



Let's go, the cargo is loaded! MSgt. Jörg Alberga gives 'thumb high' that cargo door can be closed. More than 26 tons were flown in by two Trainer Cargo Aircraft on 23 September to Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas to bring relief supplies to assist in recovering from Hurricane Katrina.

See related article on page 4

Photo SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

Oktoberfest brings 4,000 to Hangar IV

Text by A1C Daniel Houben

On 24 and 25 September around 4,000 Component members, relatives and friends from the surrounding area enjoyed the great entertainment from a Bavarian Live-Band, specially-brewed Oktoberfest beer and lots of delicious Bavarian food.

The Oktoberfest officially started at 1900 on Saturday with the traditional draw from the first 'Oktoberfest beer barrel' with Component Commander Brigadier General Stephen D. Schmidt, the mayor of Geilenkirchen Mr. Andreas Borghorst and the representatives of the German NCO Association DUK (Deutsche Unteroffiziers Kameradschaft), who organized the whole event.

The DUK already began preparing the Hangar one week before the event. They had assistance from different agencies and a lot of volunteers and at the end everything was well prepared and the Hangar got its Bavarian look.

There were not only booths for the Oktoberfest beer and soft drinks, there were also booths with some traditional Bavarian specialties, like Leberkäse, Haxen, Sauerkraut, etc., and booths for souvenirs, like mugs and t-shirts, shooting-booths and a playground for the kids with a bouncy castle.

On Saturday the whole Hangar was crowded with people because the event was sold out. And while most of the typical Oktoberfest clientele was sitting on the traditional long tables eating

Bavarian food and drinking the great-tasting beer, the band did their best to get the crowd dancing and rocking to and fro together. So it happens that some of the musicians were dancing on the tables and throwing their instruments through the air to entertain the partygoers.

Sunday morning started with the typical 'Frühschoppen' and went on until evening. It was more a family day, or an event for people who like to drink beer already in the morning and afternoon, but the Live-Band did a great show again and made lots of people dance.

About 1800 the Oktoberfest ended, but only for the partygoers. There was a lot of work to do after the

event because everything had to be cleaned and cutback again.

So special thanks to the German NCO Association for all the organization and preparation, thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make the Oktoberfest a really big success, thanks to the band for the entertainment and thanks to the people worked all night long on Saturday night to spoil the guests with the beer and delicious food.

As in previous years, the benefits of the Oktoberfest will go to charities. With the income of their events the German NCO Association helps hundreds of suffering people every year.

Turn to page 6 for a photo report

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Closing date: 27 October 2005.

Senior Technician (Propulsion), AGK LAT 4020 & AGK LAT 4040, Advertisement Numbers 05024 & 05025, NATO grade B-4, assigned to the Propulsion Section, Aircraft Systems Branch, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Logistics Wing. These posts are due to be filled as soon as possible.

Closing date: 24 October 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.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

*To the NATO Warriors
of the E-3A Component*

It has only been a few weeks since I took command but I have already been very impressed by the professionalism and international teamwork evident here. In these few weeks I have gotten to know a number of you, learned first-hand how important our mission is, and seen the Component launch into action.

As I get started in this job, I want you to know that my first priority as commander is to ensure you and your families' needs are met. If we take care of each other, we are better able to take care of the important missions NATO gives us – and I've already seen how quickly those missions come.

Just two days after the change of command we received a tasking to fly critical relief supplies to the U.S. following Hurricane Katrina. In many ways, that tasking represents our future: it came as part of a NATO Response Force mobilization, it arrived with short notice, and it required a quick response. It was also historic as we supported the NRF's first humanitarian relief effort.

All over the Component, people in every wing and division got the job done and I was impressed with your ability to generate those missions so quickly with such short notice.

You've all heard about the NRF already and you know the critical role the Component will play in it. This time the NRF required a series of TCA flights to Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas. However, the next NRF tasking could send us anywhere, potentially into much less friendly areas. It is NATO's response to a changing and dangerous world and we are key to its success.

And the key to our success will be to continue the Component's well-known tradition of teamwork. We have a lot of challenges ahead including future High Visibility Events, NRF exercises and real-world operations—all in addition to our normally busy schedule.

