and authorities, like the United Nations, the World Food Program, German and Indonesian Embassy, the Province Governor and the Indonesian army and police. From all I tried to receive the latest security updates to inform the commander every day."

Security was crucial because a civil strife is going on. "The aid materials had to be transported by road", explains Hellmann. "There was only one route available from the airport to the compound because all other roads were damaged. Of course we had to be sure that the convoys had a safe travel. Good planning was essential... how much time do we have?... where do we plan the radio checkpoints? For the radio contacts we used the MATRA

Back in Geilenkirchen Günther Hellmann picked up his job as ambulance crew chief again.



Photo Andrea Hohenforst

communication equipment. The same that we use on the E-3A Component. It worked in all circumstances."

His tour at Banda Aceh gave an impression for life. "What I never will forget is the circumstances in what the people had to live. They try to build a living again from the remains of the Tsunami. Almost everything – they had lost. Only the poor clothes that they wear rested them. During my time not many dead bodies were to be seen. But with the reconstruction of the infrastructure – to scoop out the mud – all times dead bodies come out.

"At the other hand it is almost impossible to describe the gratitude of the people. The friendship that we met. Even once my hands were kissed, for me a little embarrassing, but it shows the overall appreciation."

In the area that they were allowed to provide humanitarian aid it was optimal. Hellmann: "A new hospital was built and we provided all the medical aid that was needed to the locals. When we couldn't help them at the Compound we flew them with helicopters to the hospital ships USNS Mercy and the Berlin from Germany."

When Hellmann left Banda Aceh with his contingency in March he knew that help was still needed. "We worked extremely well together with colleagues and agencies from different countries. To rebuild this area, in my opinion, aid workers need another twelve to fifteen years to put it back in the way as it was before 26 December. And when there are more earthquakes like yesterday the timeframe will be set ahead. And then I only speak about the infrastructure.

"I'm convinced that the damage to geology is dramatic. There is that much destroyed. For example: I found ashore an eighty-centimeter big mussel. First I thought it was a rock, but with a closer look I noticed that hundreds of small mussels stacked to it. Normally you find this only in deep-sea waters. It will take hundreds and hundreds of years before the geology has rebuilt its environment."

"You ask me why I volunteered for this mission?... It has to come from the heart I think. It is a kind of idealism that sticks in me. When you have the chance to help out you have to do it. That is a personal drive but I only could do this because I got all the support from CPO, the medical squadron and as well from my ambulance crew chief colleagues who took over my shifts. Many thanks!"

SPORT

Jogging Cross

The 2005 E-3A Component Jogging Cross has its start at 1130 on 18 May behind the New Gym and is open to all Component members and their dependants. Registration is between 1030 and 1120 at the New Gym. Different categories are available for ladies and men.

For additional information call the Sports Department on ext. 4921.

Slowpitch Softball

The start of the Softball - Slowpitch - Season begins with an international, invitational tournament on 27 till 29 May. The Softball League begins 7 June. Deadline to register is 13 May.

For more information please call the Sports Department on ext. 4946/4921.



International Youth Activities

Trip to 'Happy Mosel'




Cycle, skate or hike along the beautiful Mosel River! Join the IYA on Sunday, 22 May, 0730 to 2100, to discover the unique landscape of the river bends, historic towns surrounded by tall cliffs with vineyards, romantic villages and medieval castles. On both sides of the famous Mosel River the roads are closed to vehicle traffic and restricted to cyclists, skaters and pedestrians.

Booths are set up, where you can buy local specialties, wine, refreshments and souvenirs. There is live music and other performances. You can go at your own pace – all age groups are participating, from kids to senior citizens. Point of departure and return is the parking lot outside the Front Gate. Cost is €21 per person. The high-standard bus is equipped with a special trailer for your bikes.

Trip to Walibi Amusement Park in Wavre, Belgium

On 26 May, 0800 to 2000, the IYA is sponsoring a family trip to Walibi, an exciting amusement park boasting roller coasters, merry-go-rounds, a large variety of big and small rides, shows, and many more attractions. Point of departure and return is the parking lot outside the Front Gate. Cost is €27,50 for ages 3 and up, and €8,50 per child aged 0-2.

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


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Trial Hammer provides good feedback on doctrine and system capabilities



After another successful mission the ITAF G-222 crew (left) and the Norwegian DA-20 crew pose in front of their aircraft.

