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NATO SKYWATCH

NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen

Eighth International Canine Biathlon

Text and photo A1C Daniel Houben

On 28 May the 8th International Canine Biathlon took place at the Component. It was hosted by the Civil Guard and supported by a lot of voluntary helpers.

About 135 participants were announced for this event from 11 nations – Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, Czech Republic, Austria, Slovenia, Latvia, Lithuania, Great Britain, France and Finland. The Finnish team had the longest journey, about 2000 kilometres. There were teams from the military, police, the civil area and, of course, the Component's Civil Guard. Most of the teams camped over the whole weekend at the Component.

Conditions for this event were perfect. The weather was sunny at around 30 degrees Celsius. The well-prepared course was about 8.3 km long and had 25 very different obstacles, like simulated attacks on the dog handler, fleeing robbers. One obstacle was 15 metres long, and about there was a dirty pond of 1.7 metres.

At some obstacles the dog and the handler had to crouch, and at some they had to climb, for example to the top of a building. It was really teamwork between the handler and the dog. If the dog couldn't jump on top of a box, etc., the handler was allowed to help him. Because of the length of the course and the heat there were canisters with water and sometimes little pools for the teams to cool down to prevent heat stroke. In addition the judges were authorized to disqualify a team to prevent any injuries to the dog, if they saw that the dog had no strength any more to finish this competition.

For the visitors a barbecue was provided with lots of good-tasting sausages, steaks and other food and a drink stand with cool drinks for their health. The visitors were impressed by the well-trained dogs from many

**Next NATO Skywatch:
15 July
Submissions due by:
6 July**

COMMANDER'S CORNER

*To the members
of the E-3A Component*



This month, we saw two major events take place at the Component. Though they were of very different nature, both are based on the same foundation – teamwork.

The Consolidated Inspection (CI) ended on Friday, 10 June, and I want to congratulate each and every one of you on the outcome. Thanks to your hard work, preparation, and support we satisfactorily completed the inspection, with some areas being rated as excellent. This is an important accomplishment and should be a source of pride for us all, especially for those in the sections receiving the highest ratings.

As you know, such an inspection is not just an opportunity for someone to

evaluate our work; more importantly, it's a chance for us to learn and improve what we do. Applying the suggestions and recommendations from the CI can only make us better at our jobs and make the Component more relevant to NATO.

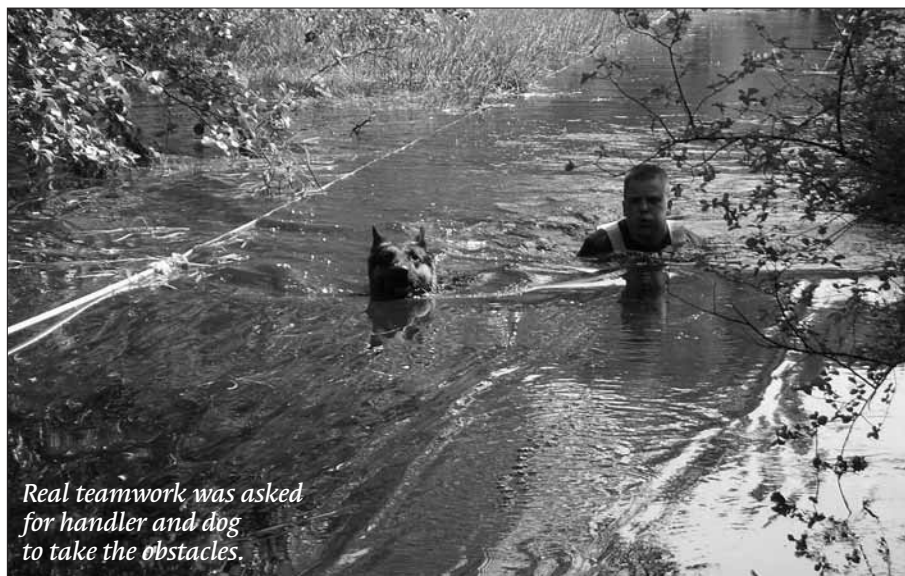
On 11 and 12 June we celebrated the first International Cultural Festival on base in five years. More than 25,000 guests visited the base during the two days of the Festival. Essentially, they got a look at what makes this unit great – the cooperation, teamwork, and integration among the personnel of different nations, each working toward a common goal.

