

TCA: Old but gold!

By Lt.Col. Antje Kalka
Photos Andrea Hohenforst

On 16 November NATO's last Boeing 707-320C Trainer Cargo Aircraft (TCA) conducted its symbolic final flights from NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Germany.

Brig.Gen. Burkhard Pototzky, Commander of the E-3A Component, took the chance to invite representatives from the surrounding communities in Germany and the Netherlands to attend these ceremonial flights and to look back on more than two decades of a great success story. "Our TCA might be old, but it is gold", said the Component Commander, summarizing the TCA story which is going to end soon.

A special highlight on this day was the flight in the afternoon to which disabled children, inhabitants of the *Ronald McDonald* house in Maastricht, the Netherlands, and children from *Lebenshilfe e.V. Heinsberg*, Germany, were invited. "Our guests had a great afternoon flying with our TCA. My

greatest wish is that we were able to give them a moment of not thinking about their handicap or illness", said Brig.Gen. Pototzky.

TCA is a NATO success story. Since the first TCA landed on 10 October 1988, the squadron's regular task has been to conduct training flights as well as cargo missions and passenger transport. The three TCAs thereby provided overall support to E-3A operations.

TCA made history, too. In 1992, shortly after the end of the Cold War, TCA took medical assessment experts to Russia to determine requirements for humanitarian assistance. Thus the first chapter of TCA support for humanitarian relief operations was written.

The next chapter was the TCA flight in 1996 to the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. TCA was the first aircraft bearing NATO insignia to land in Sarajevo in support of peacekeeping operations. The Boeing 707-320C brought with it tons of humanitarian aid.

The list of TCA support flights for humanitarian relief operations is long: Humanitarian aid after the devastating earthquake in Turkey in 1999, transport of aid to the USA in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, humanitarian aid for Haiti after the earthquake in 2010, support of the initial humanitarian relief operations in Pakistan after the earthquake in 2005 and also after the disastrous floods there in 2010, transport of humanitarian relief goods to Hungary after the collapse of a dam holding contaminated water from an aluminum factory resulted in the devastation of two villages.

Brig.Gen. Pototzky has rightly called TCA the "true work horse of the E-3A Component". Since the first TCA landed at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen in October 1988, the TCA Squadron has flown a total of more than 32,000 hours. "The squadron has provided a critical lifeline carrying supplies and people for ongoing operations in Afghanistan and the recently completed operations in Libya", said the Component Commander, adding

"the flexibility and ability of the TCA Squadron has truly been a force multiplier and a critical link between the Component and our forward deployed units".

The TCA story is soon coming to an end. The penultimate TCA left Geilenkirchen in September 2011. The last TCA, tail 20199, will leave the Component at the end of the year. But TCA will be always remembered for its awesome contributions to humanitarian assistance and for having served as a force multiplier for the E-3A Component over more than two decades.



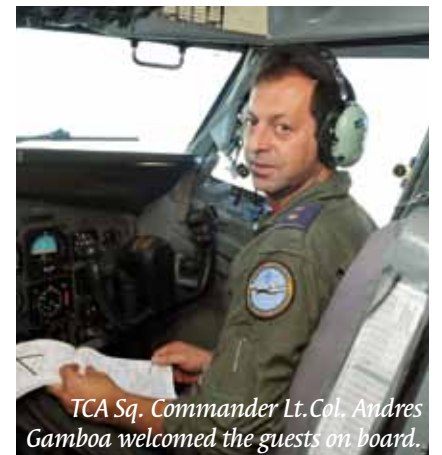
Take-off with guests on board.



The spotters and distinguished guests donated money for the Ronald McDonald Foundation – the amount was stocked up so that in the end €1,000 could be handed over.



The TCA was parked directly beside an E-3A and a tanker, which gave the 70 spotters a good opportunity to shoot the TCA, E-3A and KC-135 on this special day.



TCA Sq. Commander Lt.Col. Andres Gamboa welcomed the guests on board.

