

DECEMBER 21, 2018

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU FOR MAKING 2018 A GREAT YEAR

This will be the last Gazette issue published in 2018. The U.S. Army Garrison Benelux public affairs staff would like to thank the community for letting us share your stories this year. It was a pleasure highlighting the contributions of our service members, families, retirees and civilian employees. The Gazette will be on a break from Dec. 24 to Jan. 4. The first Gazette issue in 2019 will be published Jan. 11. For garrison updates during the break, please check our [website](#) and [Facebook](#).

DEC. 24 DECLARED AS A U.S. FEDERAL HOLIDAY IN 2018

President Donald Trump declared Dec. 24 as a U.S. federal holiday. Please know that U.S. government offices will be closed.

HOLIDAY HOURS FOR DEC. 21 TO JAN. 1

See the holiday hours at each location on [our website](#).

BENELUX HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Holiday Worship Schedule is on the [Religious Support Office website](#).

POST OFFICE HOLIDAY SEASON HOURS

Through Jan. 11, the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux post offices in SHAPE and Chièvres will have extended hours of operation. On Dec. 24, the post office will open for package pick-up: noon to 4 p.m. (Brussels, Chièvres and SHAPE) and 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. (Schinnen and JFC Brunssum).

CHIÈVRES AIR BASE GATE 1 CLOSED ON U.S. FEDERAL HOLIDAYS AND TRAINING HOLIDAYS

Chièvres Air Base Gate 1 (the gate near the PX and Commissary) will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 24 to 25. Gate 1 will also be closed Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. Please use Gate 14 (the main gate) to enter and exit Chièvres Air Base those days.

PX SURVEY FOR TRI-BORDER COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The Exchange is looking for input for the product assortment that will be carried at the new Brunssum Exchange store, which is scheduled to open in fall 2019. Please fill out the [survey](#) before Jan. 31.

CHIÈVRES FITNESS CENTER EXTENDS 24-HOUR FITNESS TO NEW MEMBERS

The Chièvres Fitness Center will offer 24-hour fitness to U.S. members, their dependents and retirees. Stop by the [fitness center](#) during business hours to register your ID card. Restrictions may apply.

TAX ASSISTANCE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT SHAPE AND CHIÈVRES

The Northern Law Center is looking for volunteers to support our tax assistance offices from January to June. Free IRS training provided! For more information, contact the Northern Law Center at DSN 423-4868 or +32(0)65-44-4868.



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

U.S. Army Garrison Benelux service members were in the Color Guard during the Battle of the Bulge's 74th anniversary commemoration, Dec. 15, 2018, in Bastogne, Belgium. During the event, USAG Benelux service members marched in the parade and stopped at famous sites, including the Gen. Anthony McAuliffe memorial (pictured), as officials laid wreaths to remember the fallen. Other commemoration events included a morning walk to the battle sites and a nut-throwing ceremony at city hall. (U.S. Army photo by Julie Piron)

 **SUBSCRIBE**

WEBSITE

INSIDE THE GATE CALENDAR

OUTSIDE THE GATE CALENDAR

EVENT PHOTOS

FEEDBACK (ICE)

PHONEBOOK

ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND CLOSURES





**PROUDLY SERVING THE
BENELUX COMMUNITY**

 **2018: A YEAR IN REVIEW**

See the full slideshow [HERE](#)

JANUARY

GARRISON INTRODUCES NEW APPROACH TO ON-BOARDING EMPLOYEES

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.



U.S., BELGIAN ARMIES FOSTER HOST NATION RELATIONS THROUGH TRAINING

On Jan. 8 to 12, three military policemen from USAG 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, in Arlon, Belgium.

FEBRUARY

CARNAVAL CELEBRATED IN SCHINNEN

On Feb. 9, Carnaval, one of the most important local events in the Dutch Southern Provinces, was held. Chet Witkowski (right), deputy garrison manager for USAG Benelux in Schinnen, gave the key of the garrison to Dutch Prince John and U.S. Princess Teresa, who were named the prince and princess of the Carnaval celebration. The key signifies that they ruled the garrison during the remainder of the afternoon.



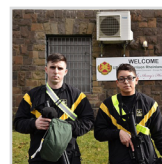
COMMUNITY JOINED NEIGHBORS FOR AN AFTERNOON OF CROSSAGE

On Feb. 14, Crossage in Chièvres brought community members together for an afternoon of playing the medieval sport in the town streets. People formed teams and decorated wooden mallets and balls, called rabots and chòlettes respectively.

