

THE GAZETTE

Published for members of the SHAPE/Chièvres, Brussels and Schinnen communities

Benelux News Briefs

State Department

The U.S. Department of State made improvements Wednesday to their safety and security information. Travel advisories replaced travel warnings and travel alerts. Every country will have a travel advisory, which will provide one of four standard levels of advice. Alerts will replace security messages and emergency messages. Visit <http://travel.state.gov/travelsafely> for more information.

MLK Day Observed

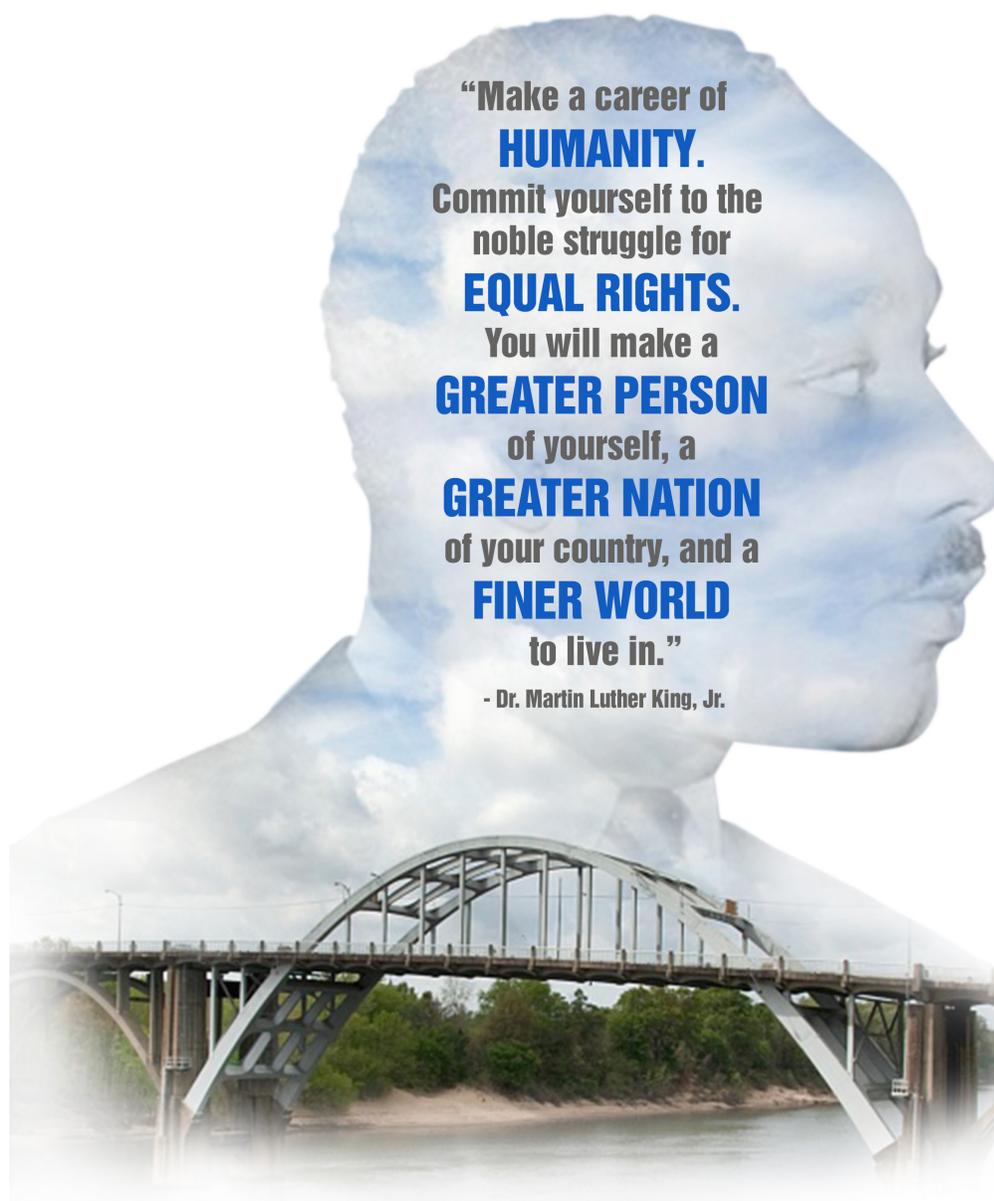
U.S. Army Garrison Benelux will observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 15. Some offices and facilities may be closed or have reduced hours of operation in observance of the holiday. Check the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Facebook (www.facebook.com/USAGBenelux) for an updated list of closures.

