



NATO AIR BASE GEILENKIRCHEN

# Skywatch

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## 449 Retirement Project - Phase Two

By Maureen Geraets-Head

**It's almost if weather elements, mainly the heat and wind, absorbed all life that once enabled these aircraft to fly. Like mummies, patched with white coating, they are parked in orderly rows on sandy terrain, in a blasting sun. Most liquids have been drained, valuable parts have been removed. Some aircraft are waiting for a second chance to be brought back to life, while others are waiting their turn to be scrapped.**

The latter also counts for NATO E-3A aircraft, tail number 449. It landed at 12:53 on June 23, 2015, at its final destination: Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona, USA.

For the next three years, it will sit at Aircraft Maintenance and Regeneration Group (AMARG), where it will be

surrounded by preserved aircraft frames, all anchored to the ground with steel cables, the wings supported by wooden stands. AMARG stores more than 4,000 aircraft.

Phase Two of the 449 retirement project continued in Tucson. An ADVON team of ten arrived on June 20, to prep this NATO E-3A, to be towed to the designated parking sport

at AMARG. A helpful, friendly AMARG team is available to assist the NATO technician team.

*Continued on page 8*  
Photos by Capt. André Bongers



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# COMMANDER'S CORNER

## Ladies and Gentlemen of the E-3A Component Team



**'Everybody, irrespective of his or her professional activity, is responsible for flight safety.'**

One of the major concerns of the leadership, and of course of every member of a flying unit, is and must always be flight safety. This fact is sometimes so obvious that we normally don't think about it in our day to day business. Only when we witness an air accident or flight mishap - not necessarily at our Component - flight safety becomes very important and keeps us busy.

After taking over command I would like to take the opportunity to share my view on flight safety in general, without referring to any actual occurrence. My experience in many years flying military aircraft tells me that there is

no universal and officially determined definition of the concept of "flight safety". It is rather a combination of several required conditions so that a flight reaches its destination with a maximum of safety and a minimum risk of accidents, hence, an interaction between rules and regulations, environmental influences and technical and human factors.

Flight safety should be the desired optimum state in which our flight operations are executed in circumstances that can be controlled as sustainably as possible with tolerable risk. However, the areas of risk cannot be excluded completely,

but we can take some preventive action to reduce the risk to a minimum. As far as the concept of flight safety is concerned, I believe that safety is an integral part of all the work we are doing both in the air and on the ground. Safety is the prevention of accidents or to reduce them to the minimum and saving lives and property.

Continuous guidance of the leadership is required to keep safety in the flight operations and to set the various plans and tasks to raise the level of safety, which includes air safety and ground safety and the safety of installations. And the major characteristics at our

Component should be a commitment by all military and civilian personnel to the principles and the instructions of safety and implementing them in accordance with the direction and guidance and the brochures of safety that are set by the leadership for flight safety at all levels. To sum it up: everybody, irrespective of his or her professional activity is responsible for flight safety.

Per aspera ad astra.

