

THE GAZETTE

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

Benelux News Briefs

Absentee Ballots

To vote in the 2018 State Primaries and General Election, U.S. citizens overseas must register for an absentee ballot. To view registration deadlines in your state and get more information on election dates, go to <https://www.fvap.gov>. For local assistance, please call DSN 366-6192 or +32(0)65-326192.

Crossage

The annual event, featuring the golf-like sport, will take place Feb. 14 starting at noon on the streets of Chièvres and surrounding villages. The city of Chièvres will be closed off to all traffic, and no parking will be allowed. To register a team (minimum of four people), call +32 (0)496-876938 or DSN 361-5433. Registration ends Feb. 9. Cost is €35 for a wooden mallet and ball and €5 for insurance.

Exchange Closure

The Chièvres Exchange Main Store and Military Clothing Sales Store will be closed Jan. 25. All other Exchange facilities will have regular hours and will conduct business as usual that day.



U.S., Belgian Armies perform weapons training

Army Staff Sgt. Sean Marshall, from the Provost Marshal Office at U.S. Army Garrison Benelux in Brussels, fires the 7.62mm FN SCAR High Precision Rifle at a 600-meter target. Marshall, along with two other Soldiers, participated in weapons training with the Belgian Army Jan. 8 to 12, 2018, in Arlon, Belgium. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Severino)

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U.S., Belgian Armies perform weapons training together

By Brussels Provost Marshal Office
USAG Benelux

Three military policemen from U.S. Army Garrison Benelux in Brussels were invited by the Belgian Army's Light Weapons Training Cell to participate in a trial fielding of the Belgian Army's newest automatic weapon, the 7.62mm FN MINIMI, from Jan. 8 to 12 in Arlon, Belgium. The MINIMI closely resembles the U.S. Army's MK48 automatic weapon.

The main purpose of the invite was to provide real-world feedback on the implementation and use of medium machine guns in combat as well as to share doctrinal practices and procedures.

The MPs offered a glimpse into the U.S. Army's usage of this type of weapon platform that would otherwise not have been achievable to the instructors. They got hands-on experience with the weapon and provided feedback on how best to implement it in offensive and defensive positions as well as mounted and dismounted operations.

"Our Armies may operate in different ways structurally and administratively, but tactics and techniques wise, we are quite similar, with a few differences here and there.



It would be no problem for an American squad to fall into a Belgian Platoon and conduct operations and vice versa," said Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Severino, provost marshal operation sergeant at U.S. Army Garrison Benelux in Brussels.

While there, the MPs were given instruction on the P90 sub machine gun and were awarded the title of P90 Instructor by the base commander. They were also



Left: Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Severino, from the Provost Marshal Office at U.S. Army Garrison Benelux in Brussels, tests the capabilities of the FN 7.62mm MINIMI from the kneeling position. Above: Army Sgt. John Makulinski, from the Brussels PMO, zeroes the FN 7.62mm MINIMI from 100 meters as a Belgian Soldier watches his technique. The Soldiers, participated in weapons training with the Belgian Army from Jan. 8 to 12, 2018, in Arlon, Belgium. (U.S. Army photos provided by Staff Sgt. Matthew Severino)

given the chance to fire the 7.62mm SCAR High Precision Rifle out to 600 meters.

The event was also an opportunity for the U.S. and Belgian Armies to strengthen their relationship. Since the Brussels' attacks in 2016, the Brussels Provost Marshal Office has conducted over six different training events with the Belgian Army and Zaventem Police.

"By training together it not only strengthens the relationship between us and our host nation, but it benefits all those who participate in the training by allowing them to see different ways of accomplishing a shared mission," said Severino. ♦

- Commander**.....Col. Kurt Connell
- Public Affairs Officer**.....Marie-Lise Baneton
- Editor**.....Jessica Ryan
- Staff Writers**.....Kristin Ellis
Rita Hoefnagels
Christophe Morel
Julie Piron

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Low Emission Zone in Brussels in effect

Special to the Gazette

Effective Jan. 1, Brussels has instituted a low emission zone or LEZ. The objective is to prohibit the most polluting vehicles from the Brussels Capital Region. This will result in better air quality and improved health for residents.

