

## 'Future Prospects'

Photo by Andrea Hohenforst

*Twenty-two young ladies from schools in the Geilenkirchen area were invited to the E-3A Component's Girls' Day on April 26 at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen. The Girls' Day was a Component Commander's initiative to support the annual Germany-wide conducted Girls' Day. The idea behind the Girls' Day is to give girls a backstage view on technical professions and first hand information on job profiles. The girls got the chance to learn a lot about AWACS and different technical professions on base.*

*Component members explained to the girls how a radar works, why detailed weather forecasts are needed and how the tower personnel supports aircraft coming in or going out. The German NSU supported the Component's initiative. "We were very grateful to get this support," says Lt. Col. Antje Kalka from Public Affairs. "Our aim was to give the girls a chance to ask questions. And it is always easier in your native tongue." For more information, log on to [www.girls-day.de](http://www.girls-day.de)*



# Queen's Day

By Capt. Michel Bulte

The Netherlands Contingency celebrated the national Queen's Day on NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen April 26.



Courtesy photo by Isselmuden  
People celebrate Queen's Day in Amsterdam.

Queen's Day in the Netherlands is the celebration of the official birthday of our ruling monarch, Queen Beatrix. Although Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands was born on January 31, her birthday is officially celebrated on April 30. This day was in fact the birthday of her mother, the late Queen Juliana. When Queen Beatrix mounted the throne in 1980, she decided to honour her mother by nominating April 30 as Queen's Day.

Although some political parties would like to change her position, the Queen is the ruling Head of State. Due to the withdrawal of one of the parties from the coalition, she will be actively engaged in the ongoing coordination process to form a new government. On Queen's Day the Dutch population shows its dedication to her Majesty

the Queen and the House of Orange-Nassau as a whole. Orange festivals and free markets where everybody can sell something like old furniture, toys, books etc, take place all over the Netherlands. Traditionally the Queen and the Royal family visit one or two towns during the day. This year it was Rhenen and Veenendaal in the centre of the Netherlands. The Royal family celebrated the day with the local population and actively engaged in folklore and entertainment activities. This active participation reflects the modest, down-to-earth profile of the family. That profile, together with the Queen's reputation of a hard working individual, explains why the monarchy remains highly popular.

The Deputy Commander, Col. Ton van Happen, as Senior National Representative hosted a national reception in the E3-A Club. Among the guests were the Chief of Staff JFCB, Lt.Gen. Tieskens, the Component Commander, Brig.Gen. Pototzky, and mayors from surrounding towns in

Germany and the Netherlands as well as military officials from different countries from the Component.

Col. van Happen honoured Queen Beatrix and explained in his speech the tradition of Queen's Day (as depicted earlier in this article) and welcomed the distinguished guests. He also honoured all comrades who serve or have served on missions over Afghanistan, the Balkans and Libya during operation Unified Protector last year.

He reminded everybody that while working for peace and security casualties amongst our soldiers still happen and that there is sometimes a terrible price to pay to achieve freedom which we in the western world almost take for granted. Not only in actual combat operations but also in training to defend this freedom, referring to the Norwegian C-130 Hercules loss and death of its five member crew in March. A moment of silence was observed in respect of all fallen comrades in arms.

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## Welding Shop keeps Component flying

By Staff Sgt. R. Michael Longoria

The E-3A Component has been operating with the same aircraft for nearly 30 years, but this comes as no surprise to the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (AMS), which works diligently to keep the Component's flagship aircraft in the air.

The welding shop, particularly the three aircraft welders, combines experience and specialty training to support the AMS and the Logistics Wing. The U.S. Air Force technical sergeant and the two NATO civilians weld all ground equipment and various aircraft parts.

The welding shop manufactures numerous items including special tools, racks (deicing section), modifying of trailers, equipment for trucks, modifying of the new VIP-Stands (on TDY in Greece and Norway as well), repair and modify



*This is an example of a test piece. It was for testing a patch repair of a diffuser case.*

of age equipment, repair and modify of sports department equipment.

But the most important things are welding aircraft parts to let the E-3A fly such as diffuser cases, heat exchangers, fire loops, tail pipes, knee caps, fuel dump chutes and more.

"These are difficult welds and not everyone can do this task," said Andreas Weibrecht. "Aircraft welding requires special certifications and there are higher standards."

