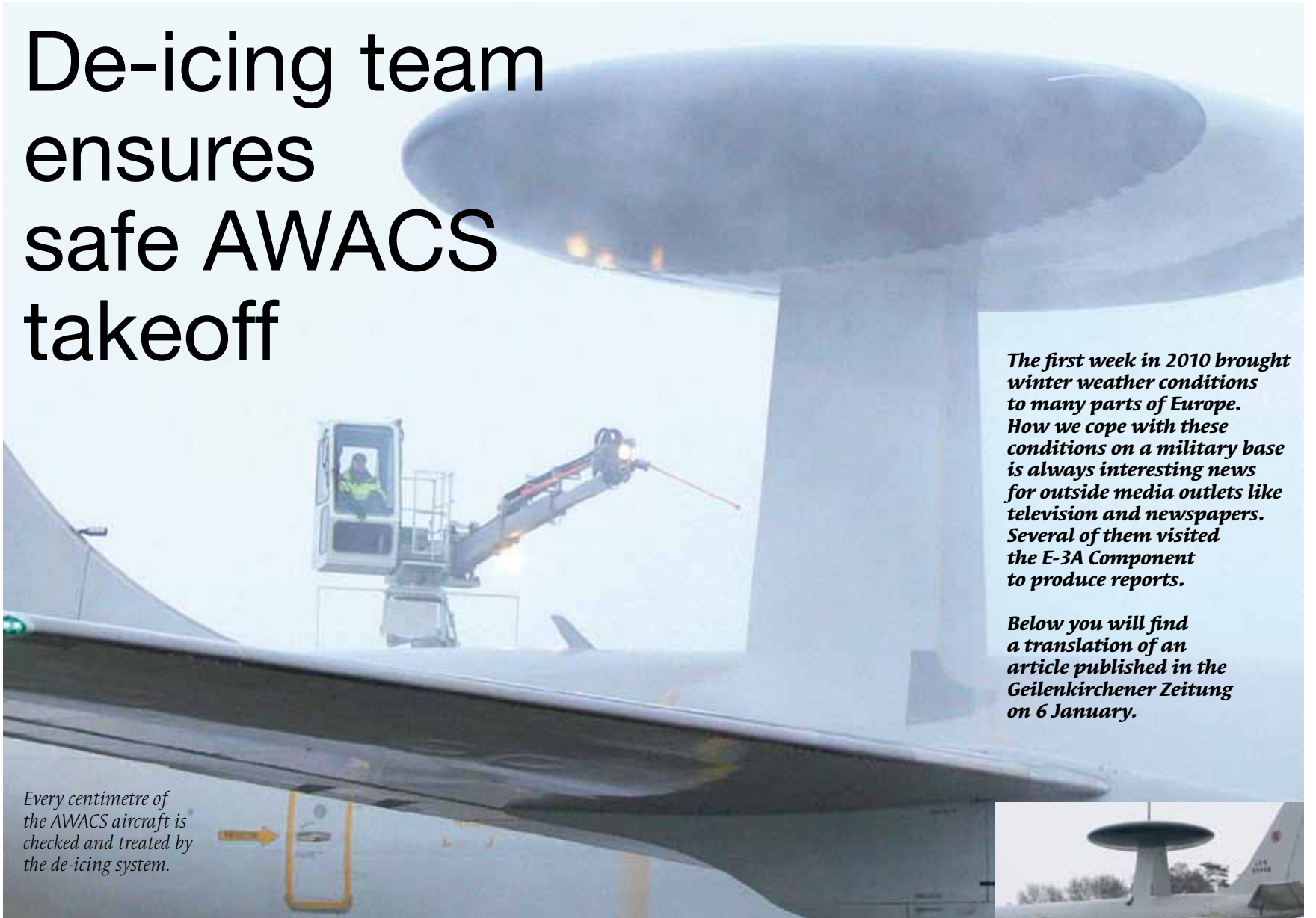


De-icing team ensures safe AWACS takeoff



The first week in 2010 brought winter weather conditions to many parts of Europe. How we cope with these conditions on a military base is always interesting news for outside media outlets like television and newspapers. Several of them visited the E-3A Component to produce reports.

