



Photo by Andrea Hohenforst

AWACS dispersed to FOBs & FOL as runway restoration begins

By Staff Sgt. R. Michael Longoria

With the departure of E-3A tail-number 455 on May 8, 2014, the E-3A Component's NATO Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft fleet has been fully dispersed to its forward operating bases and location as runway restoration begins at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Germany.

"With 455 taking off to FOB Konya, restoration work on our 3,048 meter (10,000 feet) runway can now begin," explained Maj. Gen. Andrew M. Mueller, Component commander. "This restoration project will resurface the top portion of our 30 year-old runway with 30 centimetres of asphalt."

This effort will eliminate the concrete surface which has begun

to deteriorate over the past several years. The original runway was constructed in the early 1980s and was only expected to last about 20 years. Patch-work has been completed to extend the life of the runway, but the time has come for complete resurfacing.

The runway restoration project is planned to be completed using eight work cycles consisting of 11 work days and three fly days – a total of 16 weeks. To achieve the completion within the planned construction cycles, contractors will be working extensively, including weekends and holidays with some work also being conducted during nightshifts.

"The whole runway restoration project will be quite demanding;

especially, to always have the runway operational after 11 days," said Thorsten Wahl, a senior engineer and head of the Component's Infrastructure Division. "The contractor and engineering office agreed and both of them are confident this restoration plan is feasible."

While the runway will be open for three days every two weeks to allow for aircraft to fly in and out of Geilenkirchen, the majority of the Component's fleet will operate out of Turkey, Greece, Italy and Norway throughout the restoration project.

The Component's organic ability to function from these locations will allow NATO AWACS to sustain its ongoing missions to include Operation Afghan Assist and, more recently,

flights over Poland and Romania.

"Supporting operations from these locations is something the Component envisioned and has been resourced to do since 1984, so I am certain our Component members at the FOBs and FOL are ready to sustain our outstanding mission success rate," stated General Mueller.

While dispersing all of its operations from the MOB is a first for the Component, the general is confident the success rate will continue.

"Like every other mission we have accomplished over the past year, I am certain we will maintain our mission success during the runway restoration project," he said.

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In Memory of Maj. Gen. Gary Winterberger

On May 20, 2014, Maj. Gen. Gary Winterberger passed away at his home in the United States of America at the age of 65. As many of our Component members remember, General Winterberger was the ninth E-3A Component commander from Sept. 8, 2000, to Sept. 25, 2003. Following his tour as Component commander, he assumed the duties as the NAEW Force commander until he retired in 2006.

I had the privilege of meeting General Winterberger while stationed in the USA. Be certain, NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen was a special place for him. Telling me about his time as the Component commander brought a wide smile to his face for sure. During my time here in the Component, he occasionally called, not to talk, but rather to offer sound advice on the issues facing the Component today.

Many of our Component Members have vivid memories of General Winterberger. He was often seen jogging around the base perimeter in the early morning hours, rain or shine. Those who flew with him recall his steady hands at air refueling, no matter the conditions. He was a frequent visitor to the Forward Operating Bases and Location, ensuring all facets of the Component were mission ready.

A hallmark of his tenure as the commander was Operation Eagle Assist, the first Article V action in the history of the NATO Alliance.

Under General Winterberger's leadership the E-3A Component deployed more than 300 personnel and seven aircraft to Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, to augment the USA air defense systems after the terrorist attacks in the USA. When this operation was concluded seven months later, General Winterberger welcomed a host of visitors to NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, to include NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson and U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, to thank the members of our Component for their dedication to the NATO mission.

General Winterberger also pioneered the NATO Mid-Term upgrade program; bringing to life the first computer modernization program in the history of the AWACS program. He sent aircraft 453 for modification in 2002 and, as the Force Commander in 2005, welcomed it back, certifying the mission readiness of the most modern E-3A in the world. He also guided the Component through a comprehensive manpower review which resulted in the first significant reduction in the Component Peacetime Establishment, meeting the challenge head-on of sustaining the operational tempo while facing declining manpower in every mission area.