To become an aircraft welder and stay certified, individuals must attend an annual two-week seminar, where they have to demonstrate their skills and pass a welding test. Test pieces have to be made every year by qualified aircraft welders at the annual recertification and for every material (Stainless Steel, Aluminum, A286, Titanium, Inconel, SS410, 4130). An external engineer, certified by the "Luftfahrtbundesamt" from the Federal Office of Civil Aeronautics, has to evaluate the test pieces. He evaluates it with x-rays and special micro-sections. And no imperfection or blowhole is allowed.

"Each weld is looked at under a microscope," said Tech. Sgt. Jason Nelson. "The smallest imperfection could fail you. If a welder fails, he will lose his certification for welding aircraft parts and possibly his job."



*This is a stairway that was designed and manufactured/welded by welding shop. It's one example for things that welding shop manufactured for other shops and section.*



*An aircraft welder performs a weld on a cracked diffuser case.*

## A day of Aircraft Maintenance Squadron supervision

Chief Master Sgt. Mehmet Pak

As the E-3A Component Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (AMS), our duty is to keep the health of the fleet really high and reliable to fulfill the missions done by the Operations Wing.

We have to make sure that everything is done on the flight line and every job performed on the aircrafts are up to standards

according to the safety regulations and technical orders. AMS Supervision is the command and control mechanism of all those scheduled and unscheduled activities.

As AMS Supervision, we should meet each other everyday more than once to discuss the scheduled and unscheduled maintenance activities. We generally start the day with a very early meeting (0645) with

the representatives of Electronic Maintenance Squadron and LW Job Control. We call them as Falcon 4 (EMS) and Prosuper (Job Control). First of all we check what the swing (night shift) team has done so far and what else needs to be done to fix the broken aircraft.

Afterward we check the status of the aircraft scheduled to fly on that day and also see where we are at about the scheduled maintenances like phase, TCTO etc. After the meeting they share those information and possible action plans with their shop chiefs and supervision, so that we can have a better coordination and same plan to follow not to cause any inconveniences on the flight line.

Then we have our own meeting with the shop/branch chiefs to go in details and discuss the possible action plans and approaches about

the problems we encountered. We do it almost everyday and know each other better. After a certain time, even before we task them, all shop chiefs know what they need to do and with whom they need to talk after that meeting to solve the problem or to arrange a maintenance flow. We have the feeling that "We are a Team" and we work for the same goal "Peace in the World." We don't see anything impossible not only here at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen but also anywhere in the world, we are needed to support that mission.

We are proud of our supervision team members who are in the picture and those who are not \* OR-8 Rudzki (Phase), OR-6 Headricks (E&E), OR-8 Higgs (F/L), OR-8 Schoel (F/L), OR-8 Welling, OR-8 Infanzon, OR-9 Vogel (Br.Ch), OR-9 Tolu (LWAO), OF-2 Palmer (LWAO) and OF-4 Lambert (LWA).



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**Commander**  
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**Chief, Public Affairs**  
Lt. Col. Antje Kalka

**Editor**  
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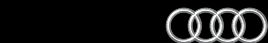
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## FOB Konya shines during inspection

From the Skywatch archives

**Editor's Note:** This story was featured in Skywatch Volume 11, Number 9. This story is re-printed, in its entirety, how it was published on May 12, 1995.

Both the sun and the performance were brilliant when 28 inspectors from Force Command and the E-3A Component descended upon FOB Konya from April 24 to 28 to conduct Konya's first-ever consolidated inspection.

Maintenance employees also joined this deployment since FOB Konya will be closed due to taxiway repair until September.

This comprehensive inspection of several operational, support and administrative areas confirmed the exceptional operational capability of the FOB to meet the demands of the NAEW mission. The specific functional areas inspected included: airworthiness; communications information systems; environmental protection; infrastructure; intelligence; petroleum, oil and lubricants; security; supply and transportation.

All team chiefs reported, almost exclusively, findings and observations of a complimentary nature.

Lt. Col. van Haastreht, inspection team leader, emphasized at the briefing that "openness is very important" because only then the "work areas can improve." The purpose is "not to point a finger were things go wrong but discussing the matter to help and giving advice."

