

NATO SKYWATCH

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NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen

19 June 2006

Memorial Day ceremonies held at Margraten

Text and Photo TSgt Matthew Woods

On Sunday, 28 May 2006, the World War II Netherlands-American Cemetery and Memorial held a ceremony at Margraten, The Netherlands, in observance of Memorial Day. Memorial Day is one of two U.S. Federal holidays held in remembrance of those who have died while serving in the armed forces.

In attendance was the US Ambassador to the Netherlands, Roland E. Arnall, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Senator Larry E. Craig and Commanding General, United States Army, Europe & 7th Army, General David D. McKiernan. Gen. McKiernan quoted another American general, General George S. Patton, who is buried in Luxemburg, when he said, "It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived."

Brigadier General Schmidt represented the NATO E-3A Component in the laying of a wreath to commemorate those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for a free Europe.

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was first observed on 30 May 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.

Memorial Day is not about division, rather it is about reconciliation; it is about coming together to honour those who gave their all. After World War I, the holiday changed from honouring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honouring Americans who died fighting in any war.

Last year, President Bush was in attendance with Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (V-E Day).

During the memorial ceremony Brig.Gen. Stephen Schmidt (middle) laid a wreath as NATO E-3A Component representative to honour those who died fighting in any war.



Squadron Two changes commander

Squadron Two held its change of command on 23 May 06 at the Officers' Club. During this ceremony Lt.Col. Martin Cournoyer, Canadian Air Force, relinquished command to Lt.Col. Spurgeon Stewart, also Canadian Air Force. He assumed command for Squadron Two through Col. Manfred Arndt, Operations Wing commander and Canadian Senior National Representative.

Lt.Col. Cournoyer proceeded to National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa, to serve as the Executive Assistant to Canada's Chief of the Air Staff.

Lt.Col Spurgeon Stewart (right) accepting command for Squadron Two from Col. Manfred Arndt, Operations Wing commander.

Photo MSgt. Mark Boggess



Next NATO Skywatch:
30 June
Submissions due by:
22 June

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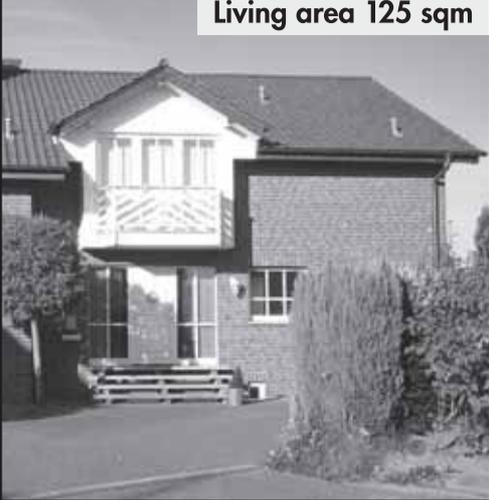
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Civilians honoured during CSA meeting
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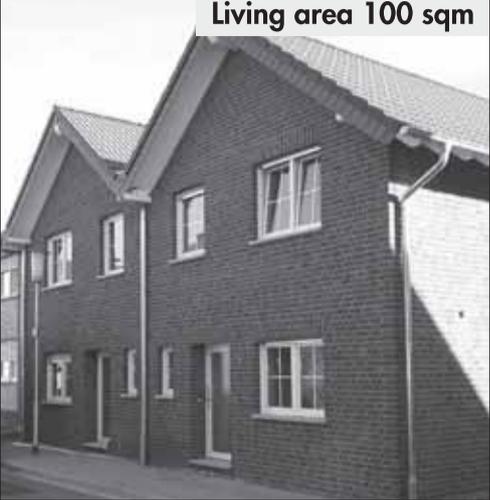
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VOLVO

“MAGIC, picture!”

By Captain Rae Joseph, 1Wing
PAO/Maple Flag 39 PAO

“MAGIC, picture!” An all too familiar request from fighter pilots in the thick of it to the NATO Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) that may be many kilometres from the fight - but sees all the action during Exercise Maple Flag XXXIX.