MyPay Tax Statements

The 2017 MyPay tax statement schedule is available on <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. U.S. military personnel and civilian employees should receive their W-2 forms no later than Jan. 31.

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“Make a career of
HUMANITY.
 Commit yourself to the
 noble struggle for
EQUAL RIGHTS.
 You will make a
GREATER PERSON
 of yourself, a
GREATER NATION
 of your country, and a
FINER WORLD
 to live in.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

A day on, not a day off

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. dedicated his life to a dream of equality and justice for every individual. On Jan. 15, the United States will observe his remarkable life and commemorate the holiday by encouraging individuals to follow King's legacy in making a positive impact in the community. (Graphic courtesy of Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute)

See Page 5

Blended military retirement takes effect

By DOD News

Defense Media Activity

One of the most wide-reaching and significant changes to military pay and benefits over the last 70 years went into effect Jan. 1 with the implementation of the Uniformed Services Blended Retirement System, known as BRS.

The new system blends aspects of the traditional defined benefit retirement pension system, with a defined contribution system of automatic and matching government contributions through the Thrift Savings Plan.

All new entrants into the uniformed services on or after Jan. 1 will be enrolled in this new retirement system, Pentagon officials said. The uniformed services are the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps.

SOME CAN CHOSE BETWEEN SYSTEMS

Nearly 1.6 million current service members will have the option to remain in the current legacy "high-3" retirement system or to choose the BRS when the opt-in period for eligible service members opens Jan. 1. Opt-in eligible service members from all seven of the uniformed services will have an entire year to make their retirement system election. The open period for the majority of service members is from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2018.

Service members will need to visit one of these designated resources to opt into BRS:

- Army, Air Force, Navy: MyPay (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>).
- Marine Corps: Marine Online (<https://www.mol.usmc.mil>).
- Coast Guard, NOAA Commissioned Corps: Direct Access (<https://portal.direct-access.us>).
- U.S. Public Health Service personnel should contact the USPHS Compensation Branch.

Service members who believe they are eligible to opt in, but do not see the opt-in option available online should contact their local personnel or human resources office to verify eligibility, officials said.



Graphic courtesy of U.S. Department of Defense.

DECISION IRREVOCABLE

The decision to opt in is irrevocable, officials emphasized, even if a service member changes his or her mind before the Dec. 31, 2018, deadline. Eligible service members who take no action will remain in the legacy retirement system, they added.

Prior to opting in, officials recommend that service members take advantage of all available resources to assist in making an informed decision on the financial implications specific to their retirement situation. The Defense Department endorses several training and informational tools to support a service member's decision, including the BRS Opt-In Course, the BRS Comparison Calculator and numerous online BRS resource materials.

Service members can receive no-cost, personal support from an accredited personal financial manager or counselor available at their installation's military and family support center or by calling Military OneSource at 00-800-3429-6477. In addition, Army Community Service will host a VTC-projected training session on BRS on Jan. 31 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the SHAPE Bldg. 318. For more information, call ACS at DSN 366-6824 or +32 (0)6532-6824. ♦

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Army Housing Survey planned for January

By U.S. Army

The Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff of Installation Management and the U.S. Army Installation Management Command G4 (Housing) are planning to launch the Army Family Housing Survey for on-post and leased housing residents at garrisons on Jan. 18.

"Within the next four weeks, you will receive an email with the survey link," said Lt. Gen. Gwen Bingham, assistant chief of staff for installation management. "Your feedback about your experiences while residing in Army-owned or leased housing is critical to shaping the future housing and services provided by the Army."

The purpose of the survey is to receive firsthand accounts of what Soldiers and Families find valuable when living in on-post and leased Family Housing.

"We need your candid feedback," said Lt. Gen. Kenneth R. Dahl, commanding general for IMCOM. "All surveys are confidential, and your frank feedback will ensure your voice is heard."

The Army is looking for maximum outreach and participation, to measure resident satisfaction with their housing accommodations, as well as the services they received from the Army Housing Office.

According to the AHO, one member of each household should receive an email invitation within three days of the survey launch, and everyone will have until Feb. 22 to submit their responses.

"Thank you in advance for your participation in the survey," Bingham said. "The results will help guide the decisions we make today and will impact generations of Soldiers and Families."