Many of those who came to enjoy the cultures on display left with a

better understanding of what we do here as well. The long lines of people waiting to catch a glimpse of the inside of an E-3A are a testimony to the intense interest people have in our mission.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication. Again, we have seen the results of the teamwork that the Component is renowned for.

Axel R. Tüttelmann
BRIG GEN AXEL R. TÜTTELMANN



*Real teamwork was asked
for handler and dog
to take the obstacles.*

countries, their obedience, and the abilities and physical fitness of their dog handlers to do that competition under tough weather conditions.

First place was for Valdis Biskovskis with his dog Anka from the border police Latvia, finishing the course in a time of 43 minutes and 18 seconds. The Component best was Ger de Hoogh with Zorbas in a time of 48 minutes and 22 seconds, rank 15.

No panic

You forgot to buy the NAEW&C Force E-3A Component 2006 Calendar at the Cultural Festival? No panic! They are still for sale at the Sentry Club Souvenirs Shop, opening times Monday-Friday from 1000 to 1400; only €4!

Sports Day: 30 June



Volume 21, No. 12

24 June 2005

NATO Skywatch is an authorized, unofficial commercial enterprise newspaper published under exclusive written agreement with the NAEW & CF E-3A Component by Pollaert Mediacenter, Postbus 1234, 6040 KE Roermond, +31 (475) 370 280. Opinions expressed by contributors are their

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Technical Support Visit at FOB Aktion

Text and photos A1C Daniel Houben

On Monday, 13 June a team of 32 people from MOB Geilenkirchen flew to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Aktion to help to prepare the FOB for the Consolidated Inspection (CI) two weeks later. Beside the CI preparation for five days they performed also maintenance work and ICCS.

The TCA not only carried passengers to FOB Aktion, but also to FOB Trapani and FOB Konya. After the TCA landed in Trapani and unloaded the cargo, the aircraft started thirty minutes later to Greece. The Operations Officer, Lt. Col. Ilias Lagonikas, awaited the team from Geilenkirchen under the leadership of Capt. Andreas Hauck. After the unloading of equipment there was a short in-briefing with housing and security information.

Housing for this Technical Support Visit (TSV) was provided on base. Everyone had his own room, bathroom with shower, television with German, U.S. and Hellenic programs, balcony and acceptable furniture. Fortunately also an air conditioner. Very welcome with about 30 degrees Celsius over the whole week. After the work was done – and there was a lot of work –

everyone could enjoy a few hours on the beach with swimming.

On Tuesday morning the FOB Commander Col. Charilaos Lamprou welcomed the TSV team. Capt. Hauck explained the work for the different sections. In all areas the CI Preparation had to be done. Labelling and IT security had to be checked, directives had to be updated, and the following of procedures and guidance had to be monitored. Also maintenance work had to be done on the UHF Radio and Satellite Communication.

For Supply Mr. Jerome Rogers did the preparation and he was really satisfied. "Everything was well-organized, clean and in the right place," he stated. In Logistics there was more work than in other sections because the FOB has no specialists at the moment and so the MOB personnel had to do all the work. That meant repair and maintenance of all the machines, vehicles and tools. "I expected it to be worse than it actual was", says SSgt. William Ross.

It's the first time for him on the FOB. He is working with Mr. Wilfried Küppers who has been to the various FOBs and the Forward Operating Location between thirty and forty times and gained much experience over



At the shooting range SSgt. Christopher McCrady explains the P7 pistol to CMSgt Angelos Anagnostaros (left).

the past years. When he looks back, he notices a lot of improvements. It's not the same situation as in Geilenkirchen and there are not the same equipment, materials and tools, but it's getting better and better every year.