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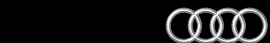
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Wir danken Ihnen fur Ihr Vertrauen und wunschen Ihnen frohliche Weihnachten, Gesundheit, Gluck und Erfolg im neuen Jahr.

Heinsberg and partner district representatives visit MOB

By Janina Bien

On 3 November, a group of 20 mayors from the district of Heinsberg and its partner districts in Hungary and Scotland visited the NATO E-3A Component.

The district of Heinsberg is our local district and includes Geilenkirchen.

Capt. Berthold 'Kaiser' Wilhelm welcomed the visitors from Heinsberg and its partner districts. He also gave them an overview briefing in German about our mission and answered all their questions during the discussion. After that the representatives proceeded to the flight line for a walkthrough of one of our AWACS.



Photo Andrea Hohenforst

Spanish Consul visits Component

By Janina Bien

The Spanish Consul General in Düsseldorf, Mr. Francisco de Asis Aguilera Aranda, visited the Spanish contingent on base on 14 November. Component Commander Brig.Gen. Burkhard Pototzky invited the Consul General for an office call, where this photo was taken. The party then proceeded to the flight

and mission simulator, both of which were demonstrated to the Consul General.

The Spanish Senior National Representative, Col. Rafael Sahagún, gave a mission overview briefing followed by a walkthrough of one of our E-3A AWACS on the flight line.

The Consul General concluded his visit with a lunch with the Spanish community on base.



Photo Andrea Hohenforst

Support during visitor tour groups

The successful conduct of such an on-base tour for VIPs or distinguished visitors requires assistance from Component agencies and members who provide support through various actions. Therefore a special 'thank you' goes to all the departments involved: the Logistics Wing for providing an E-3A for the walkthrough; the Operations Wing for scheduling the static display and providing crew members; the Divisional Security Officer for enabling access to the flight line; the Motorpool for providing transportation to collect the visitors at the main gate and take them to the briefing facility, the Rotodome and then to the flight line and back; the Visual Media Service Cell for taking pictures on the flight line and during the signing of the guest book; the Food Services System for providing lunch; our Public Affairs Office for preparing the briefing; and last but not least the Security Branch for providing access to the base and the flight line as well as providing escorts on base. Sincere thanks to all parties involved.

In memoriam



Mr. Wim van Renselaar

It is our somber duty to announce the death of our colleague, Mr. Wim van Renselaar, on 7 November. Wim had been fighting a serious illness for several months but the battle proved to be too much for him.

Wim had been a member of the NATO Civilian staff, assigned to the IT Wing, since 1986. He was a highly valued and extremely capable member of the staff, having recently been recognized for promotion when the new PE was implemented in 2010.

His colleagues and supervisors have described him as an excellent team worker, who was

a very respected and beloved colleague, performing his duties in a self-sustaining manner, highly motivated, technically capable and always with a positive attitude. He will be particularly remembered and missed by his colleagues and friends for his total dedication to his job, and the continuous support he provided to all his colleagues. Above all, he will be missed for the friendship he showed. Up to his last days, Wim always showed a positive approach to life.

The Component community extends its deepest sympathy to Wim's wife Marjo and their two daughters, Milou and Robin, at this extremely difficult time.

Vacancy announcement

Applications are invited for the following post:

Staff Assistant (CRYPTO), advertisement number 11021, NATO Grade B-5, assigned to the Mission Support Branch, Communication & Information Systems Squadron, Information Technology Wing. This post is due to be filled as soon as possible after 31 January 2012.

Closing date: 27 December 2011.
For further details, please visit the E-3A Component (WSS) Portal under Headquarters/ A1/A1CP/ A1CR /Recruitment, the official E-3A Component internet homepage at www.e3a.nato.int or review the advertisement posted in building 8.

Note: Only applications of qualified personnel will be considered.



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Commander
Brig. Gen. Burkhard Pototzky
Chief, Public Affairs
Lt.Col. Antje Kalka

Editors
Mrs. Maureen Geraets-Head
Mrs. Janina Bien

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International Cross Country Run 2011

By Janina Bien

On Friday, 4 November, the Component's annual and well-known International Cross-Country Run took place for the 27th time. This year there were as many participants as ever, as 160 runners in total put on their jogging shoes and participated in the run, which has become a tradition for runners from on-base as well as off-base.