When I looked back to read what General Winterberger wrote on these same pages in 2002, he often returned to two themes: teamwork and challenges. "The Component has a history of rising to the occasion;



it seems the tougher the challenges the better we do. Said another way – this is a great team here at Geilenkirchen."

Finally, it was General Winterberger who fostered the idea of using the tail fin from aircraft 457, now a landmark welcoming everyone to NATO Airbase Geilenkirchen. The next time you drive past the E-3A tail fin on the main street, take a moment to pay tribute to the service

and dedication of the Major General Gary Winterberger – I am proud to say he was a true wingman, leader and warrior for the E-3A Component. Godspeed General Winterberger.


MAJ GEN ANDREW M. MUELLER



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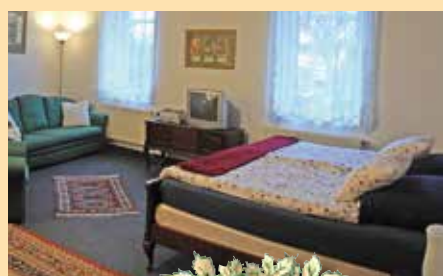


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Static display provides StratAirMedEvac training



Photo by Andrea Hohenforst

By Lt. Col. (Dr.) Daniel Jansen

An information and training event focusing on Strategic Air Medical Evacuation (StratAirMedEvac) took

place May 7, 2014, at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Germany.

The event was organised by E-3A Component Medical Branch in

cooperation with the Special Air Mission Wing of the Federal Ministry of Defence (Flugbereitschaft BMVg). Attendees included personnel from the Medical Branch and the Fire, Crash & Rescue Branch.

The event centred around a German Air Force Airbus A310 MRT StratAirMedEvac, which was on static display and open to interested personnel for walk-through visits.

These visits were preceded in the morning by presentations from experts in this specialty field.

StratAirMedEvac is an important element of the emergency medical chain and it ensures deployed personnel, such as Component members serving in Afghanistan, can be medically evacuated if their state of health requires this.

The Airbus A 310 MRT StratAirMedEvac is equipped with a total of six patient transport units and 38 litter kits enabling in-flight care at the same standard as an intensive care ward in Germany. On operational missions, the Airbus A310 MRT StratAirMedEvac is staffed by up to 30 highly qualified military personnel from the Bundeswehr Medical Service, including up to eight physicians.

StratAirMedEvac mission flights are controlled by the European Air Transport Command at Eindhoven Air Base in the Netherlands; and the missions are directed by the Bundeswehr Medical Services Command in Koblenz, Germany.

Editor's Note: The text in this article was translated by the Language Services Office.

Component participates in Unified Vision 2014

By Maj. Rodney W. Lammert

The NATO E-3A Component participated in Exercise Unified Vision 2014 at Forward Operating Location Oerland, Norway, from May 12 to May 28, 2014.

Unified Vision 2014 is a live Joint Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (JISR) multinational trial, demonstrating NATO and Allied technical and operational capabilities in the JISR mission.

This is a key milestone in NATO's JISR initiative, recognized in the JISR Project Initiation Document as a key proof of concept opportunity to demonstrate an initial JISR capability for NATO Response Force (NRF) 2016.

The NATO E-3A demonstrated its support for the JISR mission as a provider of JISR capabilities for

the Joint Forces Command and in its more traditional command and control roles, coordinating JISR operations in addition to digital close air support working with our host nation Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC) and Cooperative Electronic Support Measures Operations (CESMO).

Central to the experimentation was the employment of Internet Protocol (IP) communications through the NATO E-3A Airborne Instant Messaging System allowing AWACS crews to receive operational orders and instructions like Air Tasking Order, Special Instructions and Air Control Measures as well as other updates while they are flying.

Results from Unified Vision 2014 will provide a roadmap for enhanced integration of the E-3A into joint operations and will lead to improved



Several members of the UV-14 Bunker Crew pose for a photo at FOL Oerland, Norway.

communications interface between the mission crew and the Joint Task Force commander. Lastly, UV-14 will provide an assessment of effect procedures

and recommend improvements to validate interoperability between NATO and national contributions to the NATO NRF.



