

Nothing to fear

By Steve McPadden

For several months I had known that I was scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan, probably for around 30 days. It seemed so far off when the shop schedule was made, but gradually the day dawned. My paperwork and kit were in order, but was I? Inside, I didn't want to do this; I was not looking forward to missing my home comforts, and I was also a little bit afraid.

On the day of the deployment my wife dropped me at Hangar 4. We said our goodbyes and I went inside to in-process, but several minutes later I looked outside the hangar and saw that she had driven back and parked, just to have one last look at me. Although I had reassured her that I would be very safe, her feelings were no different from every other wife, husband or child in the same situation: very concerned, because Afghanistan is no ordinary deployment.

After a sometimes turbulent flight, we landed in the intense heat of an early summer Afghanistan afternoon. I found the heat crushing: to a Scot 20 degrees is a heat wave. On the flightline it was over 50 degrees, and even in the shade it was about 40. How could I stand this for four weeks? It was still May, and it was going to get a lot hotter. I was feeling depressed, at an all-time low. Why had I put myself in this

situation? I had the chance never to do this, yet I had convinced the medical staff that I could handle it. Now I was regretting it, but putting on a brave face.

The following day was even worse. It was noticeably hotter. I came out of a cool shower and the savage heat had me drenched with sweat 10 minutes later. I looked around at the base; it was massive, but there was nothing growing anywhere. Nothing green, just rocks, dust and bare mountains. Dust everywhere. Dust that came in a sandstorm - into your eyes, your ears, your throat. Working on the flightline was hard, especially because I was feeling so tired. I had slept for less than one hour the previous night, lying in my tent and listening to the constant sound of the helicopters, all night long. The noise was relentless. But wait a minute, I thought, maybe I am not so unfortunate after all! I feel quite safe here, and those helicopters are full of troops - young men and women, some 18 or 19 years old - being dropped in the dark, searching for an unseen and deadly enemy. Maybe my time here won't really be as bad as I thought.

On the third day the transformation that I felt was truly amazing. Inside, I was flying. We had all slept well the previous night, and the mood amongst us was really excellent. I studied my colleagues - they were all so motivated, relaxed and humorous. The grumpy old

men of Geilenkirchen may have still been moving slowly, but they were thinking faster. Strangely, this was not what I had expected. Why were we all so happy in this noisy, hot, uncomfortable place? I had to search my own feelings for the answer. I was, after so many wonderful years in this job, having had so many lovely deployments around the world, finally giving something to NATO in return, and I was giving it back when it was most needed. This was a satisfying feeling, and I am sure everyone who has been on this deployment would agree.

The good mood of our team continued throughout the 30 days we were deployed. Our supervisors did everything they could to make our stay as comfortable as possible. The food was great. We had shopping, gym and internet facilities, snack bars and cafes, and the Beach House: a palace built by a previously deployed team, a true work of art, but sadly, as I write, mostly unusable. A wonder nevertheless.

Despite all the positives I have mentioned, there is still the reality of what Afghanistan is about: it is a war. Our generally upbeat mood was brought crashing down to earth a couple of times with the news of fatalities being brought into the base before being flown home to their final resting place. We lined up on several occasions to silently pay our respects as the funeral cortege passed on its homeward journey. We

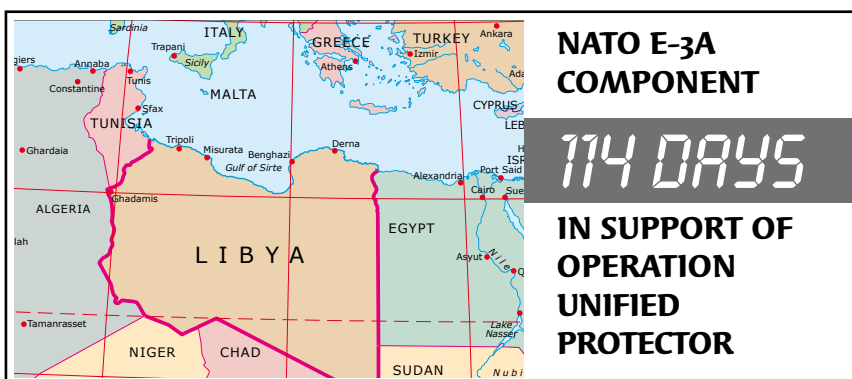
all agreed it was the most moving experience of our lives.