Below you will find a translation of an article published in the Geilenkirchener Zeitung on 6 January.

Every centimetre of the AWACS aircraft is checked and treated by the de-icing system.

NATO surveillance aircraft and U.S. tankers at Teveren Air Base are freed from snow and ice in the early morning. 13,000 litres of special mixture were used yesterday. "Ellie" and "Nancy" are currently in service every day.

Text and photos Georg Schmitz

Geilenkirchen. Snow and ice are the reasons why the NATO Air Base has a 'de-icing team'. Right now the men of the De-Icing Section, which operates in the winter, are constantly busy removing snow and ice from airplanes. This removal is essential for enabling the E-3As, the Component's

Trainer Cargo Aircraft and the tankers of the U.S. Air National Guard to take off safely.

Five-man team

The De-Icing Section is just as old as the NATO E-3A Component itself. Supervisor Geert-Jan van der Gaauw says his working day started yesterday morning at 06:30, when he and his five-man team began the preparations for aircraft de-icing. "The number of aircraft to be de-iced is notified to us a day in advance. Today there are nine," says the Dutch crew chief.

Retention basin

Snow and ice have to be removed from each aircraft half an hour before takeoff. This is done in a specially designated de-icing area

near Hangar IV. Proper disposal of the resulting mixture of snow, ice and anti-icing fluid in this area has to be guaranteed. The residues flowing off the aircraft are channelled into an underground retention basin and subsequently undergo appropriate processing for safe disposal.

At 08:00 the first AWACS aircraft with its characteristic 'radar dish' is brought into position. Two large trucks designated 'Elephant B' and 'Elephant B-15' approach the plane. These vehicles have nicknames too, 'Ellie' and 'Nancy', displayed in large letters on their doors. They are equipped with the 'Vestergaard De-Icing System', and each of them has a 2,000-litre tank containing the anti-icing fluid mixed in various ratios and also diluted with water, depending on



the temperature and the quantity of ice and snow.

Joystick control

'Type 1' of the 'Anti-Icing Fluid', as it is officially known, looks like viscous orange juice. "It sticks to the wings for a long time," explains Van Der Gaauw. He says 'Type 2' is lighter and colourless and is used under different conditions. During the process of spraying the aircraft the mixing ratio can be changed manually by means of a touch screen display so that the 'de-icer' can flexibly adjust it to suit any situation.

See DE-ICING on page 6

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear members of the
E-3A Component!



I would like to welcome back each Component member from the Christmas and New Year's holiday season and hope that you all are refreshed and excited to begin 2010. As we approach the upcoming year as one unified team it's important for me to share my top priorities for the approaching months with you.

Our main effort is to prepare ourselves for eventual taskings in support of NATO's ISAF and counter-piracy operations. NATO continues to focus itself as an expeditionary force that is able to conduct operations in different areas of the world at the same time.

The Component proved in the past and must prove in the future its relevancy as an effective contributor in support of this concept. All the work that we performed until now undoubtedly paved the road for future operations, and we not only owe it to the Alliance, but especially to ourselves, to excel.

I am strongly convinced that, in order to accomplish the mission, we must always take care of the people who perform that mission – you, the Component members. For that my second priority is to maintain sufficient, well-trained and motivated personnel. Soon we will begin to feel the effects of the Peacetime Establishment review. Our activities for 2010 must be aimed at reducing the number of vacancies, as well as striving for a minimum of a 4-year rotation period, and also shortening the average training periods for military personnel.

We also have to maintain our norm for annual evaluations, dynamically coach our personnel, provide a healthy and safe working situation and strive to minimize our environmental impact.

Additionally, we have to ensure that we continue to offer the highest level of support to Component personnel. In this matter I look forward to implementing the changes to the Morale and Welfare

Activities program to provide the best service possible at a reasonable price that we can maintain for the next years to come. I encourage you all to continue to contribute your ideas to this program as we proceed.

As our third priority we must ensure aircraft availability and mission system stability while maintaining and improving the airworthiness of our aging fleet. In order to be successful in this, the Component has to proactively observe relevant doctrinal, operational and technological developments, and also has to ensure that they are incorporated into the way we fly. This includes the full integration of new technologies into the NATO Mid-Term System. The goal is to constantly update and upgrade our aircraft so that we better meet our mission needs.