It was also the first time that there was such good weather for this run. This truly international event attracts participants from organizations such as police departments and military units in Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium. The participants' spirits were high and the warming-up before the run was accompanied by friendly chatting and competition.

The cross-country run consists of two laps of the cross trail, starting behind the New Gym, for a total distance of 7 km. The runners were welcomed by Brig.Gen. Burkhard Pototzky and the Chief of Staff (COS), Col. Werner

Nemetschek. A special welcome was also given to the German Maj.Gen. Robert Löwenstein, who participated in this run for the 7th time and who therefore received number 7.

The fastest runner and overall winner was Mr. Ronny Driesen from the 10th Tactical Wing (10 W TAC) team from Kleine Brogel, Belgium, who also came in first last year. He completed the hilly 7-km route in an impressive time of 24 minutes and 30 seconds. In second place was Mr. Patrick Thijs and Mr. Hendrik Vanloon came in third, both from the 10 W TAC team as well. All the runners completed the run, and by this they were all winners.

The awards were presented by COS, along with Maj. Peter Gerisch and Mr. Fritz Stelten of the Sports Department to the top three and the three best runners in each category. The best team also received a trophy.

The complete list of results can be found on the Sports Department WSS page. Please also mark your calendar for next year's run on 9 November 2012.

Photo Andrea Hohenforst



Letter to the editor

PAO has received this feedback via WSS in response to the article 'Red circle on the calendar', written by Mrs. Elke Vogel and published in Skywatch No. 19. We think it might be interesting to you:

"I really liked the front page article. My husband, who also was deployed to the same place at that time, thought that I had written it under a pseudonym since everything fitted there (except that my sister - instead

of the mother - was hospitalized). I totally agree with Mrs. Vogel's feelings, emotions and experiences. This article was a real contribution to the families behind the scene. I really appreciated it, well done."

For every Skywatch edition our readers can participate in a

survey on the WSS homepage, under 'Current information', to give us feedback and also to offer suggestions. In the past few weeks, PAO received many feedback inputs, which also help us to constantly improve and to reflect on the work done – thank you for this.

Winter safety suggestions

By MSgt. Christopher Brown

Walking and driving on ice and snow can be difficult and dangerous if you don't take the time to do a little risk management by thinking about the consequences of an action. In anticipation of the upcoming winter months, the Safety Division would like to provide the following suggestions to help ensure a safe winter season for you and your family.

Footwear

When walking during icy and snowy conditions, it is recommended that you wear shoes or boots that provide the best possible traction, for instance rubber soles. Avoid leather and plastic soles, which provide limited traction. Also, when walking on ice and snow you should use short deliberate steps, bending slightly with your feet flat-footed and your center of gravity directly over your feet as much as

possible. Finally, remove snow and water from your footwear when entering a building, to reduce wet slippery conditions at the doorway.

Driving

When it comes to driving on ice and snow, you need to be prepared to adapt your driving techniques to meet current weather conditions. This can be done by practicing the three key elements of safe winter driving - alertness, speed and control.

Be aware of your surroundings to include the actions of other drivers. Assume other drivers aren't using risk management techniques like you, so put additional distance between your vehicle and the one in front of you. Always have your lights on during darkness and reduced visibility. Just be aware that during fog and heavy snow conditions, low beams may be more effective than high beams.

Reduce your vehicle's speed to meet changing road conditions, allowing between two and three times the normal stopping distance of your vehicle. Remember, bridges and overpasses will freeze before other road surfaces, so beware of 'black ice'.

Use a light touch on the brakes. Even with anti-lock braking systems (ABS), you should apply light pressure to avoid locking the wheels and causing a skid. Pumping the brake pedal should be performed as a smooth action, going from light to firm. 'Tip-toe to slow' is a good motto for winter drivers.