Consolidated inspections are new to the FOBs and FOL. This year the majority of individual functional inspections previously carried out have been combined to occur during a one-week period at each site. This has reduced the overall continuous disruption to each base or location, while continuing to provide verification of NAEWF activities in the most efficient and effective manner. Additionally, this amalgamation makes possible the on-site coordination of all overlapping functional are inspection responsibilities, and provides cost savings and simplified travel arrangements by TCA for the inspection teams, according to Van Haastreht.



FOB Konya personnel pose in front of a TCA and the recently-completed hangar. Flying activity at the base has been suspended temporarily because of taxiway repairs. Crews deploying to Turkey between now and September will operate out of Antalya.

The consolidated inspection at Konya was the second of the year as FOB Trapani was evaluated from March 6 to 10. FOL Oerland will be inspected from June 26 to 30. FOB Aktion's end-of-May inspection has been postponed due to the operational tempo at the site. The rescheduled date is anticipated to be in September.

Colonel Düzel and his staff at FOB Konya are commended

for their excellent efforts and accomplishments demonstrated during this year's inspection.

The inspection team also wishes to extend their appreciation for the outstanding co-operation and hospitality extended by the commander, the officers and all FOB members during the very busy four-day inspection. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you again next year.



Photos by Andrea Hohenforst

## Safety first

Members of the E-3A Component Logistics Wing participate in safety day activities on April 4. The Log Wing took the opportunity on to go over some critical topics specifically related to maintenance ground safety activities. They discussed safety reporting, operating in extreme weather conditions, hazardous materials, proper personal protective equipment and safe lifting techniques to prevent back injuries. They also talked about career specific information such as radiation and electrical shock dissemination. These topics filled annual training requirements and highlighted special interest items that are important for all Log Wing personnel.

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Floriade is a World Horticultural Exposition. World expositions are major international exhibitions that have been taking place across the

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### Hours

Floriade is open April 5 to June 20 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., June 21 to Sept. 2 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sept. 3 to Oct. 7 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. During the summer months the Environment and World Show Stage theme worlds will be open until late on Fridays and Saturdays until 11 p.m.

For more information, check the website on [www.floriade.com](http://www.floriade.com).

Courtesy photos of Floriade 2012



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A circular logo for the NATO AWACS 30th Anniversary Jubilee. It features a globe in the center with the number '30' and the years '1982' and '2012'. The text 'NATO AWACS' and 'E-3A COMPONENT' is written around the bottom of the circle. The logo is surrounded by various national flags.

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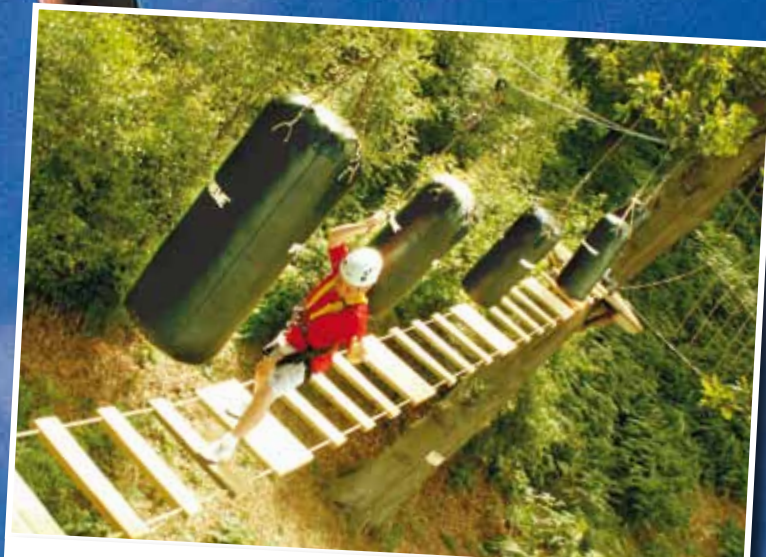
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- 0830 – 1230**   **Mountain Bike Tour (Advanced)**  
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- 0915 – 1030**   **German Sports Award**  
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- 0930 – 1300**   **Tournaments (Soccer, Softball, Volleyball,**  
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- 1030 – 1200**   **Bench Press**
- 1030 – 1300**   **Fitness Classes (see separate schedule)**
- 1330 – 1500**   **“Fun Games” Contest**
- 1530**            **Awards Presentation**
- 1600 – 1800**   **Recreational Time**

