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# Hermänner sword finds new wall

Text and photo  
SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

At the stroke of 1200 on Wednesday, 3 March the sword of the 'Hermänner' Association was placed on the wall of the E-3A Club. Until then this traditional society was based at the Frisbee Club, which merged with the Officers' Club on 1 March. "I'm quite excited that I can welcome one of the oldest associations on base in the new E-3A Club," said Mr. René Peeters, Food Service Section Manager. "And I want to emphasize that, where possible, I would like to support other associations also."

The Hermänner Association was established on 07.07.87. "The Association got its name from the Hermann Statue placed in the Teutoburger Forest," explained SMSgt. (Ret) Eugen Toelle, who led the initiative to establish the association in 1987. "The original sword held by the statue is 7 metres

long and weighs 500,000 kg. The statue was erected in 1875 to commemorate the victory of the ancient Germans over the Romans in the Battle of the Teutoburger Forest in 8 AD." The term 'Herman the German' is also commonly used by English speakers as an affectionate name for the Hermann Statue.

"It is our custom to meet each other every Wednesday around noon in the vicinity of the sword. At 1200 precisely, in an official ceremony, the sword is then turned. During our time together all kind of subjects are discussed. You can understand that as we are active members and former members of the Component, many of these issues are related to the base. Of course, we are delighted that we found a new corner in the E-3A Club. After we approached Mr. Peeters he immediately gave his permission. A very good example of how to merge the Clubs."



The final work of placing the sword on the wall was done by MSgt. Dieter Mertens, SMSgt. Manfred Cordy, MSgt. (Ret) Icke Mankewitz and SMSgt. (Ret) Eugen Toelle.

## Signing Ceremony marks consolidated travel services partnership between NAPMA and NAMA

By NAPMA Staff

Based on a recent initiative to streamline efforts among NATO Agencies and become more efficient in the field of shared services, the General Managers of both NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Programme Management Agency (NAPMA) and NATO Airlift Management Agency (NAMA) signed a Memorandum of Agreement on 19 February, whereby NAPMA will provide Travel Management Services to NAMA. The signing ceremony took place at NAPMA's General Manager's Office.

Through this agreement NAPMA will provide travel services to NAMA employees and members of the Strategic Airlift Capability Heavy Airlift Wing (HAW), the multinational military unit supported by NAMA, ordering air tickets and car rentals in accordance with their travel regulations.

Although the agreement was made official by means of this ceremony,

the NAPMA travel office has already been providing this service to NAMA and HAW personnel since October 2008 in order to gain experience. During 2009 approximately 310 NAMA and HAW travels (mostly cross Atlantic) were realised through NAPMA, saving roughly 20% costs. These savings could be achieved due to NAPMA, having a huge experience in the travel "playing field", offering fares that are in general 20% lower

than when using a regular travel agency.

Both NAPMA and NAMA have been strong supporters of the concept of consolidated travel services between the NATO Agencies, which was initiated by NAPMA in 2007. The purpose of this consolidated travel concept was to achieve increased bargaining leverage by consolidating travel purchases in order to gain

benefits resulting in lower overall cost to NATO.

Although many NATO agencies were interested in this type of shared services for travel, the agreement between NAPMA and NAMA is the first tangible result.

NAPMA, located in Brunssum, the Netherlands, is the executive agency responsible for the day-to-day management of the NAEW&C Programme. As such, NAPMA manages all aspects of the Programme from acquisition through delivery of modernization products and on through Life Cycle Sustainment.

NAMA is responsible for the management of NATO's Airlift Management Programme and wide-ranging support of the HAW. NAMA is headquartered in Luxembourg with offices in Hungary and the United States. The HAW operates the NAMO owned fleet of Boeing C-17 Globemaster III transport aircraft out of Pápa Air Base in Hungary.