Turkish NSU sends entire pallet of clothes, toys to children in Afghanistan

Courtesy Photo

As part of the 26th International Children's Festival, the Turkish National Support Unit conducted a donation campaign at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Germany, to gather toys and clothes for children in Afghanistan.

An entire cargo-pallet of items was collected and sent to Afghanistan May 12, 2014, on a TNT aircraft.



By Maj. Joaquin Glomski

On 29 April, American and Belgian members of the E-3A Component took part in a remembrance ceremony at Bérismenil (La Roche-en-Ardenne) in Belgium. The year 2014 marked the 70th anniversary of a B-17 crash near Bérismenil. Efforts by local townspeople to recover and aide survivors shaped the character and traditions for all their generations since. The memorial was dedicated in 1984, and the annual event has been supported by E-3A Component members every year since 1992.

The E-3A Component Commander Maj. Gen. Mueller and around 50 Component members joined the Mayor of La Roche-en-Ardenne, local school children, and local citizens to honour the B-17 Flying Fortress crewmembers and citizens of Bérismenil for their assistance to the crew.

Component takes part in remembrance ceremony

On 13 April 1944, a B-17 Flying Fortress, nicknamed "The Joker," was on a mission to bomb ball bearing factories at Schweinfurt, Germany but was damaged by an attack of the German Luftwaffe before it reached its target.

The villagers of Bérismenil heard the low flying B-17 and saw parachutes coming down before the aircraft crashed into a hillside.

One member of the crew, SSgt. James H. Young, was killed when the aircraft was attacked, but the other nine crewmembers survived. Risking their own lives, the villagers searched for survivors and rescued one member.

The mayor, Mr. Mottet, later helped locate other survivors who landed in nearby villages and put them in contact with the Belgian resistance. The saga of each crewmember and their paths taken to freedom is documented in *Odyssey of an American Crew in 1944* by Isabelle Engels (to be published in June).

The memorial serves as a testament to sacrifices made for

freedom but perhaps even more relevant to the members of the E-3A Component, the ceremony reinforces the importance of multinational cooperation.

WWII brought unthinkable tragedy but from its depths grew an enduring commitment to peace by the Allied Forces and what later would become the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The mayor of La Roche-en-Ardenne, Guy Gilloteaux, captured this point in his speech: "... Driven by a sense of responsibility necessary, it is then we can understand. Provided that it is just the sacrifice may be a donation on behalf of the future..." and the values that drive NATO. [translated]

Col. Paul Bell, senior national representative for the U.S. forces at Geilenkirchen Air Base, delivered a speech in French paying tribute to the outstanding generosity and the incredible courage of the citizens: "We come as an American contingent carrying immeasurable admiration for the citizens of this Belgian

town, who 70 years ago risked their lives to save survivors of American forces in a B-17 named 'The Joker... we also bring our sincere gratitude now to the current inhabitants of this region who even today maintain their memory." [translated]

The speakers honoured not only the past and present, but also the future as epitomized by one courageous young student who delivered a speech in front of the large crowd. The mayor specifically thanked one of the E-3A Component members, Isabelle Engels, for her efforts to make the ceremony a success.

Perhaps most meaningful to Ms Engels was the presentation of an illustrated book created by elementary school students who learned about the people and events of "The Joker" as documented in her book.

Though a sombre occasion, the event ultimately served as a celebration for the continuing commitment to shared values and efforts by the people and nations of the Alliance.



Component bids farewell to civil guard after 32 years-of-service

By Staff Sgt R. Michael Longoria

John Wijnands put on his uniform, and stood guard at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen's main gate May 14, 2014.

He has grown quite accustomed to this routine, as he has been doing this for more than three decades; however, this day was slightly different than the others. While he was still the first line of defence, this day was his last day of duty.

After 32 years-of-service within the E-3A Component's Civil Guard, his retirement on this day marked the end of an incredible journey. As for the last day, Wijnands simply said, "It was fine."

One of his most memorable moments was when the first E-3A aircraft, LX-N 90442 landed at the main operating base at 1633 local

time on Feb. 24, 1982.

"We rushed out to the flight-line but then had to stand there for quite some time," Wijnands recalled. "The aircraft was about four hours late."