To summarize, I must say I was glad to have been deployed to Afghanistan. I was part of a brilliant team who did a superb job in keeping our aircraft mission-capable. It was a great experience working with so many different nations in a real-world situation, and I was happy that I had 'looked in the mirror' (to quote one of my colleagues) and didn't really have to be afraid after all. So I would have no problem going back there.

I will sign off by including a few lines from a book I have just read, written by a soldier, as to why we are in Afghanistan: "There was no way we could let a bunch of medieval lunatics like the Taliban take over an entire country, less still to use it as a base for global terrorism. That was what we were fighting to prevent. The hard-line Taliban hate our way of life. They want the world to be like Afghanistan was under their rule. The Afghan people deserve more - we all do. I would fight to the last man to prevent my family and fellow countrymen ending up in a world like that. My dad hated me for risking my life, but at the same time he understood what I was doing."

So, if you get the chance, go there. I bet you will feel, as I did, that you made a real contribution and you had nothing to fear.

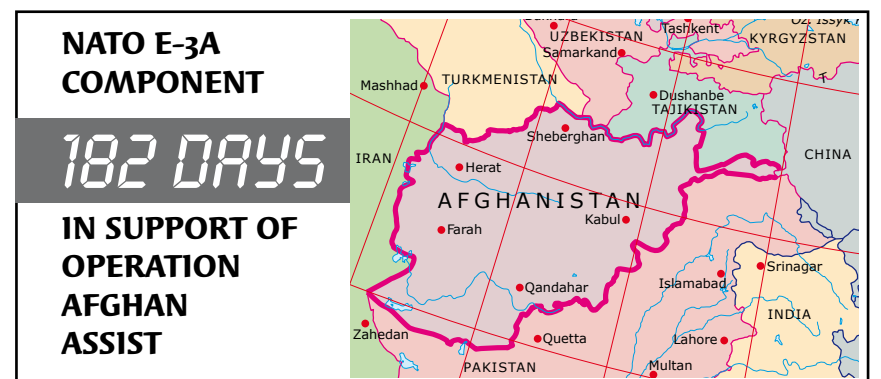
Photo Lt.Col. Antje Kalka



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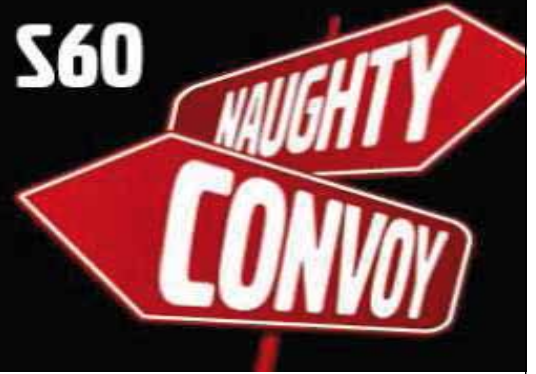


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Component Messenger retires

By Theo Collijn

On 30 June Mr. Werner Cremer, Messenger assigned to the Administrative Services Section's Central Registry of the Base Support Division, retired after exactly 30 years of service with the E-3A Component. Mr. Cremer started his Component career on 29 June 1981.

He was initially employed at the Fire Brigade and was transferred to the Central Registry in 1999. Although the step from being a Fire Brigade Shift Leader to a Messenger was of course immense, Mr. Cremer quickly adapted and learned to enjoy the many social contacts that are so typical for the position of Messenger.

Prior to becoming a Component staff member, Mr. Cremer worked at a local company as a locksmith and

hydraulics technician. His working career started at the age of 15. So in a couple of months from now he could celebrate the impressive 50th anniversary of his working career.