*Karsten Stoye*  
**Brig Gen Karsten Stoye**

## V I P V I S I T S

Photo by Visual Media Services



**Lt. Gen. Robert Mood,**

*NOR Military Representative to NATO,  
visited July 1, 2015.*

**Skywatch** | 

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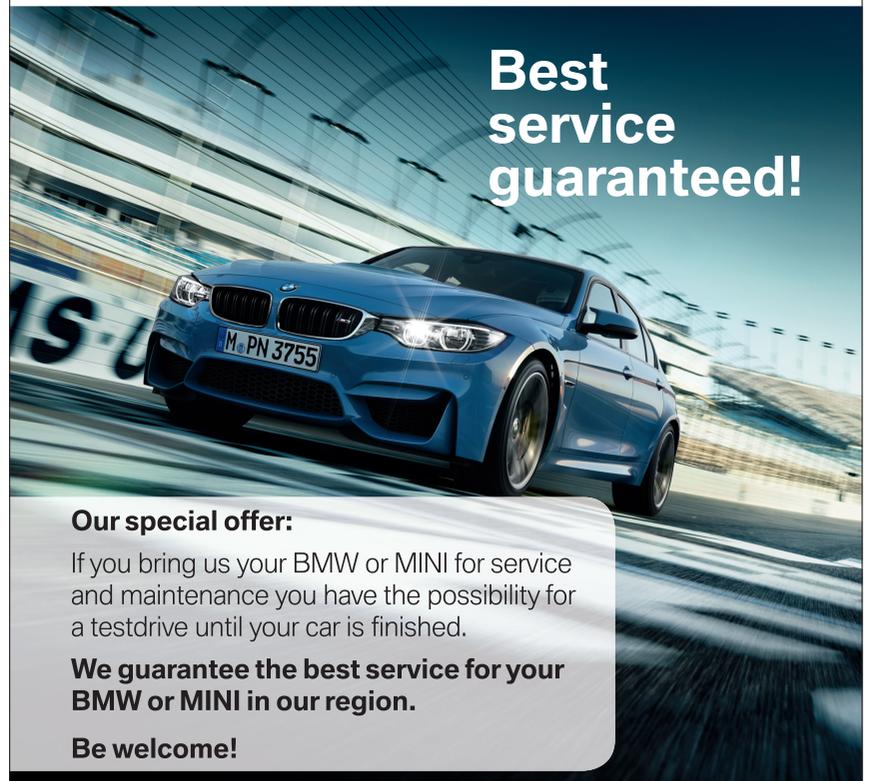
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# Oktoberfest brings summer joy: DUK donates € 6,000 to local area

Story and photo by  
Tech. Sgt. R. Michael Longoria

**The E-3A Component Oktoberfest is one of the most anticipated events at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Germany. Every year, several thousand people attend the event, which is organized by the German non-commissioned officer camaraderie (DUK).**

A fact that might not be as widely known is the DUK takes all the profits from the festival and donates it to charitable causes in the base's local area. On July 15, 2015, Brig. Gen. Karsten Stoye, Component commander, and Sgt. Alex Gieswein, DUK chairman, handed over checks to nine organizations.

Sergeant Gieswein welcomed the representatives of the various institutions and explained the background of the donation, which this year was worth 6,000 euros. The general made some brief remarks, particularly praising the commitment of the DUK. After his speech, General Stoye individually asked representatives from each organization to step forward and accept their portion of the donation as well as explain how and what the money will be used for.



*The following institutions and organizations were honored with donations: Technical Relief (THW) Übach-Palenberg; IKV Teveren; Athletics Phoenix GK; Friends Circle Selfkantkasserne; Kath. Kindergarten St. Gereon from GK-Würm; GGS Förderverein Europe Elementary School; GGS Lindenschule from Boscheln (Übach-Palenberg); Kath. Grundschule Teveren; and Hospitzbewegung Geilenkirchen CAMINO.*

## Component participates in Polish air show

By 1st Lt. Jurich

**On June 18, 2015, NATO 40 departed Geilenkirchen Air Base, Germany, bound for Deblin, Poland, in response to the invitation for the E-3A Component participates in the 90th Anniversary Jubilee for the Polish Air Force Academy, whose theme for the occasion was "90 Years – The school of Eaglets."**

Prior to the opening of the weekend's celebration, a large crowd of people had already gathered to visit the E-3A static display, and the line of visitors continued to grow throughout the day.

This was, in fact, the first ever static display of an E-3A in Poland, therefore public enthusiasm was extremely high, not only with children, but also from other aircrews, students of the Academy, as well as civilians alike. None seemed to mind the long lines that were ever present, in order to gain a unique impression of how the E-3A, its mission, and its crew functions.

Despite the fact that there were other aircraft on display, the E-3A was the only one which was open to

visitors and proved to be the biggest attraction of the day.

An additional highlight of the event was the collection of donations made on the behalf of the "Podogny Dom" (Cheerful Home) orphanage in Lublin.

The crew collected voluntary donations while handing out bags, filled with posters, pens, stickers and other material about AWACS and the Component.

The total raised was 6,000 Zloty (approximately 1,400 euros), which was presented to the orphanage during the crew's visit on Sunday. This donation, which was very much appreciated by the orphanage management and staff, will allow 20 children to have a fun-filled summer vacation. The crew was

then invited for homemade cakes and juice, while the children entertained them with choreographed dances. Next they showed the crew their home and enjoyed taking photos with the Component members.

