



# TCA fulfils humanitarian mission to South Asia

Text and photos SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

“At last we can do something for the Pakistani people”, says Mr. Branko Dervodel, Deputy Director General Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief – Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia. “Years ago a famous Slovenia Alpinist climbed the mountains in Pakistan. At a certain moment he had problems at one of the highest mountains. A Pakistani helicopter rescued him from certain death. All of Slovenia was greatly relieved. A real hero, that Pakistani.”

But Slovenia was not the only NATO member nation eager to support the Pakistan earthquake relief operation. On 11 October NATO decided to put in place a strategic air bridge to Pakistan to move urgently required relief supplies from NATO and its Partner countries.

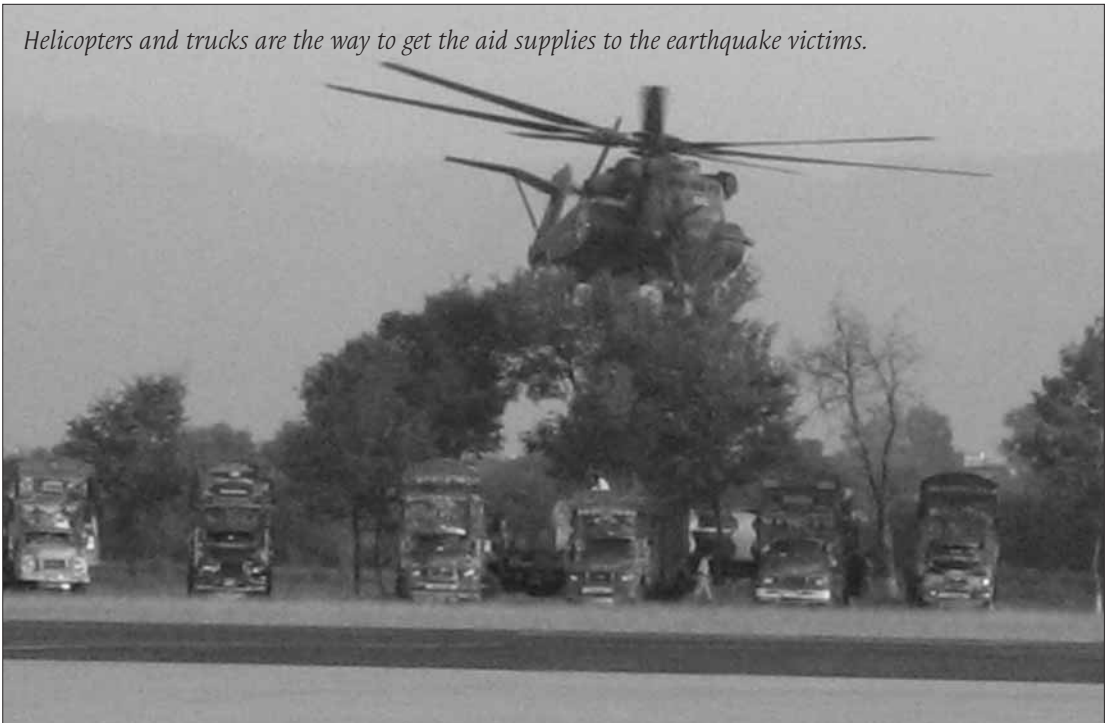
### Ljubljana

Within twenty hours of that decision, a Trainer Cargo Aircraft (TCA) from the E-3A Component was on its way to Ljubljana, Slovenia to pick up almost seven tons of aid supplies. Bringing empty pallets, within two hours the loadmasters, Warrant Officer Steve Jikinosky and MSgt. Markus Riegler, and Mobility Specialist MSgt. Mike Unger in cooperation with Slovenian cargo handlers had packed the goods on pallets and loaded them in the aircraft. The perspiration stood out in beads of their brows but no time was lost.

“It took about two hours to totally build up the pallets and to load them on the aircraft, which I thought was amazing. The Slovenian cargo men were fantastic, they worked fast and very economically and did a really good job”, says loadmaster Warrant Officer Steve Jikinosky.