If residents do not receive an email, they are encouraged to visit their local housing office for assistance. For more information about U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Housing, go to www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/org-housing.html. ♦



AER announces scholarship opportunities

Special to the Gazette

Army Emergency Relief, or AER, announced the application window for the Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship for the 2018 to 2019 academic year. The window will open from Jan. 1 to April 2.

The need-based scholarship is for children of active-duty or retired Soldiers and children of Soldiers who died during active-duty service. Applicants must be obtaining their first undergraduate degree and enrolled full-time in the 2018 to 2019 academic year.

According to the AER's website, the award amounts vary per year. For the 2017 to 2018 academic year, the scholarship's awards ranged from \$670 to \$4,290.

Applicants must reapply each year and may receive assistance up to four academic years as long as they meet the eligibility criteria.

More information, including the application instructions, is at www.aerhq.org/Apply-for-Scholarship/Dependent-Children.

AER also provides need-based scholarships to Army spouses obtaining their undergraduate degrees through the Spouse Education Assistance Program. Spouses may receive scholarships for either full-time or part-time study.

The program implemented a new rolling application cycle beginning with the 2018 to 2019 academic year. Spouses may apply any time after Jan. 1 for the upcoming academic year.

Similar to the MG James Ursano scholarship, the award amounts vary per year. For the 2017 to 2018 academic year, the awards ranged from \$350 to \$2,810.

Applicants must reapply each year and may receive assistance for up to four academic years for full-time study or up to eight academic years for part-time study.

More information on the scholarship and program is at www.aerhq.org/Apply-for-Scholarship/Spouse-Education-Assistance-Program.

Army Community Service's Financial Readiness Program helps Soldiers, family members, retirees and civilians with financial planning. On Jan. 17 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., ACS will host a "Budgeting for College" class which focuses on college loans and grants, college 529 plans, investment products, scholarships and choosing careers. For more information, call DSN 366-6824 or +32 (0)6532-6824 or see "Inside the Gate" on page 6. ♦



Garrison introduces new approach to on-boarding employees

By Jessica Ryan

USAG Benelux Public Affairs

On-boarding a new employee may seem like a typical process. The employee's supervisor or sponsor may do the usual administrative tasks, such as giving a tour of the office, explaining duties and responsibilities, and helping with in-processing procedures.

However, on-boarding new employees is more than an administrative process. That's the approach that leaders are taking as they put together an impactful on-boarding and orientation experience to welcome employees to the Benelux team.

On Jan. 9, U.S. Army Garrison Benelux hosted its first on-boarding session called "Team Member Orientation" at Caserne Daumerie in Chièvres, Belgium. The session brought garrison leaders and new employees, from different locations in the Benelux footprint, in the same room.

The new approach supports the U.S. Army Installation Management Command's Service Culture Initiative. According to IMCOM, the initiative is "built upon the fundamental premise that excellence in customer service is a byproduct of how we treat our IMCOM professionals. If they are happy, well-informed and cared for, they will convey this positive attitude toward our Soldiers and Families."

The session was an opportunity for leaders to meet new employees. Employees and the command leaders participated in an icebreaker exercise where they introduced themselves by telling two truths and a lie. The rest of the participants had to guess the lie. As a result, the participants learned about each other's backgrounds, families and hobbies.

Senior leaders also took time to explain the garrison's mission, values and vision. They emphasized that the garrison is complex as it is comprised of geographically-dispersed communities in Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany. These communities include U.S. Army garrisons, prepositioned stock sites, joint force commands and NATO sites.

"We are all learning this together," said Thomas Joyce, deputy to the garrison commander. "The big thing here is working with different agencies in this community."

Joyce, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Samara Pitre, the senior enlisted advisor to the garrison commander, are also new to the garrison as they both assumed responsibility in late 2017.

The new employees found the class to be helpful, especially individuals from other locations as the Army prepositioned



Thomas Joyce, deputy to the garrison commander of U.S. Army Garrison Benelux, talks about the organization's leadership pledge during Team Member Orientation Jan. 9, 2018, at Caserne Daumerie in Chièvres, Belgium. The pledge supports U.S. Army Installation Management Command's Service Culture Initiative, which emphasizes the importance of taking care of IMCOM professionals. (U.S. Army photo by Jessica Ryan)

stocks, or APS sites. Justine Brooks, the contracting officer representative at the APS site in Dülmen, Germany, said she got the opportunity to have face time with employees from other locations and office directors.

