Airmen depart for US, Turkish training exercise

Airmen from the 52nd Fighter Wing are briefed safety procedures aboard a C-130 Hercules here Feb. 27 prior to their flight to Turkey in support of Anatolian Falcon 2012, a weapons training deployment that includes interdiction, attack, air superiority, defense suppression, airlifting, air refueling and reconnaissance. More than 250 Airmen from the wing will participate in the exercise hosted at Turkish air force’s Konya Air Base. The U.S. and Turkish air forces will work together and improve both nations’ combat readiness through tactical training during the exercise. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Matthew B. Fredericks/Released)

Spangdahlem’s drinking water safe

Naturally occurring bacteria was found in the water system here in a water sample taken Feb. 22. Tests of that water sample came back positive Feb. 23, and the positive sample was confirmed Feb. 24.

The 52nd Aerospace Medicine Squadron Bioenvironmental Flight discovered the bacteria during routine sampling of the water system.

"This is what you’d consider normal flora," said Capt. Keith Sanders, chief occupational health. "It's in dirt, sandboxes, out in the woods ... just your normal variety bacteria."

The bioenvironmental engineers routinely test the water looking for indicators of contamination. If the samples show an indicator, more tests are conducted to rule out pathogenic bacteria like E. coli.

Bioenvironmental engineer technicians take the water sample, remove the chlorine, add nutrients and grow the bacteria to determine the type of bacteria in the water. This process takes about 24 hours and is done twice to ensure the validity of the first test.

"Anything that is in the system at that 'snap shot' in time we can get to grow," said Master Sgt. Christopher Alden, bioenvironmental engineer technician.

For the second testing, water is sampled at the point the initial sample was taken, as well as upstream and downstream of that site to help determine the extent of the contamination. The bioenvironmental engineer flight has taken between 40-50 water samples since Feb. 22.

The bioenvironmental engineers also check the chlorine levels when they test a water sample. The water used to cook and drink on base has chlorine in it, and that chlorine kills the bacteria.

Lt. Col. Robert Petty, left, U.S. Air Forces in Europe Standards and Evaluations Branch chief; Col. Chris Weggeman, center, 52nd Fighter Wing commander; and Capt. Mark Hickie, right, 52nd FW executive officer; read flight information before a briefing inside Bldg. 108 here Feb. 21. Twelve Airmen work at the squadron's operations desk and are responsible for coordinating with base operations, weather operations and aircraft maintenance to ensure flight operations run smoothly. The operations desk is also responsible for gathering and organizing flight information to help log flight hours and brief pilots before, during and after flights. (U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Dillon Davis/Released)

Airman 1st Class Keith Duncan, 480th Fighter Squadron aviation resource management apprentice, fills out a weather flight log before a pre-flight briefing inside Bldg. 108 here Feb. 21.

Maj. Roman Pyatkov, 52nd Fighter Wing Plans and Programs, reads a flight publication before a pre-flight briefing inside Bldg. 108 here Feb. 21.
Successful partnership: FW inducts honorary commanders

Iris Reiff
52nd Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

Friendship, trust, teamwork, mutual commitment and shared responsibilities were some key words heard from a group of German and American partners throughout the evening as they gathered for the annual 52nd Fighter Wing Honorary Commanders Assumption Ceremony Feb. 25 at Schloss Niederweiss castle.

About 70 wing representatives with their German partners, including local civic leaders and other distinguished visitors from the Eifel-Mosel region, attended the event.

The evening started with a formal dinner and welcoming words by Col. Chris Weggeman, 52nd FW commander, followed by a wing mission briefing, speeches, a formal recognition and the honorary command assumption ceremony.

“It’s an honor and privilege to host tonight’s honorary commander ceremony,” the colonel said as he opened the event. “In the interest of saving time with a room filled with so many distinguished guests and leaders, let me simply say from the heart, ‘welcome friends.’”

In his speech, Weggeman said the 52nd FW honorary commander program began in 2002 and celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

A primary goal of the honorary commander program is to strengthen the friendship and partnership between the Saber community and the communities around the base. To achieve this goal, groups and squadrons within the wing partner with honorary commanders from the German community who are included in official and social events to help facilitate a better cultural exchange between the wing and the host-nation country.

The colonel explained that building community relations, strengthening friendship, increasing cultural awareness and growing trust and teamwork through cooperation and understanding are fairly obvious objectives for an honorary commander program, but there are three beliefs that form the bonds and unite all of the partners in spirit and purpose: the belief in your own people who are your future; the spirit and purpose: the belief in your own people who are your future; and the belief in the power of yourself.


Spin-a-thon helps members stay fit

Base members participate in a spin-a-thon at the Skelton Memorial Fitness Center here Feb. 25. The spin-a-thon was a period of high-intensity indoor cycling that allowed members to challenge their cardio fitness with an option of signing up for one to three hours of spinning. Participants were guided by instructors through different workout phases with a variety of up-beat music. Spin class is one way to get a workout that burns calories and keeps bodies in shape offered at the fitness center. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Christopher Toon/Released)

Dispatch to replace base shuttle

Staff Sgt. Daryl Knee
52nd Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

The 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron designed a free, on-call official transit service to replace the current Spangdahlem AB base shuttle service here March 12.

The existing shuttle transports passengers between duty locations or official appointments via base bus stops.

The new transit system’s purpose is to improve service, with the goal of transporting members to and from official places of business, usually within 10 minutes.

“It’s easier to get to where you’re going with a transit service [instead of the current base shuttle],” said Master Sgt. Robert Bolton, 52nd LRS Vehicle Operations Section superintendent. “We’ll be able to get the customer to their destination in minutes instead of an hour. For official business, this is a much faster service.”

Air Force leaders continue to manage their fiscal responsibilities by looking for ways to operate at smarter, reduce costs and save man-hours. The current Spangdahlem shuttle service costs more than $200,000 a year to maintain, mainly due to fuel and maintenance costs from driving continuous loops around the base to pick up or drop off Airmen.

Bolton said the official transit service will be a more customer-oriented service, meaning the vehicle is dispatched only in response to a specific need. As a result, response times will improve while saving tax dollars.

“We’re improving service by providing better and more efficient transportation to official base users,” Bolton said.

The new service is open to all active-duty members, Defense Department civilians and local national employees. Customers simply call the dispatch number and request transportation. An LRS vehicle operator will then take the customer to the official duty locations on base. For example, customers may use the service to go from their workcenter to a medical appointment or to First Stop to renew an ID card.

However, Air Force Instruction 24-301, Domicile to Duty Transportation Support, prevents LRS from providing transportation from what is called “domicile to duty.”

What’s happening?

**MOPS donations**
Drop off new and gently-used baby items from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. from now until March 9 at the chapel. These items will be donated to new and expectant mothers during a base-wide baby shower March 24. For more information, email spangmopbabyshower@yahoo.com.

**ODR sale**
Outdoor recreation will have an end-of-season sale with 20 percent off on all winter items now until March 31. For more information, call DSN 452-7170 or 06565-61-7170.

**Youth soccer training camp**
Register now for a youth soccer training camp session with the School Age Program in Bldg. 427. The five sessions to choose from are March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31. Sessions for children ages 3-6 cost $17.50 and are from 10 - 11 a.m. Sessions for children 7 -18 cost $35 for members, $45 for non-members and are from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more information, call DSN 452-9206 or 06565-61-9206.

**German for Kids**
"German for Kids" classes take place at 2:45 p.m. every Wednesday and Thursday from March 6 - April 19 at Bldg. 42. The cost of the class is $80 per student, and it's open to children in kindergarten - sixth grade. Registration is required and can be done at the Eifel Community Center. For more information, call DSN 452-7260 or 06565-61-7260.

**School advisory board meeting**
A school advisory board meeting takes place 4 p.m. March 7 at the Eifel Conference Center. For more information, call DSN 452-6942 or 06565-61-6942.

**Open jam night**
A free open jam night takes place 7 - 9 p.m. March 7 at the Brick House. Attendants can play instruments or listen to others. For more information, call DSN 452-7381 or 06565-61-7381.

**Art show**
The art of Malik and Areta Mayfield will be displayed March 10 - 31 in the Village Pavilion Gallery at the Heidelberg Arts and Culture Center. For more information, call DSN 388-9421 or 06221-338-9421.

**Diversity Day meeting**
This year's first Diversity Day meeting takes place 12:30 p.m. March 13 at the Brick House. The goal of the meeting is to discuss unit participation in the event. Please keep presentations no more than five minutes and provide handouts if possible. For more information, call DSN 452-6392 or 06565-61-6392.

**Miss Universe meet, greet**
Meet Miss Universe 2011, Miss USA 2011 and Miss Teen USA 2011 during a free meet and greet 5 - 6 p.m. March 13 at the Brick House. For more information, call DSN 452-7381 or 06565-61-7381.

**OU graduate level course**
The University of Oklahoma is offering a graduate-level course titled "Sexual Harassment" March 13-18 at the education center in room 217. This course will help students understand employee relations from the perspective of sexual harassment and develop appropriate policies, procedures and programs to deal with sexual harassment inside and outside the workplace. Non-OU graduate level students are welcome. Current OU students should sign-up via “OZONE” using CRN 21089. For more information, call DSN 452-7555 or 06565-61-7555, or email apspangdahlem@ou.edu.

**Bernkastel dinner, wine tasting**
There will be a dinner and wine tasting trip to Bernkastel with Information, Tickets and Travel March 17. This trip is recommended for adults only and costs 45 Euro per person. Buses for this trip depart Bitburg at 1 p.m. and Spangdahlem at 1:30 p.m. For more information, call DSN 452-6567 or 06565-61-6567.

To subscribe to an email notification for the Saber E-Herald, email 52fw.ds@spangdahlem.af.mil. To submit content to the 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs News Section, email 52fw.panews@spangdahlem.af.mil or call DSN 452-6012.