Mr. Cremer's last mail tour was scheduled for 28 June 2011 and it became one he will never forget. Instead of the official yellow mail van, it was the Component's Fire Department who provided the transportation for this final tour. He had the opportunity to bid farewell to former colleagues and to the people he had been serving for the past 12 years. As he received gifts and best wishes along the route, it was a tour that made clear how much respect he had earned over the past 30 years.

Mr. Cremer has been looking forward to retiring. Bike tours, visits to his son



living in Switzerland, enjoying his garden and barbeque, and finally his interest in genealogical research will definitely keep him from boredom.

Mr. Werner Cremer on his last tour on base, saying goodbye to his colleagues.

Photo Andrea Hohenforst

CSA Hail & Farewell Event

By Paul Baker

The Civilian Staff Association's Quarterly Hail and Farewell on 7 July was a very successful event.

CSA Vice Chairman Mr. Ben Pereira started the meeting by encouraging members to take an active interest in matters that directly affect their interests, pointing out that input from civilian staff is essential for the work of the CSA Committee. As the current Committee's term of office will end in the early part of next year, he drew attention to the need for candidates in the election process for the new Committee.

Mr. Oliver Aretz, as CSA representative on the DCPS Management Board, gave a brief explanation of recent developments and said that the process of acquiring a suitable pension provider for staff enrolled in the DCPS was still under way. The subsequent question and answer session was directly followed by the Hail & Farewell.

Mr. Pereira welcomed Col. Ton van Happen, Deputy Commander (DCOM) of the E-3A Component, who individually congratulated the eight retirees and presented E-3A Component Certificates of Appreciation. In addition, Mr. Pereira presented each of them with a CSA retirement pin.

Col. van Happen expressed his appreciation of the continuity and wealth of experience contributed by NATO civilian staff members to the Component's operations. He then provided an interesting commentary on the Component's current operational situation and future prospects, and also addressed the topics of MWA and the ongoing development of NATO restructuring.

Staff members honored at this event:

Mr. Peter De Coster, who joined the Logistics Wing in February 1981, was one of the very first E-3A Component members, as indicated by his proud possession of ID number

007. Throughout his Component career he headed the stock control and material management team and will retire from his post at the start of September this year.

The members of the Component's Civilian Staff Association have every reason to be grateful to Peter for his efforts on their behalf as a member of the CSA Committee, on which he served as its very effective and diligent chairman for several years.

Mr. John Pateman joined the E-3A Component Logistics Wing on 1 August 1981 as a Computer Operator and received successive promotions, remaining in that field and transferring to IT Wing in October 2003. Since September 2010 he has served as a Principal Technician (Application Support) in the CIS Squadron and will retire from that post as of 1 August.

Mr. Nigel Thatcher joined the E-3A Component Logistics Wing in June 1983 as an Aircraft General Mechanic and faithfully served the Component in that technical field throughout his career. On 1 July this year he retired from the post of Senior Technician (Inspection).

Mr. Arnold Reinert served the E-3A Component as a Metal Processing Specialist and Technician (Machine Operation) from March 1986 until his retirement at the start of May 2011. At the Hail & Farewell he received two certificates from DCOM, the first of these for achieving 25 years of service to the Component, and the second for his retirement. He also received both the CSA glass cube

and the gold retirement pin from Mr. Pereira.

Mr. Jürgen Grümmer joined the E-3A Component in January 1982 and became a Senior Technician (Radio) in the Ground Radar/Radio Maintenance Section of Base Support Wing in April 1991. He retired from his post that Section as of 1 May 2011.

Mr. David Weister joined the E-3A Component Logistics Wing in May 1994 as a Chief Assistant Analyst/Programmer. In October 2003 he was appointed Systems Administrator in the IT Wing Systems & Helpdesk Function. He currently serves the Component as Staff Officer (Systems Operation & Management) and will retire from that post as of 1 September this year.

Mr. Humphrey Smit joined the E-3A Component Base Support Wing in January 1982 as a Meteorology Specialist. He has continued to serve the Component in that field throughout his career and will retire at the start of August 2011.

Mr. David Hazlehurst joined NAMSA on 12 August 1974 as a Mobile Calibration Technician and arrived at the E-3A Component on 1 January 1982 as a member of the NAMSA PMEL responsible for the calibration of electronic and navigational equipment. He retired on 30 April this year.