We will meet these challenges head on and we will succeed because this is a tight-knit, effective team. Of course,

there is always room for improvement and we are going to look for those areas along the way as well. The best way to improve is to communicate and that is another of my highest priorities. I will work to keep open lines of communication, but it has to be a two-way street.

Finally, as we move into a busy fall season, Sarah and I want to thank you again for your warm welcome. We have only been here for a few weeks, but we have quickly come to feel like part of the E-3A Component family.

I look forward to facing the challenges of the coming months and years as part of this outstanding, multi-national warrior team.

Steve Schmidt
BRIG GEN STEPHEN D. SCHMIDT

Dutch State Secretary for Defence visits E-3A Component



Photo MSgt. Mark Boggess

By SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

The tree issue is a hot item in the Dutch seat of government, The Hague. It has a high level on the political agenda. To familiarize himself with the latest information on the issue and talk to base officials, State Secretary for Defence Mr. Cees van der Knaap visited the E-3A Component on 23 September.

Besides an introduction to the interior of an AWACS aircraft from Deputy Commander Col. Jelle Zijlstra, he flew a 'mission' with the flight simulator. During this simulated flight he got a good impression of the impact that the trees at the western end of the runway have for Component operations. Next he received

information on what measures the E-3A Component takes to fly in a safe way in spite of the tree obstacles.

He was also informed on the measures the E-3A Component takes to reduce the inconvenience to its neighbours by optimising the use of the flight simulator and by exporting flight movements to its Forward Operating Bases/Location and other Allied Bases and civilian airfields.

Mr. Van der Knaap also received an update about the numerous real-world operations the men and women of the E-3A Component took part in during the last few years, like the Greece Olympics, the European Soccer Championships in Portugal and many other High Visibility Events.



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Commander
Brig. Gen. Stephen D. Schmidt
Chief, Public Information Office
Capt. Robert A. Firman
Editor
SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

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The greatly needed aid goods are unloaded at Little Rock AFB.

Text and photos
SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

The 'C' from TCA was in high demand during the last three weeks. The Trainer Cargo Aircraft (TCA) from the E-3A Component supported a NATO Response Force operation to provide relief to the U.S. following Hurricane Katrina by setting up an air bridge to Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas. The TCAs transported more than 116,000 kilograms of relief supplies.

While the edges of yet another hurricane, Rita, produced rain showers on 24 September on the city of Little Rock, at the nearby Air Force Base the TCAs were unloaded one day earlier and the aid efforts were directly brought to a convoy of waiting trucks.

"The goods go directly to the refugee stations in Louisiana," said a spokesman at Little Rock. "This help is very needed. Those victims from Katrina lost everything."

Since NATO Secretary General Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer directed on 9 September that relief supplies from Europe be provided to the United States to assist in recovering from Hurricane Katrina, the TCAs flew 9 times to Little Rock.

"Flying is our business," says aircraft commander Lt. Col. Alex von Lengriesser, "but these flights have a special meaning for us. To perform humanitarian flights to bring aid supplies to people who lost all their goods that gives an extra motivation."

The Transatlantic Ocean flights have a consequence for the human body. "The time difference between Europe and Little Rock is seven hours", explained Lt. Col. von Lengriesser. "Your body listens to the European time (ET). With the preplanning, the flight itself and the after flight maintenance we have a sixteen-hour duty day, arrival at the hotel around midnight ET. Having

de-briefing and dinner afterwards we go to bed a few hours later. The next day we fly overnight back to Europe. So, in three days we miss all nights."

As the flights had to be generated on short notice Lt. Col. von Lengriesser, also TCA operations officer, had no problem to fill the crew composition. "The TCA Branch is a small branch", he continues, "and these humanitarian taskings ask the commitment of everyone. Without any complaint already-granted leave and free weekends were turned back. Besides, TCA qualified pilots from the other squadrons offered their assistance which we gratefully accepted."

The two flights on 23 September brought a load of more than 26 tons. Donations come from Euro Atlantic Partnership nations. Ramstein Air Base serves as a strategic air hub for onward transportation of US-accepted donations. Donating countries that are closest to Ramstein were requested to move their donations by road to Ramstein Air Base with their own resources. Other countries used NATO Response Force tactical airlift to move relief goods to Ramstein.

