

Motor show puts main focus on environment

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

FRANKFURT, Germany — The blue-suited Christian Hake leaned against a black Quattroporte Sport GT and uttered something dreamy.

"Why shouldn't American guys drive a Maserati?" he said, smiling.

Few things get a guy's imagination spinning more than the lure of a new car, especially a cool, fast pricey model. And for a truly dizzying experience, there is the Frankfurt International Motor Show, a biennial event that opens to the public starting Saturday.

About 1,000 exhibitors from 40 countries have gathered under 10 roofs at the Frankfurt Messe (convention center) to talk up their cars and parts for nine days. Much of the emphasis is on hybrid vehicles, with seemingly every maker pushing one concept car or another.

"It's the new technology, to save energy," said Henry Gmelin, a Mercedes engineer. "We want to have performance and save energy."

The 62nd Frankfurt International Motor Show

Where: Frankfurt Messe
When: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sept. 15-23

Price: Weekdays, 13 euros; weekends, 15 euros; children 6-14 years with ID cards pay 7.50 euros.

Web site: www.iaa.de

All of the major auto companies, U.S. and foreign, have floor space. But as with some grand museum, a person would be hard pressed to see it all in one day. Instead, most visitors pick their spots and float from there.

Within the auto industry, the Frankfurt show is top shelf, which explains why car makers have chosen this venue to premiere 88 new models.

Helping to promote them are models of a different make.

"It's our job to lean on the car and pose and make people see it as more sporty," said blond-haired Hanna Missalla, tucked inside a skin-tight, yellow and black leather outfit.

She was showing off a SEAT

Ibiza Ecomotive, billed as the company's most economical and clean-burning car.

Other cars of note include Cadillac's first station wagon; the Ford Verve, a spiffy little number; and Volkswagen's City Expert, a compact built to challenge Smart. On the high end, Mercedes-Benz is introducing its F700 concept car, said to be loaded with new environmental technologies.

With all the emphasis on carbon emissions, "it's going to be difficult for the big car makers," said Miroslaw Korek, a marketing man for Faurecia, which designs and sells interior automotive equipment. "The 'green guys' are shooting for them."

Hybrid and fuel-efficient cars aside, the Frankfurt show offers an incredible medley of motorized vehicles that overload the senses and tickle our fancy. And then there are men like Hake, willing to put people in the front seat of a Maserati, for a mere \$120,000.

That's the starting price.

"It's a new world," he said.

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Navy intel officers can get \$40k for re-upping

BY JEFF SCHOGOL

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Navy is offering \$40,000 for junior intelligence officers to extend their contracts for five years, Navy officials said.

The bonus is available to about 85 lieutenants who have completed six years of commissioned service, said Lt. Cmdr. William Marks, a spokesman for the Chief of Naval Personnel.

The Navy hopes to award 70 contracts in fiscal 2008, Marks said in an e-mail.

Lieutenants commissioned in 2002 are eligible for the bonus, as are some lieutenants commissioned in 1999, 2000 and 2001, "as these year groups did not execute all available contracts in FY-07," according to a service message announcing the payout.

Those lieutenants who are awarded the bonus will get \$20,000 the first year of their new contracts and \$5,000 per year for the remaining four years, the message said. Marks said the bonus will allow the Navy to meet its requirements for lieutenant commander intelligence officers over the next five years.

"Intelligence O-4 (Lt. Cmdr.) is currently manned at 74 percent (306 out of 406)," Marks said.

The Navy expects to have a total of 1,623 intelligence officers by fiscal 2013, an increase of 10 percent, he said. The extra security officers will help support Naval Special Warfare and Navy Expeditionary Combat commands as well as

other Navy components involved with the war on terrorism, he said.

"Intelligence — the knowledge based on the collection and analysis of an adversary's strengths, weaknesses, capabilities, and intentions — is an elite community within the Navy," Marks said. "From the global war on terrorism to countering

emerging regional threats, Navy intelligence is paramount for conducting successful military operations and for keeping our country safe."

Eligible lieutenants should submit their applications for the bonus by Nov. 1.

For more information, go to Navy Administrative Message 226/07 available at: www.npc.navy.mil

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“... Navy intelligence is paramount for conducting military operations and for keeping our country safe.”

Lt. Cmdr.

William Marks

Spokesman for Chief of Naval Personnel

Boy Scout Troop 107 enjoys 50th year in Wiesbaden

BY CHARLIE REED

Stars and Stripes

From the trees on the Kellerskopf hill planted in 1957 to the Holy Ark at the Army Airfield Chapel built in 2006, signs of the local Boy Scouts' long history of good deeds in Wiesbaden, Germany, can be seen everywhere.

Sometimes it's what you don't see — thanks to their periodic community cleanups — that shows Troop 107's effect on the community.

On Sunday, the group will mark its 50th anniversary, a milestone reached by only a few troops in Europe, said Eugene Hickman, education services officer for U.S. Army Garrison Hesse.

"We've always had a strong community here in Wiesbaden," said Hickman, unit commissioner for the Scouts' Transatlantic Council's Rheingold District.

Though he is preparing to deploy to Iraq this month, Maj. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, a former Eagle Scout, will give the keynote speech at Sunday's celebration.

"I'm hoping he imparts to them the importance of Eagle Scouts," Hickman said.

"It builds character and will help them succeed. I wouldn't say [Hertling] made general because he was an Eagle Scout, but it laid the foundation."

Despite deployments that at times have taken away up to half of the troop's volunteer parent team, the group has remained strong, thanks to others in the community who have taken up the slack while they're gone.

"We have a lot of soldiers who were Scouts and other parents volunteer when there have been deployments," said Scoutmaster Jeff Stone, flight operations manager for the Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

"They say that the worst part about deployments for kids is not having their dads, or moms, around," he said. "(But) in Scouting, you've got a lot of other leaders that can be role models and mentors to help fill their shoes for a while."

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Above: Michaela Heinz and Hanna Missalla model with the new SEAT Ibiza Ecomotive at the 63rd Frankfurt International Motor Show. The show, where most manufacturers are presenting some kind of ecology-friendly vehicle, opens to the public on Saturday and runs through Sept. 23.

Right: Visitors to the motor show can get a look at a sleek Maserati GranTurismo.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS
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