Brig. Gen. Ludwig Leinhos, General Manager of NAPMA, and Mr. Gunnar Borch, General Manager of NAMA sign the Memorandum of Agreement for Support for Travel Management to NAMA.



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# A collection of 2,000 patches

By SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

**"Is it an infectious disease?" I ask Frank Offergeld, when I meet him at the Fire Brigade Station. "Hmm," he says, looking over part of his collection of 2,000 patches spread out in front of him on the table. "For 2 years someone from Belgium wanted to buy the collection. I discussed it with my wife and we asked ourselves, shall we? In the end I didn't sell them because it's all too valuable to me. No, it's not a disease. But it's surely a passion... and it's fun."**

Since January 2001 fireman Offergeld has been working at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen. It all started in that year when he began to collect Fire Brigade patches. Soon this area of interest became too small for him and in 2002 he shifted his attention to 'Airborne Early Warning' patches. Currently he has around 2,000 patches in his collection, of which 500 different ones are from the E-3A Component itself.

"Many countries in the world, from Australia to Japan and from the United States to several countries in Europe, have airborne early warning systems in their national defences," says Offergeld. "This means that all over the world there are quite a lot of patches." During these years he won several 'victories' – patches that are hard to get. He describes his latest victories as real winners. "Especially hard to get are patches from the Japanese AWACS, as our patches community has hardly any contact with that part of Asia. In September last year Squadron 1 participated in an exercise in Alaska in which the Japanese AWACS participated too. Crewmember SMSgt. Andre Boschen managed to get six different patches from the Japanese crews to extend my collection. Really great!"

Collectors have been collecting military patches for centuries. Patches are actually designed to show loyalty and courage and are quite colourful and unique. All branches of the military service wear patches and some collectors, like Offergeld, decide to collect those from one specific branch. Some may also collect other military supplies and collectibles. But not Offergeld. "Focusing on one collection is enough," he says, "although another hobby of mine is taking photographs during air shows. I returned with more than 12,000 photos from the last one I attended in September in the Czech Republic."

Visiting air shows is what he has already been doing since his youth. As his father was an aviation



*Frank Offergeld climbs into the fire truck.*

Photos MSgt. Chris Braun

enthusiast he took young Frank to all kind of air displays in Germany. "Nowadays we take a group of up to 8 persons from the Fire Brigade to visit air shows," says Offergeld. "Depending on the distance or the



*Frank Offergeld's latest 'victory': 6 Japanese AWACS patches.*

*The E-MACC XIII patch, received from Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Axel Tüttelmann.*



best connection we use our cars or book commercial flights. On average we do that four to six weekends a year." In addition to the interest in all the flying and ground displays the air shows are also places to trade. "I take my sample book with an overview of my patches collection to every air show. There is one page of the folder that I especially promote to other persons because it shows some patches that I know exist but are still not in my collection."

Most collectors use the Internet as a way of buying, selling, trading, and researching patches. This provides collectors with greater access to a wider variety of patches and information than they have ever had before. This is something that Offergeld acknowledges too. "In January 2007 I started my own Web page – [www.awacs-patches.com](http://www.awacs-patches.com) – and since then my contacts are worldwide. I have regular contact with collectors in Mexico, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Brazil, to mention just a few countries." As this Web page was his own idea, a good friend helped him design it. After an air show the sorting out of the photos takes quite some time, but the time he spends on displaying his patches collection on the Web is much less. "Once a month I add new updates to my Web page. It only takes me 2 hours."

Until now the Web page had approximately 30,000 hits. "On average 30 persons a day visit the page. Much more than I expected in the beginning," says Offergeld. Recently the former E-3A Component and Force Commander Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Axel Tüttelmann came on line.

"After seeing my collection he offered me a very special patch: the E-MACC XIII, of which only 30 were made. And a few days later I received the patch from him, another triumph."