One TCA picked the cargo one day earlier and departed directly from Geilenkirchen to Little Rock. The second had to stop in Ramstein to pick up the aid relief efforts.

As it was foreseen that the air bridge had to go for several weeks, the TCA's were changed to a cargo configuration. Aircraft tail # 19997 normally operates in a combined configuration carrying both passengers and space for five pallets, but now it's changed to a cargo configuration. Forty-five from sixty-nine seats were removed to bring the cargo load up to nine pallets.

The cargo platform on Ramstein AB is a busy place with cargo loaders driving on and off. Not only the military aircraft from NATO and the USAF, but also pallets from a

commercial Boeing 747 from Atlas Air was fully loaded with supplies. The TCA was loaded with 10,470 kilogram's of urgently required items.

"It's a combination of several factors how much load we can take", explains loadmaster SMSgt. Matthias Prietzel. "First there is the distance to fly. You have to take the amount of fuel that's needed and that brings weight to the aircraft. Then you have the size. Of course the cargo hold is limited for its size. And for each configuration you have to divide the cargo weight through the aircraft to keep the centre of gravity within the limits."

Important to note are the different ways of unloading and loading on each base. On Ramstein AB the specialists bring the pallets by one cargo loader, which has a space for six. While ten and a half hours later on Little Rock AFB the specialists put three cargo loaders after each other and unload the aircraft – all in cooperation and supervised by the TCA loadmasters SMSgt. Prietzel and MSgt. Jörg Alberga.

"At the loading at Ramstein we noticed that one pallet was defect", says MSgt. Alberga. When we had used this

pallet it was possible that the interior floor of the aircraft had become damaged. Also the possibility was high that with the unloading in Little Rock we could expect a major problem. So, we stopped the loading and the cargo had to rebuild on another pallet."

Rita

The hotel rooms in Little Rock are occupied with people who fled for Hurricane Rita. "The rooms that we had still free this weekend we filled up with evacuees", says the Courtyard Marriott hotel manager.

Like so many residents of the Gulf Coast area Joseph and Sharon Bellard from Dusan, Louisiana, had fled from a monster storm they feared so much. "We arrived at Little Rock on Friday. We drove Thursday night for eight hours." Dusan locates halfway between Lake Charles and the Texas border.

"As we own a mobile home it was mandatory for us to evacuate for Hurricane Rita", they said. "It's extremely scary to leave your home behind and not knowing what happens to your property. Since our arrival here we have watched the television and with the computer we follow the Dusan local news."

It seems that the eye of Hurricane Rita didn't hit their hometown and that the area sustained little damage. "We saw and heard that Lake Charles was hit very hard. That's only eighty miles from Dusan." Fortunately, Dusan sustained little damage but what the couple will see when they come home is unclear. "We heard that power lines broke. The possibility is that electricity is not available; also minor stuff."

They had a worse experience with Hurricane Katrina. "Katrina devastated the company we work for in New Orleans—they lost eighty million dollars. Buildings, trucks, office supplies, all gone. Also our colleagues lost everything: houses, cars, clothes, nothing left. It's so good to hear that NATO and its partnership countries are helping us."