Only the oldest diesel vehicles will be affected in 2018, but the rules will change in the following years and other vehicles, such as petrol or gasoline vehicles will be affected.

All 19 municipalities of the Brussels Capital Region are covered by the LEZ. The Ring (RO) is not affected. If you have to go to the center by using the metro, some streets will allow access to particular car parks: the parking Céria-Coovi, the Stalle car park and the Kraainem car park.

Every entrance of the LEZ is identified by roads signs. As soon as drivers enter the zone, they must respect the access criteria. They are not allowed to drive if they have an Euro-1 Standard diesel vehicle or a vehicle without an Euro standard. The Euro standard is a European environmental standard and is indicated on the registration documents. If a vehicle does not meet the emission standards, it will be annotated during the owner's annual contrôle technique or CT inspections.

Vehicles older than four years must have a CT inspection. More information is at <http://www.goca.be/>. The website is in French and Dutch, but English-speaking users can see a translated version on Google Chrome.

To find the Euro standard, use the "Chassis Tool" and input your chassis number (or vehicle identification number) at <http://ecoscore.be>.

A transition period of nine months will allow drivers to adapt to the new system. In October, an administrative fine up to €350 will be sent to drivers whose cars fail to meet the access criteria. The control of the access criteria is monitored by "smart cameras."

These cameras will scan vehicle license plates to verify current CT inspections. Drivers will see the cameras shortly after the road signs.

Drivers have to respect the LEZ all days of the week, 24 hours a day, on the entire territory of the Brussels Capital Region. Vehicles registered abroad meeting the access criteria must be registered before entering the Brussels region. If you have an Euro-1 Standard diesel vehicle or a vehicle without an Euro standard, entry to the LEZ will always be possible using a paid-for day pass for a maximum eight days per year. For more information, visit <http://lez.brussels/>. ♦



Road signs indicate entrances and exits of the Low Emission Zone in the Brussels Capital Region. (Graphic courtesy of Low Emission Zone Brussels)

State Dept. issues new travel advisory system

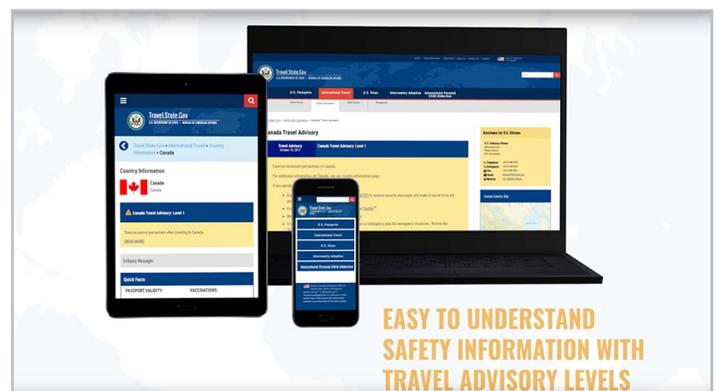
Special to the Gazette

The U.S. Department of State has issued a new travel advisory system that replaces the old DoS Warning and Alert System. Now, there is a travel advisory for each country of the world, using a scale of Level 1 to 4. Travel advisories apply up to four standard levels of advice, give a description of the risks and provide clear actions that U.S. citizens should take to help ensure their safety.

The levels are: Level 1 (Exercise Normal Precautions), Level 2 (Exercise Increased Caution) Level 3 (Reconsider Travel) and Level 4 (Do Not Travel).

Additionally, U.S. Embassies and consulates abroad issue alerts to inform U.S. citizens of specific safety and security concerns in a country, such as demonstrations, crime trends and weather events.

Please visit the U.S. Department of State website at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html> for a complete list of advisories. Enrollment in the DoS Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, or STEP, is mandatory for U.S. European Command personnel



Graphic courtesy of U.S. Department of State: Consular Affairs.

while traveling throughout the area of responsibility. U.S. Army Garrison Benelux employees must submit a foreign travel packet form before travel. Employees should consult the Foreign Clearance Guide before any official or leave travel at <https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil>. Please contact the Security Office at DSN 361-5145 or +32 (0)68-275145. ♦

Inclement weather conditions reporting explained

By USAG Benelux Public Affairs

Although Belgium has a milder climate compared to other areas in Europe, it is wise to be informed when inclement weather hits the area. Garrison officials at U.S. Army Garrison Benelux installations at Chièvres, Brussels and Schinnen will do everything they can to keep services running, but some weather conditions may result in changes in road conditions, school closures, work delays or temporary shutdown on some of the garrison services.