Offergeld extends his collection via the Internet too. "I got most of my collection together by trading, and I look at e-Bay every day to enlarge my assortment." But he not only collects patches – he designs them as well. And he has plenty of ideas. "When I hear that crews and E-3A aircraft are going to particular destinations for exercises or air shows it's always a challenge to design a special patch for this. As a rule I use Coral Draw or Photoshop to prepare designs and then I discuss them afterwards with my good friend SMSgt. Jürgen Wiczarkowicz, another fervent collector of patches, from Squadron 3." When the final decision is made the design is sent to the embroidery.

The first patch embroidery work was done in the United States during the 1880s on Irish swing-needle machines, but domestic machines were also used, and these techniques are still used in other countries where patches are embroidered with great skill and artistry.

**Offergeld is especially interested in the 'old' patches. In the 'Unknown Gallery' on his Web page you'll find AWACS patches, but he does not know which Wing or Squadron they originally came from. "There are plenty of unidentified patches in my collection," he says. "If anyone thinks they can help me, they shouldn't hesitate to get in touch with me."**





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# IDH - the end of an

By SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

**On 25 February the International Dining Hall (IDH) 'Star Chef' served its last meals to customers as a result of the reorganization of Morale and Welfare Activities. As of 1 March this facility is known as the 'Rotodome'.**

An era has come to an end, said the majority of the 50 staff members. Mr. Eric Stukken is one of the 22 cooks, and for the last two years he has been shift leader. "But there is no time for whining," he said. "We have still our mission to do, using our expertise for the benefit of our customers." Like his colleagues he chose his profession because of the challenges it offers. "I always looked for the artistry in my job. Our highest priority is our clients' satisfaction." With the reorganization he returns to the Flight Kitchen staff. "No more cooking anymore for me," he said sadly.

Stukken chose 25 years ago to take a job at the NATO E-3A Component because of its international environment. At the IDH he worked with colleagues of 6 different nationalities. "I especially appreciated the loyalty of colleagues, and I will surely miss them in future."

E-3A Component personnel enjoyed the delicious food provided by the IDH since the start of its existence in the early 1980s. On an average day the kitchen served approx. 1,200 meals (breakfast/lunch/dinner), but this number varied depending on the season. The kitchen staff ensured that they met their aim of offering sophisticated home-cooked food and international cuisine. The range of cuisine represented at the IDH was very international, including recipes from exotic places like India.

Manager Mr. Jürgen Plohmann led the IDH for the past 12 years. "We also tried to provide top quality," he said. In view of the fact that the seating capacity was often fully used, he and his staff clearly succeeded in achieving that aim. "In addition to Component members themselves, their families and military personnel from outside agencies like HQ JFC AFNORTH Brunssum and Niederheid used our facility." The quality of the food and the all-inclusive price, instead of having to buy each item separately, attracted many customers.

Just as the IDH was a dining home for families, the staff was a family too. "There was real comradeship," said Plohmann. "As you spent much more time here in your working environment than in your own home, the staff felt like a family. You work together, you quarrel with each other, and you have fun together. And as the manager I very much appreciated the fact that I always could count on them."

He was also able to count on them for special functions. "When there were dinners, like the American Thanksgiving, that were too big for any of the Clubs, then the event was held at the IDH," Plohmann explained. "And we were also the main supplier for the 4 days of the Component's 25th Anniversary Event in 2008, when we provided 4,000 lunch boxes, 16,000 dinners and a large number of VIP buffet dishes," he said. And as another example he mentioned the IDH's involvement in last year's Oktoberfest, for which he and his staff provided 800 'Schweinshaxen', 100 kg of 'Leberkäse' and 1,200 'Grillhänchen'.

Teamwork was essential for providing that quality over the last three decades. The 22 cooks were often in the picture, but behind the scenes the mess attendants did their job with complete dedication too. "We were responsible for the hygiene within the facility," explained shift leader Mrs. Angelika Winkler, who worked at the IDH for 29 years. "We cleaned and arranged the tables, and we made sure the plates, cutlery and tableware were always available. We also did the table decoration and manned the cash till. The customer was always king. We tried to give the IDH an atmosphere where customers could relax for a while before they had to go back to their working environment. And we did this 365 days a year, because our facility was always open, even on holidays."