Finally, and perhaps most significantly, we must change the way we operate and behave. The coming

months we will face new challenges. The key values that will make the difference will be teamwork, flexibility and responsibility. We always must try hard to accurately judge and improve our performance.

I know we have much to accomplish in this new year. However, I know that we have the tools and the talent to overcome any obstacle that comes in our way. Surely, I look forward to being here as your Commander throughout 2010 and I have great expectations of what this Component will accomplish.

Let's do it together!

Burkhard Pototzky
BRIG GEN BURKHARD POTOTZKY

Col. Werner Nemetschek new Commander Base Support Wing

By CMSgt. Claus Cohnen

Thursday, 17 December marked the end of an unusual era, the era of Col. Reinhard Mack. His period of eight years as Commander Base Support Wing (BSW) and German Senior National Representative (SNR) is unique in the Component's history. During the ceremony held in Hangar 2, the E-3A Component Commander, Brig. Gen. Burkhard Pototzky, outlined Col. Mack's career.

As a pilot Col. Mack accumulated nearly 5,000 flying hours on various types of aircraft. Shortly after Col. Mack assumed command of the Base Support Wing in the wake of the

9/11 attacks, he deployed to Tinker AFB to participate in Operation Eagle Assist. On another occasion, for an exercise in Australia, he and other Component personnel flew the TCA around the world.

"Under your command, the Base Support Wing has become more efficient and more effective," said Gen. Pototzky and wished him all the best for the future and good luck in his new assignment as a "Pensionär".

The retirement certificate was later presented to Col. Mack by Maj. Gen. Dieter Naskrent, Commander of the 1st German Air Division, during the reception in the Officers' Club.

Col. Werner Nemetschek, the new Base Support Wing Commander, German SNR and designated Chief of Staff is also an experienced pilot. He flew airframes such as the F-104 Starfighter, the Alpha Jet and the Tornado, which he also flew as Commander of Fighter Bomber Wing 31 'Boelcke' in Nörvenich. He served at the Ministry of Defence in Bonn, in London as Air Attaché, and recently studied Strategy and International Relations at the Royal College of Defence Studies in London.



By accepting the colours from E-3A Component Commander Brig. Gen. Burkhard Pototzky, Col. Werner Nemetschek takes command of the Base Support Wing.

Photo Andrea Hohenforst



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Commander
Brig. Gen. Burkhard Pototzky
Chief, Public Affairs
Capt. Jolene Ortiona
Editor
SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

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NATO awards Meritorious Service Medal to Component members

By SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

On 18 December, as part of the End-of-Year Commander's Call in Hangar 2, E-3A Component Commander Brig. Gen. Burkhard Pototzky presented the NATO Meritorious Service Medal to Major Steve Hanson and Chief Petty Officer Martial Côté. Unfortunately, Lt. Col. Antonio Eramo, former Commander Forward Operating Base Trapani, who was also awarded the medal, was unable to be present at the ceremony.

"All three have done very significant work and have rightfully received this award," said Gen. Pototzky, after which he read out the citations describing the achievements of the two recipients standing next to him on the podium.

"Maj. Hanson was recently appointed as Chief of the newly created Tactics Organization in Operations Wing. Based on his excellent knowledge of the NATO Operational Planning Process, his management abilities and his writing skills, he was the main auditor of all documents supporting the Component's preparation for Operation Afghan Assist (OAA). He demonstrated total commitment to the OAA mission by building a team and creating an information network on the tactical and operational level. Maj. Hanson motivated this team and coordinated, in very short time, the creation and usage of an ISAF Simulator environment for flight deck and mission crew. Based on his initiative, the Component could satisfy the ISAF theatre Survive Evade Resist Escape (SERE) requirements and make progress with CHAT capability. Finally, he volunteered to assume the duties as Operational Planning Group leader and contributed to enabling the deployed Force Element at Konya to achieve Initial Operational Capability (IOC) within a very short time."

