



# Headquarters Allied Air Command Ramstein

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
Ramstein Air Base, Germany

## NEWS RELEASE

# 2011\_008E



### Nala, Abu and Sam delighted about donations

#### NATO Music Festival Foundation hands over 18,700 euro to charity

Ramstein, 20 April – The board of managers of the NATO Music Festival Foundation met representatives of non-profit associations at a „very unique location“ – according to Colonel (GS) Harry H. Schnell – the disaster ground of the Kaiserslautern Rescue Dog Group on Wednesday, 19 April 2011 to hand over donations to charitable organisations.

The hosts and their helpers on four legs had organized a small reception to welcome the two Foundation board managers, Kaiserslautern Mayor Dr. Susanne Wimmer-Leonhardt and Colonel (GS) Schnell, Senior German Officer at NATO's Headquarters Allied Air Command Ramstein, and the representatives of receiving organizations.

In her introductory remarks, Mrs. Dr. Wimmer-Leonhardt said making the donation was a „very pleasant task“. She added, “I think is outstanding that so many musicians volunteer to perform at the Festival and forgo their fees, which allows us to continue fulfilling the good cause via this foundation.” Colonel Schnell also used this occasion to promote the event; after all, the more visitors are attracted to the NATO Music Festival at the Betzenberg in Kaiserslautern, the more funds are available for donations. “Even those who are no fans of military music should definitely join us on 11 June”, the colonel said, “as in previous years, the Bundeswehr will be represented by a drill team from the Guard Battalion who are going to demonstrate a perfect show of military drills.” Finally, the show famous German vocalist Joy Fleming will put on with a military ensemble from Luxembourg “is going to be a brisk performance”.

After this short introduction donation certificates were handed over. An amount of 2,500 euro was awarded to an organization for sick children to establish a care unit for siblings; 1,200 and 1,000 euro, respectively, were donated to the sponsor groups of Kurpfalz secondary school and Erlenbach primary school to ensure a lunch service for children from families in need. The city of Kaiserslautern department for youth and sports received a total amount of 5,000 euro to fund vacation projects for children from low-income or socially disadvantaged families. The day-care unit for dementia patients was pleased to receive a donation of 2,000 euro in order to keep up their in-house music therapy project. The Scout association was awarded 2,500 euro for purchasing a trailer for their outdoor equipment, and the St. Christophorus house for the homeless received 2,000 euro to set up an in-house café. Eventually, the hosts were delighted to be awarded 2,500 euro for the further extension of their disaster ground. “We are using big concrete tubes to create an underground labyrinth covered with debris and rubble to simulate a collapsed building”, said Mrs. Isolde Heinemann, deputy chairperson of the Rescue Dog Group, “this will enable us to do our own training for disaster rescue dogs here at Kaiserslautern. Hopefully, the site will be completed by the end of the year”.

When the handover of certificates was completed it was the great moment for Nala, Abu und Sam. Together with their handlers the three rescue dogs demonstrated how they locate missing persons

and negotiate an obstacle course. Mrs. Ilona Aull, the chairperson of the Kaiserslautern Rescue Dog Group, then explained the procedure for searching and rescuing persons in distress. Specifically, she pointed out that the group was in dire need of search team helpers. "As the dog handler is busy with his or her dog during the search, we need an assistant for each search team who maintains radio contact with the operations centre. These assistants also use GPS or a map and a compass to track the current position to avoid leaving the search sector or searching a sector for the second time", says Mrs. Aull.

At the end of the demonstration, the two members of the board of managers thanked their hosts and wished the charity organization all the best of luck for their various benevolent projects.

- END TEXT -

Links:

High-resolution pictures will be made available at the HQ AC Ramstein website [www.airn.nato.int](http://www.airn.nato.int).  
For more information about the NATO Music Festival and the Foundation go to [www.nmf-kl.de](http://www.nmf-kl.de)  
Additional information about the Kaiserslautern Rescue Dog Group can be found at <http://www.rettungshunde-kaiserslautern.de>