STAY CONNECTED

Go to the garrison's official website for updates at www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil. In the center column, there is a section called Emergencies and Weather. There is a link for IMCOM-Europe Road Conditions and School Closures page, on which USAG Benelux has a specific section. You can see what the road conditions are at any of the USAG Benelux locations. If road conditions remain the same, the date it was last updated will remain the same as well.

- Like the USAG Benelux Facebook pages: USAGBenelux (SHAPE and Chièvres), USAGBeneluxBrusselsCommunity (Brussels) and TriBorderCommunity (Tri-Border area).

- Listen to Armed Forces Network, or AFN, Benelux at 107.9 FM (Chièvres and Volkel Air Base), 101.7 FM (Brussels), 106.2 FM (Kleine Brogel Air Base) 106.5 FM (SHAPE), 99.7 FM and 96.9 FM (Tri-Border area). You can also stream AFN 360 Radio at <http://benelux.afneurope.net>.

- Make sure you are registered in AtHoc, the garrison emergency messaging service. AtHoc alerts will be sent by phone and on your computer in case of closures or delays.

- For traffic updates, forecasts and traffic jams in Belgium, check <http://trafiroutes.wallonie.be/trafiroutes/maptempsreel/#>. The website provides updates in French, Dutch, English and German.

KNOW ROAD AND DRIVING CONDITIONS TERMS

On the IMCOM-Europe Road Conditions & School Closures website page, the road conditions are set at green, amber, red and black. These levels apply to military vehicles. For instance, the garrison shuttle will not run during red or black road conditions.

Next to the color-coded road conditions are the driving conditions. These are an advisory to drivers of privately owned vehicles and are set as follows:

Non-hazardous: Normal vehicle operations.

Hazardous: Drivers are likely to encounter snow, slush and patches of black ice. Caution is advised.

Dangerous: Drivers are likely to encounter snow, drifting snow, black ice and limited visibility. Extreme caution is advised.

Extremely dangerous: Drivers are likely to encounter snow, heavy drifting snow, extreme sheet ice, limited visibility and potential "whiteout" conditions. Only emergency travel should be conducted.

Driving and road conditions do not dictate whether you should come to work, they are indicators that you



During inclement weather conditions, check the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux website and official Benelux Facebook pages to get current information. (Courtesy photo)

should practice extra caution. Military Police evaluate road conditions at the most deteriorated spots on-post and in the surrounding communities, per defined factors. As a result, the road conditions for Chièvres may be different than the road conditions at SHAPE.

For SHAPE driving conditions, visit SHAPE2Day.com.

UNDERSTAND THE PROCESS

The garrison commander and respective garrison managers determine work delays, early dismissals and closures. SHAPE and Brunssum officials decide on closing the schools.

Delayed reporting or garrison closure announcements will be made after 5 a.m. Upon notification, the IMCOM-Europe Road Conditions and School Closures website is updated. Information is aired on AFN, posted on the Facebook pages and sent via the AtHoc messaging service.

When a delay is announced at any of the USAG Benelux communities, employees in the affected area have extra travel time to report to work safely. All garrison support services will delay opening by the same time frame. This allows the Directorate of Public Works, or DPW, time to clear the roads and parking lots on posts.

Employees are responsible for their own safety and should make a conscious judgement prior to hit the road. They should contact their supervisor if they choose to request leave.

Unless specific information is issued on the Facebook pages or via the AtHoc messaging service, the community should expect work report times and services to start as usual.

