

MAY 10, 2019

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THANK YOU, MILITARY SPOUSES FOR BEING THE FORCE BEHIND THE FORCE

May 10 is Military Spouse Appreciation Day. Thank you to all our military spouses for being the “force behind the force.” The U.S. Army Garrison Benelux community appreciates your selfless service and dedication to our mission.

### USAG BENELUX TO CONDUCT FULL-SCALE EXERCISE MAY 17

On May 17, the garrison will conduct a full-scale exercise to train and validate the coordinated emergency response plan. After 12 p.m. (noon) that day, customers will have limited access to services and facilities on Chièvres Air Base. We strongly encourage people to plan accordingly and avoid the base, if possible, when the exercise is underway. If you are on Chièvres Air Base during the exercise, please remember that there may be delays at the gates in addition to an increased presence of law enforcement and emergency responders. Please keep in mind that there is no reason to panic if you see emergency response teams and vehicles on the base. Garrison operations plan to return to normal on Saturday, May 18.

### ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF CAMPAIGN RUNS UNTIL MAY 15

The 2019 Annual Army Emergency Relief campaign is happening **now through May 15**. The annual campaign provides support to Soldiers with emergency financial needs. Anyone can donate on the [AER website](#).

### CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES OPEN HOUSE AT SHAPE SCHEDULED TONIGHT

The Child Development Center, School Age Center and Youth Center will be open tonight for activities, bouncy castles and free barbecue from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at SHAPE Bldg. 503. For more information, click [here](#).

### ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH OBSERVANCE TO BE HELD MAY 20

AFNorth Battalion and the Benelux Equal Opportunity Office will host a special event in honor of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May. This year’s theme is “Unite Our Mission.” Come to the SHAPE Chapel on **May 20** starting at 11 a.m. to hear Col. Romeo Macalintal, HQ, U.S. NATO SHAPE, speak during a special presentation. **Free food and refreshments will be served.** For more information, call the EO Office at DSN 361-5235 or +32(0)68-27-5235.

### NATIONAL TEST CENTER AND ACES TESTING MARATHON AT SHAPE MAY 20-23

If you are an active-duty service member, spouse or graduating high school senior, further your education through CLEP and DSST exams at SHAPE Bldg. 212 (Education Center) on May 20-23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you are ready to advance your education, join us for our NTC Testing Marathon to reduce your time, stress and money spend. This is an open testing even, just pre-register through [ntcshape-europe@umuc.edu](mailto:ntcshape-europe@umuc.edu).



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

*In observance of the 74th anniversary of World War II’s end in Europe, the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux color guard participated in the Victory in Europe Day commemoration May 8, 2019, in Brugelette, Belgium. The garrison’s color guard also participated in a ceremony in Chièvres, Belgium. (U.S. Army photo by Julie Piron)*

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PROUDLY SERVING THE  
BENELUX COMMUNITY

 NEWS

**MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY: THE FORCE BEHIND THE FORCE IN THE BRUSSELS COMMUNITY**

Ready and resilient, military spouses better their communities through their service and dedication to the mission and its people. In Brussels, a determined military spouse partnered with a dedicated Army professional in developing a Spouse Sponsor-Newcomers Group that welcomed newcomers and helped them with getting acclimated to their new duty station. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



**GENERAL TOD D. WOLTERS ASSUMES COMMAND AS 19TH SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER EUROPE**

NATO's 19th Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) General Tod D. Wolters assumed command of Allied Command Operations (ACO) from General Curtis M. Scaparrotti in a change of command ceremony held at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) on May 3. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

**ZANSE SCHANS: AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE IN THE NETHERLANDS**

Each year, many tourists visit Zaanse Schans in the Dutch province of North Holland. The open-air museum is actually a unique village where the 18th and 19th centuries are brought back to life. Zaanse Schans is a part of the Zaan district located at the River Zaan across from Amsterdam. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



**DEADLINE TO TRANSFER GI BILL BENEFITS COMING THIS JULY**

Soldiers with over 16 years of service who want to transfer their Post-9/11 GI Bill to a dependent must do so before July 12, or risk losing the ability to transfer education benefits. Last year, the Department of Defense implemented a new Post-9/11 GI Bill Transfer of Education Benefits, or TEB, eligibility requirement, which instituted a "six- to 16-year cutoff rule," said Master Sgt. Gerardo T. Godinez, senior Army retention operations NCO with Army G-1. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

**MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH: RIDING IN THE BENELUX**

The Benelux area offers scenic views for motorcycle riders to enjoy, especially during beautiful weather. However, before one jumps on their bike and goes for a ride, they must follow the proper procedures to legally ride in the Benelux. Each host nation in U.S. Army Garrison Benelux has different rules for U.S. personnel to get motorcycle endorsements on driver's licenses and required safety training. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



**DON'T LET A CATERPILLAR RUIN YOUR SUMMER ADVENTURES**

Summer in Europe can lend itself to adventures with your family, but it also means the return of some pesky critters. Public Health Command Europe wants you to know how to protect yourself against the Oak Processionary Caterpillar, which can be hazardous to your health. The caterpillar's hairs contain thaumetopoein, a toxin that may cause a rash when touched or exacerbate asthma if inhaled, according to PHCE. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



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