"Chief Petty Officer Martial Côté serves the E-3A Component as Branch Chief Administration to the Operations Wing. Chief Côté has participated in all recent major activities of the E-3A Component such as Operational Assessments and deployment to FOB Konya in support of ISAF. He was quickly able to establish a mature team spirit amongst deployed forces, tying officers, non-commissioned officers and civilians together, placing himself as the respected leader of the international NCO community.

His organizational, administrative and leadership skills made Chief Côté the heart and soul of an international E-3A Component team. His outstanding leadership during the deployment in Konya kept the troops' motivation and professional task execution at a high level."

"Gentlemen, your distinctive accomplishments reflect great credit upon yourselves, the E-3A Component, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization."

E-3A Component Commander Brig. Gen. Burkhard Pototzky pins the NATO Meritorious Service Medal to Maj. Steve Hanson (top) and congratulates Chief Petty Officer Martial Côté on the well-deserved award.

Photos MSgt. Chris Braun



The NATO Meritorious Service Medal is a very prestigious award that is granted to recipients approved by the NATO Secretary General himself and is awarded for distinguished service and exceptional job performance. The North Atlantic Council established the medal in 2003 to honour military and civilian personnel who have been commended for providing exceptional or remarkable service. Fewer than 30 Component members have been awarded this NATO special medal since 2003.

The NATO Meritorious Service Medal is made of silver and bears the NATO star set in a wreath of olive leaves, and on the reverse the words "In service of peace and freedom". It is suspended from blue and white ribbons and features gold and silver threads.

Lt. Col. Antonio Eramo was awarded the NATO Meritorious Service Medal as he has proven to be a master in communicating the right message and a person of outstanding resourcefulness in a physically and politically strategic position. He showed personal example and exceptional leadership to accomplish any assigned task.

Lt. Col. Eramo left Main Operating Base (MOB) Geilenkirchen, where he served as Evaluator Passive Controller, in 2005 to become Commander Forward Operating Base (FOB) Trapani. Since then, he has completely renovated the FOB's



infrastructure, establishing excellent relationships with the local civil and military authorities.

Between 2006 and 2008 he hosted several NATO Airborne Early Warning (NAEW) conferences and meetings. Moreover, he achieved excellent results in two Consolidated Inspections and participated in several NAEW exercises, receiving words of outstanding appreciation from NATO and military authorities.

Last Magic Viking 01/09 was held in Trapani simulating a Deployed Operating Base. No specific preparation/support was

undertaken/required from FOB personnel until the last moment. They reacted proactively and ensured the complete success of the exercise.

In July 2009 a High Visibility Event operation took place from Trapani, involving five aircraft and seven crews plus other personnel deployed from the MOB.

The outstanding support provided to this extremely large deployment required full use of personnel and infrastructure of the FOB in a 24-hour posture for several days, and the Detachment Commander acknowledged the FOB's outstanding support.



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Squadron 2 gets maximum

Text and photos
SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

Walking through Krakow in Poland you can't escape one of the city's famous citizens: Pope John Paul II. The nearby military/civilian airport, where Squadron 2 was deployed from 20 through 27 November is even named after him. In 1995 the airport's name was changed to John Paul II International Airport Krakow-Balice, to honour the Pope who spent many years of his life in Krakow.

Next to the CASA C-295 aircraft of the Polish Air Force stands the AWACS aircraft with tail #454. The first people to enter the ramp at 0600 are the four crew chiefs tasked to prepare the aircraft before the flying crew arrives. "Two hours before the flying crew arrives we open the aircraft," said flight line supervisor Mr. John Foley. "On the previous day we do the refuelling for the upcoming mission. On the day itself we perform several final inspections. One of them involves draining the fuel sumps so that the fuel contains no water. Also with regard to the avionics we ensure there is no humidity/water in the system. In addition we check the air pressure of the tires and the landing gear functions. Finally, to ensure that the pilots have a good view for flight, we clean the windows."

A portrait of the Pope is also displayed in the briefing room that the crews use for their (de)briefings, and this gives the room a blessed feeling. After the mission brief the crew enters the bus taking them to the aircraft. "This week we are supporting two Polish F-16 units which need to get their alert status certification," explained deployment commander Maj. Ed Roberds. "As their leadership was informed that we planned a deployment to Poland they specifically requested our assistance. The F-16 units have to show their ability to operate with ground control radar stations and with us, an airborne control radar platform."