**Wednesday, 12 October, a Trainer Cargo Aircraft departed the E-3A Component to pick up aid supplies at Ljubljana, Slovenia, to bring to Islamabad, Pakistan to help earthquake victims in South Asia—A historical mission.**

*Helicopters and trucks are the way to get the aid supplies to the earthquake victims.*



See TCA MISSION on page 4

Halloween

Frisbee Club - Friday, 28 October



More info on page 6

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# Individual Deployment Training begins at Component

By Capt. Robert A. Firman

**The Component took another step forward in its preparation for future NATO Response Force missions last week as 29 Component members graduated from the first-ever Individual Deployment Training program held on base from 11 to 13 October. IDT teaches skills necessary to survive and operate in a deployed and austere setting.**

“Just as NATO is undergoing a major transformation, this training marks a major transition for the Component,” said Component Commander Brig. Gen. Steve Schmidt. “For a long time we’ve talked about supporting the NRF. Now that talk is becoming a reality and we’re putting people in tents and teaching the skills necessary to operate effectively in potentially hostile areas.”

The NATO Response Force, which reached initial operating capability in October 2004, is scheduled to reach full operational capability in October 2006 and the E-3A Component will play a key role in future NRF missions. The NRF is designed to be a rapid-response force that can deploy within five days of notification anywhere in the world. It includes land, air, sea and special operations components and is capable of performing missions across the whole spectrum of military operations. That spectrum ranges from restoring stability in combat zones to providing humanitarian relief after natural disasters.

“In just the past few weeks we’ve seen the NRF employ its humanitarian relief capability twice in the U.S. and Pakistan, and the Component played a key role in both. We are NATO’s flagship fleet and we can be sure that wherever the NRF goes, we will be there...and we know that this is a big change for the Component,” said Gen. Schmidt.

Initiated at the 2002 NATO Summit

in Prague, the NRF is also a key element of NATO transformation, emphasizing two elements: streamlining the NATO military command structure and improving the military capability of member countries. In other words, the two principal aims of the NRF are high combat readiness and capability transformation.

At the time, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said the NRF “will be...a highly ready and technologically advanced force that the Alliance can deploy quickly wherever it is needed.”

To achieve that deployability, the Component needs to have at least 225 personnel trained and ready to go before the NRF’s Full Operational Capability, or FOC, date next October. IDT will ensure the Component meets that goal.

“We are teaching the details of life in a deployed environment,” said Lt. Col. Uwe Schulz, deputy commander of the Support Wing. “These students go through one day of ICCS training, then two days of field training, including one night in a tent. They learn everything from field hygiene to self protection. It’s thorough and excellent training.”

Run by the Support Wing and the Security Squadron, three-day IDT courses will put 30 students through the course every two weeks. The “deployed location” is on the north side of the flight line.

“The course is also supported heavily by the fire brigade, medical squadron, and the IDH,” Lt. Col. Schulz added. “Together, this training team has done a fantastic job. They literally started from scratch and have built an effective and thorough program. In fact, they did such a good job, other NATO organizations are already talking about sending their personnel to our program in the future.”

The next IDT program begins next week. In the mean time, the



*IDT teaches the details of life in a deployed environment.*  
Photo MSgt. Mark Boggess

Component continues with its second NRF operation as TCA flights continue to deliver relief supplies to Pakistan.

“There is no doubt that the Component will be called on to operate more and more out of area, whether in

support of humanitarian missions or combat operations. In any case, this IDT program will ensure we are one hundred percent ready when the time comes,” added Gen. Schmidt.

## U.S. Combined Federal Campaign Underway

**The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) began in 1961 as a program for Federal employees in the United States. It was established by Presidential Order to provide employees with an easy, efficient, and secure way to give to their favourite charities. Each year, millions of dollars are raised from US Government employees in support of global charitable organizations.**

And although this is a US Government Employee Program, anyone can contribute. Whether you are a military member or a civilian, the CFC is open to donations from

everyone in the NATO community.

Thousands of charities around the world are available to take donations, so whether you are interested in improving the environment, helping animals, or supporting the tsunami relief efforts, there is a charity that will match your desire. For those who are interested in donating to the American Red Cross and/or Salvation Army, these charities, among others, are available to receive contributions through this system.

“The CFC provides us all the opportunity to help those less fortunate. It’s just so easy...you can give

to your personally-selected CFC charities or to the campaign, in general—either way, you’ll be helping people in need,” said Col. Scott Miller, the U.S. Senior National Representative and Logistics Wing Commander.