Photos Andrea Hohenforst

By SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

The E-3A Component supported the first-of-its-kind NATO-wide exercise Trial Hammer from 11 to 22 April. It focused on enabling Suppression of Enemy Air Defence (SEAD) forces, which include aircraft like the German and Italian Tornado ECR and American F-16 CJ, by providing linkage with dedicated Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) aircraft, like the American RC-135 U/V, Italian G-222 and Norwegian DA-20, and more.

"Exercise is not the right word", says Maj. Antonio Eramo, E-3A Component coordinator together with Capt. Davide Rossellini, both from OWEX. "Trial Hammer is called a demonstration", he explains. "In February 2003 the Electronic Intelligence – Electronic Support Measures Ad Hoc Working Group was formed in response to tasking from NATO Air Force Armaments Group to look at signal intelligence sharing and interoperability of all flying assets. Members of the group agreed that a capacity demonstration was the proper way forward to gauge the abilities of existing NATO procedures."

Trial Hammer took place within the geographical confines of southwest Germany and northeast France with appropriate airspace and ground sites. Fixed and mobile ground assets were employed as threat emitters including some Eastern European systems from new NATO nations.

"The sensibility between nations – even within NATO – is very high concerning their knowledge about this issue", says Maj. Eramo. "The Trial Hammer demonstration showed that it is a very powerful concept; it got clearance from all

participating nations to share the intelligence information."

The NATO Airborne Early Warning aim was to demonstrate the interoperability and standardization with NATO ISR and SEAD/Electronic Support Measures (ESM) forces in realistic environments. Because Trial Hammer was ESM related, the crews were augmented with extra passive control officers (PCs). The program focused on various aspects of ESM support to SEAD. In order to achieve the goals, the operational program was split into three phases to ensure a smooth transition from a training/familiarization environment to a simulated real-world operational battle space situation.

An Interim Deployable Combined Air Operation Centre was installed at Ramstein Air Base with representatives from several NATO Headquarters. "A real challenge", says Maj. Eramo,

"to work with a non-common CAOC for this demonstration. The CAOC provided electronic orders for the 'battle' and after the missions collected the tactical reports from all units."

As Maj. Eramo explains, the exercise was complex. "We flew over the ground threat sites with all the flying assets. On base our 'Bunker' colleagues did a very good job" supporting the exercise, he added.

For the E-3A PCs Trial Hammer was also first-rate training. The complex flying situation provided a real challenge for the crews.

In addition to the extra PCs on board, the weapons controllers supported the SEAD aircraft relaying all tactical ESM information in the assigned target area. They also controlled fighters in a dynamic, multi-threat and electronic warfare intensive environment.

Meanwhile, the surveillance crew provided a recognized air and ground picture to ground units over a Link-16 and Link 11 net and coordinated the employment of ESM in Air operations for detection, identification, and triangulation of contacts.

The Training Wing also played a key role hosting the visiting aircraft for the demonstration, including the ITAF G-222 and Norwegian DA-20 as well as the crew from GEAF Brequet Atlantic and two French E-3F PCs.

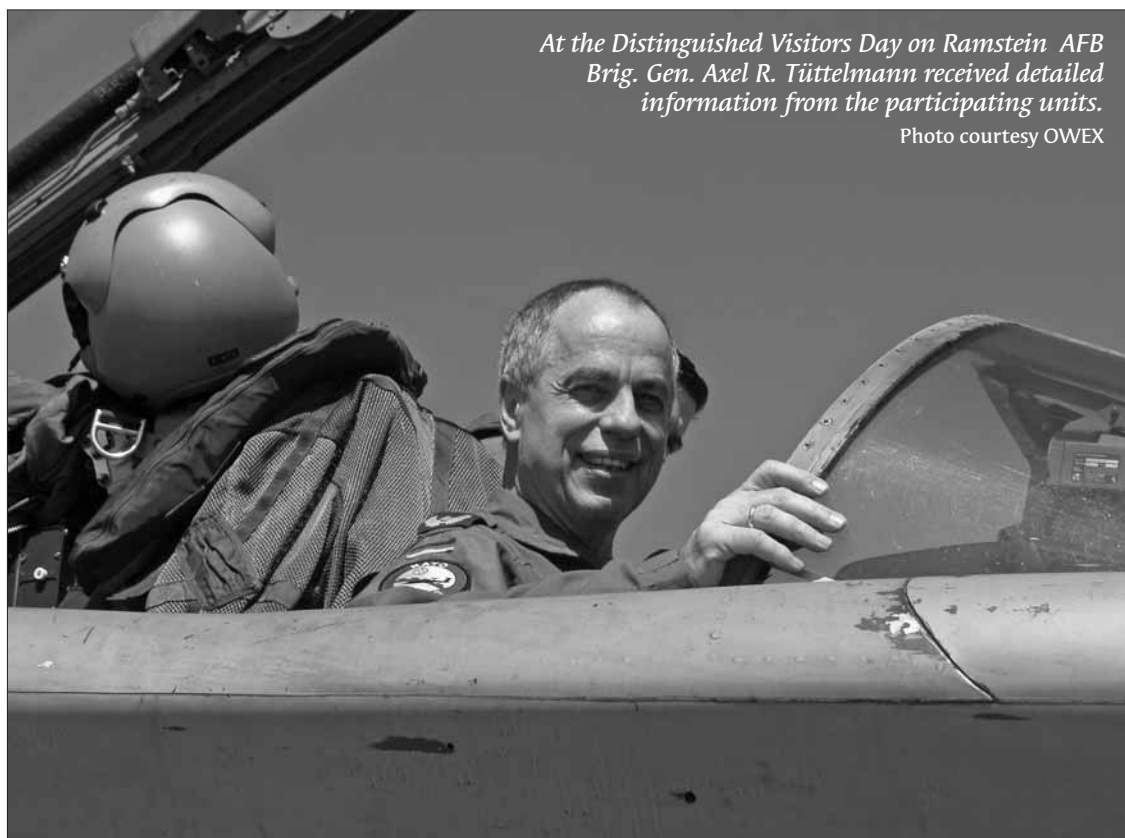
"It was good to have them around", says Maj. Eramo. "Together we planned and flew the missions. Also we exchanged personnel in each other's aircraft, which was quite a terrific experience and fine to see that so many different flight suits support the same goal."