The CSA wishes all these retirees a very happy and contented retirement.



CSA Vice Chairman Mr. Ben Pereira, Mr. Jürgen Grümmer, Mr. David Hazlehurst, Mr. Arnold Reinert, Mr. Humphrey Smit, Mr. John Pateman, Colonel Ton van Happen, Mr. Peter De Coster, Mr. David Weister, Mr. Nigel Thatcher (from left to right)

Photo Andrea Hohenforst

Preventing heat injuries

By MSgt. Christopher Brown

Summer is finally here and it's time to get out and enjoy the long summer days. As we already found out, these days can also be very hot.

We have had days during the last weeks that already reached 35° Celsius, and we're only a couple of weeks into summer. In order to protect ourselves from this excessive heat, it's important to become familiar with some preventive measures you can take. Heat-related injuries are preventable, yet each year many people succumb to extreme heat. In fact, from 1979 to 2003 excessive heat exposure caused 8,015 deaths in the United States, where air conditioning is common. We don't usually have the luxury of air conditioning here in Germany and when it gets hot, bad things can happen to those who are unprepared.

Heat-related illnesses occur when the body is unable to compensate and properly cool itself. Normally the body can cool itself by sweating, but under some conditions, this isn't sufficient. When this occurs, the body temperature rises and can have serious consequences.

Several factors affect the body's ability to cool itself during extremely hot weather. When the air humidity is high, sweat will not evaporate as

quickly, preventing the body from releasing heat quickly. Other risk conditions include age, obesity, fever, dehydration, heart disease, poor circulation, sunburn, and the use of prescription drugs and alcohol.

Another factor to understand is the difference between ambient temperature and apparent temperature. Ambient temperature is the temperature of the air without regard to the effects of humidity or the radiant heat of the sun. Apparent temperature is the adjustment based on the relative humidity and the wind speed. This is why, if you look at the weather channel, it may say the temperature is 30° Celsius but feels like 35°.

In order to help you avoid heat-related injuries so that you can enjoy the summer to its fullest, the following recommendations (tools) are provided.

- Increase your fluid intake, regardless of your activity level. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink. During heavy work or exercise in a hot environment, drink two to four glasses (0.5 - 1.0 liters) of fluids (non-alcoholic) each hour.
- Replace salt and minerals in your body. If you sweat heavily, your body is losing salt and minerals that it needs to function properly.

A sports beverage can replace the salt and minerals you lose in sweat.

- Wear as little clothing as possible. Choose lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing. This will help promote sweat evaporation and cooling by letting more air pass over your body.
- Avoid midday sun. If you go outdoors, stay in the shade or in water when possible.
- Prevent sunburn. Sunburn affects your body's ability to cool itself and causes a loss of body fluids. If you go outside in the sun, you can protect yourself by wearing a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses. In addition, 30 minutes prior to going outdoors, apply sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher.
- Take it slow. You will have a greater tolerance for the heat if you limit your physical activity until you become accustomed to the heat. If you travel to a hotter climate, allow several days to become acclimatized before attempting any vigorous exercise, and work up to it gradually.
- For work in extreme temperatures, supervisors should be providing rest cycles for individuals to allow them

an opportunity to cool off and rehydrate.

- Familiarize yourself with Manual 3.7-1, E-3A Ground Operations in Extreme Temperatures, to aid you in determining the combined physiological effects of ambient temperature, relative humidity and wind speed on the human body in high temperatures, and to find out about work-rest cycle recommendations.
- Use risk management and understand that every action has a reaction, whether positive or negative. Avoid hot foods and heavy meals—they add heat to your body. Dress infants and children in cool, loose clothing and shade their heads and faces with hats or an umbrella. Limit sun exposure during mid-day hours and in places of potentially severe exposure, such as beaches. Do not leave infants, children, or pets in a parked car. Provide plenty of fresh water for your pets in a shady area.

Each and everyone of us can have a safe and healthful summer. Just remember that during summertime activity, whether on the playing field, at home or at work, your activity needs to be balanced with measures that aid the body's cooling mechanisms to prevent heat-related injuries.