Flying in the airspace above Poznan, Squadron 2 mission crew chief Lt. Col. "JD" Bode explained the activities in this week's deployment. "In principle we are the back-up for a Polish Control and Reporting Centre. But it soon became clear that we were the primary." Besides controlling the F-16s the Squadron 2 crew also controlled other aircraft. "The weapons section controlled Polish MiG-29s as well," Lt. Col. Bode said. "And they provided excellent training." He is greatly impressed by the Polish support. "Unlike in other

countries you can always rely on weapons activities in Poland... Super. And as our crews need the training, Poland is a great destination for our flying activities."

Training is the keyword. "When we have instructors on board," continued Lt. Col. Bode, "it's our Flying Squadrons' policy that we have students on board too. First we have a look in our own squadron, and if it seems that no student is available then we request students from the Training Wing and even the other squadrons. In this deployment we have six flights – optimal for training purposes." Something that is always practiced, especially with students, are the emergency procedures. "We train the emergency procedures to prepare ourselves for real life situations. As we fly day after day this is a great opportunity to drill the emergency procedures."

In addition to instructors the crew had evaluators on the flights. During the week several qualification tests had to be taken. One of them was the re-qualification test of Tactical Director/Operations Wing Chief of Operations Lt. Col. Cees Pauw. "As a result of a sports injury Tactical Director (TD) Lt. Col. Pauw wasn't able to fly for several months," said Maj. Roberds, who had to evaluate him. "After a certain period of not flying, a person has to show that he still has the necessary skills for qualification. If he is a TD he has to show, among other things, his ability to manage the crew and to brief and debrief the mission, as well as his battle management skills." An evaluator needs special skills but also makes his own interpretation. "Each evaluator applies his own techniques within the regulations," explained Roberds, "I observe the person from a distance instead of nearby. Also I talk



Turkish Night

'Dress to Impress', a traditional dress show, is the slogan of the Turkish Night of the International Women's Club that will be held on Thursday, 21 January. The event will take place at the Frisbee Club and will start at 1900.

DE-ICING

Continued from front page

Today Heinz Tholen is driving 'Elephant B-15', and from a cabin mounted on an extendable telescopic boom his colleague 'Tito' from Puerto Rico is operating the joystick that steers the de-icing equipment. The nozzle at the tip of the 'elephant's trunk' sprays a thick jet of anti-icing fluid onto the aircraft. The area being sprayed is illuminated by floodlights arranged around the spray head. By moving the head this way and that, Tito distributes the fluid over the fuselage, wings and rotodome of the E-3A, sometimes rising to a height of 15 metres. Ice and snow detach themselves from the treated surfaces within seconds, fall onto the concrete below and flow into the retention basin.

General on board

Around 09:40 the third aircraft is due for treatment. The commander of the AWACS fleet, Major General Stephen D. Schmidt, from Mons in Belgium is on board as a pilot and gains first-hand experience of the de-icing process. At intervals of about 25 minutes one plane after another taxis to the spot and has to undergo the same process. Among them are also two U.S. Air Force tankers.

On Tuesday the team needed a total of 13,000 litres of the special mixture to de-ice the nine aircraft. All nine airplanes subsequently took to the air without difficulty, and the men of the De-Icing Section played a significant part in achieving this.



Aircraft Commander Capt. Chris Lake (left) and First Pilot Lt. Col. Frank Bareither fly the aircraft over Polish soil.

Emergency procedures are standard training during a mission.

out of Poland deployment

with crewmembers about how they think the TD handles certain issues. A TD must be fully integrated with the crew. Like a conductor he has to lead his orchestra and has to understand and interact with his crew. But in overall terms a TD is responsible for safety on board and overall mission success."

Due to the Polish training activities, the taskings of the surveillance section involved more than standard missions. "Enhanced weapons activity, non-standard link players and other taskings make it quite interesting for us," said Capt. Bill St. John, instructor surveillance controller, who this week took charge of a student from the Training Wing.

"With multiple aircraft in the air we are more involved than during standard surveillance missions. We can assist the weapons section by

tracking the aircraft and assigning identification to them. In this way we contribute to overall mission execution. Additionally, we test communication links with various aircraft, with ground stations and with various nations' ships currently at sea."