"Any time, you get more knowledge [about the garrison] is exciting. You meet people, such as the directors, learn about the different parts of the garrison, and how important your part is to our directors," she added.

Joyce also emphasized the importance of employees' roles during his presentation. He discussed IMCOM's Leadership Pledge.

"You heard this phrase 'There is no I in team.' I believe there is an 'I' in team. The 'I' is all of us. We're the individuals. We are all responsible for doing our jobs," he said. "A team is not productive unless there are quality individuals who are trained, enthusiastic and passionate and work together to support the mission."

Joyce concluded his presentation by expressing his appreciation to the employees.

"I'm impressed by the breadth of experience, diversity and inclusion in this room," he said. "Thank you for joining our team. We are here to support you. We are enthusiastic about having you on the team." ♦

Remember! Celebrate! Act!

By Therese Ayers

USAG Benelux Equal Employment Office

During his lifetime, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. encouraged all citizens to pursue the purpose and potential of America. He strived to realize the dream of equality and a nation that affords freedom and justice for all.

King has now been dead longer than he lived. He was born in 1929 and would have been 89 years old this year. He was a Baptist minister, humanitarian and activist. He is best known for his pivotal role in the advancement of civil rights in America.

King led an extraordinary life. At 33, he was pressing the case of civil rights with President John Kennedy. At 34, he galvanized the nation with his "I Have A Dream" speech. At 35, he won the Nobel Peace Prize. At 39, he was assassinated, but he left a legacy of hope and inspiration that continues today.

It is testament to his life that almost every city and town has something named after him. He spoke of equality and sharing the wealth of the nation, which we now call diversity and inclusion. The Civil Rights Act of 1964, signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, was the hallmark of this man's great life and love for all humanity. It was his objection to the war in Vietnam that led many to see that he was not just a man worried about the people of the United States. As he said in his Nobel Peace Prize address, he was a man working for change and hope for all people. His letter from a Birmingham Jail explained the Civil Rights Movement as a movement whose time had come.

He led thousands of Americans from all walks of life and races in peaceful demonstrations that broke the back of Jim Crowism in America. The fact that those participating in marches and demonstrations led by and or supported by King were examples of those fostered by Ghandi in India. The actions of the segregationist against the demonstrators was for once put into every home in America by the news media. Soon the conscience of the nation was drawn to the plight of those who were peacefully demonstrating but being brutalized by the police and local government officials being broadcast nightly into every American home.

King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, while supporting local garbage collectors in Memphis, Tennessee. One shot rang out and a great man fell to his death. However, this was not the death of the movement he started but rather the second start and galvanization of the American conscience. During the 1968 Presidential Election, George Wallace, former governor of Alabama, who made a historical stand in the door of the University of Alabama in support of segregation, publically apologized for what he had done and declared that King's death was a tragedy for the nation and the world. He lauded King for his steadfast but nonviolent demonstrations that led to so many people being protected by the laws of the land.

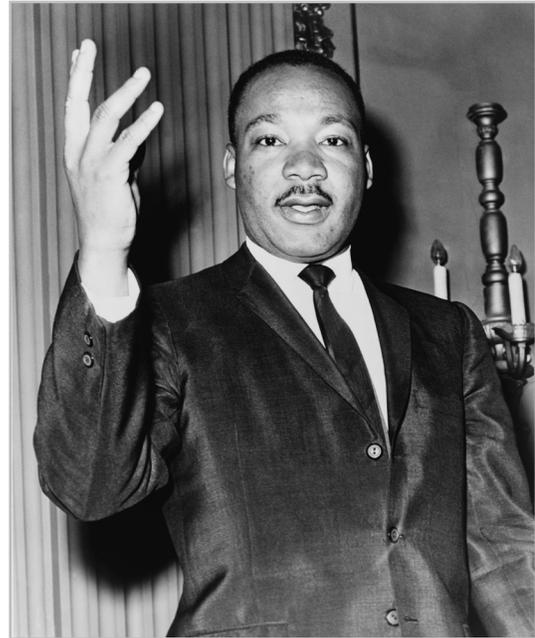


Photo by Dick DeMarsico and courtesy of the U.S. Library of Congress.

In 1983, legislation was signed to create a holiday honoring King. The U.S. Congress designated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in 1994 as a federal holiday and a national day of service, and charged the Corporation for National and Community Service with leading this effort.