If you have questions, or need more information, please contact one of the following Unit Representatives for help:

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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.

*Note:* Only applications of qualified personnel will be considered.



Volume 21, No. 19      21 October 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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# TCA MISSION

## Continued from front page

Just relieved from their tasking to support the victims from Hurricane Katrina the men and women from the trainer Cargo Aircraft Squadron took up their duty again to bring critical supplies to the victims of the earthquake in South Asia. Around 50,000 are known to have died in the massive quake. Whole communities have been flattened, and landslides have made much of the rugged worst-hit area extremely difficult to reach by any means except air. People have to live in the open; they lost everything, a nightmare.

"We are loading now tents and boxes full of sleeping bags and blankets," says Mr. Klemen Densa, loading officer in charge. The aid supplies come from different Slovenian Governments.

Mr. Dervodel: "The majority comes from our stock of Civil Protection and Disaster Relief, but parts also come from the Army, the Slovenian Red Cross and Foreign Affairs."

With an approving eye he watches the loading. "We have the supplies, we can bring them to the airport; the only problem that we have is lack of air transport. It is astonishing how fast your unit reacted after NATO's decision yesterday." Also he is aware of the importance of the Slovenia aid. "As a small country we do a lot."

Thanks to Mr. Mario Lycke, appointed Sabena technician for the Pakistani relief flight, and his Sabena colleagues the aircraft could load more than normal. When the decision was made to cease the Hurricane Katrina relief flights, the TCA aircraft were converted back to a combined cargo and personnel configuration.

Just after NATO decided on 11 October to set up a strategic airlift to Pakistan, they made a forward looking decision and changed it back to a cargo configuration to bring the cargo load space up to nine pallets again.

As dawn breaks on 14 October the crew finishes the offloading of relief supplies from the TCA at Islamabad airport.

Photo SHAPE PIO, SSgt. Melissa M. Novakovich



### Konya

On route to Islamabad the TCA made an overnight stop at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Konya and then flew further the next morning. Unfortunately, the approval of diplomatic clearances came later than expected, so the crew got time to enjoy some of the excellent meals at the FOB. As always the hospitality and support was excellent at Konya.

Also on the flight from Konya to Islamabad was Brig. Gen. Ton Strik from JHQ Lisbon. He arrived via Ankara in the early morning from Lisbon with two companions and was in time to catch the NATO flight. "As chief of the Operational LIAISON Recce Team our task is to investigate what the needs are from the Pakistani Government and in what way NATO can support this requirements", he explained.

"As the air bridge is approved by the North Atlantic Council the first thing that the team does is to optimise the air bridge between NATO and Pakistan. To find the right balance between the needed aid and the donations offered by NATO and its Partner countries."

As the humanitarian mission falls

under the lead of the NATO Response Force (NRF) he expresses the change of the 'new' NATO. "The NRF Command leads this operation. Parallel planning is the key. In the 'old days' execution of such an operation was a matter of days, nowadays it's a matter of hours."

### Islamabad

A topic of hours is the flight to Islamabad. The TCA reached the capital of Pakistan in four and a half hours. It's not the only aircraft. On the ramp in front of the oriental-looking passenger terminal are cargo aircraft from all kinds of nationalities.

Unfortunately, due to the immense earthquake, the civilian airfield is a very busy place. Forklifts are driving on and off. Besides NATO all kind of humanitarian organisations send aid provisions to help the thousands and thousands of homeless citizens of Pakistan. Pallets full of freight are waiting on all sides of the ramps to be picked up by the extraordinary looking Pakistani trucks.

As the trucks can't supply much of the devastated areas, helicopters are needed, which are also at the airport.

They fly away with the highly needed aid supplies; others are loading their freight next to the taxiways.

On the small grass fields between the ramps and taxiways tent areas are set up. The fields accommodate mainly very tired-looking rescue teams. Many of them lie on the grass in their sleeping bags with their dogs, totally exhausted from their rescue duties. Days and days they were in action to locate survivors under the remains of the collapsed houses.

Luckily, not all of Pakistan was that hard hit by the earthquake. "As you can see", says Andrew Drake from Associated Press Television News, "Islamabad and its surroundings came out well after the quake." But Drake, who has lived for three years in Islamabad, found it one of the scariest moments in his life. "My house shook for two minutes. You are shocked. My house and the majority of the houses in my neighbourhood remained standing. One house, only one in the middle of all others, collapsed. Weird."