As the activities in the rear part of the aircraft have priority this week, the flight deck crew have to give up some of their training. "The aim of this week's activities is to get as much training as possible with the Polish Air Force for the mission crew in the back," said aircraft commander Capt. Chris Lake. "We knew that in advance. But for us it's always useful to operate from different airfields. We can pass on our experience to other flight crews in Geilenkirchen for further deployments. This week we also have the opportunity to fly under control of Polish Air Traffic

Control. This is very good experience, as they are very helpful if we have to change our flight plan due to flying activities."

Especially the Polish support made it an extremely successful deployment. "The whole crew was delighted to fly there," said Deployment Commander Maj. Roberds, "because with our Polish colleagues we were able to accomplish some outstanding training. It's good to have them in NATO. During the deployment we conducted three evaluations and trained students in four different sections on board. All the members of the crew worked hard, everyone showed up each day and there was great interaction with the host nation... They thoroughly acted as NATO ambassadors."

To promote interaction and understanding, Squadron 2 offered several seats on each flight to personnel from the Polish Control and Reporting Centre. Weapons Controller Lt. Karen McLean explains the AWACS capabilities to 1Lt Thomas Mazar and 2Lt. Marcin Kawiak (right).

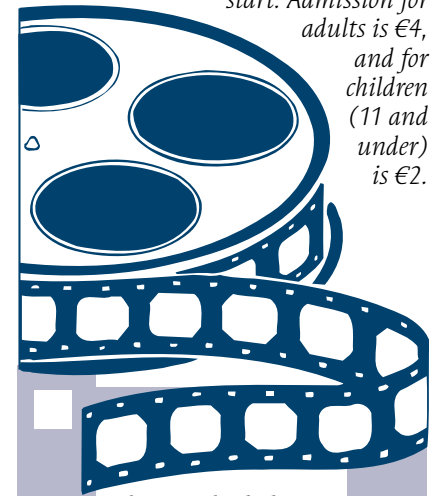


After a historical Antonov AN-2 is pushed out of the hangar, with combined efforts, a group photo is taken at John Paul II International Airport Krakow-Balice. Photos Sgt. Michael Girod

JFC HQ Alliance Theatre presents

The theatre is located in Building #406, JFC HQ Brunssum, the Netherlands. Doors open 30 minutes prior to film start. Admission for adults is €4,

and for children (11 and under) is €2.



The Fourth Kind (PG-13)

Friday, 15 January, 1930
Milla Jovovich,
Elias Koteas

A Christmas Carol (PG)

Saturday, 16 January, 1600
Jim Carrey,
Gary Oldman

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG-13)

Saturday, 16 January, 1900
Kristen Stewart,
Robert Pattinson

Amelia (PG)

Friday, 22 January, 1930
Hilary Swank,
Richard Gere

Planet 51 (PG)

Saturday, 23 January, 1600
Dwayne Johnson,
Jessica Biel

2012 (PG-13)

Saturday, 23 January, 1900
John Cusack,
Chiwetel Ejiofor

Cirque Du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant (PG-13)

Friday, 29 January, 1930
John C. Reilly,
Josh Hutcherson

CSA Carnival

The Civilian Staff Association (CSA) invites all CSA members, E-3A Component members and their guests to the most outstandingly enjoyable party of 2010 – the CSA Special Carnival Dinner Dance Night at the Officers' Club on Saturday, 6 February, starting at 1800. Tickets €35 each. Carnival dress is highly recommended.

Special notes: You and your guests must be identifiable at the Main Gate when you enter the base. For security reasons you should not be in possession of any toy weapons.

The evening will (must) start at 1800 because of a packed, non-stop programme, so we kindly request you to arrive on time!

The absolute highlights of the evening are:

- Show & Party Band "California Blue"
- Show Dance Group "Revolution"
- The new "NATO AWACS ELVIS" from France (Lt.Col Le Roi)
- Show Band "Mennekrather"

bringing the Cologne Carnival spirit to us

- Show Dance Group "De Wenkbülle" and others.

The ticket price includes a hot buffet and a cake buffet, as well as 3 bottles of wine per table of 12 people.