The smiles generated that day from the faces of every child, warmed the hearts of all members of the crew, and make it a necessity to return again in the future.

*Courtesy Photos*



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# IMT completes the Walk-of-the-World



By Tech. Sgt. R. Michael Longoria

## The AWACS International Marching Team (IMT) completed the 99th 4-Daagse March in Nijmegen, the Netherlands.

The AWACS IMT, consisting of military personnel from E-3A Component, participated in the four-day march, which began July 21 and ended July 24, 2015. This marked the 30th time the NATO E-3A Component was represented at the event.

The "4-Daagse" in the region of Nijmegen is one of the most popular multinational marching events in the world. This year more than 43,000 civilian and military participants joined the "walk of the world."

Participants came from countries all over the world. Most civilians walked 200 kilometers in four days and the military participants walked 160 kilometers fully packed.

The military marchers spent their nights in "Heumensoord," a tent city located in the rural area of Nijmegen. Each morning, the first participants wake up at 02:30 and must be at the central starting point by 03:30 to begin the day's 40km march. For the military, the first three days finish back at the camo, but on day four, they are awarded the Nijmegen Medal in Charlemagne, an official rest point.

With their medals now pinned to their

shirts, the military marchers then complete the final six kilometers. The last stretch down the "Via Gladiola" is known as the "big parade."

The march officially ends in the center of Nijmegen, close to the city hall, where thousands of people welcome the marchers.

"Completing the march requires a lot of dedication and a huge personal effort," said Senior Master Sgt. Kai Basse, the IMT leader. "It's a challenging task to walk 40 kilometers and then wake up and do it again three more times. It's a mental and physical test. It is definitely something you have to train for.

Those who don't train will have aching bodies and blisters on their feet." It is impossible to imagine but it's a lot more fun than it sounds.

"Whether you want to represent the Component and/or your country, the 4-Daagse march is a great experience," Sergeant Basse said. The Dutch government, military, police, medics, countless civilian organizations and the Dutch population in and around Nijmegen really make the event memorable."

The AWACS IMT is already looking for people to join the 2016 Nijmegen March. For more information or to join the team, call Sergeant Basse at extension 3673. Also, log on to [www.4daagse.nl](http://www.4daagse.nl).

Photos by André Joosten/Wiel Borghans





# NATO AWACS AIRCRAFT REMAINS IN THE DESERT



*Continued from frontpage*

The days started early in the Tucson desert. Extreme temperatures make it necessary to accomplish most outside work in the early morning hours. From a cool 28 degrees Celsius at 05:30, the thermometer rapidly reaches the +40 degrees C by early afternoon.

Lt. Col. Gerald Probst, deployment commander and project officer for the retirement of 449, is impressed due to the professional approach of Mr. Willy Sluijsmans and his Integrated Project team, "Eight days prior to the start of this unique project, a well thought through aircraft preparation plan was completed and the aircraft was ready for departure. NATO 449 landed in Tucson on the minute as scheduled and now, a highly motivated team is working like ants to get the parts removed."

The locals warn you when stepping outside, "Stay hydrated and watch out for the rattlesnakes and critters". It's a rough place for intensive manual labor and special safety precautions apply to prevent dehydration or a heat stroke.

Mr. Sandy McIntosch has been a crew chief of 449 since it first landed at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Germany, in August of 1983, when he marshalled this aircraft upon arrival. "This aircraft is retiring this year and I'm retiring next year," tells the former RAF Airframe Fitter.

McIntosch watches closely the meter readings inside the hot cockpit while the last fuel is being pumped into ground fuel containers.

Slowly, the last bit of remaining fuel

flows out when it is bottom drained. The next step: a complete refueling with 10/10 preservation oil to coat the fuel tanks, the engines, as well as Aircraft Power Unit (APU).

The oil meter reads 23,828 gallon when the tanks are completely full. The engines have to run until white smoke is produced, indicating the engines are preserved.

A week of preparations passed and NATO E-3A 449 is ready to be towed into the desert. "This storage spot is named after me, the "Sandy place", McIntosch adds with a smile.

Mr. Edo Druzitta from Engines/ Propulsion Shop, is in Tucson to remove engine number two, the APU and to cannibalize parts from the other

three engines. "I'm proud to be part of this team, working on the retirement 449 project", he says.

