

# “Training always pays off”

Text and photos  
SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

**For many people 9/11/2001 is stuck in their minds, and in the same way 2/11/2009 is stuck in the mind of Commandant Didier van Parys, Navigator, Squadron 1. On that day a fire broke out at his house in Belgium. Thanks to the instructions he learned at Individual Deployment Training and refresher training, he was able to prevent worse damage.**

While he was working in his garden on that day his wife and children suddenly ran out of the house screaming “FIRE...FIRE.” Now, one week later at the Belgian Support Unit, he calmly explains the situation to me. “On that day a contractor was working at my home. He was standing at the outside wall drilling a hole to the inside. Apparently he hit the main electricity cable with a power drill. An explosion followed and flames engulfed my electrical power unit in the garage.”

Due to the training he had received, he immediately knew what to do. “I remembered I had a CO2 fire extinguisher in the storage area. I ran into the house and grabbed the extinguisher to see if something could be done. Barely 40 seconds after the explosion I got there. The whole room was already full of black toxic smoke. In the corner the electrical unit was on fire, with flames already around 1.5 meters high and climbing fast. The fire was making a grumbling noise too.”

All the basic fire drill that he learned at the training sessions - stay calm, call the Fire Department, evacuate, assess the situation, fight the fire - helped him to combat the situation. “I was able to use the CO2 fire extinguisher for about 5 seconds before thick smoke and a lack of air forced me to retreat. Fortunately, the CO2 was very effective and ‘killed’ most of the fire. Seven minutes later the fire department arrived and dealt with the last flames. Afterwards it took them two hours to ventilate the house.”



*Mr. Ken Summer of the E-3A Component Fire Department instructs Component members during the ICCS training on 4 March.*

## How to extinguish a fire

- Make sure you use the right type of fire extinguisher.
- Stay 8 to 10 feet/about 3 metres away from the fire.
- Break the seal on the fire extinguisher and remove the pin.
- Press the lever and aim the extinguisher nozzle or horn at the base of the flames.
- Work with a steady stream along the base of the fire. Do not use short bursts.

The contractor suffered some minor electrical shocks and was quite confused, but didn't receive any major injuries. According to the Fire Department he was very lucky. They also said that the quick reaction of Commandant Van Parys prevented the flames from reaching the wooden ceiling and the roof of his house. However, the whole electrical panel was gone, the alarm system panel also, and half of the house was covered with black dust.

**See TRAINING on page 3**



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Space Gray metallic, Black Dakota leather, Steptronic automatic, 4 Doors, Air Conditioning, Autom. dimming for exterior interior review mirror, Alloy Wheels, Chrome Line Exterior, Floor mats, Heated Front Seats, Lights Package, Moonroof, Navigation, Park Distance Control, Xenon Lights, etc.

**total delivered price € 29,995.-**



**2008 BMW 525i Sedan** (CT22047)

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**total delivered price € 32,000.-**



**2008 BMW 530i Sedan** (B996010)

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**total delivered price € 25,000.-**



**2008 BMW 328i Hardtop Convertible** (PX11841)

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**total delivered price \$ 31,995.-**



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## In Memoriam



We deeply regret to announce the death of our former colleague Mr. Karl-Heinz Möding on 13 February 2009 at the age of 66 years.

Karl-Heinz joined NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen on 1 November 1981 as a system specialist for the Flight Deck Simulator in which he was involved in the build-up phase. At the start of 1982 he was appointed as deputy crew chief of the CAE maintenance team.

Up to his retirement in the end of September 2007 he was a very faithful colleague to all of us and he showed himself to be one of the most experienced cornerstones of the maintenance crew. We were pleased to work with him in our team for so many years.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Karl-Heinz's family.

Eugenius Strouven  
Chief Maintenance  
NATO E-3A Flight Simulator



By Heidi Soerensen

On 24 March the NRW Parliament Members' Soccer Team will play soccer against a representative International team of E-3A Component members. The soccer game will start at 1530 on the outdoor soccer field.

The idea for this soccer game was born during the Component's 25th Anniversary event, where members of the NRW Parliament offered to bring their team to the E-3A Component.

"The Component soccer team is a good team with many strong players. We are proud to present Force Commander Maj. Gen. Axel Tüttelmann and Col. Reinhard Mack

as our goal keepers. Component Commander Maj. Gen. Stephen Schmidt will welcome the visitors and start the match. The Mayor of Geilenkirchen has said he wants to attend as a spectator. This is not only going to be an interesting soccer game, but also a way to strengthen our relations with the local politicians. We hope to see many Component members out there on the soccer field to support our team," says the Component Team Coach, Mr. Werner Schumm.