New building houses Dutch military administration



By Maureen Geraets-Head

The construction of the new building - number 102 - adjacent to the former Sentry Club at Cinchan Avenue, has been finalized and since 6 July it has housed the Dutch National Support Unit (NSU). Last week, furniture, equipment and files were moved in.

The new building for the Dutch NSU.

The NSU Commander CMSgt. Ton van Gastel and his colleague moving into the new building.

Photos Andrea Hohenforst

The reason for the new location was that the facilities of the former Dutch NSU in Building 83 were no longer in accordance with the Dutch health and safety regulations.

The financial and construction planning and execution were handled by the Dutch Ministry of Defense.

The new location with environment-friendly solar collector units not only has brand new offices but also a break room, fully equipped kitchen, briefing room, mail box room, showers and toilets, computer and storage rooms and a secured entrance.



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E-3A COMPONENT SPORTS & FAMILY DAY



30 June 2011



E-3A Component Sports & Family Day 2011

By Janina Bien

On the sunny morning of 30 June Deputy Commander (DCOM) Col. Ton van Happen officially opened the Sports Day 2011. Although many of our colleagues were actively involved in the ongoing missions, it was important to uphold this tradition.



The official start of the Sports Day with the famous breakfast walk.

About 250 people then participated in the breakfast walk, another tradition that Component members already know from previous years.

This walk was again sponsored by NATEX, which provided delicious bread rolls and beverages in the middle of the walk. The various sports activities ranged from a mountain bike tour to the passing of the German Sports Award, as well as tournaments such as soccer, volleyball, basketball, badminton, table tennis and competitions in archery, shooting, golf and bench press. Other highlights were the tug-of-war and the famous 'Fun Games'. This year there was also the chance to attend fitness classes, namely total body fitness marathon, spinning and Zumba.

This year's Component Sports Day was combined for the first time with a family event for spouses, children and family members of deployed personnel. Deputy Commander Col. Ton van Happen officially welcomed the families to the base at the Mass Briefing Facility. He especially wanted to express his deepest thanks to the families and he took the opportunity to show photo and video footage of the locations to them. Outside the building there was a bouncing castle for children and the NATO train was ready to take them on a base tour.

Afterwards the families were shuttled to the Sports field, where they were invited for a BBQ and drinks. Several additional attractions for children were there provided, too, such as a chairplane, a pirates' play island, slides and a funny pedal car show-jumping course.

Capt. Manfred Rösener, who was mainly responsible for the organization of the family event, summarizes: "This event was an important opportunity for families to see where their partners live during operations, and they could raise any questions with Deputy Commander Col. Ton van Happen or the national support units' respective points of contact on base". The organizers also received very positive feedback from the families who attended.

Although one might think that two such superb events were enough for

one day, the Component also invited people from the 'Lebenshilfe e.V. in Heinsberg', on the initiative of Lt.Col. Jan Schraudy and Maj. Peter Gerisch. TSgt. Martin Pastwa and SSgt. Sabrina Clemens welcomed the group of eight handicapped employees, who were supervised

of the main organizers of this great Sports event, presented the Sports Awards to the participants. The event concluded with recreational music and a nice get-together with colleagues, before the Sports Cell team started to tidy up and clean the Sports Field. Mr. Fritz Stelten would



Our guests from 'Lebenshilfe e.V.'

by Mrs. Marlies Poschen, who also participated in the bench press and the Giant Ball. At this point a special 'thank you' goes to the two dedicated soldiers of the Component who thoughtfully cared for this group for the whole day.

like to say a special 'thank you' to the German National Support Unit, which provided soldiers for the whole week, and a also special 'thank you' to all the volunteers who helped with the setup, implementation and teardown of this great Sports Day 2011.

At the end of this fantastic day DCOM Col. Ton van Happen together with Mr. Fritz Stelten, Head of the Sports Department on base and one

For sports results please see the WSS Sports page, under the 'Current Events' box.