MARCH

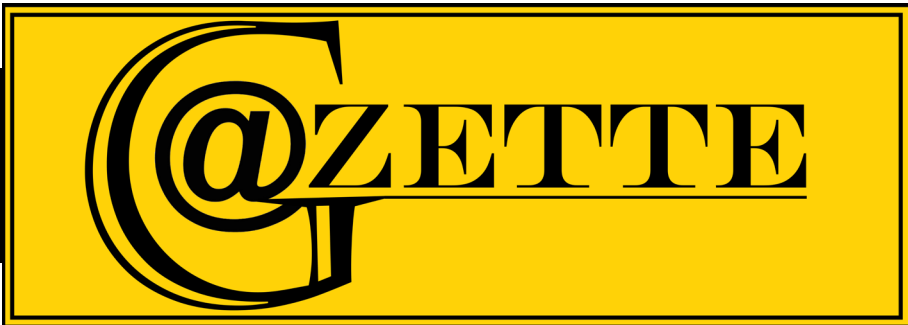
BENELUX SOLDIERS COMPETED IN IMCOM-E'S BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION

In March, Army Sgt. Jacobus Wood, assigned to the USAG Benelux Military Police in Brussels, and Spc. Jacqueline Delgado, USAG Benelux MP in Chièvres, gave their all to represent the garrison in Installation Management Command-Europe's Best Warrior Competition in Baumholder, Germany. Delgado later represented Europe in the IMCOM-level competition in the summer in San Antonio, Texas.



LEADERS HONORED DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

On March 29, the community held a special event to honor women in the U.S. military at the chapel on Caserne Daumerie in Chièvres, Belgium. The featured speakers included Army Maj. Bonnie Kovatch, Army Lt. Col. Amy L. Jackson and Army Sgt. Maj. Delonica K. Boyce.



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APRIL

BRAVE HEARTS, RESILIENT SOULS CELEBRATED

In April, the community celebrated Month of the Military Child. Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Child and Youth Services hosted events including community movie nights, 3 Star Recreation Center events, Kids' Day Out and the Colorful Run.



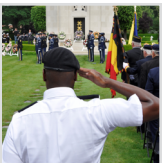
VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE AND DEDICATION

In celebration of Volunteer Appreciation Week, garrison leaders formally recognized volunteers in all communities during the last week of April and early May.

MAY

VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY REMEMBERED

On May 8, the towns of Chièvres and Brugelette commemorated Victory in Europe Day with wreath-laying ceremonies. Victory in Europe Day was the day on which Allied forces announced the surrender of Germany in Europe. It is then considered the end of World War II in Europe.



MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS PAID TRIBUTE TO THE FALLEN

On May 26 and 27, Americans, Dutch and Belgians honored their brother-in-arms during Memorial Day ceremonies. The ceremonies took place at the Ardennes American Cemetery in Neupré, Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and the Flanders Field American Cemetery in Waregem and the Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial in Margraten. U.S. service members and civilians joined their host-nation partners to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice to guarantee the freedom enjoyed today.

JUNE AND JULY

GARRISON LEADERS TALKED SCHINNEN TRANSFORMATION

On June 6, garrison leaders participated in a town hall at Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base in Germany to inform the community about the move to the NATO Industrial Complex (NIC) in Brunssum, The Netherlands, in fall 2019. The garrison planned to relocate offices from Schinnen to Brunssum as a part of the European Infrastructure Consolidation.



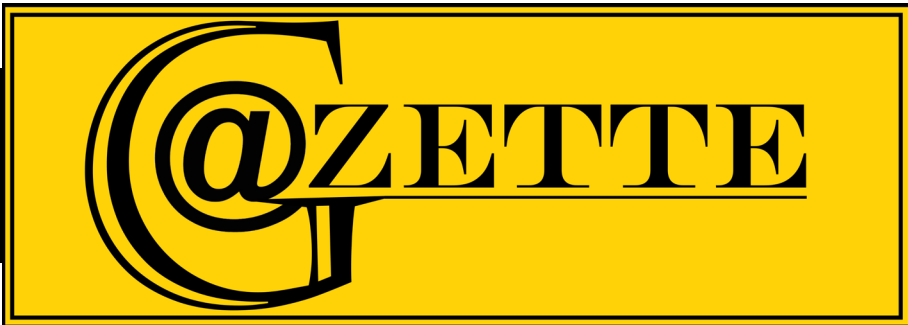
AMERICAN FESTIVAL BROUGHT AMERICANS AND BELGIANS TOGETHER

On June 16 and 17, the city of Chièvres invited their American neighbors to the fourth annual American Festival near the St. Jean Chapel. The event brought Americans and Belgians together as they experienced American culture in the local town. This year, the re-enactment camp was World War I-themed in commemoration of the World War I centennial.

KENNETH ROSS NAMED 2018 ARMY LODGING SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

On June 28, Mr. Michael D. Formica, director of Installation Management Command Directorate-Europe, presented the 2018 Army Lodging Supervisor of the Year Award to Kenneth Ross, maintenance supervisor at USAG Benelux at Chièvres Army Lodging in Chièvres, Belgium. Ross also received the commander's award from the Department of the Army.





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GARRISON WELCOMED NEW COMMANDER

On June 29, the community bid farewell to Col. Kurt Connell and welcomed Col. Sean Hunt Kuester as he took command of U.S. Army Garrison Benelux during a ceremony on Caserne Daumerie in Chièvres, Belgium. Kuester, an Armor officer, previously served at SHAPE in the Comprehensive Crisis and Operations Management Center from 2015 to 2017.



BELGIUM'S RED DEVILS PLACED THIRD IN THE WORLD CUP

In July, Belgium's Red Devils placed third in the FIFA World Cup. The garrison community watched closely throughout the worldwide soccer competition as the Red Devils kept advancing to the next round. The garrison hosted viewing parties to cheer on our host nations' teams.