After the game, the NRW Parliament Team will receive an orientation visit inside the E-3A, followed by a get-together at the Bavarian Beer Cellar with a buffet dinner and drinks for the two teams plus invited guests.

## TRAINING

Continued from front page

"As a new cable had to be installed we didn't have electricity for 30 hours," says Commandant Van Parys. "The total cost of the damage is €25,000. The roof is still there, as well as the house and everything in it. But most important of all is that nobody was seriously hurt."

**"A fire extinguisher – the best investment I ever made"**

Commandant Van Parys feels that he was extremely lucky. "To fight the fire right away, when it was still controllable, was a good thing to do. I did this not because I am a hero, but because I was mentally ready and knew what to do. This I owe not to myself but to the training that I undergo, which turned out more than useful. In fact, I doubt that I would have managed to react in the same way without the training. Thank you Component, thank you Fire Department!"

The person responsible for firefighting training during ICCS is Mr. Ken Sumner of the E-3A Component Fire Department. "Training always pays off," he says. "Commandant Van Parys performed the right actions. But I want to stress that you should only fight a small fire. If the fire is too large, then immediately evacuate the area. Most people who die while fighting fires are not killed by the flames, but by the toxic gases emitted from burning materials such as wood and plastics in the house. Also be aware that many people die while trying to save their own house/property."

## Vacancy Announcement

Applications are invited for the following posts:

**Principal Technician (ESM)**,  
Advertisement Number 09008,  
NATO grade B-5, assigned to the  
ESM Section, Communications/  
ESM Maintenance Branch,  
Electronics Maintenance  
Squadron, Logistics Wing.  
Closing date: 20 March 2009.

**Senior Technician (ESM)**,  
Advertisement Numbers 09006+  
09007, NATO Grade B-4, assigned

to the ESM Section, Communi-  
cations/ESM Maintenance  
Branch, Electronics Maintenance  
Squadron, Logistics Wing.  
Closing date: 20 March 2009.

**Senior Technician (Propulsion)**,  
Advertisement Numbers  
09010+09011, NATO Grade B-4,  
assigned to the Propulsion Section,  
Aircraft Systems Branch, Aircraft  
Maintenance Squadron, Logistics  
Wing. These posts are due to be  
filled as soon as possible.  
Closing date: 24 March 2009.

**Senior guard/Instructor**,  
Advertisement Number 09005,  
NATO Grade C-4, assigned to the  
Training Section, Force Protection  
Branch, Security Squadron, Base  
Support Wing. This post is due to  
be filled as soon as possible.  
Closing date: 1 April 2009.

For further details, please visit  
the Component Information  
Portal (WISE) under Headquarters,  
PEC, Recruitment/Services  
Section or review the  
advertisement posted in  
Building 8.

*Note: Only applications of  
qualified personnel will be considered.*

## IWC

On Thursday, 19 March the Italian Ladies present 'Middle Lent Carnival and Italian Masks', an old Italian tradition. The event will take place at the Frisbee Club. The doors are open at 1830, the party begins at 1900. The Italian Ladies are looking forward that you join them with playing, eating, singing, dancing and most of all... having fun together.



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## *Aircrew Library supports crews by providing publications and maps essential for mission accomplishment*

# “Can I please have a map?”

By Heidi Soerensen

**The Aircrew Library lives quite an anonymous life in the basement of Building 203. Behind the heavy security doors shelves cover the walls from ground to ceiling, containing countless publications, charts and maps. Despite its modest location there is nothing ancient about the aircrew library. Today, just like every other day, there is a steady stream of customers at the counter asking for various maps and publications.**

“Their task here is essential for flight safety and mission accomplishment. If the crews do not have the proper updated publications the consequences can be of tremendous impact. Just to mention two examples: pilots can not take off without the required updated International Civil Aviation Organization documents, and mission crews might not be able to operate or communicate with Control and Reporting Centers and/or Air Traffic Control if they do not possess the right publications or if their frequency manual has not been updated,” says Lt. Col. Kees Pauw,

Chief of Operations Division.