Tires

One of the more important preparations you can take is to ensure the proper tires are on your vehicle for safe winter driving. These are either all-weather tires, which are adequate during minimal snowfall or snow tires, which are designed with

more aggressive tread for added traction in deeper snow. To determine whether your tires satisfy the requirements of the German traffic regulations (StVO), check them for a triangle with a snowflake in the middle of it.

It's important to note that according to the German StVO, vehicles must be equipped with proper winter tires (also called M+S tires) in order to be driven on icy or snowy roads, on black ice, or slush. Lastly, you should check your tires - spare tire included - to be certain it is filled with the recommended air pressure (check the manufacturer's recommendations) and in good condition.

In conclusion, thinking about the consequences of your actions will put you in a better position to identify the risk, thus reducing the likelihood of being involved in an accident.

Christmas markets in the neighborhood



The Christmas market in Aachen is the third biggest Christmas market in Germany, open until 23 December.
Photo Janina Bien

You can find information on Christmas markets within Germany at the special Christmas market website: www.germany-christmasmarkets.org

We've listed for you a few in the neighborhood of Geilenkirchen:

Geilenkirchen has a Nikolausmarkt this weekend,
25 November: 1800-2200;
26 November: 1200-2200;
27 November: 1200-1900.
Also the shops will be open on Sunday, 1300-1800.

On 27 November there is a Nikolausmarkt in Gangelt, open from 1000-1900.

GERMANY

Aachen

Around the Cathedral and Town Hall, 18 November - 23 December, daily 1100-2100. 23 December 1100-2000.

Cologne

At the Cathedral, Altstadt, Rudolfplatz, Neumarkt and Stadtgarten.

21 November - 23 December, Sunday-Thursday 1100-2100; Friday 1100-2200; Saturday 1000-2200.

Düsseldorf

17 November - 23 December, daily 1100-2000, Friday and Saturday 1100-2100 at the Marktplatz, Heinrich-Heine-Platz and Jan-Wellem-Monument.

Monschau

In the Eifel hills, near Aachen in a picturesque town, on weekends only: Friday-Sunday, 1100-2000.

Münster

21 November - 23 December, Sunday-Thursday 1100-2000; Friday-Saturday 1100-2100.

THE NETHERLANDS

Sittard

"Wentjerdruim" (Winter dream): 10 December - 8 January 2012, downtown Sittard transfers into a winter dream world. There will be a Christmas and art market and skating ring.

On 15 December there will be a candlelight shopping night from 1600-2200. Also, the annual Winter Circus is scheduled and tickets are available online www.limburgsKerstCircus.nl or at the tourist information in the Rosmolenstraat.

Maastricht

Discover the magical Winterland fair at the Vrijthof from 2 December - 8 January 2012 featuring a skating ring.

Valkenburg

Experience the seasonal atmosphere in the Valkenburg grotto until 1 January 2012, which is the oldest and largest subterranean Christmas market in Europe. For more information visit www.kerststadvalkenburg.nl

BELGIUM

Liège

25 November - 30 December at the Place du Marché, the largest Christmas market of Belgium.

Brussels

Europe's most original Christmas market at the Grand Place and Place St. Catherine, including a skating ring. Open until 2100, weekends until 2200.

IYA Christmas activities

Christmas moonlight family steam train ride

Santa Claus is already planning to join the traditional International Youth Activities' moonlight ride for children and their parents on the historic Selfkantbahn.

On 2 December at 1900 we will travel from Gillrath to Schierwaldenrath in the restored antique wagons built between 1889 and 1956. There will be one short stop on the way, when our special passenger arrives in a horse-drawn carriage. Santa will welcome all the children and present them with a Christmas bag. At Schierwaldenrath we will enjoy refreshments in a heated tent listening to Christmas songs, before returning to Gillrath.

Tickets at €7 per child and €12 per adult include 'Brötchen' with hot chocolate, coffee, Glühwein, or a soft drink, and also goodies for children. Tickets can be purchased at the IYA Office in Bldg. 95, ext. 4955.