King once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"

The third Monday in January each year, Americans answer that question by coming together on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to serve their neighbors and communities. The day represents an opportunity to start the year off right by making a positive impact in one's community. It is a way to channel King's life and teachings into community action.

King encouraged all citizens to apply the principles of nonviolence to make this country a better place to live -- popularizing the notion of "The Beloved Community." In King's "Beloved Community," people and communities would be united by inclusion, shared prosperity and peaceful conflict resolution.

In the spirit of the "Beloved Community," King's day of service is an opportunity to live out his teachings. Volunteering remains a vibrant part of our nation's fabric. It reaches across generations, enriching both our communities and those who serve.

Now let us remember King and observe his legacy on Jan. 15 as "A Day On - Not A Day Off."

To learn more about King's life and legacy, visit <http://www.thekingcenter.org/about-dr-king>. ♦

ALL COMMUNITIES

Through Jan. 31

- **U.S. Army Digital Photography Contest** - Calling all photography enthusiasts! Submit your photos for a chance to win cash prizes. For contest rules and submissions, visit www.armymwr.com/digitalphoto.

The following are VTC-projected classes. For information about and to register for VTC classes, contact:

- For SHAPE: DSN 366-6824 or +32 (0)65-326824
- For Brussels: DSN 368-9783 or +32 (0)2-717-9783
- For Schinnen: DSN 360-7500 or +31(0)46-4437500

Jan. 17

- **Budgeting for College** - Held from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. This training focuses on college loans and grants, college 529 plans, funding college with investment products, scholarships, choosing careers and Army Emergency Relief scholarships.



Jan. 23

- **Couple's Communication** - Held from 10 a.m. to noon. This training focuses on improving communication with your spouse.

Jan. 24

- **Making Your Financial Plan** - Held from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. This training focuses on tolerance for risks and how to estimate what it will take to reach financial goals.

Jan. 31

- **Blended Retirement System** - Held from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. This training offers a complete review of the BRS along with the Thrift Savings Plan component and other relevant points, such as the incentive bonus and the lump-sum options as well as the flexibility offered with this new program.

BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

See also above in "All Communities"

Open Enrollment for Cub Scout Pack 457

- Brussels community families are invited to sign up their children in first to fifth grade or 6-to-10-year olds for the Cub Scouts. Scheduled activities are planned throughout the year in and around Brussels. For more information, call +32(0)491-867101.

Every Thursday and Friday

- **Community Movie Night** - Enjoy free entertainment at the 3 Star Recreation Center starting at 6:30 p.m.! The schedule includes *Suburbicon* (R) on Friday, *Only the Brave* (PG-13) on Jan. 18, *Blade Runner 2049* (R) on Jan. 19, *Geostorm* (PG-13) on Jan. 25, and *The Snowman* (R) on Jan. 26. For more information, call DSN 368-9822 or +32 (0)2-7179822.

Jan. 12

- **3 Star Recreation Night** - Join the Brussels community for games, cards, music and movies starting at 5 p.m. at the 3 Star Recreation Center. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. U.S. Military, NATO, U.S. Embassy and mission cardholders are welcomed. For more information, call DSN 368-9822 or +32 (0)2-7179822.

Jan. 16-18

- **Host Nation Orientation** - During Host Nation Orientation, newcomers will receive information about USAG Benelux and the Brussels community, visit local sites, and learn about the language and local customs. Advance registration is required. For more information, call +32 (0)2-7179783 or DSN 368-9783.

Jan. 18

- **3 Star Dinner Special "All You Can Eat Taco Bar"** - Starts at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$11 for adults and \$5 for children. Reservations are required by Jan. 16 and can be made at reservations3star@yahoo.com.

Jan. 19

- **Line Dancing** - Put on your boots, grab your friends and have some fun at the 3 Star Recreation Center every first and third Friday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call DSN 368-9822 or +32 (0)2-7179822.

Jan. 21

- **Library Story Time** - Come to the Brussels Library (Bldg. 4, 1st Floor) for story time from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. This event is open to kids age 3 to 10 and their parents or guardians. For more information, please call DSN 368-9791 or +32 (0)2-7179791.

Starting Jan. 30

- **Tax Assistance Services** - The Northern Law Center will provide U.S. federal and state income tax assistance to eligible clients on Tuesdays in Building 4, Room 316. Services are by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call DSN 423-4868 or +32 (0)65-444868. For more information on legal services, visit <http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/org-legal.html>.

SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

See also above in "All Communities"

Netherlands Law Center

- **Scheduled Closures** - The Netherlands Law Center at Schinnen will be closed Jan. 15 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Jan. 17 for training. On Jan. 16, 18 and 19, the office will be open for normal walk-in hours for powers of attorney and notarial acts only. All other legal assistance are by appointment. Call +31 (0)46-4437693 for an appointment.

Every Monday

- **Meditation Mondays** - Begin the week by slowing down, getting centered and quieting your mind at the Army Community Service's Family Advocacy Program Lounge from noon to 1 p.m. For more information, contact +31 (0)46-4437500 or DSN 360-7500.



Jan. 12

- **Fun 4 Kids** - From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., bring your children to the Community Activity Center on Schinnen. Activities and a play area will be provided. For more information, call Parent Central Services at DSN 606-244-3121/2023 or +31 (0)45-5263121/2023.

Jan. 17-18

- **Veteran's Administration (VA) One-on-One Appointments** - Are you a service member or veteran with questions about VA benefits? Make a one-on-one appointment! The Veteran's Administration will have a representative at the JFC Brunssum Library on Jan. 17 and 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to meet with anyone who would like a one-on-one appointment. To schedule an appointment, call DSN 314-606-244-3848 or +31 (0)45-5263848.

Jan. 25

- **"The Teenage Brain" Workshop** - The Adolescent Support and Counseling Services, or ASACS, program is hosting a workshop called "The Teenage Brain" at 4 p.m. in the AFNORTH Cafeteria. It is a 90 minute workshop for adults and open to parents and staff from all nationalities of students at AFNORTH International School and anyone who deals with adolescents at home or in the workforce.

Feb. 2

- **New Year, New You! Information, Employment & Job Fair** - Get a jumpstart on New Year's commitments by learning about employment, volunteer and educational opportunities in the Tri-Border area. The fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the multipurpose room of Bldg. 298 at Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base. For more information, call +49(0)2451-637291.

Feb. 5

- **Tax Assistance Office Grand Opening** - The office in Schinnen will be open for free federal and state income tax preparation on Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call DSN 360-7688 or +31 (0)46-4437688.

SHAPE/CHIÈVRES COMMUNITY

See also page 6 in "All Communities"

AAFES Announcements

- **Job Openings** - AAFES is hiring on Chièvres Air Base. To apply, visit <https://www.applymyexchange.com>. For more information, call DSN 361-5337 or +32 (0)68-275337.
- **Instant Coffee** - The Cofeo instant coffee machine is now available at the Chièvres Exchange Mall. The machine serves different kinds of coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Prices are €1 or €1.20 per item.

Commissary Announcement

- **Holiday Closure** - The Commissary on Chièvres Air Base will be closed Jan. 15 and 16 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The store will resume regular hours of operation on Jan. 17.

Every Monday

- **Mocha Mondays at Youth Center** - Join Child, Youth and School Services for free warm drinks, friendly conversation and fun from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at the Youth Center (SHAPE Bldg. 503). This is open to CYS eligible youth in grades 6 to 12. For more information, call +32 (0)65-326813 or DSN 366-6813. To register, call Parent Central Services at +32 (0)65-326839 or DSN 366-6839.

Every Monday and Wednesday

- **Circuit Training (Stroller Friendly)** - Join the Chièvres Fitness Center (Bldg. 20004) on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., for an adult, high-intensity, full-body workout using body weight and basic equipment followed by 30 minutes of indoor cycling. Kids are welcome. Parents are responsible for their children during the class period. Open to all U.S. and NATO ID cardholders.

Every Tuesday

- **Baby and Toddler Play Group** - This playgroup is open to babies from newborn until 18 months. It's an opportunity to connect with other parents, promote child development and discuss parenting in a supportive setting. Play groups are held from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the ACS Playroom (SHAPE Bldg. 318). For more information, call +32 (0)65-326824 or DSN 366-6824.

Jan. 18

- **Mindful Yoga** - Come to this yoga session from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at SHAPE Bldg. 318. For more information, call Army Community Service at DSN 366-6824 or +32 (0)65-326824.

Jan. 22-23 and Feb. 12-13

- **Host Nation Orientation** - Army Community Service is inviting all incoming service members, civilians and their family members to participate in Host Nation Orientation in Bldg. 318 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration is required. Call DSN 366-6824 or +32 (0)65-326824.