Since the mid-eighties the Aircrew Library has been responsible for managing and updating the E-3A Component's stock of NATO publications, charts and maps. The Aircrew Library staff consists of four Operations Specialists and one Branch Chief. “It sometimes happens that a crew member comes down here and simply asks for ‘a map’, and then it is our task to help him find the right map for his mission. Should it be a tactical planning chart (1:500.000)? Or is it better to give him a global map (1:5.000.000)? My staff has a comprehensive knowledge of maps, charts and publications. We analyze the request in order to provide the best possible quality of service by issuing the right maps and documents,” explains Branch Chief MSgt. John Hansen.

The library's customers are primarily crewmembers. The flight crews require various European navigational manuals, flight publications and maps which are all put together by the Aircrew Library in a so-called ‘navigation bag’ that is placed in the cockpit. Every third week an operational specialist from the Aircrew Library proceeds to the

flight line where he replaces all the ‘navigation bags’ in the entire fleet with a new updated version. The staff of the Aircrew Library also deploy on a regular basis or at short notice, carrying new and updated publications and maps essential for an ongoing exercise or deployment.

In the morning of the mission-planning day the mission crew collects the prepared classified ‘mission bags’ containing operational publications for the Tactical Director, the Surveillance Team and the Passive Controller. In addition to the standard publications the Weapons Team require specified maps and charts relevant for the mission concerned. The Aircrew Library also supplies the Tower and Approach Radar with Airport Information Service publications. Last but not least, crews from visiting aircraft are found among the library's customers. When the loaned publications are returned to the Aircrew Library they are checked page by page and then the preparations for the next day's ‘mission bags’ can begin.

Besides servicing the many customers and managing the publications the Aircrew Library also

updates and implements changes quite often. “Every third week the entire library is updated and an average of 800 kilos of paper are recycled. It is a comprehensive task for our team and it takes about a week before all the updates are done. That task also includes the updating of the publications located at the Forward Operation bases, the Forward Operation Location and the publications in all the aircraft here at the Component. It is a challenging job, with accuracy and concentration being two of the keywords. Imagine changing the same page in ten publications or replacing one page in hundreds of publications. If you swop out the wrong page in the frequency manual, the crew would get an unpleasant surprise in the air and the consequences could be devastating. It is our responsibility to make sure that each and every publication is updated correctly. My staff is experienced and the quality of our service is high. It is motivating for us to work with the crew members, get to know them and provide them with the best possible service,” says MSgt. Hansen.

The Aircrew Library's opening hours are from 0600 to 1700, Monday to Friday.



MSgt. John Hansen and SSgt. Kevin Tillich provide publications and maps to two of the many customers in the Aircrew Library.  
Photo Andrea Hohenforst



## The Wassenberg Magics



A Ladies Fast Pitch Softball Team is looking for ladies of all ages who are athletically talented and team players, who are committed and interested in playing with the Magics. Furthermore Headcoach Frank Gobbers and his team are looking for help and support in Coaching!



The season starts in April and ends in late September. Games are played on Sundays.

The Magics play in the **BSV NRW Landesliga** Conference. Opponents are for example the Neunkirchen Nightmares, Brauweiler Raging Abbots, Eifel Hot Shots, Bonn Capitals, Hilden Wains, Ratingen Goose-Necks.

Training and home games in **Spring/Summer** are played on the Ash-Sportfield in 41849 Wassenberg - Mhyl (Am Schwanderberg).

In **Autumn/Winter** the Magics train in the Wassenberg Sports Gym (Bergstr. In 41849 Wassenberg) on Wednesdays from 18:00-20:00 & Saturdays from 13:00-15:00.

A Pitching Clinic is scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup>. Training games will be arranged before the start of the season.

All are welcome to come by, visit the team, & take part in our training to begin your softball experience!

For more information about the games & training, call: Martina Pelzer-Elbert, Tel. 02452-939421 or look on our homepage:

[www.bsv-wassenberg.de](http://www.bsv-wassenberg.de)

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# Hellenic Independence Day celebration

The Greek detachment will celebrate the Hellenic Independence Day on Wednesday, 18 March. A *Te Deum* will take place at the Base Chapel at 1400 followed by a reception at the Officers' Club at 1500.

Around 200 people have been invited to commemorate this day. Among them, the Greek National Military Representative to SHAPE, the Greek Consul General in Köln, the Orthodox Bishop in

Aachen, representatives from the Greek diplomatic and military authorities in Germany, the Greek-German communities in the Aachen-Heinsberg area, as well as Component authorities, Senior National Representatives and Component members.