Mr. Burghard Nuernberg from Electronics and Environment system is a principal technician and with the Component since 1982. He received his specialized initial AWACS maintenance training at Tinker Air Force Base, in Oklahoma, and tells, "All parts in low numbers need to be removed, but also the expensive parts like, for instance, the forced air fence oxygen converter. Because these "leading edge bleed air duct" items Force Command likes to see removed are very expensive and are hardly available on the market.

While the de- and refueling is being performed, Burkhard, Mr. Gerard van den Eijnden, Mr. Edo Druzitta



together with Mr. Thomas Roskam and Mr. Gary Simpson are able to remove and dismantle the refrigerator; remove engine cowlings and cones, life rafts, oxygen bottles and aggregators so these parts can make the first cargo load to be flown back to Geilenkirchen.

“Most of the flight controls, the, landing gear, entry doors, hydraulic components and actuators, plus flap transmissions, stabilizer trim actuator, the cockpit sliding windows are going to be removed”, tells Mr. Gerard van den Eijnden from Fuselage Section. “The biggest challenge is to get most of this equipment to meet the \$40 Million amount”, he adds while loosening bolts.

Mr. Jan Steert from Supply Stock

Control prepared the list of short supplies, based on consumption and priorities. “There are three priority categories, color coded in red, yellow and green. The highest priority is red. Some 100 crates have been built and flown in. And now, it is being coordinated between maintenance and supply in which order the dismantling, wrapping and palletizing is done until the last part on the list is dismantled,” Jan explains.

After five intensive weeks with a team of 25 persons working on 449 in the desert the work is done, the goal is reached and all milestones are met.

Almost 2,000 parts were removed from 449 and flown back to Geilenkirchen.

With the people coming home, 449

was left behind as a potential organ donor to satisfy future Component needs. A lot more work is still to be accomplished. Outsized cargo, still at AMARG, is for NATO Supply Programme Agency to ship back to the Main Operating Base and all reclaimed parts are to be physically and administratively processed.

This is to insure the parts are in serviceable condition upon return to Supply and all data bases are appropriately updated.

Again, another mission close to being successfully completed by E-3A Component personnel.

Photos by Maureen Geraets-Head, AMARG BA, Capt. André Bongers and Mr. Thomas Roskam





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# Eagles celebrate squadron's 30th Anniversary

By Senior Master Sgt. Ingo Senft

**Flying Squadron 3 members, both former and present, celebrated the squadron's 30th Anniversary, with a party at the Bavarian Kellar on June 10, 2015.**



Maj. Gen. Andrew Mueller opened the ceremonies with welcoming remarks, detailing the squadron's outstanding accomplishments over the past three decades.

Lt. Col. Daniel Held, Squadron 3 Commander, followed General Mueller's remarks by welcoming former squadron members, including several previous commanders, as well as those from support units throughout the Component.

Colonel Held then presented General Mueller, with a Squadron 3 flag as a farewell gift. The flag had been flown during the ISAF mission that covered

the 2014 Afghanistan elections, in which general was on board as the tactical director. Additionally, several current squadron members were recognized for exceptional performance, by each being presented with a certificate of appreciation and some receiving commander's coins from General Mueller.

The Anniversary celebration was dedicated to the families of three decades of Squadron 3 members, whom without their support, the accomplishments garnered by this squadron would not have been possible.

*Courtesy Photos*



## Component member runs the show at Military pilgrimage

By Maj. Johannes Glowka

**Lt. Col. Siegfried Czorny is writing the schedule of the day on a white board at the military camp side at Lourdes. He is responsible for hundreds of military pilgrims at "tent village", based on the hills, closed to the 'holy district' of Lourdes during the middle of May.**

Every year the French Army offers the members of the annual military pilgrimage the option to take rest in a separated area nearby the cave where in the early 1850s the wonder of Lourdes should have happened.

Weeks of preparation are laying behind Colonel Czorny : From the transport of the US, UKR and DEU pilgrim contingent through Germany into France by train, followed by the organization of the camp side, up to the daily routines, including the fighting against the massive rain – Colonel Czorny is responsible for everything. It is a 24/7 job for the Commander of Air Field Services Squadron.