Child Development Centers and School Age Centers are open to the children of mission-essential personnel only during work delays or closures. If an early closure is announced, non-mission essential personnel must pick up their children immediately. All other CYS facilities and programs will be closed in accordance with the garrison closure plan. ♦



Garrison leaders engage in host nation events

By USAG Benelux Public Affairs

In support of the mission to integrate base operations to diverse, multi-national, geographically-dispersed communities and enable readiness and resiliency, garrison leaders met with local and regional officials in January. Garrison leaders and employees attended New Year's Reception events in Dülmen, Germany, where one of the garrison's Army pre-positioned stocks site is located, as well as in Mons and Bastogne, Belgium. Attending the events reaffirmed the garrison's commitment to building and fostering strong relationships with local and regional leaders. These relationships emphasize the importance of being a good neighbor to our local communities in addition to working with the host nations' militaries as a valued alliance partner within NATO and a "Strong Europe." ♦

1. Col. Kurt Connell, garrison commander for U.S. Army Garrison Benelux, meets with Lisa Stremmlau, mayor of Dülmen, and German Ret. Maj. Gen. Robert Bergmann, advisor to the mayor, during the town's New Year's Reception Jan. 14. (U.S. Army photo by Julie Piron)

2. From left to right: Randy Corbin, APS site manager in Dülmen, Thomas Joyce, deputy to the garrison commander for USAG Benelux, Command Sgt. Maj. Samara Pitre, command sergeant major for USAG Benelux, Col. Connell, Col. Rodney H. Honeycutt, commander for the 405th Army Field Support Brigade, and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Morgan, command sergeant major for the 405th Army Field Support Brigade, and Charles Green, APS site lead in Dülmen, pose together during the Jan. 14 reception in Dülmen. (U.S. Army photo by Julie Piron)

3. Ret. Maj. Gen. Bergmann, Col. Connell and Command Sgt. Maj. Pitre pose together during the Jan. 14 reception in Dülmen. (U.S. Army photo by Julie Piron)

4. Maj. Timothy Hogan, chief of staff for USAG Benelux, talks to Belgian Army Maj. Pascal Catherine, the commander for Base Bastogne, during a reception Jan. 16 in Bastogne, Belgium. (U.S. Army photo by Julie Piron)

5. Col. Connell and Command Sgt. Maj. Pitre talk to Belgian Navy Commandant Philippe Warnauts (left), the Belgian national military representative for SHAPE, during a New Year's Breakfast Jan. 16 in Mons, Belgium. (U.S. Army photo by Marie-Lise Baneton)

Soldiering and Olympic training go hand in hand, says athlete

By David Vergun
Army News Service

Army Capt. Christopher Fogt sprints, lifts weights and trains on a bobsled track six days a week in Lake Placid, New York, month after month, preparing for the 2018 XXIII Winter Olympics In PyeongChang, South Korea.

It's grueling, he said of his training. Besides that, his two- and four-man sled team is competing for a spot on Team USA, so there's an understanding that most won't even qualify, adding to the competitive drive, he said.

A Soldier's way of life can at times be grueling as well, he said.

For instance, the military intelligence analyst said he spent 15 days in "the box," what Soldiers call the dusty, hilly, sparse terrain that is the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California. During that time, the Soldiers didn't shower and often missed meals and sleep, he said.

But harsh conditions often bring out the best in people. "I saw Soldiers grow and develop as they trained, learned news skills and relied on teamwork to succeed," he said.

Hard work, perseverance and a desire to improve are qualities that make for a good Soldier as well as a good athlete, he continued, so there's a good fit in being able to do both.

Fogt also served in Iraq from 2010 to 2011. A year away from home is a big sacrifice for Soldiers and their families, he said. Soldiers missed their anniversaries, children's birthdays and graduations and other meaningful events.

"In the Army, you bleed together, you sweat together ... and it makes you feel close."

There are some similarities with a bobsledding team, he remarked. "You get very, very close. It's a brotherhood."

A lot of Soldiers would probably make good Olympic athletes because they have the qualities to succeed in whatever they



A double fist pump by former U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program bobsled driver Steven Holcomb's crew of Curt Tomasevicz, Steve Langton and WCAP brakeman Capt. Christopher Fogt indicates USA-1 is well on its way to earning an Olympic bronze medal in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Russia. (U.S. Army photo by Tim Hipps).

do, he said, encouraging anyone interested to look into the World Class Athlete Program to find a sport they might be interested in and qualify for.