“We’re [AWACS]—the first to leave and the last to come home,” laughed Tactical Director Major Mike Collacutt, a Canadian from the NATO Air Base in Geilenkirchen, Germany, home to the E-3A Component which flies the AWACS - a modified Boeing 707- that is here for the six-week exercise in Cold Lake, Alberta.

During Maple Flag - an international air combat exercise - the AWACS, call sign Magic, acts not only as the ears and eyes for the Canadian and eight other allied aircrews otherwise known as Blue Air, but also like a director of an aerial ballet. The opposing force a.k.a Red Air played out by the United States Air Force including the 64th AGRS aggressor squadron from Nellis Air Force Base.

The AWACS takes flight an hour prior to the Maple Flag launch to get into position, but before their mission is set into motion the crew huddles

in the briefing room to plan.

“Developing a plan is as important as executing it,” said Maj. Collacutt, who has served 29 years combined time in the reserve and regular force. “The AWACS is the command and control structure of the exercise. We put a lot of emphasis on the planning portion of Maple Flag because if you don’t have a good plan it’s not going to get executed properly to achieve your goal.”

Maj. Collacutt, from Dartmouth, N.S., is one of six Canadians, who complement the 60-member multinational E-3A contingent participating in Maple Flag. From ground crew to aircrew to operators the NATO AWACS is like a flying mini globe with members represented from countries such as Germany, Belgium, Spain, Italy, U.S.A. and of course Canada.

“It’s been a lot of fun and an unique experience [being apart of NATO],” said Port Coquitlam, B.C., native Corporal Dan Gates, a Crew Chief who has been with the E-3A Component for two years. But as far as Maple Flag, Cpl Gates is no newcomer to the training exercise simulating an air combat environment, and emphasizing air operations involving large package coalition forces over Alberta skies since 1978.

“I was posted to Cold Lake for 15 years, but this is my second time



Diversity at it's best: (right to left) Major Mike Collacutt, Canadian Forces, Instructor Tactical Director; Captain Olaf Meiser, German Air Force, Fighter Allocation Officer; Captain Juan Narbona, Spanish Air Force, Passive Detection Officer; and Major Peter Boersting, Royal Danish Air Force, Tactical Director, plan for the next mission at Exercise Maple Flag XXXIX in Cold Lake, Alberta.

Photo WO Serge Peters, Air Public Affairs

working with NATO during Maple Flag,” he said. “We all have a parts to play and we do it well.”

Fellow crewmember, Flight Engineer Sergeant Kim Blake from Burnaby B.C. agreed, serving with the NATO AWACS has been a great experience. “I’ve been with NATO for two years now serving along side men and women from different parts of the world and it has been great,” said Sgt Blake adding despite the cultural differences, professionally the differences are quite

seamless due to a standardized NATO system.

“Yes there is a set NATO structure but within that structure there is allowances for people to stay true to who they are and where they come from,” said Major Collacutt.

So for not only providing command and control to allied forces to achieve their objectives during Maple Flag XXXIX, but doing so in a diverse coalition environment the NATO AWACS is truly MAGIC.

Squadron One celebrates 25th anniversary

Squadron One is proud to announce its upcoming 25th anniversary celebration, which will be on 7 July 2006. All present and former Squadron One members, family, friends, and Component personnel are cordially invited to help us celebrate.

The Squadron will open its doors at 0800 for an Open House. The official start to the 25th Anniversary begins at 1300 on the sports field, which will be followed by the unveiling of the 25th anniversary patch.

1400 Soccer Game (Officers vs. NCOs) followed by a Tug-of-War tournament at 1600. Family fun will kick off at 1630. During our family fun we will have barbeque, birthday cake and drinks, which will be paid for with pre-purchased tickets that will be available prior to the formal ceremony and all day at the picnic. Additionally, we will have children’s games, a bouncing castle, aircraft tours, and live music and DJ. We encourage you to come out and have a great time with us.

If you have questions about our 25th anniversary please call ext. 4102, Squadron One Admin office.



NATO sets new level of ambition for operations

Meeting in Brussels on 8 June, NATO Defence Ministers approved new planning targets for NATO countries, to be able to conduct a greater number of smaller-scale operations than NATO has planned for in the past. However, the Alliance will also retain its ability to carry out larger operations.