Tickets will be available as of 18 January from:

- Mr. Werner Schumm, FIIR, ext. 2477
- Mr. René Peeters, Officers' Club, ext. 4990
- Mr. Paolo Albanese, LWCPB, ext. 3826,
- Mr. Ralf Bürgstein, IWESS, ext. 3164

Please note that if you bring guests who do not work at the E-3A Component, you are entirely responsible for adhering to the current security regulations and ensuring that your guests' access to the MOB is properly arranged.

The CSA would be delighted to welcome you to the event!



Photo Andy Bischoff

IYA Spring Break Soccer Camp 2010

During the Spring Break from 29 March until 9 April the IYA is organizing two NATO Air Base soccer camps.

The first camp is in co-operation with the Alemania Aachen 'Do it' Soccer University, and is a camp for boys and girls, aged 6-16 years. During the 4-day camp, two daily modern training sessions will be held in small groups under the lead of certified coaches of the German Football Association. Full attention will be given to the technique aspects of soccer: passing, dribbling and shooting. Attacking, defending, small-sided matches and tournaments will be practiced and played too. Daily lunch, beverages, fruit and drinking bottles will be offered. The cost for this camp is €125 per child. "Fun and Action" - learn how to play the Alemannia way!

The second camp, from 6 until 9 April by Thomas Kastenmaier's 'Kastes Fussballschule', is for boys and girls aged 5-16 years. All coaches during this camp are former professional soccer players and certified soccer teachers. The 4-day package deal includes uniform, ball, daily lunch and lessons, and costs €130 per child.

For more information and registration please contact: Stephanie Chalmers, IYA Building 95, ext. 0049-(0)2451-634955 or email: schalmers@e3a.nato.int



Photo courtesy Stephanie Chalmers

Upcoming events

Back classes commence at the Sports Department

Back fitness beginners (with pre-registration), Mondays 1600-1700, New Gym, Multi-purpose Room, registration deadline 22 January, Start 25 January; Wednesdays 1130-1230, IYA (Bldg 95) MPR, registration deadline 22 January, start 27 January.

Back fitness advanced (for participants who did a beginners class), Tuesdays 1100-1200, IYA (Bldg 95) MPR, start 12 January. For more information please contact Fritz Stelten at ext. 4920 or per email: fstelten@e3a.nato.int

Country music free show

Thursday, 28 January at 1930 (doors open at 1845). JFC Community Activities Section is extremely proud to present Country Music Superstar Neal McCoy with the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders. Neal McCoy's chart topping #1 hits include, Wink, No Doubt about It, For A Change, You Gotta Love That, They're Playing Our Song, and more. His numerous awards include two-time Entertainer of the Year, Video of the Year, 3 Platinum albums, 1 Gold album, five #1 songs and five 'Top 10' hits. This great performance will also include the participation of some of the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders.

Open to all US, NATO, JFC Brunssum, USAG Schinnen,

Geilenkirchen AB, AFNORTH Int. School personnel and their families. Only 350 tickets for this unforgettable night of live music will be available, so come by the JFC Community Activities Section to secure your tickets.

Tickets will be given out on a 'First come, First Serve' basis and there is a limit of only 5 tickets per family. For more information, please contact CAS at 0031-45-526-2626.

Volunteers required to help set up country music show

Country Singer Neal McCoy" and the beautiful Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders will be performing LIVE at the JFC Alliance Theatre.

An event to remember! We are looking for 10 people to help these two groups set-up and load up equipment after their performances. This is a great opportunity to meet and be around the performers during this main event.

Also, VIP seating available to volunteers. Looking for the first 7 people to assist during the following times: 28 January, 0900, 7 volunteers; 28 January, 7 volunteers. You can sign-up twice if you like. Remember, first come first serve. POC for volunteering is MSgt. Efrain Reyes at 364-3019.

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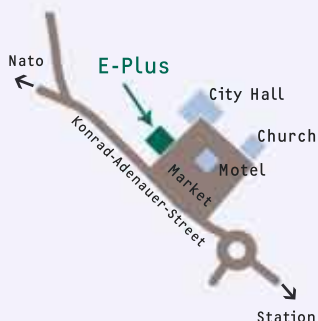
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