

FEBRUARY 1, 2019

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARMY CAC HOLDERS NEED TO ACTIVATE PIV AUTHENTICATION BY MARCH 31

Army Common Access Card (CAC) holders have until March 31, 2019, to activate their Personal Identity Verification (PIV) Authentication certificate to ensure uninterrupted access to military networks and data. Personnel should use Internet Explorer when updating their security certificates at this [website](#).

COMMUNITY LEADERS INFORMATION FORUM (CLIF) TO BE HELD FEB. 6

The next Community Leaders Information Forum (CLIF) will be held Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 10 a.m. in Caserne Daumerie Bldg. 30. Got information for the community? Send an email to usarmy.benelux.id-europe.mbx.dptms@mail.mil.

LIMITED PASSPORT SERVICES BEGINNING FEB. 1

Beginning Feb. 1, 2019, U.S. Passport services will be limited at all Central Processing Facilities in the Benelux: SHAPE, Brussels and JFC Brunssum. USAG Benelux will continue providing U.S. official no-fee passport issue and renewal by appointment only. For more information, go to our [website](#).

ARMY SURVEYING FAMILY HOUSING RESIDENTS BY EMAIL

Let your voice be heard! Administered by CEL & Associates Inc., the housing survey was emailed to approximately 10,000 residents living in Army-owned and Army-leased housing worldwide on Jan. 15, from ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com. The survey is open through Feb. 14. Residents of privatized Residential Communities Initiative housing will be surveyed in March.

SHAPE TAX CENTER IS OPENS, NETHERLANDS TAX ASSISTANCE OFFICE TO OPEN FEB. 4

The SHAPE Tax Assistance Center officially opened on Monday, Jan. 28. The Netherlands Law Center's Tax Assistance Office will open Feb. 4. U.S. U.S. Army Europe tax centers re-prioritized services in 2019 and focused assistance on those that generally make less than \$54,000 per year, in accordance with Army regulations and IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance guidelines. More information is located [here](#). Free filing options are still available to service members and families through websites such as [Military OneSource](#) and the [IRS](#). Volunteers are still needed. Please contact the tax center at your location for more information.

SCHINNEN TROOP STORE AND POST OFFICE EXTEND HOURS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH

Beginning, Wednesday, Feb. 6 and ending Wednesday, March 27 the following services will be open for extended hours each Wednesday:

- Schinnen Troop Store: 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Schinnen Post Office Parcel Pick-Up Window: 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Regular postal hours for mailing packages and purchasing stamps remain from noon to 5:30 p.m.



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Chinooks arrived to Chièvres Air Base, Belgium, in late January as the base became the intermediate staging area for 1st Combat Aviation Brigade's equipment and personnel. The brigade, based out of Fort Riley, Kansas, will deploy throughout Europe for nine months in support of Atlantic Resolve, an operation focused on strengthening bonds between allies and partners, increasing interoperability and building readiness. (U.S. Army photo by Julie Piron)



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 **NEWS**

INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS REPORTING EXPLAINED

Although the Benelux region 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 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. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



NOROVIRUS OUTBREAK IMPACTS U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES IN GERMANY

Multiple U.S. military installations in Germany are experiencing an increase in norovirus cases, as a result of significant norovirus activity being reported throughout Germany. Norovirus is the official name for a group of viruses that cause the stomach flu. There is not an increase in cases in Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

THE SAGA OF THE FOUR CHAPLAINS

The garrison chaplains and American Legion “Flanders Field” Post BE02 will honor the memory of the four chaplains, who sacrificed their lives during the sinking of the U.S. Army Transport *Dorchester* in 1943, by hosting an commemorative display Feb. 3 at the Army and Air Force Exchange, or PX, mall from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Chièvres Air Base, Belgium. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



CAREER SUMMITS IN EUROPE TO CONNECT SOLDIERS, SPOUSES WITH EMPLOYERS

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s Hiring Our Heroes program will sponsor three career summits in Europe during March and April. The first one will be held at U.S. Army Garrison Italy, March 28-29, and the others at USAG Bavaria, April 1-2, and USAG Rheinland-Pfalz, April 3-4. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN HAS EXTENDED DEADLINE

On Jan. 15, the Office of Personnel Management’s acting director approved an extension of the 2018 Combined Federal Campaign. An exact end date has yet to be determined, but payroll allotments, bank drafts, and recurring credit card donations will be delayed until after the lapse in appropriations ends and paychecks are deposited to furloughed employees’ bank accounts. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



ARMY OFFERS MORE FLEXIBILITY WITH NEW PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY

The Army has doubled the amount of parental leave available to fathers and other secondary caregivers of newborn infants with a policy that also provides more leave flexibility for mothers. Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper signed a directive Jan. 23 that increases parental leave from 10 to 21 days for Soldiers who are designated secondary caregivers of infants. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



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