**Like Winkler, most of the other attendants worked for many years at the IDH. "With the closure of the IDH I lost my family, my heart died," she said, showing her inner feelings. "Until the last day the girls worked with complete devotion and 100% motivation, all for our guests. They will also familiarize the Rotodome personnel with their new jobs, even though they don't know what the future will bring for them." Tears flowed on 25 February as an era came to its end.**



*The IDH staff poses together during the last American Thanksgiving.*

**"The staff at the IDH are some of the finest food service professionals I have had the pleasure of working with in my 25+ years of military service. Their personal contributions went far beyond the serving line, as they touched so many lives in so many positive ways."**

*SMSgt. Bob Bell  
Chief, Food Services Branch*



*Due to the excellent food and atmosphere the seating capacity often was exhausted at the IDH.*



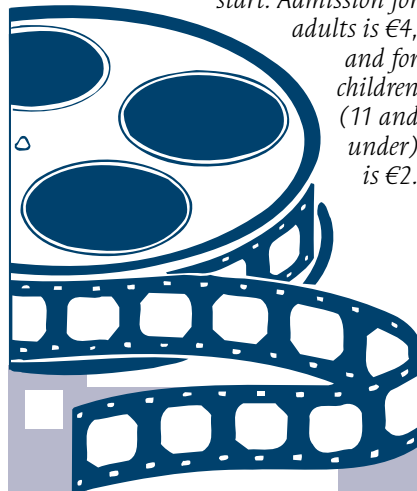




...the customers liked the varied choice of food.  
Photos Andrea Hohenforst

## 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.



### Daybreakers (R)

Friday, 19 March, 1930  
Ethan Hawke,  
Willem Dafoe

### Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG)

Saturday, 20 March, 1600  
Anna Farris,  
Justin Long

### Sherlock Holmes (PG-13)

Saturday, 20 March, 1900  
Robert Downey Jr.,  
Jude Law

## International Women's Club

**All upcoming international evenings of the IWC will take place in the E-3A Club.**

On 18 March a Norwegian Night will take place, with special cuisine and show hosted by Norwegian Ladies. On 15 April there will be the Italian Night themed 'Baci da Roma' (Kisses from Rome) with special cuisine and show hosted by the Italian Ladies.

Every lady is welcome to attend events. If you aren't a member, you can enter the event for a €10 ticket at the door. On 20 May a Bingo Night will take place, but this is for members only. I hope you can join the Club very soon! For any further details please contact Francesca Romana Concari, IWC President, at [alefraeri@yahoo.it](mailto:alefraeri@yahoo.it)



# PLANE SPOTTER

**This aircraft landed at Geilenkirchen Air Base**

**Do you know what it is?**

SEE PAGE 10



Photo A1C David Pohl

## International Youth Activities

Information and registration at the IYA Office in Bldg 95, x 4954/4955.

**Spring Break Program** for children aged 6 and older: 29 March to 9 April, 0745 to 1745. Enjoy fun games, exciting contests, egg hunt, arts & crafts, sports & hikes, free play, special projects, movies and much more. Session I: 29 March to 1 April, €59 for 1 child, €118 for 2 children, and €147,50 for three or more children, including lunch on Thursday. Session II: 6 to 9 April, €63 for 1 child, €126 for 2 children, and €157,50 for three or more children, including lunch on Friday. Fees also include one field trip per session. Slots are limited.

**Spring Break Trips** for children aged 6 and older: The children can be dropped off from

0745 and need to be picked up by 1745. 31 March, 0800-1730, Blegny Mine & River Maas Cruise, €22. A professional miner will take us down to the coalface and show us all the processes of coal mining. Afterwards the children can enjoy the recreation park and playground. 7 April, 0830-1730, Euro planetarium & Technopolis, €26. After a breathtaking audio-visual and spectacular laser show we will visit the observatory with a specialist. At Technopolis hundreds of interactive exhibits let you enjoy exploring science and technology in a very exciting way.