However, it won't be a take-off or a landing he'll remember most about his time here.

"The people are the best part of the job," Wijnands said. "After so many years together, we became our own little family. Whether it was working nights, weekends or holidays, the long shifts were never that bad because the civil guards are a really good group of people."

In recognition of his dedicated service to NATO over the years, Maj. Gen. Andrew M. Mueller, Component commander, presented Wijnands with a certificate of appreciation and his commander's coin.



Courtesy Photo
The first E-3A aircraft (LX-N 90442)
landed at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen
on Feb. 24, 1982, at 4:33 p.m. local time.

Goodbye Gero: Lt. Col. Ronneberger retires from active-duty



From German National Support Unit

The E-3A Component Commander, Maj. Gen. Andrew M. Mueller, and the commander of the German Support Group, Lt. Col. Volker von dem Bach, said farewell to Lt. Col. Gero Ronneberger on April 28, 2014, in recognition of more than 20 years at the Component in Geilenkirchen and 37 years and 10 months of active duty in the Bundeswehr.

Colonel Ronneberger started his military career as a German Air Force cadet in July 1976.

After having completed the basic military as well as the officers' training, he got successfully trained as jet aircraft commander from 1979 to 1981 followed by two assignments

as Alpha Jet pilot at Fighter Bomber Wing 41 in Husum (1981 – 1990) and Tactical Training Command of the German Air Force in Beja/Portugal (1990 – 1994).

In April 1994, Colonel Ronneberger was assigned to the E-3A Component where he has been performing duties as aircraft commander, instructor pilot, safety officer and finally head of the flight simulator.

Recently, he was awarded the medal of honour of the Bundeswehr in Gold in recognition of his outstanding achievements with respect to implementing and improving the Component's flight simulator to a high performing, computer-based training and management system.

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"Busy Bee" at the Component

By Carol John

Did you know that there are nine colonies of bees residing on the NATO Air Base, busily making honey for us on a daily basis? Just to give you an idea on how many bees we are talking about, a colony of bees could reach up to 80,000 individuals, a single queen bee, drones and workers. They are all being lovingly cared for by our passionate beekeeper, Mr. Thomas Henrichs from the Sports Department.

Mr. Henrichs became totally fascinated by bees after receiving an introduction into beekeeping at a local park in 2012. He there and then decided he wanted to become a beekeeper and immediately went out looking for an experienced beekeeper in the surrounding area to get him on his feet.

He met up with Mr. Hans-Willi Dohmen from Grotenrath who took him on as a novice beekeeper, giving him all the support and information he needed to become a beekeeper. Thereafter, he became a member of the beekeeping organisation in Übach-Palenberg, and in 2012 attended a beekeeping school in Würselen. In August 2012, his mentor, Mr Dohmen, gave him his first two bee colonies to get him started. He has in the meantime rented a piece of land on base from the Forestry Office where he

spends most of his spare time looking after his bees. In June 2013, he was presented with an official certificate as a fully-fledged beekeeper.

He is now moving into his third bee season and owns nine bee colonies. He emphasised that he would never have made this in such a short time without the help of his mentor in Grotenrath.

Just to enhance your general knowledge skills, here are a few facts about bees...

- Bees fly a distance of about 240.000 kilometres, equivalent to 6 times around the Earth, to produce one kilogram of honey.
- A bee makes about 165 flights a day to provide the honey we consume.
- An ant can carry a load of a hundred times its own body weight. A chameleon can change its body colour. But a bee can do things that no other creature can even come close to achieving. You have to ask yourself how this small-bodied insect with tiny wings manages to fly an average of 85 kilometres a day, pollinating about 200 blossoms. Even more impressive is what it achieves by doing this: the pollination of up to 80 per cent of all cultivated and wild plants.



Photo by Fritz Stelten

- Bees collect honey not for us to eat at breakfast but to feed themselves during the long, cold winter months when no blossoms are to be found.

The honey produced by Mr Henrichs' bees is on sale at the E-3A Club and MWR Store at 4.50 euro per jar. It's absolutely delicious and makes a wonderful present!