Point of contact for this event are Lt. Col. Konstantinos Papaisidorou and 1Lt. Konstantinos Katsidimas, NSGRC, ext. 2164.



## PLANE SPOTTER

This plane landed at Geilenkirchen Air Base

Do you know what it is?

SEE PAGE 10



Photo A1C Nick Baderschneider

# Component fitness event

By Heidi Soerensen

On Thursday, 26 February at 1200 the Component Fitness Event (CFE) for February was kicked off. Rising temperatures and a sense of spring called for outdoor activities. Participants could walk, jog or run a 2 km, 3 km or 5 km route in the woodland behind the New Gym.

More than 100 Component members came to participate in the different disciplines. In addition to the fitness the participants also found time to socialize and build

camaraderie. The Sports Department continues to do its utmost to get even more people to take part in fitness activities on a regular basis.

**The CFE for March will be various outdoor activities including 'Nordic' walking, jogging or running a 2 km, 3 km, 4 km, 5 km, 6 km or 10 km route. The CFE will take place on Thursday, 26 March at 1100. For more information, please contact Mr. Hans Kicken at ext. 4987.**



Component members in friendly competition. The monthly Component Fitness Events offer both exercise and camaraderie.

Photo Andrea Hohenforst

# Maintaining the

By Mr. Lon Raets

**In January the last of 28 E-3A Legacy computer technicians completed the NATO Mid-Term (NMT) Mission Computing System (MCS) maintenance course. This was in accordance with the Logistics Wing (Log Wing) NMT training schedule, which was set up right after the Operational Test & Evaluation (OT&E) phase of the new system in 2005.**

Before the OT&E phase, selected Log Wing Electronics Maintenance (LWED) technicians received basic OT&E NMT maintenance training at the Boeing training facilities in order to conduct IOT&E and OT&E. Based on that training and several maintenance demonstrations commenced at General Dynamics Canada, European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company and Boeing Company, plus experience gained throughout the development phase of the NMT program, the Log Wing MCS maintenance training program was developed.

The Component's Computing System Maintenance team first became acquainted with the NMT MCS hardware in November 2000 during the first Operational Assessment (OA) on the N-1, tail #453, prototype. It was the first chance to assess possible future equipment and/or Mission Computing maintenance issues. OA #1 was the first assessment to support the Operational Requirement Document and the Requirements Correlation Matrix with the NMT Critical Issues of Reliability & Maintainability and set a baseline for future Operational Assessments. Several problems, from safety to cable chafing hazards, equipment shock mounting, procedural aspects, documentation, human factors, and various equipment failure issues were identified, logged and reported to NAPMA for improvement.

NMT MCS maintenance O-level courses were started in early 2006, with an average of 2 classes of 90 training days each per year. The initial lack of NMT systems for HOT (hands on training) posed a big challenge in the first few years. A new system gives rise to new challenges, also for maintenance training. A new and unique pre-requisite training package needed to be developed to enable maintainers to understand the basis of the NMT computing system.

UNIX and networking courses (8 days) were created by LWED instructors especially for and focusing



Electronics Maintenance Squadron Comm congratulates the last three E-3A Legacy co MSgt. Mustafa Caldiran, MSgt. Oliver A completion of the NATO Mid-Term Mission

on the unique AWACS computing system. On average, 3-4 of these courses are taught per year, with such success that Operations Wing (OW) System Technicians also attend the Log Wing UNIX and Networking course. This gives an immense advantage for interoperability between Log Wing and OW and is very helpful when tackling complex mission computing system problems that require detailed information exchange between the mission crew and maintenance personnel.

Parallel to the aircraft modifications, mission simulators 1 and 2, together with the Real Time Simulation System, were modified and became operational. LWED is also involved in maintaining these systems, and a training program needed to be developed by the LWED instructors too. A mission simulator maintenance training package has been developed and is taught to LWED technicians on a regular basis.

During the transition phase, from 2005 to the end of 2008, the Computer Shop had to maintain 2 completely different computing systems: Legacy and NMT. This placed severe constraints on scheduling, manning and training. In conjunction with NMT and in view of personnel requirements, Legacy computing system maintenance training still had to be provided.

The NMT MCS principal



# the brain of the E-3A

## 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.



Commander Lt. Col. Leo Eisbach (right) and computer technicians, (from left to right) [Name obscured] and SSgt. Kivi Majette, on their [Name obscured] Computing System maintenance course.

technicians/instructors, Frank Mondschein, Jos Rienties and Lon Raets are working closely together with the LWED technicians and Log Wing management on the development and improvement of the MCS maintenance training required for NMT, which is still raising new issues due to system changes, e.g. the Console Upgrade Program which enhances the NMT Computing System performance and will require some delta training for the NMT MCS maintenance technicians.