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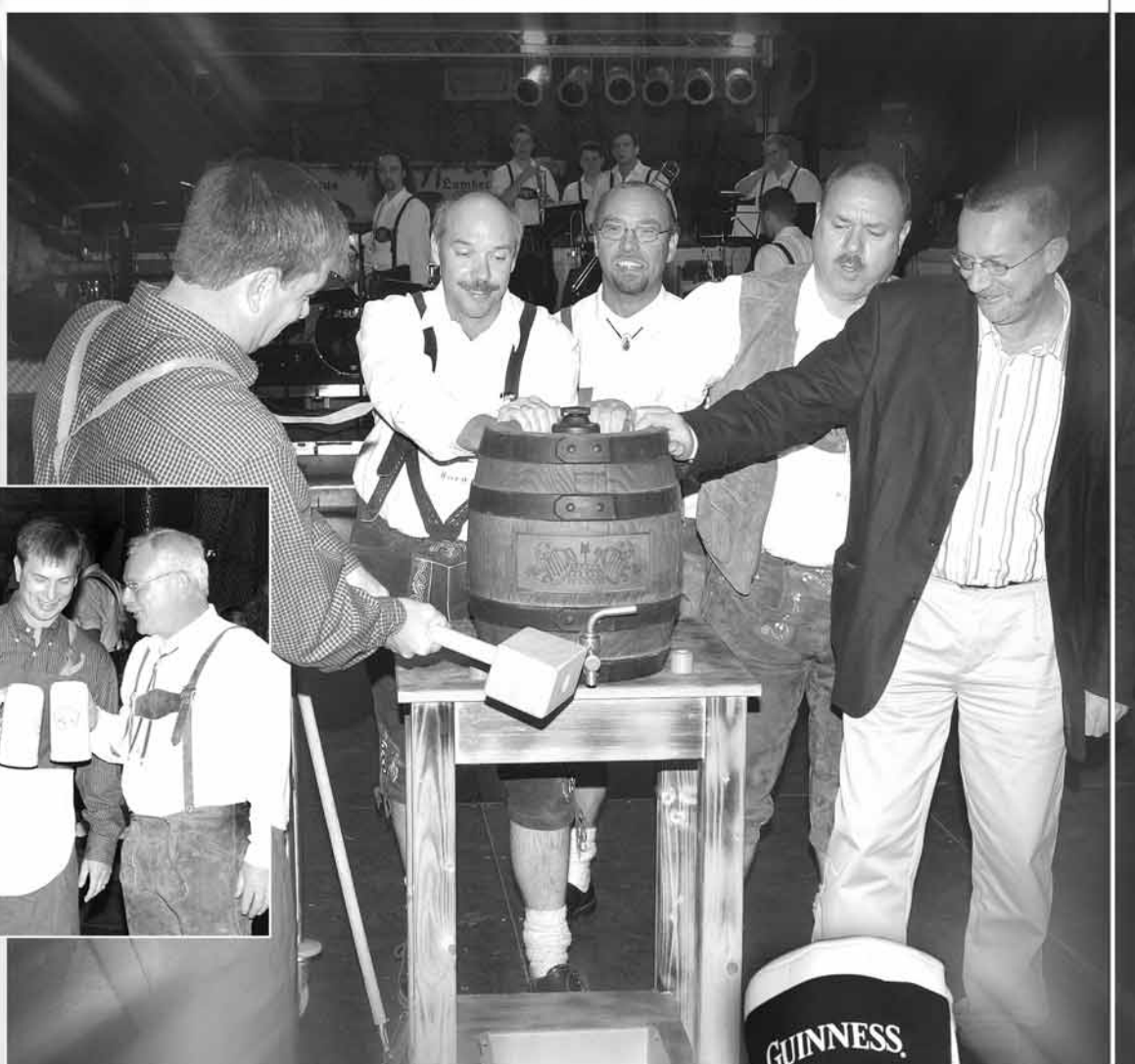
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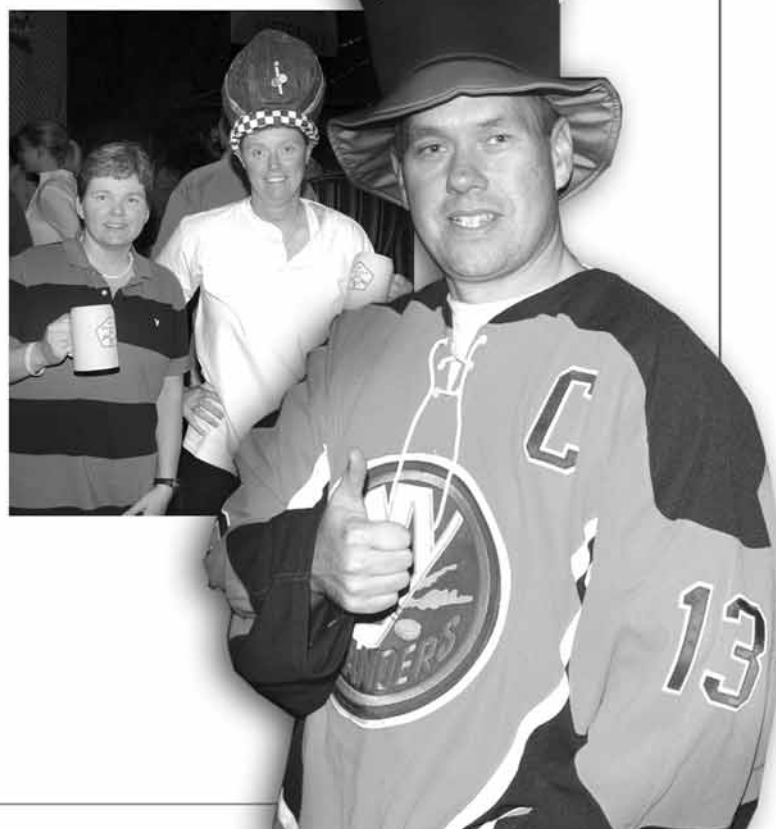
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Oktoberfest 2005