'Cedric', an officer from the French army shares his feelings about the annual meeting: 'I am very proud that my country hosts again the world's biggest military pilgrimage. It is a great pleasure to see all different militaries united in peace.'

The 57th military pilgrimage was open again to every soldier from every country, no matter what religion he or she is practicing.

The atmosphere is very peaceful at "tent village". Soldiers of all NATO nations and of several 'Partnership for Peace' nations drop by from time to time for a small talk or a cup of coffee.



*The symbol of the 57th pilgrimage: Taking care of each other.*



*Lt. Col. Siegfried Czorny with a candle for all fallen soldiers.*

*Courtesy Photos*



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# Graduates honored in commencement ceremony



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kelly Brown

By Valerie Haas

**From logistics and transportation to aeronautical science and space operations, the NATO Airbase Geilenkirchen Education Center presented more than 40 undergraduate and graduate degrees to E-3A Component members and dependents, as well as military members stationed at Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum (NL).**

One-by-one, these degree recipients walked across the stage of the Mass Briefing Facility in recognition of their academic accomplishments in a commencement ceremony held on May 12, 2015. School advisors from the four on-base institutions (Community College of the Air Force, University of Maryland University

College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and the University of Oklahoma) assisted Lt Col Brady Vaira, 470th Air Base Squadron Commander, in conferring the degrees. Additionally, former Commander of the Base Support Group at JFC Brunssum, Col Michael Lamb, gave a motivating commencement address.

Viewing their accomplishments as a pit-stop, he encouraged the graduates to continue pursuing their next goal in life, whether it is further education, a career milestone, or simply traveling through Europe.

Education Services Officer Randolph Phelan gives credit for the event to Ms. Michele Lott, Education Center Academic Advisor, and Ms. Valerie Lyn Peterson-Borro, University of Oklahoma Area Site Director, for coordinating the ceremony. "Being able to recognize the educational accomplishments of our community members is truly an honor. Ms. Lott

and Ms. Peterson-Borro spearheaded this amazing event, and through their efforts, I hope others are inspired to achieve their educational goals. I would also like to thank Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Geilenkirchen Top III Association, American Spouses of Geilenkirchen, and the 470th Booster Club—without their assistance, this event would not have been possible."

For more information on pursuing your own educational goals, visit the Education Center in building 89, across the street from Commerzbank or call ext. 2244.

## Get your soccer award on your way to the "DSA"

**The German support unit invites you to achieve the "Fußballabzeichen" (soccer award) by showing your soccer skills in five different disciplines (dribbling, short passing, ball crossing, headers and penalties) at the NATO Air Base soccer field on Sept. 7, 2015, from 1400 to 1800.**

Members of every nation are entitled to participate as long as you are born before 2007. You can also bring your family and friends along as long as you guarantee them base access. It will take about 20 minutes to pass the test and is free of charge.

Find more details on the event on [fussi2015@web.de](mailto:fussi2015@web.de). Please register by no later than Aug. 31, 2015.

If you are able to achieve the silver level or higher, your "Fußballabzeichen" can be accepted as a gold level score for the "DSA - Deutsche Sportabzeichen" (German

sports award) in the category "coordination".

The "DSA" is a 100 year old civilian award and it's an annual requirement for every German soldier. It consists of four skill categories comprising endurance, power, speed and coordination. You can select one discipline of each category and you can try to improve your scores during the actual calendar year. Depending on your total score you will be awarded the "DSA" in gold, silver or bronze. If you like to receive more information about the "DSA" or want to try it out, please contact [dsa2015@web.de](mailto:dsa2015@web.de).

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Perform the SOCCER AWARD in Silver or Gold level and you can use it for the GERMAN SPORTS AWARD (group of coordination as Gold performance!)

