20th Anniversary of Ending of Canadian Meteorology in Germany

September 30th, 2013 marks the 20th anniversary of the last aviation observation and forecast from 3 Wing, Lahr, Germany.

Here are the last official METAR and TAF from Lahr:

EDAN 1500 030002KT 9999 BKN100 OVC250 16/13 A2985 NOSIG LAST OB FOREVER
AUF WIEDERSEHEN SALUT GOODBYE.....

EDAN 0707 16005KT 9999 SCT040 OVC100
TEMPO 9999 –RA SCT040 OVC100
BECMG 1012 9999 –RA BKN040 OVC100 T16/14 T10/06

For 40-years, MSC MTs – commissioned as Met Officers (MetOs) in the Canadian Forces (yes, they did have to go through “boot camp”!) - and DND Met Techs worked together to provide weather support to air and land forces deployed in France and Germany as part of Canada’s commitment to NATO.

During this period, over 100 MTs served in uniform as proud members of our Canadian Forces – in France at Marville, Grostenquin and Metz; in Germany at Zweibrücken, Baden-Söllingen and Lahr. From the late 1950s through the early 1960s with four air bases and a headquarters operational, close to 20 MTs were serving in Europe at any given time.

The following five CFE MetOs are still working actively in the service of EC/MSC:

Mike Campbell       Denis Gosselin       Abdoulaye Harou
Norm Hart           Ed Hudson           Herb Thoms
As published in “Zephyr” in 2003

September 30th, 2003 marks the 10th anniversary of the last aviation observation and forecast from 3 Wing, Lahr, Germany.

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During this period, over 100 MTs served in uniform as proud members of our Canadian Forces – from Marville, to Grostenquin, to Metz, to Zweibrucken, to Baden-Soellingen, to Lahr. From the late 1950s through the early 1960s with four air bases and a headquarters operational, close to 20 MTs were serving in Europe at any given time.

Twenty-two of these MTs are still working actively in the service of MSC:

Mike Campbell          Paul Delannoy          Angus Fergusson
Denis Gosselin         Abdoulaye Harou        Norm Hart
Bill Hartman            Bob Howell            Ed Hudson
Blaine Jelley          Richard Joseph          Marcel Lanoue
Louis Lefaivre         John Merrick          Normand Michaud
Rick Power              Herb Thoms            Peter Schwarzhoff
Jim VanOs               Rick Wagner            Brian Wong
Jim Yip

Although no longer with MSC, Bryan Boughton continues as Officer-in-Charge of the NATO Weather Office at Geilenkirchen, Germany.

Below is a photo of the plaque unveiled by the then ADM, Gordon McBean, on the occasion of the NATO Met Reunion held at 8 Wing Trenton April 23rd - 25th, 1994. The plaque is housed on the grounds of the RCAF Memorial Museum. More information on the museum is available at: http://airforcemuseum.ca/en/
THIS PLAQUE COMMEMORATES THE IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED BY ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE METEOROLOGISTS IN PROVIDING ESSENTIAL WEATHER SUPPORT TO CANADIAN FORCES UNITS SERVING NATO IN FRANCE AND GERMANY FROM 1952-1993. THE METEOROLOGISTS SERVED AS OF METEOROLOGICAL OFFICERS (METO-2A) ON SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION WITH THE REGULAR FORCE AND, LATER, ON CLASS C RESERVE SERVICE.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICERS SERVED AT:

FRANCE
1 AIR DIV HQ METZ 1953-1967
1 WING MARVILLE 1952-1967
2 WING GROSTENQUIN 1952-1964

GERMANY/ALLEMAINE
3 WING ZWEIBRUCKEN 1953-1969
4 WING/CFB BADEN-SOELLINGEN 1953-1993
1 WING/CFB LAHR 1967-1993
1 AIR DIV/1 CAG HQ LAHR 1967-1993

UNVEILED AT 6 WING TRENTON 23 APRIL 1994

BY/PAR
DR. GORDON A. McBEAN

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER
ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE
ENVIRONMENT CANADA

Sous-ministre adjoint
Service de l'environnement atmosphérique
Environnement Canada