WCAP helps by providing the coaches, training facilities and finances, he said.

In 2014, Fogt's hard work and training paid off. He earned a bronze medal in Sochi, Russia, as a member of a four-man bobsled team, led by driver Steven Holcomb, who was also in WCAP. They also set a track start record of 4.75 seconds.

Besides having the honor of representing the Army and the United States at the Winter Olympics, Fogt said there are other perks.

Athletes get to travel a lot to different countries during the World Cup races leading up to the Winter Olympics.

Fogt said he had meals with athletes from such countries as China, Russia and Iran in a friendly, collegial setting. "It was a lot of fun. I made friends and got to learn about new cultures."

An added bonus for Fogt is that he gets to train at the U.S. Lake Placid Olympic Training Center with his younger brother Brent. The two look alike and people frequently mistake one for the other, he remarked.

Besides training together, the brothers have also served together. Both were with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. Brent is a first lieutenant.

Although they are brothers and want to see each other succeed, they're also fierce competitors. "We grew up competing against each other," Fogt said.

To follow the Soldier Olympians' journeys to PyeongChang, visit www.armymwr.com/olympic. ♦



KEEPING YOU CONNECTED
The Official Website of the American Forces Network Benelux

Listen to AFN: Brussels : 101.7 FM | Chièvres : 107.9 FM
SHAPE : 106.5 | Tri-Border community : 99.7 and 96.9 FM

AFN BENELUX 360 Internet Radio <http://benelux.afneurope.net>

First WARTAC-Europe graduates offered jobs with VA; next classes begin in February

By Ray Johnson

IMCOM-Europe Public Affairs

More than 40 transitioning service members from throughout Europe graduated last month from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' first overseas Warrior Transition Advancement Course. Along with certificates came well-earned job offers with the VA.

Forty-four Soldiers, Airmen and Sailors attended classes, held at two garrisons in Germany, that provide skills needed to become Veterans Service Representatives or Rating Veterans Service Representatives. In addition to the skills training, WARTAC includes the opportunity to interview for open positions.

Overall, the WARTAC program aims to provide graduates who, after leaving the military, are ready to join one of the 56 Regional Veteran Service Centers throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

At U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz, 33 people graduated either the 10-week VSR course or 12-week RVSR course, with offers to start developmental GS-7 VSR and GS-9 RVSR positions as early as late-January.

"Working for the VA means you will be joining more than 10,000 of your fellow veterans who work for us... veterans serving veterans," said Jesse Rector, WARTAC-Europe program manager, during the Dec. 21 ceremony at USAG Rheinland-Pfalz.

Rector noted that separating from the military is hard for some, and separating from an overseas location is even harder, which is why the VA is excited for the WARTAC to Europe. "WARTAC is one way the VA can bring direct support to transitioning service members here," he said.

At USAG Bavaria, 11 people, including four from installations in Italy, earned their certificates Dec. 19, including Staff Sgt. Matt Handley of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment.

Handley said the most memorable day of class for him was when he generated an award for an actual veteran. "While we learned much from classes and demo cases that we worked on early in the course," he noted, "this was the moment that the job really connected for me. It drove home the importance of what we were doing."

Handley and his classmates now move on to become either VSRs, who build case files and collect evidence needed to make decisions on VA disability claims, or RVSRs, who make final decisions on these claims, determining what the service-connected disability percentage is for veterans.

The next round of WARTAC classes are scheduled at garrisons Bavaria and Rheinland-Pfalz from Feb. 28 to May



Thirty-three transitioning service members graduated last month from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' first overseas Warrior Transition Advancement Course at U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany. Along with certificates came well-earned job offers with the VA. (U.S. Army photo)

23 for RSVR and March 14 to May 23 for VSR. The application windows on USAJOBS is until Jan. 26 for RSVR and until Feb. 2 for VSR. Applicants must be active-duty service members transitioning from the military no later than 180 days from the start of class and must be available to begin employment no later than Aug. 22. To apply to WARTAC, individuals must submit a résumé via USAJOBS. Once VA notifies applicants of selection, they must then also submit a command approval memo for participation.