Road and mountain bike tours for beginners and advanced

By Geoff Bucknall

In preparation for Component Sports day on June 12, 2014, all Component road race cyclists are cordially invited to attend a short pre-sports day brief to be held at the New Gym on June 4, 2014, at 1000 hours. If you cannot make this meeting, you can contact Geoff Bucknall on ext. 3361. The idea behind the briefing is to discuss in short, participant preferences, such as distances and ability. And, in particular for beginners, to touch on what you should have with you, and safety.

One possible route could be a flat course along the Maas River on both the Belgian and Dutch sides of the river. Depending on numbers, there may be two groups (advanced and intermediate/beginners).

What is required:

- a conventional road (racing) bike of 9, 10 or 11 speed is required, with max 25mm tires. Mountain bikes, hybrids, or other thicker wheeled heavy bikes are unsuitable, meaning you will have difficulty keeping up, even with the slowest of the group.
- Cycle helmet is obligatory, for

obvious reasons, in particular for insurance purposes.

- Spare inner tubes and tools
- Energy type snacks and water or energy drink
- Clothing for prevailing weather conditions at the time (lightweight rain or wind jacket etc..)
- Money, mobile phone, personal items
- You should be in good health and of reasonable physical fitness

Mountain Bike Tour

Timeframe: During Sports Day from 0830 to 1230 - Distance: 55 KM - Difficulty: Medium +

Must have:

- Bike experience and a good physical condition
- Well maintained mountain bike
- Helmet (Obligatory)

Should bring:

- Spare inner tube and tools
- Drinks and food for personal use
- Some Euro's in case we will make a stop in between (coffee/Cake)

We will bike direction Base-Schinnen-Geleen-Gangelt-Base. After a warm-up phase, approximately 10 km, we will enter the hill part 35 km. The last 10 km are easy. POC is Jo Collaris ext. 4501.

2014

Thursday, 12 June E-3A Component Sports Day

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12 June: Component Sports Day (see separate article)

0800-1700 hrs. New Gym area. Deadline registration: 03 June.

16 June: Beyond the Gate – Experience Aachen by Train

Monday, 16 Jun, 0900-1530 hrs. Depart the GK Airman & Family Readiness Center (A&FRC), Bldg 78 at 0900 hrs and return at 1530 hrs. Children are welcome with a parent. You must reserve a seat for this tour.

For more information, please call GK 0049-2451-63-3791 or DSN 458-6015. Limited to 25 seats on the train and guided tour. Funded by the GK A&FRC !

21 June: IYA Trip to The Hague – Scheveningen Beach

Relax on the beach and/or explore cultural attractions on Saturday 21 June, 0730-2030 hrs. Enjoy the combined benefits of a beautiful seaside resort with wide sandy beaches, an esplanade and a pleasure pier, and a city with famous sights, museums and art collections. Take the opportunity to visit the miniature city MADURODAM, where you find all the fascinating Dutch features rebuilt down to the tiniest detail on a scale of 1:25. You decide which locations you visit – there is a shuttle service available at midday. Our luxury bus departs from outside the E-3A Component's Main Gate. Cost: Euro 18 with MWA Card; Euro 26 without. Registration and more info: IYA Office, Bldg 95, ext. 4955.

25 June: Basketball Tournament

1100-1500 hrs, New Gym. Deadline registration: 24 June.

27 June: Bavarian Breakfast at the Rotodome

27 June: Mongolian BBQ at the E-3A Club

28 June: Express Trip to Berlin

\$89 per person. Included in the tour price: Round Trip Luxury Motor Coach Transportation. For more information, call the Schinnen Andre Bruls Fitness Center at DSN 360-7561 / Com 0031(0)46-443-7561.