With one hard swing E-3A Component Commander, Brig.Gen. Stephen Schmidt tapped the keg and opened the Oktoberfest celebration on 24 September in Hangar IV. Sponsored by the Deutsche Unteroffizier Kameradschaft (DUK), the celebration hosted around 4,000 Component members and guests and highlighted traditional German beer, food and music.



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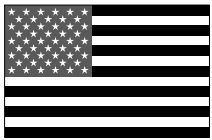
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NATO Secretary General in Iraq

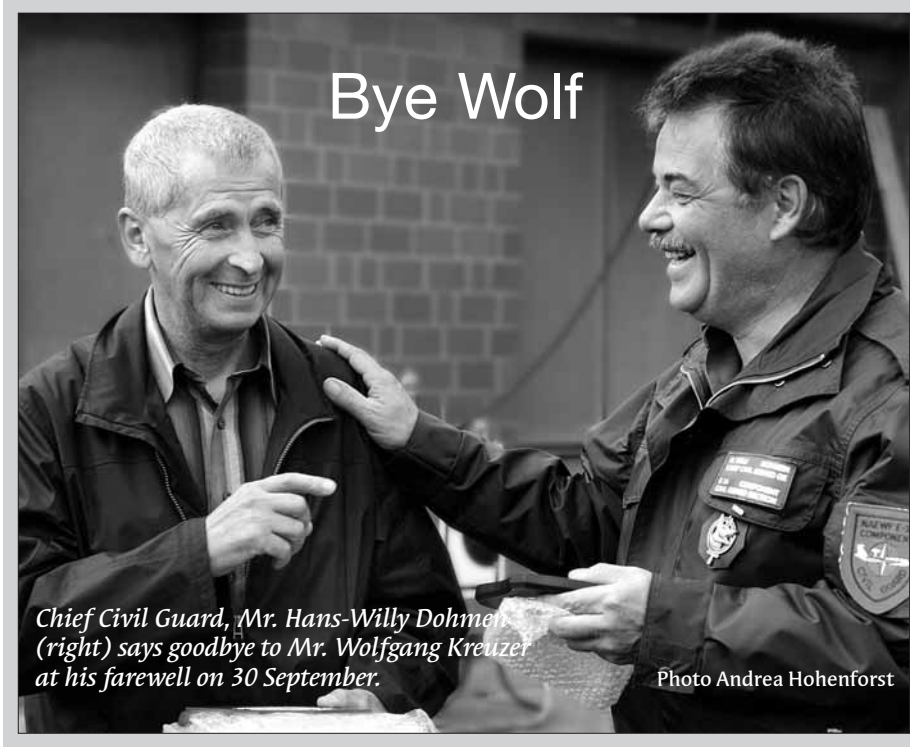
On 26-27 September, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, accompanied by NATO's Supreme Allied Commander, General James L. Jones, visited Iraq to mark the enhancement of NATO's training mission.

The Secretary General raised the NATO flag over the new NATO Training Mission Headquarters inside the International Zone of Baghdad. Along with the Iraqi Prime Minister Al-Jafaari, he also opened the Iraqi Joint Staff College in Ar-Rustamiyah, on the outskirts of the capital, where officer training will primarily take place.