Trial Hammer was the first demonstration of its kind. When it is first, it is new. "With the planning conferences we got deeply involved in Air Defence procedures", explains Capt.

Rossellini. "To get everything in line is the hardest. Coordination is mandatory; thanks to Capt. Laura Shipe and Capt. Volker Wodtke for their great assistance."

Attending the Distinguished Visitors Day at Ramstein Air Base on 22 April were Force commander Maj. Gen. Gary A. Winterberger and E-3A Component commander Brig. Gen. Axel R. Tüttelmann. Both received a detailed briefing from the participating units about their equipment and their mission.

The results of the demonstration provided not only NATO planners good feedback on its doctrine and system capabilities, but also suggest to nations what future systems may be needed.



At the Distinguished Visitors Day on Ramstein AFB Brig. Gen. Axel R. Tüttelmann received detailed information from the participating units.

Photo courtesy OWEX

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International Children's Festival provides a platform for children

By NSTU

The E-3A Component, along with local communities, celebrated the International Children's Festival (ICF) 2005 in the ASTRA Theatre on 17 April. Maj. Deniz Kartepe opened the activities with a speech highlighting the historical background and meaning of the children's day.

This festival is actually celebrated every year on 23 April. However traditionally, in order to have as much participation as possible; we moved it to 17 April. Unlike the Father's,

Mother's or Valentine's Days, we don't have to buy anything on this day. We just encourage our children to show their talent, performance and express themselves. We also give them a chance to meet different cultures and appreciate differences. We firmly

believe that a better future with peace and harmony can only be achieved by bringing together children from different ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds.

Following the opening speech,

spectators had the privilege to witness exquisite selections of Turkish and Portuguese folk dances and songs. Subsequent to this cultural harmony, the International Youth Activities enriched the celebrations with their ballet and taekwondo show. Outdoor activities included the NATO train tour, face painting, jumping castle, clown show and free barbeque.

Unlike other festivals, ICF provides a platform for children to display their talents to peers and parents. Besides being a fun event, ICF also provides a unique opportunity for children to meet and become acquainted with other cultures. Festival committee hopes that it will be more multi cultural harmony with the participation of all the nations.

Photos courtesy NSTU



The audience were offered an exquisite selection of folk dances and songs.



Also outside artists performed acts.



The Astra Theatre was filled up until the last seat.

As part of the celebrations, the ICF committee also gave out awards for the winners of the drawing/painting contest. This year's theme was 'Helping each Other' and following were the winners:

4-6 Age Group	7-9 Age Group	10-12 Age Group
1 Niklas Krings	1 Irina Glasunova	1 Orhun Celikbilek
2 Pelin Poyraz	2 S. Josef Marchezolo	2 O. Eren Kokscl
3 Riccardo Olivia	3 Matthias Michels	3 Yaiza Aicart

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

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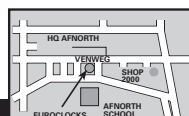
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