Photos Andrea Hohenforst

Upcoming IYA events & trips in summer

IYA Summer Break Wednesday
Field Trips to large amusement parks offering a huge variety of playgrounds, shows, rides and attractions for children:

- 27 July** Warner Brothers Movie Park
- 3 August** Phantasialand in Brühl
- 10 August** Bobbejaanland
- 17 August** Walibi Amusement Park

Each trip 0800 - 1900; children aged 5 and up can be dropped off from 0745. Fee for children chaperoned in groups is €45; pay only €32 per child per trip with your valid MWA card. Chaperones go free. Parents with children of all ages and individual guests are welcome to join IYA field trips for a fun day out with your family and your friends.

6 August: Trip to Augustusburg Palace and seven hills with Rhine river cruise.

On Saturday, 6 August, 0830-2000,

we will first travel to the famous Augustusburg Palace and Gardens, a rococo masterpiece listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. From Bonn, the former capital, a cruise boat will take us to beautiful Königswinter. You can visit the Drachenfels with its castles dating from different periods and enjoy the spectacular view of the Rhine valley and seven hills. Take the historic train up and/or down the hill, or hike.

Afterwards you may want to explore the big Sea Life Aquarium with its 360° glass tunnel and giant panoramic windows to watch sharks, rays, green turtles, seahorses, starfish and many more marine inhabitants. Our luxury bus departs from the parking lot outside the Main Gate. Cost is €39 for ages 14 and up, €30 for ages 4 to 13 and €21 for ages 3 and under. With your valid MWA card, pay only €27 for ages 14 and up, €22 for ages 4 to 13 and €15 for ages 3 and under,

including cruise ticket and guided tour at Augustusburg Palace.

27 August: Trip to Eltz Castle and Cochem on the river Mosel.

Saturday, 27 August, 0800 - 2000. Our first stop will be the huge medieval 'fairy-tale' castle Burg Eltz and its treasury. From there we will travel to the beautiful historic town of Cochem. On the market place in the old town and along the Mosel river the local winegrowers will be celebrating the annual Weinfest with music, wine booths and traditional food. Cost is €30 for ages 18 and up, €26 for ages 6 to 17 and €21 for ages 5 and under; with your valid MWA card, pay only €22 for ages 18 and up, €19 for ages 6 to 17 and €15 for ages 5 and under, including guided tour of Eltz Castle and entrance to its treasury.

Inquire at the IYA Office about individual rates in Bldg. 95, ext. 4954/4955.

Sand sculpture festival

The traditional Dutch Sand Sculpture Festival will take place from 2 July to 6 November at Kasteel Hoensbroek, in Hoensbroek, the Netherlands, just a 20-minute drive from Geilenkirchen. Artists use 8 million kilos of sand to create beautiful sand sculptures of well-known structures such as the impressive church Sagrada Familia, the Eiffel Tower, and Cologne Cathedral. Also Julius Caesar, D'Artagnan and King Arthur can be found as sand creations. You can combine your visit with a tour of the castle. There is also the option of attending a sand sculpturing workshop by appointment. Until 1 July, you can visit the preview to see the artists at work.

Open daily between 2 July and 6 November, 1100 - 1730. Tickets are €7.50 for adults, €4.50 for kids 4-12, and €7 for 60+. Entrance to the sand sculpture event plus a visit to the castle: €14.50 for adults, €8 for kids 4-12, and €8 for 60+.

Address: Klinkertstraat 118, 6433 PB Hoensbroek.



**Next NATO Skywatch:
29 July**

**Submissions due by:
21 July**



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Shakespeare at Castle Hoensbroek

Castle Hoensbroek is delighted to announce its participation in this summer's largest outdoor Shakespeare tour in the Netherlands.

The renowned British open-air theatre company *Illyria* will tour the Netherlands with its own hilarious, unique and authentic rendition of Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night'. The English Theatre Foundation (also known as STET) has been involved with *Illyria* tours through the Netherlands since 2006. On 26 and 27 August the group will come to Castle Hoensbroek.

Short summary of the play

The piece is based on the famous play by Shakespeare and tells the

story of Viola, a young noblewoman. After being shipwrecked on the shores of Illyria she loses contact with her twin brother, Sebastian, whom she believes to be dead.