Christmas party

On 14 December, 1500-1730, the IYA is offering a Christmas party for children at the E-3A Club. Children under the age of 6 have to be accompanied by an adult; parents of older children are also very welcome to attend. Play seasonal games, win a prize at the wheel of fortune, enjoy seasonal refreshments, and meet Santa - he even has a little gift for you. Bring your camera: children and families can have their photo taken with Santa at no cost. During the party the winners of this year's Christmas coloring contest will receive their awards. There is no fee. Please call ext. 4954/4955 to sign up. Children enrolled in the December IYA afternoon club are automatically registered.



Photo courtesy Kleinbahnmuseum Selfkantbahn

Aircraft Maintenance

Lesson in flexibility to support ongoing operations

By Capt. Ken Fravor

I've been privileged to witness the Logistics Wing and more specifically the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron move from a 'peacetime' stance to a unit that generates and sustains combat operations. This transition has not been easy, and the men and women who have been part of this event should be proud of their accomplishments.

If I could choose one word to summarize our actions, it would be 'flexibility'. The Log Wing and its assigned squadrons, as well as the rest of the Component, had to react to various inputs and changing situations at home and at two downrange locations. These inputs affected our daily sortie generation and impacted personnel, equipment and aircraft availability.

The personnel aspect was impacted by such things as ensuring we had the right mix of properly trained and qualified personnel to support deployed and Main Operating Base operations. Tracking qualifications, leaves, training and deployment dates fell squarely on the shoulders of our professional branch and section chiefs. The requirement to continually fill a Deployed

Commander of Logistics (DCL) slot also impacted our squadrons as well as certain Log Wing leadership positions as they were left empty on a short-term basis. This required others in the section or squadron to step up and take over those duties.

Another challenge the squadrons overcame was in the area of equipment. Numerous types of specialized ground equipment are required to keep the E-3A airworthy. Daily communication is required with

our downrange DCLs to ensure there is serviceable equipment capable of sustaining sortie production.

The final challenge was aircraft availability. There was often a fine balance of providing enough aircraft to support MOB training requirements and supporting real world operations in two distinctly different locations. This balance was achieved by constant monitoring of the aircraft status across all locations and forecasting scheduled

maintenance to ensure aircraft were not grounded.

This is just a quick overview of some of the main challenges we have encountered this past year. To list every obstacle would require many more volumes of the Skywatch. As 2011 is nearing a close, and a new phase of operations is on the horizon, we must stay flexible to react to changing situations. The best way to do this is to communicate those changes and keep a positive attitude.



E-3A LX-N 90446 without the rotodome ready for inspection in Hangar 1.
Photo: Andrea Hohenforst

Why Canadians wear poppies



By Capt. Calogero S. Cumbo and CWO Dan Ray

In the beginning of November you may have noticed a red spot on the uniform of Canadian Forces (CF) military members as they go about their business on base. It's a poppy. For the period leading up to November 11, which is Remembrance Day for us, the CF has authorized its members to wear a poppy.

The Remembrance Day, which is also called Poppy Day, is a memorial day observed in the Commonwealth countries since the end of World War I to remember their victims

during that period. That's the reason why this day is special for the Canadians, too.

In May 1915, in anguish over the loss of his friend, Lt. Col. John McCrae wrote a poem. He was inspired by the wild poppies growing among the wooden crosses marking makeshift graves in Flanders Fields, Belgium, where he was stationed. The poppy then became a popular symbol for soldiers who died in a battle.

Three years later an American, Mrs. Moina Michael, was working in a New York City YMCA canteen, when she started wearing a poppy in memory of the millions who died on the battlefield.

During a visit to the United States in 1920, a French woman, Madame Guerin, learned of the custom. On her return to France she decided to use handmade poppies to raise money for the destitute children in war-torn areas of the country. In November 1921 the first poppies

were then distributed in Canada.

The poppies we wear hearken back to McCrae's poem (see red box).



We remember all those who paid the ultimate price in service to their country. Much has been written about the wars of the past, about their causes and the culpability of various parties to those aggressions. But one thing is undeniable: soldiers served their country and surrendered the rest of their lives in so doing.