Training future officers

During his visit, the Secretary General also consulted with the Commander of the NATO Training Mission on the current status and future shape of the NATO effort.

The NATO training effort focuses currently on mid-and-senior level Iraqi officers. It aims to help the Iraqi



security forces develop an officer corps trained in modern military leadership skills, as well as to inculcate the values appropriate to democratically-controlled armed forces.



NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer raises the NATO flag at the opening ceremony of the new NATO HQ in Baghdad on 27 September.

Photo NATO

The NATO Training Mission will, this year, train around 700 officers in country, as well as several hundred in NATO facilities in Europe. That figure will rise next year to some 900 officers trained in country.

NATO is also providing significant amounts of equipment to the Iraqi forces, including an impending delivery

of 77 Hungarian T-72 main battle tanks.

Protecting nuclear convoys

From 14 to 15 September, NATO and Russian experts observed a UK nuclear weapon accident response exercise, Senator 05, on safeguarding nuclear convoys and mitigating any abnormal events.

The invitation of the NATO-Russia Council to witness the exercise, which was held at a military site near Edinburgh in Scotland, is part of the continuing evolution of NATO-Russia cooperation. Senator 05 simulated a scenario in which a nuclear weapon road convoy was involved in an accident that resulted in the release of radioactive material.

Testing worst-case scenarios

Its aim was to test the effectiveness of the Ministry of Defence's Nuclear Accident Response Organisation, and the ability of the civilian emergency services and local authority to cope with the effects of such an event.

Nearly sixty civilian and military experts from 20 NATO countries, Russia and NATO Headquarters attended the exercise, the first time that Alliance and Russian Federation representatives have observed a UK exercise of this kind.

Speaking at the exercise, UK Minister of the Armed Forces, Adam Ingram

After twenty-two years of duty at the Civil Guard Mr. Wolfgang Kreuzer retired on 30 September. In his early years here, he worked as a dog handler, then later he changed to a guard position. The majority of the base population met him at the Main Gate when he performed access control.

It was always a great pleasure to work with Wolfgang – sincere and always in a good mood. His shift will miss him but, of course, not begrudge his well-deserved retirement. 'Wolf' is still in a top condition and hopefully for many years he can enjoy the pleasures of life, together with his wife, during his 'old days'.

Wolfgang, all the best, your colleagues from the Civil Guard C-Shift.

emphasized the value of the NATO-Russia Council as a practical forum for consultation and discussion of matters of joint concern and significant substance.

The attendance of representatives of the NATO-Russia Council at Exercise Senator served to enhance practical co-operation and common understanding between NATO and Russia, he said.

The exercise involved over 700 people, including some 200 servicemen of the UK Army and Royal Air Force but also 100 members of local government and the emergency services (police, fire and ambulance teams).

International Youth Activities

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

Fall Break Program

From 17 to 21 October the IYA is organizing a session for children aged 6 years and older with activities from 0930 to 1630. The children can be dropped off at 0800, and picked up no later than 1730. The program offers fun games, arts and crafts, sports, free play, special projects and movies.

Cost is €63 for one child, €126 for two children and €157,50 for three or more children, including field trip to Toverland Indoor Amusement Park on Wednesday and lunch on Friday.

Trip to Toverland Indoor and Outdoor Amusement Park

On 19 October the IYA is offering a trip for ages 6 years and older to Toverland, a large amusement park boasting an amazing variety of small and big rides and beautiful playgrounds both indoors and outdoors. The bus departs at 0830, and gets back at about 1730. Cost is €27 per child, chaperones go free.

Component members successful in third Mosbach Bunker-Run



Photo courtesy SMSgt. Claus Cohnen

By A1C Daniel Houben

On Thursday, 8 September the third Mosbach Bunker-Run took place near Heidelberg. Three Component members, Lt. Col. Jochen Walter, SMSgt. Claus Cohnen and CMSgt. Ulrich Ponssen (from left to right) participated in this unusual running competition. Altogether there were over 150 participants, equally divided between military and civilian, men and women.

The circuit was about 7 km long and divided into two parts; first 3,5-kilometres were underground through the military materials-depot with over 60-metres of altitude difference and a temperature around 17 Degree Celsius.