The land of Illyria is ruled by Duke Orsino. He is madly in love with the beautiful Lady Olivia, who is mourning the death of her brother. Viola, identifying with Olivia, wishes to help her. Soon after discovering she would not be able to work for Olivia, and therefore unable to help her, she disguises herself. With the help of a sea captain she becomes "Cesario" and becomes a servant of Duke Orsino.

Viola falls in love with the Duke, who feels a strange attraction to "Cesario". Viola as "Cesario" cannot

tell Orsino that she loves him, nor can she tell Olivia she is actually a woman...

In 2008, the foundation won *The Writers' Guild of Great Britain Award for The Encouragement of New Work.*

Attend this outdoor spectacle on the 26 and 27 August. The normal entrance fee is €19.50 for adults and €12.50 for children. All NATO personnel and their relatives are offered a 20% discount on the entrance fee.

Tickets can be booked on the Castle Hoensbroek website, www.kasteelhoensbroek.nl

Please state on your reservation that you are a NATO member.

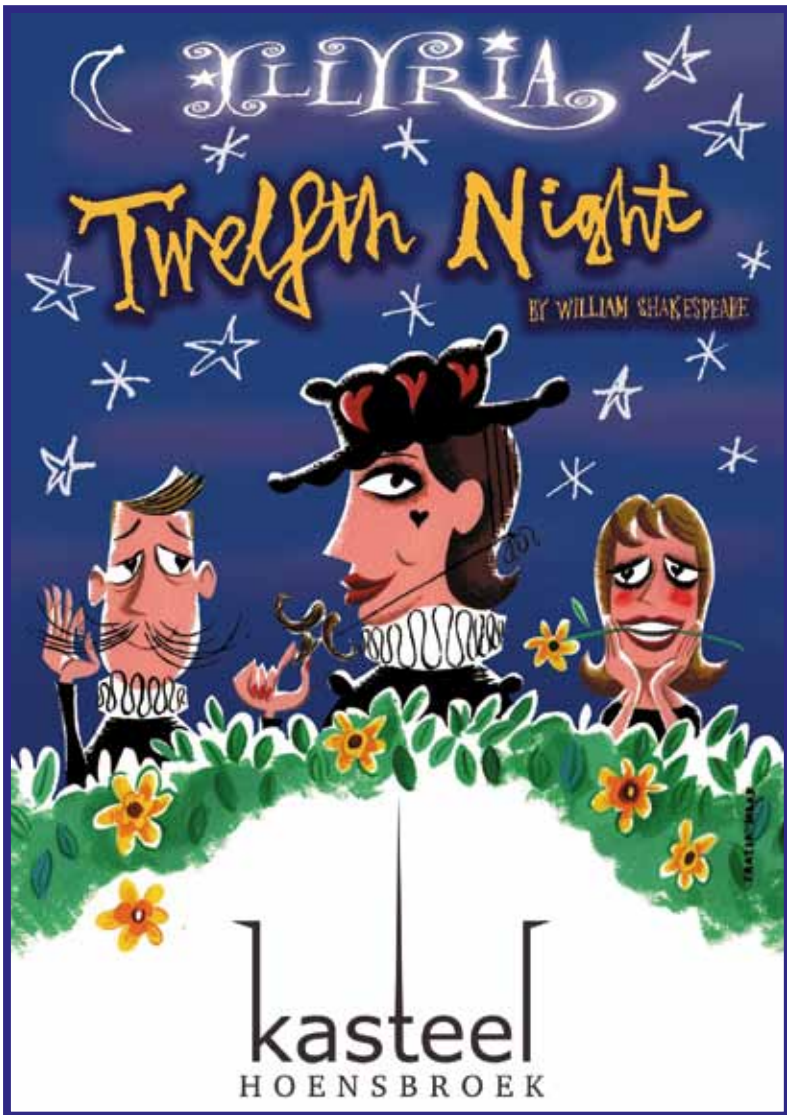


Photo courtesy www.kasteelhoensbroek.nl

Family picnic

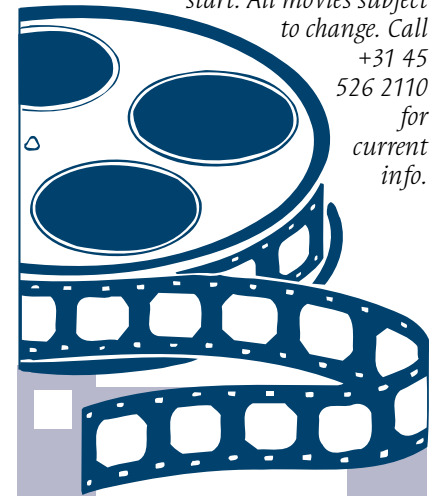
If you wish it is possible to do a picnic with your family and friends two hours prior to the event.

As this is an open-air show, do not forget to bring your own chair; to rent chairs is also on offer.

A rain coat or an umbrella are advised in case of bad weather.

JFC HQ Alliance Theatre presents

The theatre is located in Bldg. 406, JFC HQ Brunssum, the Netherlands. Doors open 30 minutes prior to film start. All movies subject to change. Call +31 45 526 2110 for current info.



Rio
Saturday, 16 July
1300

Hoodwinked Too! Hood Vs. Evil
Saturday, 16 July
1600

Fast Five
Saturday, 16 July
1900

I am Number Four
Saturday, 23 July
1600

Something Borrowed
Saturday, 23 July
1900

Phase 3: MWA shopping cards

Phase 3 for the issue of shopping cards commenced on 4 July 2011 (see base wide email dated 28 April 2011). All Component members and dependants with an ID card expiration date in 2014 are reminded to pick up their shopping cards no later than 12 August 2011. The shopping card is being issued free of charge at Bldg. 80, room 13, opening hours: Mondays - Fridays, 0900 - 1130.

SKYWATCH CLASSIFIED