One more part of the Technical Support Visit was the ICCS Training for the FOB personnel. The two shooting instructors, SSgt. Christopher McCrady and Mr. Maximilian Kellner from the Security Squadron, gave training in shooting and weapons handling. They trained about forty colleagues of the FOB with the P7 pistol over two days in a lot of different and demanding exercises with various targets, positions and ranges. The FOB personnel were more than lucky to have this chance to improve their skills.

Pubs and Forms Section is more than satisfied, because the Operations Centre is well-organized. All the old publications were changed and procedures and guidance were checked.

The Mission Support made some great improvements too. New software was installed and Flight Maps are available at the FOB now. Now maps can be easily changed at the FOB.



Mr. Wilfried Küppers checks a tire of a B1-aircraft-stand.

Greek lottery

During the International Cultural Festival 2005, in a well-decorated corner of Hangar 1, the Greek Detachment offered to the 30,000 visitors a good taste of Greek hospitality and culture. Also, through a lottery, they offered the opportunity to some of them to taste Greek specialties in two Greek restaurants in the surrounding area, while the luckiest four will have the chance to experience a holiday in Greece and take a glimpse of the Greek summer.

The lucky numbers in the lottery, were as follows: 0037 and 0443, a holiday package for 2 in Athens including 2 air tickets/7 day accommodation; 0002, 0038, 0655: €50 meals at EL GRECO restaurant in Stahe; 0336, 0963, 0012, 0954, 0522, 0612: €40 meals at HELLAS Restaurant in Heinsberg.



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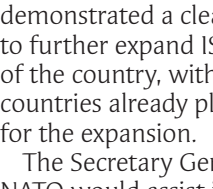
Alliance to deploy extra troops for Afghan elections

NATO Ministers of Defence have reiterated their commitment to Afghanistan, saying the Alliance will continue to expand its presence in the country and assist in providing security for the upcoming elections.

Speaking after a meeting of the Ministers in Brussels on 9 June, Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said the current expansion of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to the West of Afghanistan is on track. Once this phase is completed this July, NATO will be providing security assistance in about 50% of Afghanistan's territory.

'Clear commitment'

In addition, the Ministers have



NATO

OTAN

demonstrated a clear commitment to further expand ISAF to the South of the country, with a number of countries already pledging resources for the expansion.

The Secretary General also said that NATO would assist in providing security for the upcoming parliamentary and provincial elections this September. The Alliance will deploy an additional three battalions, a quick reaction force, and an 'over-the-horizon' force to boost its presence on the ground.

This will be similar to the support that NATO successfully provided to the historic presidential poll in October 2004. The Ministers also discussed long-term support to Afghanistan after the elections, including in the fight against narcotics.

Thank you!

To my friends and co-workers at the NATEX and E-3A Component. Time is rapidly running out for me in Geilenkirchen. Soon I will have to say good-bye and return to the United States. I would like to thank all the people who have helped me this past year. You know who you are. Your everyday friendliness and kindness has served to make what should have been a very difficult point in my life not only bearable, but also quite enjoyable.

Divorce is never easy, especially 5,000 miles from home and family. Every day, former strangers turned into the kind of friends, one usually reads about only in fairy tales that small children enjoy and believe in. This has made all the difference to me.

Thank you seems so inadequate for what you have done for me. I will never forget the time I have spent here and look forward to the ability to help someone in the future as you have helped me. It would be a great pleasure to keep in contact with anyone who likes e-mail as much as I do. Feel free to write me at arlenadeville@yahoo.com.

Good luck to all of you in the future!

Arlene Sutera



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Alemannia Aachen against AWACS Old Boys

The coach of the AWACS Old Boys Team, Mr. Werner Schumm, has received confirmation, that the Traditional Team of Alemannia Aachen – a selection of players from the former Bundesliga Teams of Alemannia Aachen – will play an exhibition game on base during Sports Day on 30 June.