Jan. 23

- **CYS Parent Education Workshop: Deployment and Your Child** - Earn two Parent Participation Points by attending this Parent Education Workshop from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Additionally, each parent participant will receive a Military Family Empowerment Pack, and each child participant will receive a super secret journal and a DVD. For more information, stop by Parent Central Services or call DSN 366-6839/6797 or +32(0)65-32-6839/6797.



Jan. 24

- **The Modern Day Screenager Workshop** - This parenting workshop, presented by Adolescent Support and Counseling Services, or ASACS, focuses on dealing with teens' interactions on social media. The workshop is held at the SHAPE High School I.C. from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call DSN 366-6908.

Jan. 25

- **Ten Steps to a Federal Job** - Army Community Service will show you how to land a federal job in 10 steps. The class is held from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at SHAPE Bldg. 318. Advance registration is required. For more information, call +32 (0)6532-6824 or DSN 366-6824.

Starting Jan. 29

- **Tax Center** - The Northern Law Center will provide U.S. federal and state income tax assistance at SHAPE Bldg. 318 to eligible clients from Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call DSN 423-4868 or +32 (0)65-444868. Visit <http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/org-legal.html> for more information.

Feb. 12-16

- **Teen Babysitting Course** - During this class, participants will earn their pediatric CPR and basic first aid certification as well as receive a Magic Babysitter's Bag. Class hours are 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. All sessions must be attended to receive certification. This class is open to youth age 12 and older (grades 6 to 12) and registered with Child, Youth and School Services. Cost is \$25, and registration ends Feb. 7. For more information or to reserve your spot, stop by Parent Central Services or call DSN 366-6839/6797 or +32(0)65-32-6839/6797.

UPCOMING ORGANIZED TRIPS & TOURS

SHAPE Trips & Tours

Serving Brussels, Chièvres and SHAPE. Call DSN 423-3884 or +32 (0)65-443884.

- Amsterdam Light Festival, **Jan. 13**
- Thermae 2000 in Valkenburg, **Jan. 20**
- Belgian Beer Tour in Antwerp, **Feb. 3**
- Malta, **Feb. 8-12**
- The Hague, Netherlands City Tour, **Feb. 10**
- Rosenmontag Carnival in Cologne, **Feb. 12**
- Valentine's Dinner Cruise on the Seine in Paris, **Feb. 17**
- Cooking Class in Lille (or Lille only), **Feb. 24**
- Operation Market Garden "A Bridge Too Far" in Arnhem, **Mar. 3**

- Hamburg, Germany, **Mar. 10-11**
- Bad Münstereifel, Germany, **Mar. 17**
- Northern Italy, **Apr. 3-12**
- London (with optional musical Dreamgirls), **Apr. 14**
- Gouda & Keukenof Gardens, **Apr. 21**
- Reims with Champagne, **Apr. 28**

Schinnen Trips & Tours

Call DSN 360-7560 or +31 (0) 46-4437560.

- Bruges, **Jan. 13**
- Luxembourg, **Feb. 17**
- Paris, **Mar. 18**
- Weekend Trip to Normandy, France, **Jul. 20-23**

Highway Construction and Road Closures

You may experience some delays while driving in Belgium this season. Road construction projects are occurring throughout the country and may result in temporary lane closures and road congestion. We will provide regular updates to ensure that the community is informed and prepared.

Outside the Gate



Ath-Hacquegnies (A8): Because of an accident, there is road construction on E429 (A8) between Ath and Hacquegnies, in the direction of Tournai. Traffic is reduced to one lane. Work is scheduled to be completed by Jan. 31.



Tubize-Enghien (A8): Pay attention if you are driving from Brussels. There is still road congestion on E429 (A8) between Tubize and Enghien, in the direction of Tournai. Road construction has been interrupted due to bad weather and will resume in the spring. The speed of traffic is reduced to 70 km/h.



Tournai-Mons (E42): Work on the bridge started Nov. 13 in Bernissart and is expected to last two years. Traffic will be reduced to only one lane in the direction of Mons.



Andenne/Daussoux (E42/A15): The three-way yard project between Andenne and Daussoux has been underway since August. This project involves 15 km in both directions. Two lanes of traffic will be maintained. Work is scheduled to be completed by August 2018.