Selected members, from all branches of the service, stationed outside of Bavaria and Rheinland-Pfalz can attend WARTAC on permissive temporary duty status. To offset the out-of-pocket expenses for those attending the course on PTDY status, both training locations will offer on-post transient lodging. Applicants can contact WARTAC program managers for more lodging details after program acceptance.

"If VA is where you want to be, we have a place for you," said Rector. "The vast majority of WARTAC participants are hired; most of those who weren't hired chose to go elsewhere. We hope that you do not look at this as just (a chance for) a job -- but a career opportunity. And I hope, like me, you'll find that it becomes your new purpose in life."

For more information about the program, including the USAJOBS application process, contact Lew Lewis at DSN 541-1401 or floyd.lewis3.civ@mail.mil. ♦

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.

Through Feb. 28

- **American Legion Post BE02 Scholarship: Boys State/Girls State** - The American Legion Post BE02 and the American Legion Auxiliary would like to announce their sponsorship of the 2018 Boys State and Girls State programs. The students in Boys State/Girls State will be flown to Maryland to participate in the week long program during the third week of June 2018. All expenses will be paid by American Legion Post BE02. Boys State and Girls State are summer leadership and citizenship programs sponsored by The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary for high school juniors. For further information and a registration form, please contact Post BE02 representatives at flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com. The deadline for submission for the registration form is Feb. 28.
- **American Legion Post BE02 Scholarship: Eagle Scout of the Year** - Scholarships are awarded for the Eagle Scout of the year at the Post and Department levels. The national scholarship is awarded to the Eagle Scout who is selected "The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year." The winner is eligible to receive a \$10,000 scholarship to be awarded over a four-year period. Three additional scholarships of \$2,500 each are also awarded. For further information and a registration form, please contact Post BE02 representatives at flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com. The deadline for submission for the registration form is Feb. 28.



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. 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

- Cub Scout Pack 457 is now registering girls into their Scouting program and also launching a Lions pilot program for all kindergartners. All Brussels community families are invited to sign up their children, boys age 5 (Kindergarten) to 10 years old (6th grade) and girls age 5 (Kindergarten) to 9 years old (5th grade) for the Cub Scouts. Scheduled activities are planned throughout the year in and around Brussels. Contact the pack recruiting coordinator at CubScoutPack457Brussels@gmail.com for more information.

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 *Blade Runner 2049* (R) on Friday, *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. 19

- **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.

- **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.

Jan. 25

- **3 Star Dinner Special "BBQ Chicken and Ribs, Baked Beans & Salad"** - Starts at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$13 for adults and \$6 for children. Reservations are required by Jan. 23 and can be made at reservations3star@yahoo.com.

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 page 8 in "All Communities"

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. 19

- **The Netherlands Law Center Services** - The Netherlands Law Center at Schinnen 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 directly for an appointment.

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.
- **Veterans Affairs (VA) One-on-One Appointments** - One-on-one appointments with a Veterans Affairs representative are available at the Geilenkirchen Airmen & Family Resource Center on Jan. 25. Representatives come from the U.S. for six months at a time. Their specialty is disability benefits, but they can also help you research questions about education or housing benefits. Contact the A&FRC at DSN 458-6015 or + 49 (0)2451-633791 to reserve your time.

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 8 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.
- **Closure on Jan. 25** - The Chièvres Exchange Main Store and Military Clothing Sales Store will be closed Jan. 25. All other Exchange facilities will have regular hours and will conduct business as usual that day.
- **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. Euros, debit and credit cards are accepted.

Jan. 19

- **Fun For Kids** - Meet new friends during this free event at the Chièvres Community Activity Center from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. You can get together a game of pick-up basketball or play on bouncy castles. It's also a great opportunity for newcomers to the community to meet other parents. This event is open to U.S. NATO Mission and U.S. Embassy ID cardholders.

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.

Jan. 26

- **Escape the Room "Funland Edition"** - Escape from this circus-themed room of mystery at the Middle School/ Teen Center on SHAPE from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. This event is open to all Child, Youth and School Services youth in grades 9 to 12. Dinner will be served. To register, call DSN 366-6839 or +32 (0)65-326839.

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.