The poppy is our reminder of this fact. We wear it to remember those

who came before us and paid that ultimate price. We wear it to honor their memory, lest we forget.

In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
between the crosses, row on row,
that mark our place;
and in the sky the larks,
still bravely singing,
fly scarce heard
amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
we lived, felt dawn,
saw sunset glow,
loved and were loved,
and now we lie
in Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
the torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
we shall not sleep,
though poppies grow
in Flanders fields.*

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Check the additional information on MWA Christmas/New Year opening hours

Shopping cards

Don't forget to collect your shopping card at Bldg. 80. There are still a lot of shopping cards that have not yet been picked up.

Important: Component personnel and dependants with an ID card expiry date in 2011 first need to get their ID card renewed before a shopping card can be issued.

Please be reminded that as of the beginning of January 2012 you will not be able to shop at the NATEX facilities without a shopping card!

The shopping card is being issued free of charge at building 80, room 13. Opening hours are from Monday-Friday, 0900-1130.

Food Services System

POC: Mr. René Peeters, ext. 4990 or email to rpeeters@e3a.nato.int

Visit the Services Branch, Food Services System WSS page for the latest program information and upcoming events.

Rotodome

Opening hours: Monday-Friday from 0600-1900 serving breakfast, lunch and dinner along with a fast food line (pizza, hamburgers, etc.).

18 December: Christmas brunch (see Food Services web page for further details).

The Rotodome is the main MWA food facility open to everybody, also for families with children.

Rotodome pizza

Please call ext. 4937 to pre-order pizza. During the busy lunch-time periods, we cannot guarantee the pizza will be available exactly at the requested time. Pizzas are freshly made and require some preparation time. All pizzas are also available for take away.

E-3A Club

Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday from 1100-2200. Wednesday from 1100-1600 (the Red Lion Bar will open at 1600 for your convenience).

Toasties and a small warm meal with bread is available from 1100-1330. Price for MWA member is €2,50/ non-MWA members €3,50.

The E-3A Club is equipped to cater for all special functions, official dinners, conferences, meetings, etc., on a limited basis. Please contact Mr. Peeters, ext. 4990 to arrange details.

The Kegelbahn, located in building 60, is open for use on a rental basis. Please ask the Food Activity Manager for a free slot.

Sports Department

Opening hours: Monday-Friday, 0600-2100, ext. 4946. Weekends: 1000-1600 (winter opening hours)

No Sports staff available at the New Gym from Monday-Thursday after 1700, Friday after 1430 and at weekends.

Patrons wishing to check out

MWA INFORMATION December



equipment need to do so before the above-mentioned times. Management apologizes for this inconvenience.

All Component personnel are authorized to utilize the sports facilities free of charge. However, participation in fitness classes with instructor, such as spinning, aerobics, dance classes, is restricted to personnel in possession of a valid MWA membership card. Dependants are required to be in possession of a valid membership card to utilize the Gym. Daily checks will be conducted.

Squash Tournament:

1-22 December

Basketball Tournament:

7 December

Coaches meeting indoor soccer league (at 1400 in the E-3A conference room): 14 December.

Fitness classes

Come along and try out one of the many fitness classes offered at the Sports Department. See schedule on the Sports Department WSS page.

International Library

Operating hours 1100-1500, Monday through Friday, ext. 4956.

International Youth Activities

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

Wanted: IYA swimming instructors

The IYA is looking for certified instructors for its swimming lessons for beginners – German DLRG Bronze or equivalent Red Cross certificate. Classes are held at the Hallenbad Geilenkirchen on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1645-1745. If you like to work with children aged 4 and up, please call ext. 4954 to get further information.

Spring soccer camp

The IYA would like to organize a soccer camp during spring break 2012. However, in order to plan it, we need to know how many children are interested in participating. If you are interested in taking part, please send an e-mail by 5 December 2011 to schalmers@e3a.nato.int, and choose the week which will be best for you. week 1 or week 2 'Kastes Fußballschule'

3-5 April or 10-12 April 2012

3-day camp for €105 incl. T-shirt, ball, lunch and lessons, for children from 5-16 years old. All coaches are former professional players and certified soccer teachers.