Directly supporting the NMT upgrade, LWED participated in

the Ground Integration Testing/ Ground Acceptance Testing of the modification at EADS in Manching where the systems were tested for acceptance by the Component.

With NMT, flexibility and new ways of thinking are often required. This flexibility will help to resolve any number of day-to-day problems. For example, problems with the use of the Removable Media Assemblies (RMAs) became apparent during normal operations. Damage to pins and connectors in the Mission Data Recorder as well as the RMA chassis containing physically similar

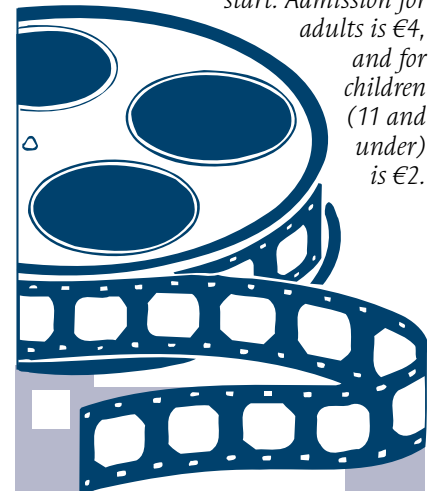
removable hard drives was noted. Close coordination between industry (via NAMS and Force Command), Information Technology Wing (IT Wing), Log Wing management and the Computer Shop has resulted in procedures that now allow the Computer Shop to disassemble/ declassify the RMAs and send only the external housing away for repair.

Operational software issues were tackled by LWED and resulted, with the great help of IT Wing, in a set of helpful software tools for the System Technician that permit him to reset the system to a known state, thus enabling him to continue his mission in many cases.

During normal day-to-day aircraft and mission simulator maintenance, some procedural discrepancies can still be found in the Interactive Electronic Technical Documentation. If they are not corrected, such discrepancies may have a big impact on how maintenance is performed on the aircraft and mission simulators. Mission Computing Maintenance works closely with Quality Assurance, Ops Wing Test and Evaluation Division and management to find solutions for the problems and to see to it that appropriate changes are incorporated into maintenance documentation.

We are still building up experience with the new system. This requires great flexibility in what we do and how we do it. It is therefore important that all Wings on the Component continue to work closely together to make and keep the NMT AWACS Computing System the best-maintained system there is.

*Component members responsible for the NATO Mid-Term Mission Computing System maintenance training: Shop Chief SMSgt. Thomas Uedinger, Branch Chief CMSgt. Thanasis Papaioannio, and principal technicians/instructors Mr. Lon Raets, Mr. Frank Mondschein and Mr. Jos Rienties.*  
Photos EMS Admin



### Bolt (PG)

Saturday, 14 March, 1300  
No actors mentioned

### Doubt (PG-13)

Saturday, 14 March, 1600  
Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman

### The Spirit (PG-13)

Saturday, 14 March, 1900  
Jaime King, Gabriel Macht

### W. (PG-13)

Friday, 20 March, 1300  
No actors mentioned

### High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G)

Saturday, 21 March, 1300  
No actors mentioned

### Not Easily Broken (PG-13)

Saturday, 21 March, 1600  
Morris Chestnut, Taraji P. Henson

### The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG-13)

Saturday, 21 March, 1900  
Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett



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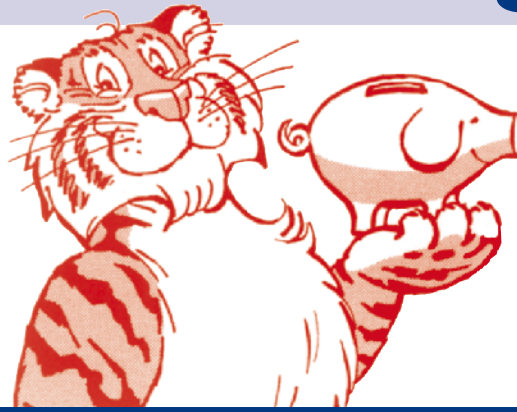
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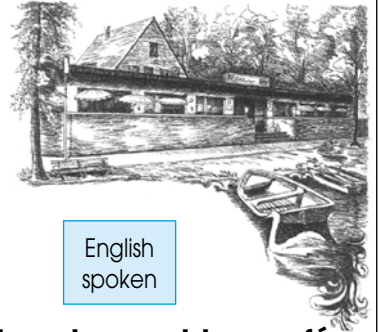
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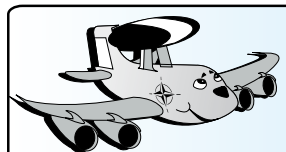
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## PLANE SPOTTER

On 4 February a C-20H from the United States Air Force landed on NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen for passenger transport. It departed after a short stop of about an hour towards Ramstein AFB.