The Ministers of Defence of the 25 NATO countries in the Defence Planning Committee approved what is called ‘Ministerial Guidance’ for the Alliance’s force planning process.

Substantial realignment

While the document itself is classified and will not be published by the Alliance, NATO Spokesman James Appathurai told reporters this means NATO would no longer be planning for “one big war”. Instead, the Alliance’s planning process will be geared to ensuring that NATO can conduct a greater number of the more likely smaller-scale operations - at brigade or division level (up to 30,000 troops) - with less emphasis on the larger-scale operations - at corps level (up to 60,000

troops). “NATO has gone through very fundamental changes in term of what it has done and what is doing and this would bring the force planning into line with the realities of the 21 st century,” Mr. Appathurai said, “It is a substantial realignment of the way in which NATO will plan to structure its forces.”

At present, the Alliance and its partner countries have some 28,000 troops on operations and missions in Afghanistan, the Balkans, Iraq and the Mediterranean, with the bulk in Afghanistan and Kosovo. By the end of this year, the Alliance will lead up to 25,000 troops in Afghanistan.

James Appathurai said that the Ministerial guidance also set out to ensure that NATO has “effective working arrangements” to work with other actors, such as other international organisations and NGOs. The document is based on the so-called Comprehensive Political Guidance, which was agreed by NATO countries last year. Defence planning in the Alliance is a fundamental element of the arrangements which enable its member countries to enjoy the crucial political, military and resource advantages of collective defence and other common military efforts to enhance security and stability.

The process seeks to ensure that the Alliance has the requisite forces, assets, facilities and capabilities to fulfill its tasks. As such, it covers both NATO’s own capabilities and those of Allied countries.

UN Humanitarian envoy visits NATO

NATO’s assistance to the African Union for Darfur NATO-UN cooperation Assistance to Pakistan

The United Nations Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Egeland, discussed Darfur and the role of the military in disaster relief during a visit to NATO on 30 May.

Mr Egeland met NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer to discuss NATO’s continuing support for the African Union’s peacekeeping mission in Darfur.

Focus on Darfur

NATO recently agreed to extend its assistance to the African Union until September this year. This Alliance is helping to airlift African Union peacekeepers in and out of Darfur and training its forces.

They also discussed likely NATO support for a possible UN-led peacekeeping mission in Darfur, after the mandate of the current African Union force ends in September. Mr Egeland also raised the possibility of future military assistance to humanitarian missions.

In October 2005, the Alliance launched a massive airlift operation to help deliver United Nations relief supplies to the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck Pakistan.



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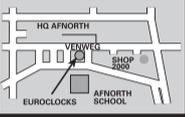