AUGUST

SHAPE OPTOMETRY CLINIC WON ARMY AWARD

On Aug. 17, on behalf of the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Army Col. Yolonda "YR" Summons, the SHAPE Healthcare Facility commander, presented a \$10,000 check to Army Maj. Louie Le and his staff at the clinic on SHAPE, Belgium. LRMCM awarded the clinic the funds after the staff ranked highest among LRMCM and Department of the Army health clinics for meeting performance standards.



EYGELSHOVEN APS SITE AND CHIÈVRES AIR BASE HOST USAREUR COMMANDER

On Aug. 29, Army Lt. Gen. Christopher Cavoli, commander for U.S. Army Europe, visited Eygelshoven Army Pre-positioned Stocks site in The Netherlands and Chièvres Air Base, Belgium.

SEPTEMBER

SCHINNEN DPW EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCED TO COMPETE IN THE 2018 INVICTUS GAMES

In September, it was announced that Henry van Diesen, employed at the Directorate of Public Works Operations and Maintenance Division in Schinnen, was invited to participate in the 2018 Invictus Games in Sydney, Australia. Van Diesen competed in the games Oct. 20 to 28.



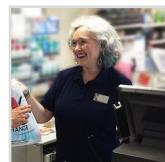
WORLD WAR II VETERANS VISITED JFC BRUNSSUM

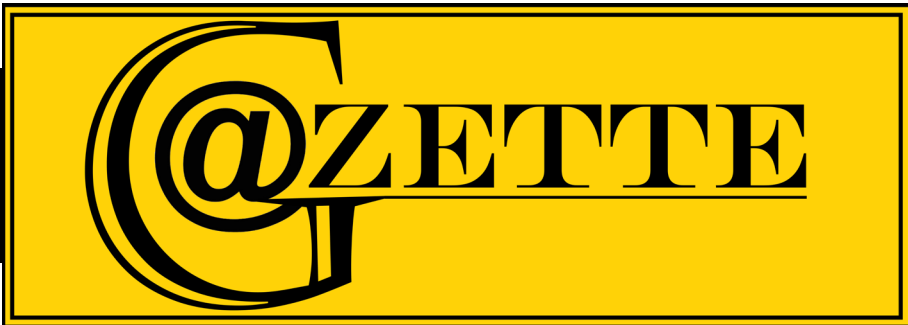
On Sept. 19, Alpha Company AFNORTH Battalion in Joint Force Command Brunssum hosted six World War II combat veterans as a part of their tour of the Benelux area. Service members and civilians from different NATO nations gathered early to welcome the veterans and demonstrate their gratitude.

OCTOBER

BRUSSELS EXCHANGE SHIFT SUPERVISOR RECOGNIZED AS DOD OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE WITH DISABILITY

On Oct. 4, Joy Atkinson was named the Outstanding Department of Defense Employee with a Disability Award during a ceremony in Washington, D.C. To her, "family serving family" was a way of life, making her invaluable to her teammates at the Brussels Exchange retail store, where she has worked for more than a year.





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DÜLMEN HOSTED MEET AND GREET

On Oct. 26, leaders from the Army Pre-positioned Stocks site in Dülmen, Germany, hosted a meet and greet with local representatives and Consul General Fiona Evans on Tower Barracks.



SGT SCARLETT MITCHELL NAMED BENELUX SOLDIER AND NCO OF THE YEAR

On Oct. 31, Army Sgt. Scarlett Mitchell, a military policewoman for Directorate of Emergency Services at USAG Benelux, received the Army Commendation Medal for winning the Benelux Soldier and Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year Board on Caserne Daumerie in Chièvres, Belgium.

NOVEMBER

COMMUNITY OBSERVED CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR I

On Nov. 11, the Benelux community remembered what we call today Armistice Day, or Veterans Day, a universally recognized day of commemoration. This year marked the centennial of the Great War's end. Garrison leaders and service members participated in commemoration events in Belgium.



CHIÈVRES VETERINARY CLINIC HOSTED GRAND OPENING AT NEW LOCATION

On Nov. 29, the Chièvres Veterinary Clinic celebrated the grand opening of its new facility on Chièvres Air Base, Belgium. The new facility's opening marks the beginning of USAG Benelux's move from Caserne Daumerie to Chièvres Air Base.

DECEMBER

COMMUNITIES CELEBRATED THE HOLIDAY SEASON

In December, the community had a rockin' good time at holiday traditions in the Benelux. Annual events such as the Brussels Winter Wonderland and tree lighting ceremonies on Schinnen, SHAPE and Chièvres Air Base brought people together before the holiday break.



BASTOGNE COMMEMORATED THE 74TH ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF THE BULGE

People from around the world gathered Dec. 15 and 16 in Bastogne, Belgium, to remember and honor those who fought in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II. The event marked a time for people to not only reflect on the famous battle but for international populations to come together in unity.



To submit or subscribe, email usarmy.benelux.id-europe.mbx.communication@mail.mil

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One Team, One Benelux