

Flugtag 87

(U) Without any hesitation, a veteran of Ramstein's annual open house, known as "Flugtag" since 1973, will readily concede that this one-day event continues to reign as the largest and most effective means of promoting community relations within the Federal Republic of Germany. Designed to increase public understanding of the Air Force mission and display the spirit of mutual cooperation among allied nations, Ramstein's annual open house has been a tradition since May 1955 when a few thousand visitors got their first glimpse of American aircraft and ground equipment. A sports car race, soccer game, and performance by USAFE's own aerial demonstration team, The Skyblazers, were the primary drawing cards for the 1956 edition of Armed Forces Day at Ramstein (then called Landstuhl) AB which required only a small portion of the flightline as a display area. Since that time, static displays and performances have increased to the point that nearly half of the base undergoes a change to accommodate crowds that peaked at 600,000 in 1976 when celebration of America's Bicentennial was included in the list of open house activities. Thus, a small demonstration of friendship, that formerly took a few short weeks to prepare, has grown into a major public relations effort that requires several months of preparation and development of an operations plan that delineates unit actions necessary to host a minimum of 250,000 visitors in one day. Inclement weather has always been the designated enemy for this august event, but cool temperatures and rain did not prevent the journey of some 250,000 people, from all parts of Europe, to participate in Flugtag activities held on 2 August 1987. Poor weather did cause the cancellation of some aerial events, thus it was difficult to determine whether performance by five aerial demonstration teams or the availability of American ice cream prevailed as the major draw for this edition of open house at Ramstein AB. Nonetheless, the annual sales leader for

American ice cream in Europe had barely come to an end when a new Flugtag committee began to formulate plans for yet a bigger and better show in the summer of 1988.<sup>16</sup>

#### Noncombatant Evacuation Operations Exercise

(U) Though smaller in number, huddled masses were also evident on 19-20 November 1987 when the Kaiserslautern Military Community (KMC) conducted its annual Noncombatant Evacuation Operations Exercise (NEOEX) to test procedures for the evacuation of family members and non-essential civilian employees in an emergency situation. Execution orders issued by the Commander, 21st Support Command at Kleber Kaserne, indicated a limited test of evacuation procedures; however, this exercise developed into a community-wide effort that activated 176 unit notification programs and four personnel processing centers to handle about 5,900 sets of government quarters, as well as 6,000 families who reside in economy housing. This two-day effort brought more than 9,100 evacuees to the processing centers which accounted for 23 percent of the estimated 40,500 evacuees available at the time of the exercise, though overall notification rates for families on the economy improved to almost 35 percent. Notification rates for families in government quarters were consistent with previous exercise results as the 2,295 families processed during this attempt equated to 43 percent of the government quarters available in the greater Kaiserslautern area. Likewise, about 50 percent of the family evacuation kits reviewed were either incomplete or contained forms that were not prepared correctly, an indication that unit/agency commanders or representatives were not monitoring military sponsor actions to ensure that family members were fully prepared to move when a klaxon heralded the onset of emergency operations. Despite some variance in unit programs, community officials were satisfied that an overall capability to carry out emergency evacuation tasking was amply demon-