Unusual also is the flight itself. This was the first time since the E-3A Component's activation in 1982 that an aircraft flew so far south in Asia. "Quite an experience", says pilot Maj. Jack Blaauw. "Out of Konya we followed a route through the airspaces of Armenia, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Afghanistan to Pakistan." The flight to Islamabad gave, even at night, quite a different perspective. "When you fly above Europe or even over the Atlantic Ocean you always spots of light", explains Maj. Blaauw, "but around 1,000 miles above Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan we didn't observe any light. For almost two hours we flew over a large pitch-black sand box. On the return flight during day light we had views on the Himalayas and the Caspian Sea."

**The flight required much flexibility from the TCA crew. "The flight was a big challenge", says Maj. Pasqueletti almost back in Geilenkirchen. "Normally we fly cargo and personnel in support for Component exercises, all known and pre-planned routes. Like the flights in support of the victims of Hurricane Katrina this is a real world operation. As the route over the Trans Atlantic Ocean is also well-known to us this flight to Islamabad is brand new. Up till now it wasn't in the Component's range. Almost everything you have to find out by yourself."**

But there was not much time for that. Maj. Pasqueletti: "Within twenty hours from the first tasking by phone we were on our way to Ljubljana. The greatest problem we encountered was to get the diplomatic clearances, to use the airspace of the Asian countries. Because we didn't receive them all in time we had to delay the mission from Konya to Islamabad by hours."

But in the end the TCA reached its final destination Islamabad. Maj. Pasqueletti: "And that's an extremely good feeling. You know you are flying critical supplies. People in Pakistan lost all their goods and we have the ability to help them. That's really a great feeling, for all of us."



International media was around at Islamabad airport. Aircraft commander Maj. Dimitri Pasqueletti gives an interview to Associated Press.



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# VOLVO



**Defence Ministers discuss future of NATO**

Meeting in Berlin on 13 and 14 September, NATO Defence Ministers discussed the future of NATO and the kinds of missions they expect the Alliance to be taking on in 10 to 15 years. The aim was to reach "a common political understanding of what a transformed Alliance should be capable of doing in 10 to 15 years time," explained NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. Ministers also discussed the future of the Alliance's current operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, Darfur, and reviewed NATO's role in the fight against terrorism.

*Preparing for future tasks*

Issues discussed included the kinds of forces and equipment the Alliance will require in the future, and the financing of NATO's operations. For example, at present, individual countries pay for the majority of the costs of deploying their troops on NATO-led operations and provide the necessary equipment.

Ministers talked about the possibility of NATO countries jointly financing certain aspects of Alliance operations, such as transport or hospitals, in order to make it easier for countries to contribute troops to operations.

This would be similar to the NATO-owned fleet of AWACS radar planes. It is financed jointly by NATO countries, and made available to member countries as and when required.

*Key capabilities*

Ministers also examined the requirements that still need to be fulfilled in order for NATO's Response Force to reach full operational

capability by October next year. Once fully operational, the Force will number 21,000 troops, with sea, land and air units capable of deploying anywhere in the world after five days notice. It will be able to carry out the full spectrum of military operations.

This was an informal meeting and no decisions were adopted; however, the discussion will allow Ministers to prepare comprehensive political guidance for NATO's military planners.

**Exercise tests chemical attack defences**

Over 1,000 emergency personnel from 12 NATO and partner countries were practicing dealing with the effects of a chemical attack by terrorists in a major exercise in Ukraine, 9-13 October.

In a dramatic scenario, terrorists set off homemade chemical bombs in a chemical factory near Lviv, releasing chlorine and chemical warfare agents into the surrounding area.

A swift international response was mounted, with specialist emergency teams from NATO and partner countries moving in to assist Ukrainian teams in protecting the local population.

*Ensuring an effective response*

This was the sixth such exercise organized by NATO's Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre. These field exercises allow international rescue teams to practice working together so that they can respond quickly and effectively in the event of real-life disasters. In recent years the exercises have focused increasingly on the threat posed to civilian populations by terrorists equipped with weapons of mass destruction.



**By Safety Division**

The long days of summer will soon be replaced by the long nights of fall and winter.