The second part was completely different with a temperature of around 28 Degree Celsius and a gradient of 100-metres in altitude difference. The change of conditions is the biggest strength challenge during the run and it is not comparable to other running competitions.

At the end SMSgt. Cohnen was third place in 28 minutes, CMSgt. Ponssen was 15th place in 24.57 minutes and Lt. Col. Walter needed 39.20 minutes and ended on place 30 in the Masters Category.

It was a big success for the participants and the Component Team ranked third place in the team ranking overall.

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Component donates PCs to local schools

By Mrs. Maureen Geraets-Head

The pupils of the Catholic Elementary school in Teveren were having their break when a truck from the E-3A Component pulled up, and four men started unloading 25 PCs, monitors and keyboards.

Since these PCs are no longer used by the E-3A Component, the idea was born to start a special PC donation program. This program started in April 2001 and, until now, 675 PCs have been given to elementary schools and clubs on both the German and Dutch sides.

The Teveren school received their equipment on 27 September and a delivery of 10 PCs and a laser printer went to the elementary school 'De Draaiende Wieken' in Posterholt, The Netherlands, on 28 September.

Schools had the opportunity to send in a request for these used PCs and the Component made a distribution list. There are still requests open for another hundred computers.

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 no later than 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.

- 9 Family brunch at the Officers' Club. Frisbee Club closed.
- 16 Sunday brunch at the Frisbee Club. Officers' Club closed.
- 23 Spanish brunch at the Officers' Club with live music with a special price of €11 for members and €12,50 for guests.
- 30 No brunch, Frisbee Club closed due to cleaning after Halloween.

Officers' Club (SWPO/4990)

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). *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

MWA INFORMATION October

of your choice free of charge. Club cards required. Tuesdays 1700-1800 Happy Hour with free snacks; Fridays 1600-1800 Happy Hour with free snacks.

- 17-20 Bavarian specials during lunchtime.
- 28 Gourmet Night – ticket sales as of 3 October in the Manager's Office.

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 per person must be charged for non-excused absences. *Also, visit the Officers' Club Web Page on the Component 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.

- 12 Indonesian Night (restaurant closed).
- 13 IWC American Night.
- 14 'TGIF' with live band 'Bootleg' in the Main Bar.
- 18 BINGO.
- 28 Halloween Party 1900-0200. All Component members and guests invited. Watch out for special flyer. Frisbee Club will be closed throughout the day in preparation for this event.

Sentry Club (SWPJ/4997)

As well as the daily special, the Sentry Club now offers 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 open. Come and try one of the many beers offered, i.e. Erdinger Weizenbier, Koenig Ludwig Dunkel, Schloesser Altbier and, of course, our very popular Warsteiner Pils.* Also – visit the Souvenir Shop – new items have arrived. Additional information on any of the above can be obtained from the Sentry Club Manager, ext. 4996.

Sports Department (SWPT/4946)

- 8 Pre-season volleyball tournament.
- 10 Start of registration for squash tournament.
- 12 Beginning of volleyball league. First games 1715-1900 at the New Gym.
- 19+26 Volleyball league.

- 21 Deadline to register for the table tennis tournament.
- 22 Outdoor invitational soccer tournament (small fields).
- 27 Table tennis tournament at the New Gym.
- 31 Deadline to register for the squash tournament.

International Pre-school (SWPS/4957)

- 17-21 Fall Break – no school.
 - 24 Back to school
- Thank you to all the parents who attended the Open House last month. It is still possible to register for the afternoon programmes and a waiting list is available for the morning programmes. For more information please call the school at ext. 4957.

Thrift Shop (SWPG/4919)

Tuesdays and Thursdays, operating hours 1000-1400.

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 4 computers with internet access available free of charge to patrons.



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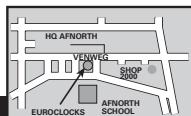


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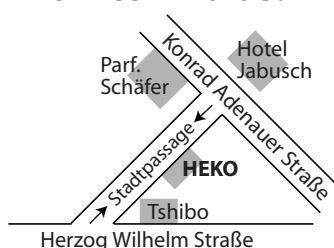
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