25 & 26 Jul: 12 Hour Runathon Challenge at JFC Brunssum

Saturday & Sunday, 25 & 26 July at the JFC Brunssum sports fields. Beat those Lazy Summer Days with our 12 Hour Runathon Challenge. Sign your team up today & individual sign-ups are also welcome, and they will be placed on a team. Categories: 10 person relay teams. Refreshments & Entertainment will be provided throughout the night. For more information call the Schinnen Andre Bruls Fitness Center at DSN 360-7561 / Com (+31) 046-443-7561. Email: usarmy.schinnen.imcom-europe.list.schinnen-fc@mail.mil

11-15 Aug: Soccer Camp at the NATO Airbase Stadium

Bilingual soccer camp for enthusiastic soccer playing kids aged 7 to 15 in cooperation with Germania Teveren. All participants must be an ID-Card Holder or a member of Germania Teveren! Participation fee: Euro 122,50. Registration: NOW until 01 Aug at the New Gym (Bldg 206, Room 118). For more info contact Stephanie Chalmers, Tel. 0049-(0)24512/634946 or email: ofc-bpws@e3a.nato.int.

27 - 29 Sep: Raiders vs Dolphins Live at Wembley Stadium in London

Live and exciting NFL Regular Season action in Wembley Stadium in London. \$ 489 per person - Double/Twin rooms; \$589 per person - Single Rooms. Includes: Roundtrip Luxury Motor Coach; 2 nights Bed and Breakfast & Game Ticket. Limited seats available. For more information call the Schinnen Trips & Tours DSN 360-7561 or 0031(0)46-443-7561.

BINGO Night marks end of another amazing season for the IWC

By Rebecca Hendrickx

On May 22, 2014, members of the International Women's Club bid farewell to another amazing season with a night of Bingo at the E-3A club! Members arrived full of excitement in the anticipation of the chances to win Bingo prizes, raffle prizes, have fun with friends and eat delicious food.

Starting off the evening, IWC president Lindsey Schlicker gave a brief speech thanking everyone for their continued support, for making this an unforgettable season and announcing our return date in September of this year. The microphone was then handed over to treasure Lisa Cook who announced the rules we would be following and the sequences we had to obtain to win the round. Aiding Lisa in her duties was former president Linda Kolset who had the task of spinning the bingo balls and calling the numbers, a task which, after mastering the art of spinning the cage, she managed effortlessly to keep the energy in the room alive while calling the numbers, keeping the evening flowing.

With the prospect of winning money prizes, the ladies listened closely and were quick to call "BINGO" when they had successfully completed the sequences on their bingo cards.

With roughly three games per card and playing with a four card pack everyone was praying their luck was in and their numbers were called, for several lucky ladies, and to the applause of the room, the winner(s) received their prizes.

In between rounds, the ladies had the chance to win raffle prizes with the lucky winners invited to choose from a large selection of prizes, ranging from chocolate kits, to watering cans, to tiki torches, to beauty treatments, there was something for everyone.

In addition to the delicious food the E-3A club provided, each board member was asked to bring a dessert dish. The ladies outdid themselves, with desserts such as tiramisu, mini cupcakes, cheesecakes, baklava, cakes, brownies and many more, there were simply too many to not go back for seconds or even thirds.

It was a fantastic evening with lots of fun, laughter, excitement, delicious food and fantastic prizes. Thank you to the board and the E-3A club for making this a truly amazing night and the perfect end to this 2013/2014 season.

This season would not have been a success without the amazing work of our board members who worked hard to make sure each event brought something new and exciting that would entertain members and guests while showcasing and honoring their country. A very big thank you must also be said for the amazing team at the E-3A club lead by Rene Peeters who, without their continued support, fantastic service and attention to detail bringing our visions to life, the events would not have been a success.

Lastly, thank you to all the members and guests who came out in support of the International Women's Club bringing with them fun and laughter making the IWC what it is. To all our wonderful ladies leaving us this summer for new and exciting postings, you will all be

missed; we wish you very good luck for the future!

We will be back for a new season on Sept. 11, 2014, with new board members, a new name and our continued dedication to bring the spouses of Geilenkirchen new experiences and fun nights out. The opening night of the International Spouses Club of Geilenkirchen will be hosted by the board and we invite everyone to come along, meet new people, win prizes, and have a fun time.

There is still time to enter our competition. To go along with our new name, we are inviting everyone to design our new logo! The deadline is June 1, 2014, the winner will receive free membership for the year and a complimentary cookbook filled with recipes from all around the world. For more information or to submit your design, please email natogkiwc@gmail.com or via our Facebook page search IWC.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Sept. 11, 2014, at the E-3A Club.