The increased hours of darkness will bring a myriad of hazards with them and unless we are careful, the fall season could catch us with our guard down. In the past, we often saw members working on the flightline, in their dark clothing nearly invisible to flightline vehicle operators. Additionally, personnel working off the flightline would also frequently walk and jog on base streets, only seen as shadows since they failed to wear high visibility clothing.

This of course was in the old days. Today we properly prepare ourselves for the seasonal changes that are now occurring. We wear high visibility clothing as required on the flightline, and if we are walking or

jogging on public roadways, then we wear high visibility clothing to protect ourselves.

Along with the reduced visibility of fall and winter comes other hazards... that of snow and ice. On the job, we need to be aware of current plans and Operating Instructions and ensure we have the necessary equipment to reduce slips and falls on snow and ice, whether it be on an aircraft maintenance stand or at the front door of our facility. Off the job, we need to make sure we have the equipment to keep our own outdoor walking areas safe, and also to ensure we have car tires that can provide traction in snowy and icy conditions.

Safety may be the goal of an organization, but it's the responsibility of individuals. Take care of yourselves and each other.

# Halloween 2005

**Halloween is an American tradition that has made its way to Europe. Service's Squadron Morale and Welfare Activities extended the tradition with a Halloween party at the Frisbee Club on Friday, 28 October.**

The event takes the form of an action-packed, costume party when the Club will be transformed into a dark and spooky bat cave. Bloodcurdling entertainment will be available throughout the evening with live music, body painting, and a fortune-teller, who will peer into her magic ball.

The Frisbee Club resident vampires will run the (cocktail) bar from 1900 until 0200 and provide a ghoulish buffet until 2300.

The event is open to all Component ID-cardholders and guests. Tickets for food and drinks will be available at the cashier's desk. Additionally, in order to help with the problems experienced in hiring a taxi at the end,

Services Squadron will provide a shuttle bus service throughout the late evening/early morning hours to take guests home to local areas such as Teveren, Gillrath, Niederheid and Geilenkirchen.

Come and join in the fun! Of course, costume is not mandatory but it would be fun and we recommend and encourage it.

See you there!

## Winter hours!

**Don't forget  
To set your clocks  
One hour backwards  
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## Component Holidays 2006

Please find below the official 2006 E-3A Component holiday schedule, including two (2) E-3A Component Commander's Stand-Down Days

New Year's Day	1 Jan	Sunday
Carnival Monday	27 Feb	Monday
Good Friday	14 Apr	Friday
Easter Sunday	16 Apr	Sunday
Easter Monday	17 Apr	Monday
Labour Day	1 May	Monday
Ascension Day	25 May	Thursday
Whit Sunday	4 Jun	Sunday
Whit Monday	5 Jun	Monday
Corpus Christi	15 Jun	Thursday
Cdr's Stand-Down Day	2 Oct	Monday
German Unity Day	3 Oct	Tuesday
All Saints Day	1 Nov	Wednesday
Christmas day	25 Dec	Monday
Boxing day	26 Dec	Tuesday

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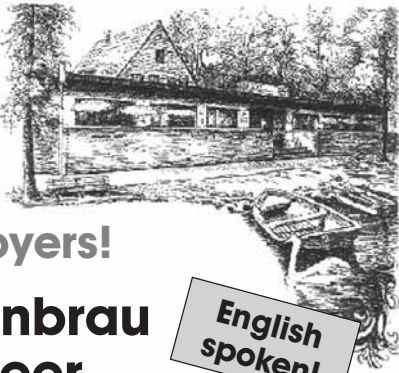
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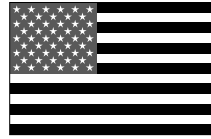
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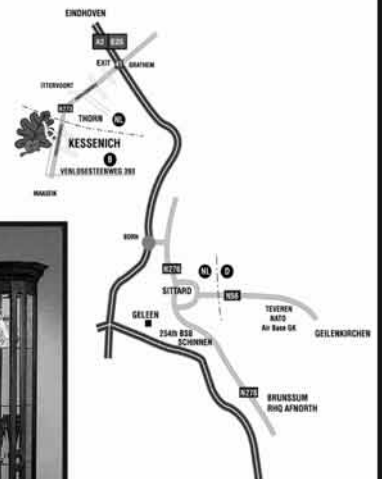
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**SUNDAY  
OPEN!**



IDH, Officers, Frisbee and Sentry Clubs now on the BASS LAN System. Menu information under Public Folders/Base Support Wing/Services Squadron/Clubs or IDH. Also, check out the Services Squadron web page for programme information and upcoming events.

