

THE GAZETTE

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

Benelux news briefs Apply at AAFES for jobs

- The Army and Air Force Exchange Service in Chièvres needs a senior store associate at the main store, and regular full-time, and regular part-time food service employees. Apply at <https://www.applymyexchange.com>. Call DSN 361-5337 or civilian 068-275337 with any questions.

- The Army and Air Force Exchange Service in Schinnen needs a Visual Merchandiser. This position is intermittent. Apply at <https://www.applymyexchange.com>. Call DSN 360-7583 or civilian +31(0)46-4437583 with any question.

Christmas markets

Check out the list of Christmas markets in Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany on the USAG Benelux homepage at: www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil.

Sports volunteers needed

SHAPE/Chièvres Child & Youth Services is looking for officials, umpires, book keeper and timer to assist with Youth Sports Baseball, Basketball, Flag Football. For more information, call DSN 366-6856 or civilian 065-326856.

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Community gathers to give thanks

Spc. Erik Ramirez, USAG Benelux Military Police, is being served by members of the Better Opportunities for Single Service Members (BOSS) during the Thanksgiving luncheon held on Chièvres Air Base, Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016. Thanks to BOSS, the community gathered not only to share a meal but also to take part in some fun activities. (U.S. Army Photo by Visual Information Specialist Pierre Courtejoie)

See also page 3

IMCOM stands in historic formation



The U.S. Army Installation Management Command stood in formation in its new configuration of five IMCOM Directorates for the first time Nov. 29, 2016, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. This formation represents the 50,000+ IMCOM team members worldwide, and visually displays the transformation of IMCOM's two stateside geographic regions into three IMCOM Directorates (IDs) co-located with their supported Army Commands. The modern IMCOM formation also includes the two overseas IDs (IMCOM Europe and IMCOM Pacific) and the U.S. Army Environmental Command. The three stateside IDs are integrated into the supported ACOM/Army Service Component command headquarters (TRADOC, FORSCOM and AMC) to solve functional challenges for garrison commanders, coordinate IMCOM headquarters support, and drive and assess garrison execution of service delivery in support of senior commanders. (U.S. Army Photo by Jessica Marie Ryan (FMWRC))

Thanksgiving celebrations in the community

Mayors get a taste of a typical American Thanksgiving

Col. