



UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS
765 N. 2200 W., Salt Lake City, UT 84116
P: (801) 245-2446 - F: (801) 245-2535 - www.151arw.ang.af.mil

Press Release 09-054, 2 August 2009

Contact: Maj. Krista DeAngelis, (801) 505-3213

For Immediate Release

Utah Air National Guard Pilots Train NATO Aircrews

GEILENKIRCHEN AIR BASE, Germany – More than 35 Airmen from the 151st Air Refueling Wing, Utah Air National Guard, recently deployed on a two-week rotation to Geilenkirchen Air Base in Germany to support the NATO E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) mission.

Over the next two weeks, the Wing will fly and support two KC-135 air-refueling missions per day to provide critical refueling training to the multinational AWACS aircrew in preparation for their upcoming deployment with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

“The rotation over here is fantastic training for everybody,” explains Lt. Col. Boyd Badali, director of operations for the 191st Air Refueling Squadron. “The Air National Guard has a contract to provide training to the AWACS because a vital part of their mission is to stay airborne, so we provide them the gas to allow them to stay airborne. I know the NATO AWACS are happy with us and it’s great training for the KC-135 Guard crews.”

Geilenkirchen is the home of the NATO Airborne Early Warning Force Command’s E-3A Component. The component’s mission is to provide aircraft and trained aircrews to deliver a surveillance and/or control platform wherever and when needed. The E-3A AWACS aircraft are flown by integrated multinational crews from 11 nations – Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Turkey and the United States. Geilenkirchen is the E-3A Component’s main operation base in addition to being NATO’s only multinational flying unit.

The Air National Guard has an 88-week contract to provide air refueling training to the NATO aircraft, explained Lt. Col Dave McKinney, Air National Guard Liaison Officer at Geilenkirchen. The Guard rotates various units through the base every two to three weeks to support their mission. The operation has been going on for 15 years, and the Utah Air National Guard has been providing support for more than 9 years.

-more-

For more information on the 151st Air Refueling Wing, Utah Air National Guard, visit www.151arw.ang.af.mil. For interviews with the aircrew or video footage, contact Maj. Krista DeAngelis at (801) 505-3213.