Skywatch Classifieds are free to all NATO personnel. Advertisements must be typed, including name, office symbol and duty extension. Advertisements for services that generate a regular income will not be accepted. Submissions are due to PAO, mail Stop 33, e-mail: pao@e3a.nato.int, by noon Wednesday, 20 July.

Car

Opel Frontera 3.2L Limited V6 SUV, November 2001, automatic, 200 HP, black metallic, black leather, trailer hook (detachable), Pioneer AVIC Navi, winter tires and rims, metal grate separation, always

dealer serviced. Price €5,900.

Please call Mr. Asger Petersen, ext. 3048 or 0171-3149986 or email to asger.petersen@t-online.de

Babysitter

Looking for a reliable babysitter?

Responsible and mature teenager (16) has some extra time available and would love to look after your little ones while you enjoy a night out. Fluent in English and Dutch.

Please call 02456-508280 or e-mail to uwoppas@hotmail.com

Commemoration of Atatürk and Youth & Sports Day on FOB Konya



By SMSgt. Erdal Gulbahar and
SMSgt. Kaan Yildirdim

A commemoration of Atatürk together with a Youth and Sports Day is an annual Turkish national holiday celebrated on 19 May to commemorate the start of the Turkish War of Independence. On 19 May 1919, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk landed on the main peninsula of Turkey to begin leadership of the liberation effort.

To celebrate this momentous day for the 92nd time, FOB Konya organized a day in which 3rd Main Jet Base Commander Brig.Gen. Mehmet Ates İrez, Master Unit Commanders, FOB personnel and their families attended and had lots of fun together.

The day started with the speech of Lt.Col. Murat Çetinkaya, Commander of FOB Konya. He pointed out that Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder

of the Republic of Turkey, dedicated this day particularly to the youth of Turkey, since they represent and guarantee the future of the Turkish Republic. The speech was followed by various sport contests such as basketball free throw, sack race, penalty shots, touch and run contest, as well as egg carrying. Not only the winners but also participants of the sport contests received their gifts and certificates.

At the end of this great event the children and families enjoyed the BBQ because they had made great efforts to win the contests.

The reward for those that volunteered to take part in the planning and execution of the day was the pleasant exhaustion on the faces of children and their parents that came to this successful event.

Photo Kerem Celik

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