Chaperones go free. Slots are limited. Point of departure and return is the IYA parking lot next to Bldg 95.

Photo PAO archive



### Easter Egg Hunt & Games

On Monday, 29 March, at 1430 the IYA is sponsoring a big Easter Egg Hunt for children of all nationalities on the IYA Playground behind Building 95. Make sure to join the fun, meet the Easter Bunny, hunt for eggs and enjoy seasonal games and attractions. There is no fee. Rain delay date is Tuesday, 30 March.



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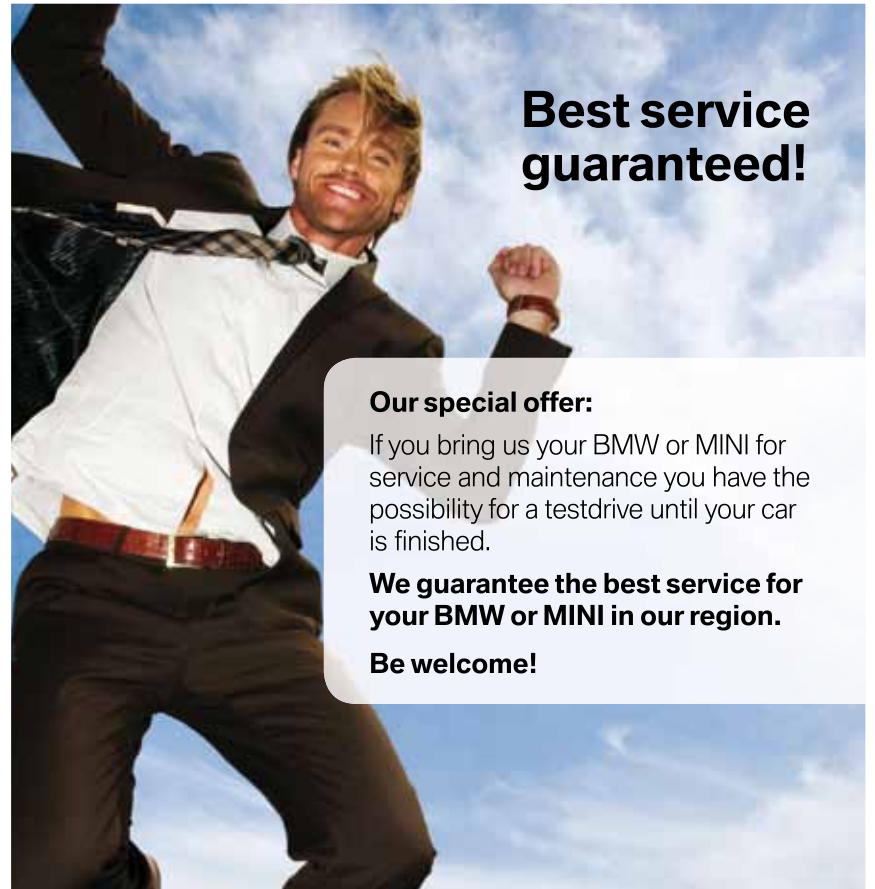
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**At El Greco you taste the traditional Greek cuisine within a contemporary design.**  
**Having dinner at the Greek restaurant puts you to a higher level at El Greco. El Greco sets a new norm to style and ambience.**

**The ambience reflects modern Greece, but the cuisine is completely authentic. The diverse menu is like a poem to connoisseurs and lovers.**  
Everyone can find something of his or her choice on the menu. All products are of top quality. The close team of El Greco continuously works at a high level. From the kitchen to the table, it is pure pleasure. However, the price of the offered products is completely reasonable. That is why El Greco is the perfect address not only for a family dinner, but also for your friends, for a delicious Greek night out.