The C-20H is a military version of a Gulfstream IV-SP. The USAF mainly uses this aircraft for command and executive transport purposes. It is especially popular because of its large cabin, which is comfortable furnished and technological equipment such as satellite communication system with voice and data transmission capability or numerous computer systems. All of these standards can be shared among up to 19 passengers.

It is equipped with two Rolls-Royce Tay Mk.611-8 turboprops that can lift the aircraft to a service ceiling of 45,000 ft. Meanwhile it can accelerate up to 460 kts (850 km/h) and stay airborne for 8 hrs 45 minutes with a maximum fuel load of 29,500 pounds. In September 2003, when the last G IV-SP was produced, the costs were about \$ 36 Million.

# Job Shadow Day at Geilenkirchen

By Lisa Stacey

On Tuesday, 3 February the 6th grade class at Geilenkirchen Elementary School participated in the annual USAF Groundhog Job Shadow Day. Job Shadowing offers a great opportunity for students to connect what they are learning in the classroom to the world of work.

The goal of Job Shadow Day is to demonstrate how their education today can translate into a rewarding career in the future. The students visited agencies on base from 0900

to 1400 and were able to participate in workplace activities. The students were allowed to choose which organization they would visit to match with their interests.

The following agencies hosted students: Maj. Gen. Stephen Schmidt and the E-3A Component Headquarters, 470th Finance, 470th Superintendent, 470th Personnel, Health and Wellness Center, Dental Clinic, International Military Police, Child Development Center, US Clinic, Mrs. Carolyn Berlin (1st grade teacher), and the Legal Office.

## 'Winds Aloft' visits GKES



By Lisa Stacey

To celebrate music in our schools month, the United States Air Forces in Europe Winds Aloft Woodwind Quintet played a short program that introduced the look and sounds of the woodwind family to students of the Geilenkirchen Elementary School on Friday, 6 March.

Based at Sembach Air Base Germany, the five-member ensemble consists of the flute, oboe, clarinet,

bassoon, and horn. Through storytelling, the quintet gave each instrument a specific personality to match its unique sound.

"The group described and highlighted each instrument for the children during their performance. It was informative and fun," says Dr. Terry Emerson, GKES Principal. After the entertaining lesson the quintet closed the performance with the theme song from 'Harry Potter'.

# New Project Office under construction

By Heidi Soerensen

The Bau- und Liegenschaftsbetrieb NRW Aachen is going to extend its project office at the E-3A Component by a further 340 m<sup>2</sup>. The official ground-breaking ceremony to launch the construction of the new office building took place on Thursday, 26 February. The new office building will adjoin the existing office space in Building 6. It will house approximately 25 employees dealing with a variety of construction projects at the Component and in the surrounding areas.

"The Bau- und Liegenschaftsbetrieb

NRW Aachen could have chosen another location for their project office. I am therefore delighted that they decided to build it here at the Component. I see this as a major benefit, as it allows for closer and improved coordination on the various ongoing construction projects on base," says Base Support Wing Commander Col. Reinhard Mack.

The construction of the new Project Office building is expected to be completed by the end of June 2009. The total cost, estimated at €650,000, will also benefit the local economy because the new office building is being built by a German contractor.



(From the left) Mr. Herbert Aretz and Mr. Harald K. Lange from the Bau- und Liegenschaftsbetrieb NRW, Col. Reinhard Mack and the Chief of the Infrastructure Office, Mr. Thorsten Wahl, using the official shovel to turn over the first piece of soil for the new building.

Photo Andrea Hohenforst

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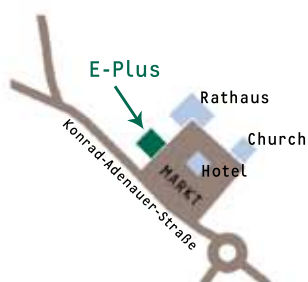
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