E-3A Component Clubs

Sunday brunch will alternate between Officers'/Frisbee Clubs. Members from both clubs are eligible to attend. Regular prices brunch: Members €9.20, guests €10.70; lunch: Members €6.10, guests €7.65; children 4-12 years half price; reservations should be made NLT 1200 on the Friday before; Club cards are required. For additional information, please contact the Officers' Club, ext. 4990, or the Frisbee Club, ext. 4994.

- 6
- Family brunch at the Officers' Club. Frisbee Club closed.
- 13
- Sunday lunch at the Frisbee Club. Officers' Club closed.
- 20
- Hunters' Brunch at the Officers' Club with a special price of €12,80 for members and €14,50 for guests. Frisbee Club closed.
- 27
- Christmas Brunch at the Frisbee Club. Officers' Club closed.

Officers' Club (SWPO/4990)

Operating hours bar Monday-Friday 1100-2300; restaurant Monday-Friday 1130-1330, Sunday 1100-1400 (alternating with the Frisbee Club). Reservations are required for Sunday brunch by 1200 on the Friday before. Club cards required when using the Frisbee Club (ext. 4994). Lunch 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.

- 1
- Officers' Club closed due to Component Holiday.
- 21-24
- Game specials during lunch time. The Officers' Club has rooms available for your conferences, meetings, presentations or Commanders' Call. Make your reservations now. Officers' Club Participation in Frisbee Club Events: During Frisbee Club opening hours, Officers' Club members are eligible to utilise the Frisbee Club for breakfast, dinner and Sunday brunch (on an alternating basis between the Frisbee and Officers' Clubs); Club cards required when Officers' Club members are using the Frisbee Club. Cancellations for Officers' Club events will be accepted up to two days prior to the event on ext. 4990. After this time, a cancellation fee of €5 per person must be charged for non-excused absences. ALSO: Visit the Officers' Club Web Page on the Component

MWA INFORMATION November

Information Portal, through Base Support Wing, Services Squadron, Clubs, for the latest information.

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 the month Happy Hour Monday-Thursday 1700-1800, Friday with free snacks 1700-1900. 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. Wednesday lunch times: Mussels.

- 1
- Frisbee Club closed due to Component holiday.
- 8
- Bingo, Skat.
- 10
- Belgium Mussel Night with live entertainment (A la Carte restaurant closed).
- 14-16
- Christmas Market 1000-1800.
- 17
- International Wives Club, Belgian-Dutch event.
- 22
- Bingo.

Sentry Club (SWPJ/4997)

There will be a carpet sale in the Sentry Club Q&Q Room from Saturday, 19 November until Sunday, 4 December 2005. In addition to the daily special, the Sentry Club will also offer a weekend special which will include a soup or dessert as well as the main course. The weekend special will be advertised in the Sentry Club and also on the Component information web page. Do you need support for conferences or meetings? The Sentry Club can assist with coffee, soft drinks, half Brötchen or freshly prepared muffins. For more information, please contact the Sentry Club management. Take advantage of the Sentry Club off sale operation. We can provide Warsteiner Beer in 30 ltr and 50 ltr containers, various soft drinks in 1 ltr bottles and tables, benches and other items to help in organising your party. Please be sure to order in advance as certain items (e.g. tables, benches, beer wagons, etc.) must be ordered from the supplier. Visit the Souvenir Shop – new items have arrived in good time for Christmas shopping. Additional information on any of the above can be obtained from the Sentry Club Manager, ext. 4996.

Sports Department (SWPT/4946)

Wednesdays throughout November Volleyball League 1730-2000, New Gym. 7 Deadline to register for the Cross Country run (to take place 18 Nov). 8 Squash tournament – first games, first round. 15 Coaches' meeting for Basketball at 1400 in the Q+Q Room of the Sentry Club. 18 Cross Country run. 21 Squash tournament – start of second round.

- 26
- Post Season Volleyball tournament, starts at 1000.