**Enjoy This Day!!!!!!!**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Caber

## Spring into Shape

*Runners take off at the beginning of the “Spring into Shape” 5K Run April 27 at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen. The Air Force Sergeants’ Association held the run to raise money for the U.S. Air Force Assistance Fund and, with 46 participants, they collected \$1,260. Crossing the finish line at 19 minutes 47 seconds, John Clough was the first individual to complete the run. Laura Haberstroh was the first female to cross the finish line and completed the run in 24 minutes 21 seconds.*

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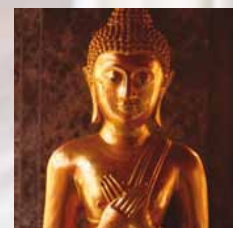
Open Tuesday-Friday 1700-2200 hrs • Saturday/Sunday 1200-2200 hrs  
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also for take away

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*garden*

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Tue to Sat 1700-2200 hrs  
Sun 1600-2200 hrs

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# PENTAGON CAR SALES

## THE BEST VALUE FOR MONEY

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**Why pay more and settle for less? Check out the all-new 3 Series at a PCS showroom near you - TODAY!**

#### AUDI A4 (2012 model)

Mil Sales Price: \$30,400  
Germany Delivery: \$1,600 (approx)  
U.S. Home Shipping: \$1,500 (approx)

8 Sp Automatic: STANDARD  
0-60mph: 6.5 sec  
City: 22 mpg  
Hwy: 30 mpg  
Horsepower: 211 hp  
Torque: 258 lb/ft  
CO2 Emissions: 355g/mile  
Luggage Vol.: 12.4 cu.ft  
Navigation Screen: 7"

#### NEW BMW 328i (2012 model)

**Mil Sales Price: \$30,800**  
**Germany Delivery: \$280**  
**U.S. Home Shipping: INCLUDED**

**8 Sp Automatic: STANDARD**  
**0-60mph: 5.7 sec**  
**City: 24 mpg**  
**Hwy: 36 mpg**  
**Horsepower: 240 hp**  
**Torque: 260 lb/ft**  
**CO2 Emissions: 317g/mile**  
**Luggage Vol.: 13 cu.ft.**  
**Navigation Screen 8.8"**

#### MERCEDES C250 S (2012 model)

Mil Sales Price: \$31,320  
Germany Delivery: N/C (Factory)  
U.S. Home Shipping: \$1,500 (approx)

8 Sp Automatic: N/A  
0-60mph: 7.1 sec  
City: 21 mpg  
Hwy: 31 mpg  
Horsepower: 201 hp  
Torque: 229 lb/ft  
CO2 Emissions: 355g/mile  
Luggage Vol.: 12.4 cu.ft  
Navigation Screen: 7"

\* All data as presented in official documentation and in the public domain. All data should be verified by individual. Pentagon Car Sales is not responsible for variations in data, as values may vary slightly by source, test conditions and specifications. Where possible, individual category values were taken from the same source to ensure accurate and unbiased comparison. Sources: BMW usa.com; Audiusa.com; Automobilemag.com; MBusa.com

## PENTAGON CAR SALES

### Germany

Ramstein  
Kindsbacher Str. 47  
66877 Ramstein-Miesenbach  
Tel: 06371 61 39 90

Kaiserslautern  
Kaiserstrasse 1  
67661 Kaiserslautern  
Tel: 0631 351 90 40

Heidelberg  
Hebelstrasse 3  
69115 Heidelberg  
Tel: 06221 144 90

Mainz/Wiesbaden  
Ludwig-Wolker-Str. 14  
55252 Mainz-Kastel  
Tel: 06134 567 80

**Spangdahlem**  
**Im Kreuzgarten 1 A**  
**54529 Spangdahlem**  
**Tel: 06565 93 69 90**

### Italy

Aviano  
Via Pordenone 48D  
33081 Aviano (PN)  
Tel: 0434 676 613

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Email: Naples@  
pentagoncarsales.com

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Email: Sig@  
pentagoncarsales.com

Vicenza  
Viale Della Pace 254  
36100 Vicenza (VI)  
Tel: 0444 91 09 38

### Spain

Rota  
Plaza Del Triunfo 6  
11520 Rota (Cadiz)  
Tel: 956 840 201

**THE ONLY OFFICIAL BMW MILITARY SALES AGENCY AUTHORIZED TO SERVE YOU IN THESE AREAS.**