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\*born before 2007

**SHOW YOUR SKILLS!**

# MWA INFORMATION

## UPCOMING EVENTS & IYA ACTIVITIES

(Open to all US and NATO identification card holders)

### AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

Visit the Services Branch WSS Web Page for the latest program information and upcoming events

POC: IYA Events: Mrs Neuhalfen, ext. 4954; Sports Events: Mr Stelten, ext. 4920; Food Services: Mr Peeters, ext. 4990



#### IYA Mosel Valley Trip to Eltz Castle and Cochem with Winefest:

Saturday, 29 August, 0800 – 2000. Visit the huge medieval fairy-tale castle Burg Eltz. Travel on to the beautiful historic town of Cochem. On the market place in the old town and along the Mosel River the winegrowers are celebrating the annual Winefest with music, regional booths and traditional food. Our luxury bus departs from outside the Main Gate. Cost including guided tour of Eltz Castle and entrance to its Treasury is € 25 for ages 18 and up, € 23 for ages 6 to 17, and € 17 for ages 5 and under with MWA-Card, € 37 for ages 18 and up, € 34 for ages 6 to 17, and € 25 for ages 5 and under without MWA-Card.

#### IYA Trip to Bruges:

Saturday, 12 September, 0730 – 2030. Explore one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. Walking along the maze of winding cobbled alleys, romantic canals, and magnificent Gothic squares you imagine yourself to be in medieval times. Beside the wealth of architectural and artistic treasures you find a huge variety of stores, cafes, pubs and restaurants. The town is famous for its traditional Belgian cooking, hand-made chocolate pralines, and lace. Optional: you can join the tour guide on an orientation walk across the historical city centre, which is included in the UNESCO World Heritage list. Our luxury bus departs from the parking lot outside the Front Gate. Cost is € 26, pay only € 18 with MWA Card.

**IYA Mixed Martial Arts** classes under the experienced and certified instruction of Mr. Christian Ecklé are starting on 17 August. Instruction is at the Old Gym on Mondays and Wednesdays, 1700 to 1830 for ages 6 to 15, and 1830 to 2000 for ages 16 and up. Cost for a 1,5-months course, 17 August to 23 September, is € 37,50, with a € 3,75 discount for the second and each additional family member. The first class is free.

#### Volkshochschul German Language Course for Children

The program is especially designed to integrate children from other countries into the German Kindergarten and Grundschule. Individual tuition in small groups for children aged 5 and up in accordance with the curriculum of the German school system starts on 3 September. Classes are held at the IYA on Thursdays, 1500 – 1630 or 1630 - 1800, under the experienced and certified instruction of Manuela Beck. Cost is € 45 for an eight-week course.

#### IYA Swimming Courses for Beginners and Advanced Beginners

for ages 5 and up at the Hallenbad in Heinsberg start on 9 September: Wednesdays, 1800 to 1900. Our certified instructors speak English and German, and work with the children in small groups. Cost for 12 lessons is € 90, pay only € 65 with your valid MWA Card.

#### Food festival in Maaseik (Belgium)

During the weekend of August 14 to 16, 2015, the market place in Maaseik, Belgium, is the scenery for a good festival where the best restaurants of the local area (Belgian and Dutch) present their specialties, to include quite a variety of wine and of course Belgian beer. For more information, visit [www.hartbufkespreuve.com](http://www.hartbufkespreuve.com) (in Dutch).

#### Scottish weekend in Bilzen (Belgium)

From September 11 to 13, 2015, the 30th edition of the Scottish weekend will take place in an appropriate setting: castle "Alden Biesen" in Bilzen (Belgium), about an hour driving from Geilenkirchen. Tickets can be ordered in advance or bought at the entrance. For more information, visit the event's Web site, <http://www.schotsweekend.be/>, which is available in four languages.

Visit us for the  
**German Tropical Cocktail Party**  
**Thursday 27.08.2015**  
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**Building 98**  
*(former Canadian NSU)*

A German Tropical Cocktail Party will be held on Aug. 27, 2015, starting at 1500 in Building 98, the former Canadian NSU. The aim is to have a party with some delicious cocktails, drinks and food in a summer, sun tropical atmosphere. To have a rough overview about the barbeque supply we ask you to buy tickets for Bratwurst and Steaks (Pork and Chicken) in advance from Building 98 beginning July 1.

**GKRA 2015**  
**Motorcycle Rally**  
Where: NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen  
When: Friday August 7th to Sunday August 9th

**GEILENKIRCHEN**  
**RIDERS ASSOCIATION**

Event includes:  
Friday Night Dinner  
Saturday Breakfast, Poker Run, Games, Dinner  
Sunday Breakfast  
Registration is required by July 27th  
Registration info at [www.GK-riders.blogspot.de](http://www.GK-riders.blogspot.de)  
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