Please be cautious and patient while driving at all times. If you have questions or would like to report other highway construction sites and road closures, please email the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Public Affairs Office at usarmy.benelux.id-europe.list.pao@mail.mil.



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

Through Jan. 14

- **Manage on Ice** - The ice rink spans 525 square meters. Held on Place de La Hestre from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Entrance fee: €6.

Through Feb. 25

- **Exhibition in Mons: David LaChapelle. After the Deluge** - The Beaux-Arts Mons, or BAM, is hosting, for the first time in Belgium, a major exhibition dedicated to the American photographer and director David LaChapelle. With an international reputation in the world of fashion, advertising and fine art photography, his work is characterized by touches of surrealism and humor. Held on Rue Neuve, 8. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, visit <http://www.polemuseal.mons.be/en> or call +32 (0)65-405325. Entry is €9. Free entry on every first Sunday of the month.

Jan. 12-21

- **Brussels European Motor Show** - The largest car and motorcycle brands will present their vehicles to the public. There will be also a lot of activities. Held at Brussels Expo on Place de Belgique, 1. Open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. during the week and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. There will be late evening openings (until 10 p.m.) Friday, Jan. 15 and Jan. 19. Entry is €15 for adults, and €9 for children. For the first time, the Brussels European Motor Show will devote an entire hall to solutions in the field of micro-mobility and shared mobility. This thematic exhibition in Hall 10 will be open Jan. 19, 20 and 21. For more information, visit <http://www.autosalon.be/en>.

Jan. 13

- **Flea Market in Koekelberg** - Held on Parvis Métro Simonis and Boulevard Léopold II featuring 100 booths from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Jan. 13-14

- **Flea Market in Ronquières** - Held on Rue Rosemont featuring 100 booths from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Jan. 14

- **Volksmarch in Sirault for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** Departs Rue des Déportés, 76 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Mellet for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** Departs the school on Rue A. Helsen, 69b from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea Market in Hornu** - Held on Route de Mons, 163 featuring 150 booths from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Flea Market in Anderlecht** - Held on Boulevard Sylvain Dupuis featuring 300 booths from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Concert in Saint-Ghislain** - The concert is performed by the New Beat's Band (jazz, blues, folk). Held at Foyer Culturel on Grand Place, 37. Entry: € 15 for adults, €10 for students, free for children age 12 and younger.



Read about events near Brunssum and Schinnen (in the Netherlands unless otherwise indicated).

Through Jan. 14

- **Interclassics & TopMobiel** - Each year, more than 15,000 avid motor show spectators visit the greatest classic car event in the Benelux region held at MECC in Maastricht (NL). Entry is €20. Open Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Vacation Fair** - Held at Jaarbeurs in the center of Utrecht (NL), this is an opportunity to get the information you need to plan your next vacation. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Entry: €16.

Through Jan. 21

- **Winter Fun at the Dutch Open Air Museum** - Enjoy fun activities on Schelmseweg 89 in Arnhem (NL). Open weekdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and weekends from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry: €19 for adults and €16 for children.

Through Jan. 31

- **Winter Efteling** - Held at Efteling Amusement & Fairy Tale Park in Kaatsheuvel on Europalaan near Tilburg (NL). Open weekdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and weekends from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Entry: €40.

Jan. 13-14

- **Dutch Winter World** - Experience a Dutch winter world in the pre-historic, Roman times and Middle Ages at the Archeon Open Air Museum in Alphen aan de Rijn (NL). All 43 buildings are decorated, and the inhabitants give demonstrations of what life was like then. Open both days from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more details, visit www.archeon.nl.

Jan. 15-21

- **Blues & Jazz Week** - Events will be held in several places such as bars and cafés in Leiden (NL). For more information, go to www.deleidsejazzweek.nl.

Jan. 17-21

- **First Art Fair** - The fair is held at Passenger Terminal on Piet Heinkade 27 in Amsterdam. Open Jan. 17 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., Jan. 18 to 21 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Jan. 19 in the evening until 9 p.m. Entry is €12.50 for adults, €8 for teenagers age 13 to 18, and free for children age 12 and younger.

Jan. 19-21

- **Motorcycle Fair of the North** - The annual fair is held at TT-Hall on De Haar 11 in Assen (NL). It features vendors for the newest motorcycles, accessories, special clothes, vacation ideas and more. Open Jan. 19 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Jan. 20 to 21 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €12 for adults and free for children age 12 and younger.