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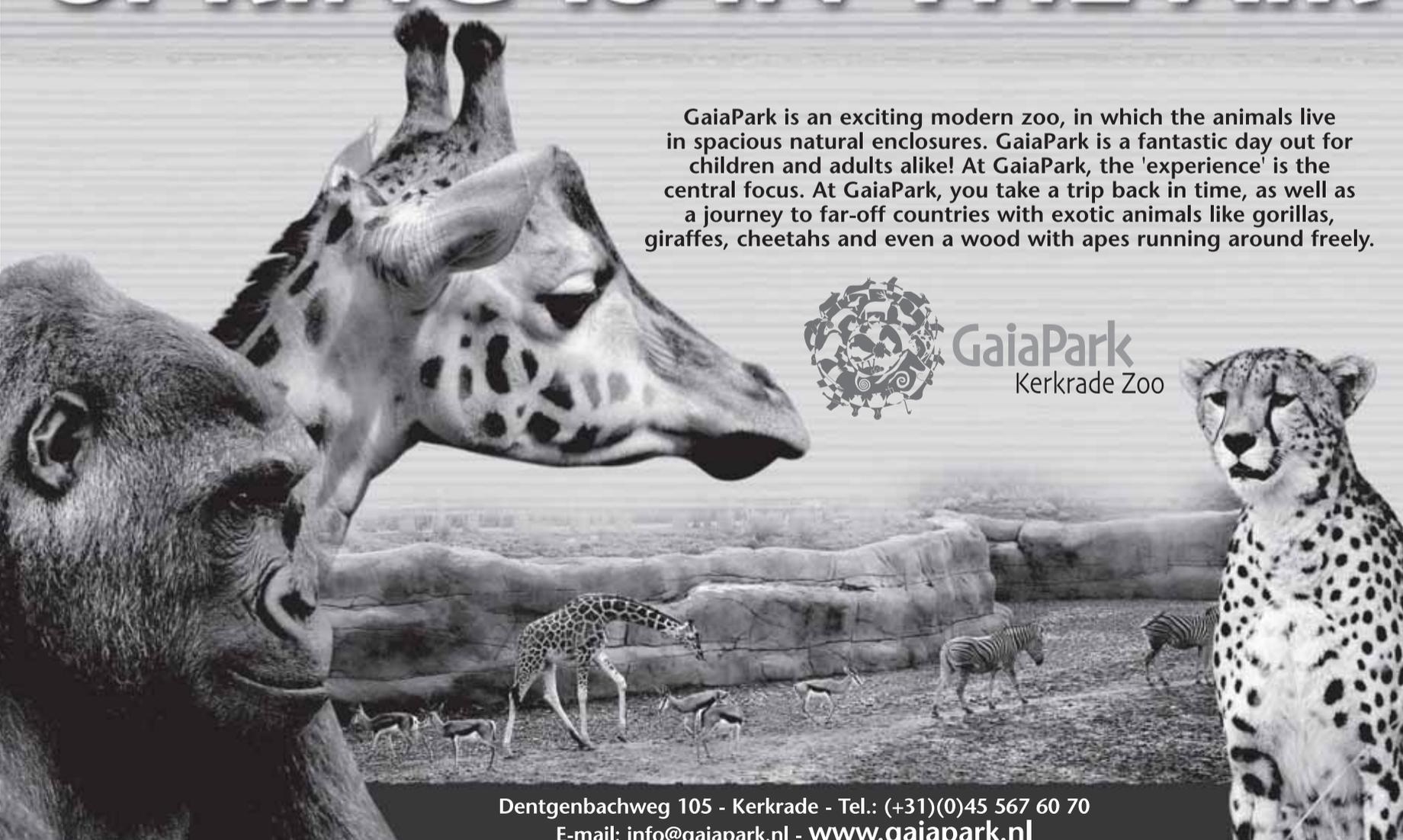
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Almost 150 Years of Service for the Component

Text and photos Mr. Andy Bischoff

On 6 June the Civilian Staff Organization (CSA) celebrated its annual barbeque and quarterly Hail & Farewell outside the Bavarian Keller. The event was a success with over 300 attending.

Three Component members were honored by our Component Commander, Brig. General Schmidt, with a certificate of appreciation on their retirement for their lifelong service.

Since October 1982 Mr. Allan Keen was assigned to the Logistics Wing, first as a navigation technician and later as a communication systems technician. Since October 1982 Mr. Claus von Frankenberg was assigned to the Logistics Wing as a Computer Systems Technician where he served his entire career.

Since March 1982 Mr. Henk Goeyenbier was assigned to the Information Technology Wing and recently as an Analyst/Programmer.

Three other Component members were also honoured by General Schmidt with certificates for 25 years of service. Mr. Lothar Boeven started in the IT Wing as a programmer for the Radar System; he now works Mid-Term Program issues. Mr. Helmut

Grundmann serves in the Logistics Wing Radar Shop as an E-3A radar technician. Mr. Andy Bischoff started June 1981 in the Logistic Wing as a computer technician, and now serves in IT Wing as a risk manager.

Many individuals contributed to the success of the event. Our International Dining Hall colleagues volunteered and provided excellent food service. Martin Spurdle and the Beat-NICs played rock and roll music for the crowd. Maj. 'The King' Le Roi (our French Liaison Officer) performed as Elvis for the last time at the Component.

Mr. Henk Goeyenbier received his certificate later as he was out working an issue on the NATO Mid-Term aircraft.