International Pre-school (SWPS/4957)

- 1
- No school due to Component holiday.
- 2-3
- Arts and Craft afternoons for parents and children to make lanterns for the St. Martin's Parade.
- 9
- St. Martin's Parade in Teveren – we will meet at the school at 1730 and car pool to the event.
- 23
- Thanksgiving Feasts at 1100 and 1500, parents are welcome. Places are still available for afternoon programmes only. For more information call the school on ext. 4957.

Vacancy announcement: There is a vacant casual position in the International Pre-school for up to 52, €400 per month. Incumbent required to commence mid-October.

Thrift Shop (SWPG/4919)

Tuesdays and Thursdays operating hours 1000-1400. Volunteers needed. Two volunteers urgently needed to assist in the Thrift Shop with consignments (receiving, pricing and storing). Volunteers would be required Tuesdays and/or Thursdays 0830-1400, have a good knowledge of the English language and be prepared to work in an international environment. Volunteering in the Thrift Shop benefits the entire community. If you are interested, please call Antje on 02451-634919 (Tuesdays or Thursdays 1000-1400 or 02451-7556 any other time).

International Library (SWPL/4956)

Monday-Friday operating hours 1100-1600. The Library offers a large variety of books, periodicals and audio/video material. The regular book collection contains over 10,000 books, in nine language categories (Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Norwegian and Turkish). As well as the regular collection, there is a small paperback book exchange, the McNaughton book collection, Embry-Riddle University books and a large selection of over 2,500 children's books. The audio resources include over 200 CDs with all kinds of music (25 new arrivals monthly, rotating every three months). The video resources offer educational videos, geography, sports, history as well as family, children's and classic movies. 100 DVDs are rotated every two months. Additional library services include copying facilities, an Inter-Library Loan Service from other US Air Force and Army libraries and four computers with internet access available free of charge to patrons. A wealth of information can be easily accessed from the Library website- www.usafelibraries.org. Browse book reviews, download tax forms, get help with elementary and high school

homework and prepare for and take CLEP tests online.

International Youth Activities (SWPY/4954/5)

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

Christmas Moonlight Steam Train Ride. Santa Claus and his elf are already planning to join the traditional International Youth Activities` Moonlight Ride for international Component children and their parents on the historic Selfkant Steam Train. On Friday, 2 December, at 1900 we will get on the train at Gillrath Station, and travel to Schierwaldenrath in the restored antique wagons built between 1889 and 1956. There will be one short stop on the way, though, when our two special passengers arrive in a carriage drawn by a horse. Santa and his elf will welcome all the children and present them with a bag of Christmas goodies on the journey to Schierwaldenrath. There everybody has the opportunity to enjoy refreshments in a heated tent listening to Christmas songs, before returning to Gillrath. Tickets at €6 per child and €9,50 per adult include 'Brötchen' with coffee, Glühwein, hot chocolate or a soft drink at Schierwaldenrath, plus Christmas goodies for children, and can be purchased at the IYA Office beginning 2 November.

Family Christmas Market Trip to Bad Münstereifel and Monschau The IYA is offering a family trip to the traditional Christmas Markets of the beautiful Eifel hills on Sunday, 27 November, 0930-2000. The first stop will be the picturesque old town of Bad Münstereifel, from where travel will be to the splendid historic town of Monschau. There will be musicians in costumes at the famous Christmas Market, and a nativity play will be performed in the court of the castle. Point of departure and return is the parking lot outside the Main Gate. Cost is €9,50 per participant.

Basketball season

The IYA Basketball season for international boys and girls between 6 and 15 years will soon be here. Children and teenagers of all nationalities are invited to learn and play this sport together in our international community. The season-full of fun-filled and exciting games and tournaments-will run from December to February. The fee for the season will be €25 per player. Registration is from 2 November to 2 December.

Volunteers wanted for IYA Basketball season

As usual the Basketball programme can only be offered with the dedicated help of volunteers. If you able to help, please call ext. 4955 right now for further information and to sign up as coach, assistant coach or referee for any of our leagues.



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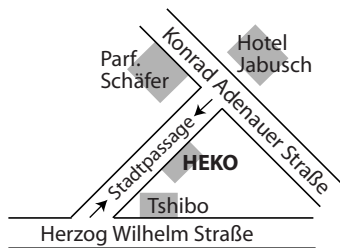
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