Thrift Shop

Opening hours 1000-1400 every

Tuesday and Thursday, ext. 4919.

Located in building 65 next to the NATEX gas station and the garage. Items old include: New and used men's/women's/children's clothing, handbags and accessories, household appliances, small furniture items, entertainment/electronics, decorations, toys and seasonal items.

The Thrift Shop will also sell your goods. Patrons can bring 10 items to sell per visit. 6 weeks before moving – 20 items to sell per visit. 15% of sales go to support the Component MWA funds. Please visit us to see the items and bargains offered.

Upcoming events

Turkish carpet sale

From 19 November through 4 December, Turkish hand-made carpets are on sale in Bldg. 72 (former Sentry Club Sports Bar).

26/27 November: Rotodome weekend opening

In support of NATEX's 'in-house special sales' weekend, the Rotodome will be open during the weekend 26/27 November from 1100-1500. Hamburgers, Currywurst, French fries, goulash soup and pizza will be available.

Indoor soccer tournament

On 29 November an indoor soccer tournament takes place. See our Sports Department website for details or contact us on ext. 4946.

Christmas brunch

On 18 December, 1100-1400 at the Rotodome. The brunch consists of breakfast, main courses and dessert. Price for MWA card holders is €14. Reservations required on ext. 4990/4991. For more information, please visit our Food Services web page or contact Mr. René Peeters, ext. 4990.

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.

Kung Fu Panda 2

Saturday, 26 November, 1600

Contagion

Saturday, 26 November, 1900

All movies subject to change. Call +31 45 526 2110 for current information.

Chili Cook-off on 2 December

By Capt. Matt Horrocks

Mark your calendar for 2 December, 1130, to come to the Base Chapel Annex. Then the US contingent will be hosting a charity fundraiser for the Combined Federal Campaign – Overseas (CFC-O). This event will be a chili cook-off, in other words, a competition to see who can make the hottest and tastiest pot of chili.

Since 1960, the CFC-O has coordinated efforts among U.S. Federal employees to raise funds for various charitable organizations. U.S. Federal employees have continued to make the CFC the largest and most successful workplace philanthropic fundraiser in the world. Its efforts have contributed over \$6.8 billion to deserving charity organizations over the past 50 years.

While this is a U.S. sponsored event, it will be open for all to come enjoy some of the best chili our Component members are willing to cook up. Entry price will be €4 for a bowl of chili, chips and a drink. Any extra donations will gladly be accepted, as 100% of the proceeds will be donated to our local charity here at Geilenkirchen for the Family Support and Youth Programs (FSYP).

Donations to FSYP help ease the transition for families and children making new lives in overseas military communities by funding programs that provide child care, offer emergency assistance, support recreational activities and improve facilities for those, who are far from home. In addition, FSYP gifts enable overseas locations to offer free or reduced-cost programs, so that the entire cost of special activities is not passed on to those serving and their families. From providing softballs for youth to funding language classes for spouses or buying art supplies for the local child development center, FSYP enhances the quality of life for those living in an overseas military community.

So, hope to see you there!



IYA Christmas coloring contest

Young artists are invited to join this year's coloring contest. There are three age groups: 3-5 years, 6-8 years and 9-12 years. Simply color your picture, but do not use glitter, stickers or cotton. Send your completed pictures to IYA/BPWY, mail stop 34, or hand-carry them to the IYA Office in building 95 by 8 December. The three best pictures in each age group will win a prize. The winners will be announced during the IYA Christmas party with Santa Claus at the E-3A Club on 14 December, 1500-1730. Please register for the Christmas party at the IYA Office, ext. 4954/5.

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Duty phone: _____ Home phone: _____

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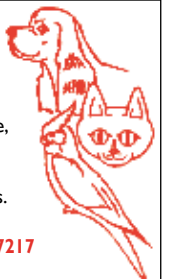
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