Another fun moment was when bandleader Martin Spurdle was able to integrate members of the Component leadership. (from left to right) Col. Jelle Zijlstra, Lt.Col. Erik Jacobsen, Col. Angel Burgos and Brig. Gen. Stephen Schmidt with percussion instruments during a song.



(left to right) Mayor of Geilenkirchen Mr. Andreas Borghorst, Mr. Andy Bischoff, Mr. Claus von Frankenberg, Mr. Lothar Boeven, Mr. Helmut Grundmann, Mr. Allan Keen and E-3A Component Commander, Brig. Gen. Stephen Schmidt.



Dutch pinned with aircrew wings

By SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

The NATO E-3A Component Dutch contingent's inaugural 'wing parade' was conducted on 7 June in the Officers Club. The presiding officer, Dutch Director of Air Operations Commodore Jake Franken, pinned aircrew wings on four Dutch Component members.

The presentation of the wings is the culmination of many months of classroom instruction, self study, simulator hours and actual flying hours. They all passed their exams to become 'basic qualified'.

Most of them have, in the meantime, completed their combat ready training phase and are fully qualified to perform

vital missions in the framework of the NATO alliance's objectives.

Weapons controller's 1Lt. Sipke Lautenbach and Capt. Cees Uyl, Surveillance Control Officer Capt. Harold Hendrickx and Passive Detection Officer 1Lt. Eric van Canneyt proudly got their aircrew wings in front of their families and the Dutch Detachment.

The event was attended by E-3A Component commander Brig. Gen. Stephen D. Schmidt, wing commanders and other distinguished guests, and was musically graced by the Royal Netherlands Air Force band.

Due to operational commitments, Surveillance Control Officer Capt. Eric van Zanten will receive his aircrew wing on a later date.

The aircrew wing receipts: From left to right: Weapons controllers 1Lt. Sipke Lautenbach and Capt. Cees Uyl, Surveillance Control Officer Capt. Harold Hendrickx and Passive Detection Officer 1Lt. Eric van Canneyt.

Photo Andrea Hohenforst



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Calls to your	free of charge		
E-Plus Comfort Mailbox	free of charge		

No connection charge



Discount of up to 8% on your monthly talktime!

! Further information available only from:
HEKO-Telecom • An Fürtherode 51 • 52511 Geilenkirchen
Tel: 0 24 51/6 60 66 or HEKO-Telecom • Stadtpassage Konrad-Adenauer-Str. • Geilenkirchen • Tel: 0 24 51/30 03



*Prices excl. 16% V.A.T. This offer applies while stocks last and subject to the simultaneous conclusion of a new E-Plus Service card contract by 31.01.2006 with tariffs and terms as indicated in the table above. Subject to changes without notice. Errors and omissions excepted. **On the conclusion by 31.01.2006 of a mobile phone contract with the Professional tariff and a minimum period of 24 months a credit is granted which is deducted over 12 months from the gross bill. Only two contracts per applicant can be concluded. *** Only applicable after booking and technical activation of the supplementary MMS service with an MMS-capable handset and an E-Plus Service mobile phone contract (for costs involved see above). Can be sent to other German mobile phone networks as SMS with internet address at which the information can be viewed and, where there is an existing agreement between E-Plus and the respective network operator, as a direct MMS (information at 01 77-10 00, from the E-Plus network free of charge). Transmission to mobiles without MMS function or to mobile phone customers without MMS service is by SMS with internet address. Unchanged transmission of the information only possible between the same handsets. 1 Minimum contractual period 24 months. 2 Applies to calls in Germany to fixed line connections and from E-Plus to E-Plus excluding special numbers. 3 Calls from anywhere in Germany to a selected German local code excluding special numbers. 4 Calls from anywhere in Germany to five selected German fixed-line connections excluding special numbers. 5 SMS transmission to other domestic mobile phone networks and within the E-Plus network. 6 Applies to data transmission within Germany to City¹ or Partner & Family¹ phone numbers, WAP and internet mobile. In E-Plus Professional XL also applies to inner-German data transmission to the fixed-line network excluding special numbers and for E-Plus to E-Plus connections. Otherwise the minute prices for voice calls apply. 7 If not yet in use and technically available.