**You will certainly experience the authentic Greek cosiness during one of our Greek nights with live music, dance and excellent food and drinks.**

Those who would like to pre-taste the wonderful cuisine of El Greco, can already visit our website [www.elgreco-heerlen.nl](http://www.elgreco-heerlen.nl)

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Text and photo Tom McAdow

**The 2010 golfing season is just a long putt away. Weather is improving, grass is getting greener, and maintenance crews are preparing the 'Openbare Golf Brunssummerheide' course for another season. Golfers wanting to enjoy the 27 hole complex at a terrific price can join the NATO E-3A International Golfing Association (IGA) of Geilenkirchen, which is holding their Annual General Meeting (AGM) and membership sign-up on 24 March at 1600 in the Sentry Club briefing room.**

The IGA membership entitles golfers to enjoy every-day play at Brunssummerheide, tournaments at eighteen courses within about an hour's drive, and club competitions. Membership fees this year are €280 if paid on or after 1 April and only €250 if paid before 1 April, including during the 24 March meeting.

Brunssummerheide Golf Course, which is located just minutes from the back gate in the Netherlands, includes 27 championship holes, an executive nine, a par-3 course, and a driving range. Each course offers a variety of challenging holes. IGA



# Golf season approaches

*Brad Arsenault helped the North Americans emerge victorious in the IGA Ryder Cup Tournament over the Europeans on 12 September 2009, at Brunssummerheide Golf Course.*

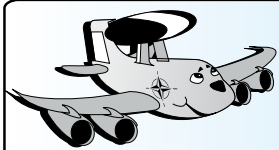
members can play on a daily basis by reserving tee times over the phone with the front desk at the golf course.

Playing 9 holes after work is a great way to enjoy the long

summer evenings. The schedule of tournaments played at courses in the area includes Voerendaal, Myllendonk, Spiegelveen, Bruggen, Duren, Aachen and twelve other beautiful venues. Each tournament uses Stableford scoring and costs only €30 to members, a substantial reduction from the normal greens fees. There are usually three tournaments each month, many held on Saturdays and GK holidays. The IGA sponsors it's own Club Championship and a Europeans vs. North Americans Ryder Cup style tournament. Each Wednesday evening, beginning 28 April, is a Club Night game featuring many fun formats for an informal style gets together. There is also a single elimination match play Knock-outs Tournament for both singles

and doubles played through the season. Players and spouses/partners of all levels are welcome and encouraged to participate in all events. Associate, junior and par-3 course memberships are available at reduced costs to encourage the whole family to get out and play.

The location of the 24 March AGM meeting is the Sentry Club. Membership sign-up begins at 1500 with the general meeting following at 1600. Golfers can bring their completed applications and money to the meeting. More information and membership applications can be found at the IGA website: [www.igagolf.net](http://www.igagolf.net). Come on out and enjoy a season of good golfing, good friends, and good friendly competition.



## PLANE SPOTTER

This transport aircraft landed on NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen recently. It's a C-295 from the Spanish Air Force.

The C-295 made its maiden flight in 1998 and is used by several air forces and some 57 have already been delivered. The plane is a further development of the commercially successful Spanish/Indonesia transport aircraft CASA CN-235 with a stretched fuselage and 50% more payload capability and new PW127G turboprop engines.

The aircraft can perform a maximum speed of 576 km/h (311 knots), up to 71 passengers can be transported, as well as a maximum of three vehicles can be uploaded.

The C-295 is among others being used by the Brazilian, Polish and Portuguese Air Force.