The game against the AWACS Old Boys Team will start at 1700. Col. Reinhard Mack, Base Support Wing commander and Senior National Representative of Germany has agreed to strengthen the AWACS Old Boys Team.

Military Competition volunteer?

Volunteers are needed for the military competition on 2 July in Moenchen-gladbach. Teams of different nations participate in a 20-kilometre route contest. Within this route nearly every imaginable military discipline will challenge the participants, including shooting, marching, navigation and equipment recognition.

Participants from all nationalities can not only gain experience, but they can also exchange their skills after the challenge. Interested to join the E-3A Component team? Don't hesitate to contact Capt. (ret.) Günther Hellmann, ext. 4602, or TSgt. Sandra Dimter, ext. 4625.

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.		MWA INFORMATION	
E-3A Component Clubs		July	
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.		The Frisbee Club will be closed 18-24 July due to renovation work and will open again on Monday, 25 July. Throughout July and August, due to the summer vacation period, there will be no BINGO, and à la Carte menu – however, an extended buffet of summer salads will be available. Additionally, a BBQ buffet will be served every Friday lunch-time throughout July and August.	
3	Sunday lunch at the Frisbee Club. Officers' Club closed.	Sports Department (SWPT/4946)	
10	Family style brunch at the Officers' Club. Frisbee Club closed.	Throughout July softball league continues on Tuesdays and Thursdays 1730-2030. Pilates classes will begin on Tuesdays and Thursdays 1730-1830. The Component Swimming Pool is now open.	
17	Sunday brunch at the Frisbee Club. Officers' Club closed.	International Pre-School (SWPS/4957)	
24	BBQ brunch at the Officers' Club (weather permitting). Frisbee Club closed.	4 July-5 August: Summer Programme Monday-Thursday 0800-1500 and Friday 0800-1700. The programme includes fun activities, outside play, face painting, arts and crafts, sports and trips to the swimming pool. The following field trips will also be offered on the dates shown:	
31	Sunday lunch at the Frisbee Club. Officers' Club closed.	8	Duisburg Zoo and Dolphin Show.
Officers' Club (SWPO/4990)		15	Castle Beck + Amusement Park (Bottrop).
Operating hours bar Monday-Friday: 1100-2300; restaurant Monday-Friday: 1130-1330; Sundays 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).		22	GAIA Park (Kerkrade).
Lunch at the Officers' Club: Monday-Thursday A la Carte menu served; Monday + 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.		29	Valkenier Amusement Park (The Netherlands).
Tuesdays 1700-1800 Happy Hour, free snacks available; Fridays 1600-1800 Happy Hour, free snacks available.		5 August	Cologne Zoo.
18-21	Italian specials during lunchtime. The Officers' Club has rooms available for your conferences, meetings, presentations or Commander's Call. Make your reservations now. Officers' Club Participation in Frisbee Club Events: During Frisbee Club opening hours, Officers' Club members are	Registration for the Summer Programme begins as of 13 June at the IPS Office, Building 95. The cost is €52/week, including the field trip. For additional information, please call the Pre-School, ext. 4957.	
Sentry Club (SWPJ/4997)		International Library (SWPL/4956)	
As well as the daily special, the Sentry Club will now offer a weekend special comprising of a soup (or dessert) and main course. The weekend special will be advertised in the Sentry Club and on the Component Web page. The Sentry Club is also able to support conferences and meetings with coffee, soft drinks, Brötchen or freshly prepared muffins. The 'off sale' operation can also provide Warsteiner 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. The Sentry Club Beer Garden is now open. Come and try one of the many beers we offer, i.e. Erdinger Weizenbier, Koenig Ludwig Dunkel, Schloesser Altbier and, of course, our very popular Warsteiner Pils. Additional information on any of the above can be obtained from the Sentry Club Manager, ext. 4996.		Monday-Friday operating hours 1100-1600. USAFE Libraries provide online access to the full text of the Air Force Times. Go to http://www.usafelibraries.org.1-1.php and click on 'NEWSBANK', then select 'AIR FORCE TIMES'. Articles can also be searched by using a key word. If you want access other than via your milnet computer, use your E-Resource account issued by the library and go to http:usafelibraries.org/dbcards.php to access. If you currently do not have an E-Resource account, contact the International Library at Building 96.	