Jan. 30 and Feb. 6

- **SHAPE International Marching Team Meeting for Nijmegen Marches** - The Nijmegen Marches are a four-day event in the Netherlands where participants can walk up to 100 miles. You can participate in the event by joining the SHAPE International Marching Team. Information and registration meetings will be held Jan. 30 at 5:30 p.m. and Feb. 6 at 1 p.m. in SHAPE Bldg. 312. For more information, email imtshape@gmail.com or call DSN 423-4760 or +32(0)65-444760.

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)65-326839/6797.

Feb. 23

- **Total Army Sponsorship Program Rodeo** - Held in the Chièvres Community Activity Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., participants are invited to visit each station to receive valuable information on sponsorship. For more information, call DSN 366-6192 or +32(0)65-326192.

UPCOMING ORGANIZED TRIPS & TOURS

SHAPE Trips & Tours

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

- Thermae 2000 in Valkenburg, **Jan. 20**
- Belgian Beer Tour in Antwerp, **Feb. 3**
- Malta, **Feb. 8-12**
- The Hague, Netherlands, **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**
- Rhine Dinner Cruise with Fireworks, **May 5**

Schinnen Trips & Tours

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

- 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.



Brussels: Because of the Brussels Motor Show (now to Jan. 21), you may see traffic congestion near Brussels Expo.



Brussels: A few days ago, renovation of the Reyers tunnels began in the center of Brussels. You can expect deviations, or detours, and road congestion near the tunnels. Work is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.



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 Daussoulx 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. 21

- **Brussels European Motor Show** - The largest car and motorcycle brands will present their vehicles to the public. 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. on weekends. There will be late evening openings (until 10 p.m.) Friday. Entry is €15 for adults, and €9 for children. For the first time, the Brussels European Motor Show will be also devoting 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, call +32 (0)2-7786400 or visit <http://www.autosalon.be/en>.

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. 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. 20

- **Concert in Blaton** - The Amadeus Orchestra will perform the famous music of Johann Strauss from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Held on Rue Carlier, 13. Entry is €5 for adults, and free for children under age 16.
- **The Oldschool Party/Back to the 90's (Clubbing)** Held at Bazaar Brussels on Rue Des Capucins, 63 from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. Entry is €10. Free entrance before midnight for everyone dressed full 90's attire.

Jan. 20-21

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

Jan. 21

- **Volksmarch in Neufmaison for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs Place de Neufmaison, 2 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Labliau (Enghien) for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs Rue de Labliau from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea Market in Anderlecht** - Held on Boulevard Sylvain Dupuis featuring 300 booths from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Feb. 4

- **Super Bowl Party at the Hard Rock Cafe** - Watch the big game at the Brussels location starting at 11 p.m. "Big Game" meal and drink packages are available for purchase. There is limited capacity so reservations are recommended. For more event details, call +32(0)2-5461660.



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

Jan. 20

- **National Tulip Day** - Held at Dam Square in the center of Amsterdam. Every year, Dutch tulip growers build a huge garden with tens of thousands of tulips. Starting at 1 p.m., people can come and pick a free bouquet of flowers.

Jan. 20-21

- **Brocante d'Hiver** - This is an attractive antique and curiosa market held in the beautiful surroundings of the castle and its farm on Helze 8 in Geldrop (NL). Open on both days from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Entry is €3.50.
- **International Army Show: Winter Edition** - Held at MECC in Maastricht (NL) with participation of services from Belgium, Germany, France and the Netherlands. There will be a militaria fair, static displays, re-enactments, a veteran's area, a tank display, food trucks and more. Open both days from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, go to www.armyshowmaastricht.nl.

Jan. 21

- **Curiosa & Flea Market** - Held Brabanthallen on Diezekade 2 in Den Bosch (NL). Open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Entry is €6, and free for children age 12 and younger.

Through Jan. 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.
- **First Art Fair** - The fair is held at Passenger Terminal on Piet Heinkade 27 in Amsterdam. Open Friday in the evening until 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €12.50 for adults, €8 for teenagers age 13 to 18, and free for children age 12 and younger.
- **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 Friday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €12 for adults and free for children age 12 and younger.
- **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 is €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 is €40.