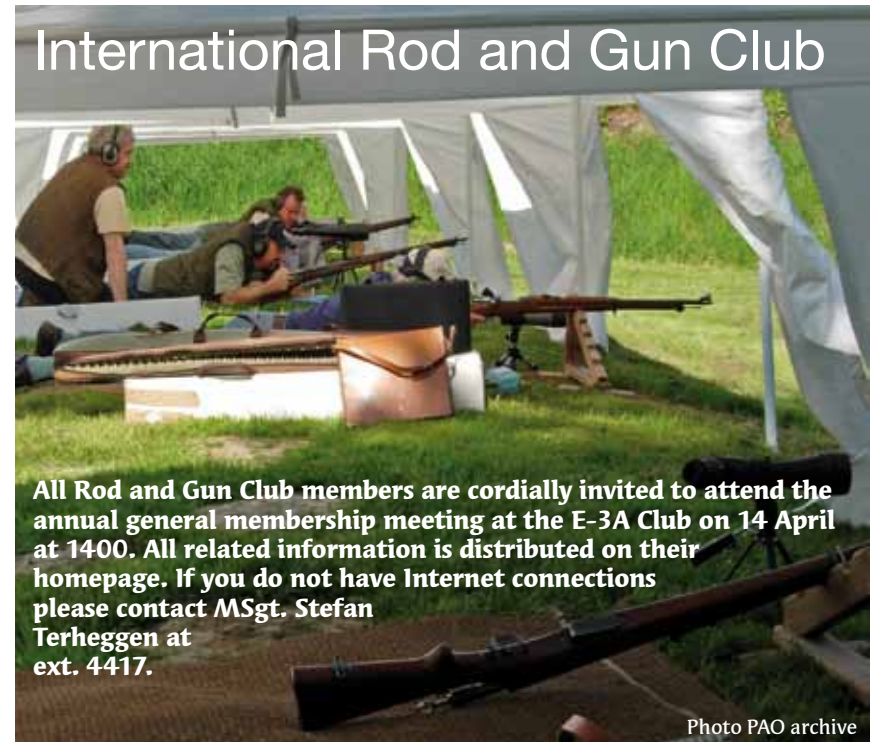
## SKYWATCH CLASSIFIED

**Skywatch Classifieds are free to all NATO personnel. Advertisements must be printed or typed, and include your name, office symbol and duty extension. The editor will not accept advertisements for services that generate a regular income, or for housing other than vacation rentals. Submissions for the next NATO Skywatch are due to PAO, mail Stop 33, e-mail: [pio@e3a.nato.int](mailto:pio@e3a.nato.int), before noon Thursday, 18 March.**

### Autos

Volvo S-40, 2.4 automatic, February 2009, 24.000 km, sapphire black metallic, lots of accessories, price €15,500, please contact Mary-Ann Breuer-Krohn at ext. 3820.

Mercedes E220 CDI, automatic, mod. 2005, navi, sunroof, grey metallic, excellent condition, non-smoking garage car, regularly inspected. Asking price is €12,900. Please call Rainer Faymonville at ext. 3543.



## International Rod and Gun Club

**All Rod and Gun Club members are cordially invited to attend the annual general membership meeting at the E-3A Club on 14 April at 1400. All related information is distributed on their homepage. If you do not have Internet connections please contact MSgt. Stefan Terheggen at ext. 4417.**

Photo PAO archive





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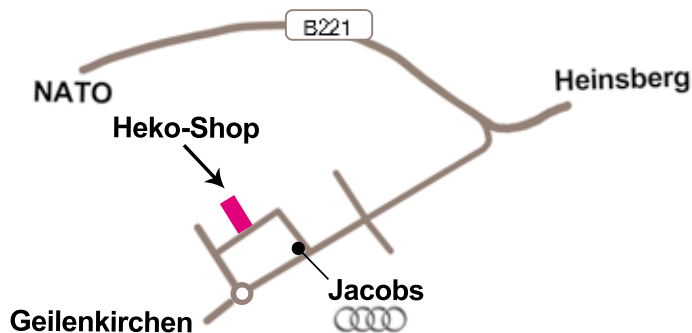
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