Frisbee Club (SWPN/4994)		IYA Thrift Shop (SWPG/4919)	
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 July Happy Hour Monday-Thursday: 1700-1800; Friday with free snacks from 1700 to 1900. Monday nights Steak Night in the Frisbee Grill during normal restaurant times, open for steak dinners only; normal sized steak €6 and large steak €8.		Tuesdays + Thursdays operating hours 1000-1400.	
IYA Kayaking trip to the River Lesse		International Youth Activities (SWPY/4954/5)	
Join the IYA to enjoy kayaking down a 21km stretch of the Belgian River Lesse on Saturday, 23 July, 0730-2000. On your way through the beautiful countryside you will pass castles, majestic rocks and two rapids. Children aged 12 yrs and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Point of departure and return is the parking lot outside the Front Gate. Cost is €22 per person.		Registration and further information at the IYA Office in Bldg 95, ext. 4954/5, opening hours Mon-Fri 0815-1300.	
IYA Summer Break Programme		IYA Summer Break Trips	
Between 20 June and 19 August the IYA will organise weekly sessions for children aged 6+ yrs 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, swimming, arts + crafts, sports, scavenger hunts, free play, special projects, and movies, but will also depend on the weather. Cost is €36 per child, including lunch on Friday, plus the cost of the field trip. The 3rd child only pays half price, and additional children are free. Slots are limited.		for international Component children aged 6 and up: Duisburg Zoo, 29 June, 0800-1730, €17. Phantasialand Amusement Park, 6 July, 0800-1930, €36. Rursee, cruise/hiking/swimming, 13 July, 0800-1730, €17, (castle visit instead of swimming in colder weather). Bobbejaanland Amusement Park, B, 20 July, 0800-2000, €32. Kernie's Familienpark, 27 July, 0800-2000, €28. including all you can eat/drink: french fries, ice cream, hot chocolate, soda. Movie Park Germany, 3 August, 0800-2000, €29. Bokrijk Open Air Museum and Playground, B, 10 August, 0830-1730, €16. Walibi Belgium Amusement Park, Wavre, B, 17 August, 0800-2000, €33. Chaperones go free. Slots are limited. Point of departure and return is the IYA parking lot next to Bldg 95.	

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*This offer is only valid with the simultaneous signing of an E-Plus Service Mobile Telephone contract for the Professional S, M or XL Rate plans, with a minimum term of 24 months and a basic monthly fee of 6,90 € to 14,57 €. Domestic call prices (excluding special telephone numbers) from 0,04 €/min. to 0,39 €/min. Professional S charges: the first minute is always charged in full; after that the actual seconds are charged; Professional M charges: calls are charged at a 10-second cycle; Professional XL charges: to the actual second, minimum 0,01 € per call. The E-Plus Automatic Rate is only valid for the Professional S, M and XL Rate plans. The Automatic Rate does not apply to GPRS data transmission costs. 1. Minimum term 24 months. 2. Professional S charges: the first minute is always charged in full; after that the actual seconds are charged; Professional M: calls are charged at a 10-second cycle; Professional XL: to the actual second, minimum 0,01 € per call. 3. Valid for calls within Germany to landlines and E-Plus to E-Plus, excluding special telephone numbers. 4. Calls within Germany to a chosen German area code, excluding special telephone numbers. 5. Calls within Germany to five chosen German landline telephone numbers, excluding special telephone numbers. 6. If not already assigned and technically available. Free-of-charge one time only upon signing a new contract.

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