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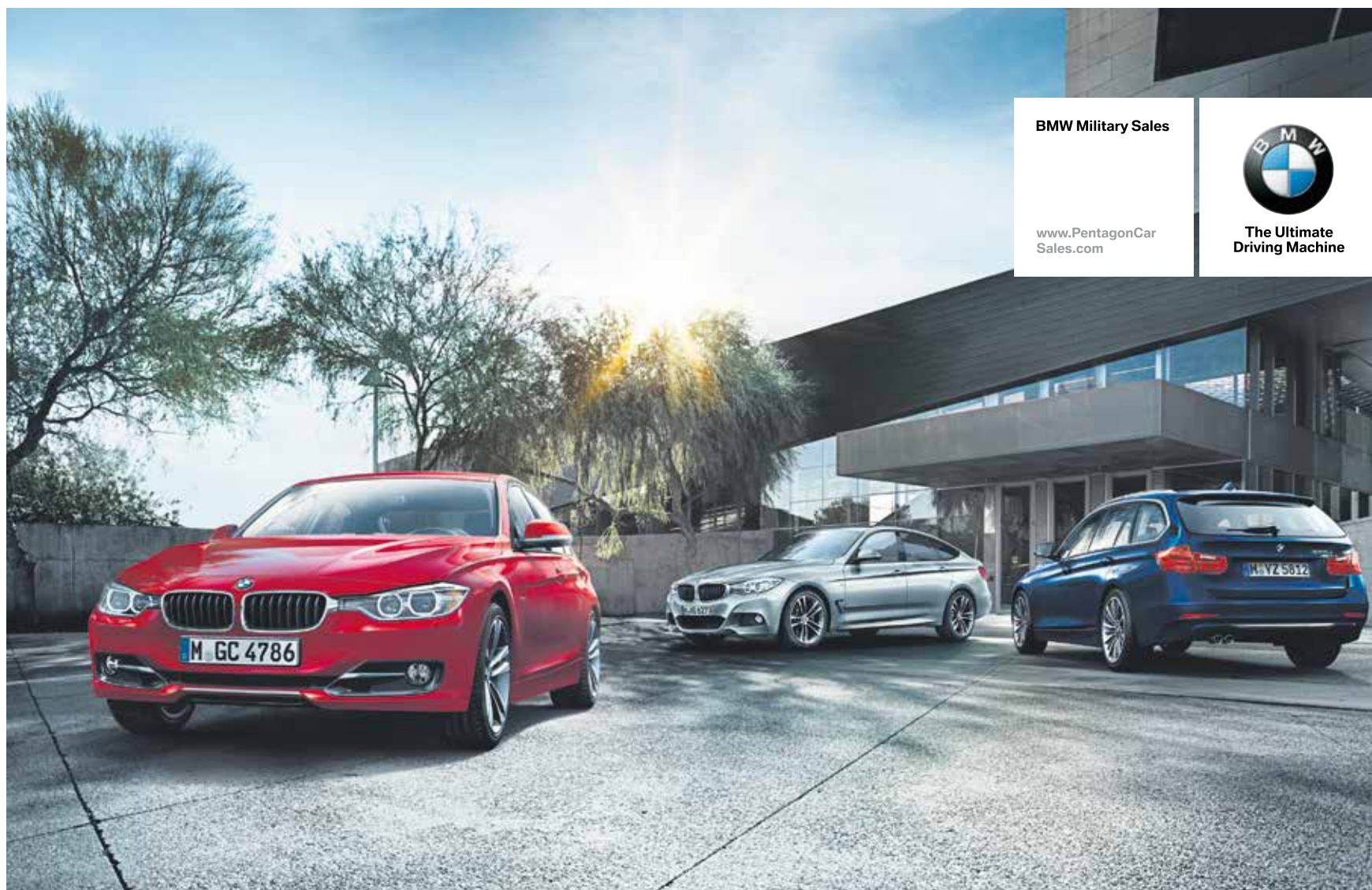
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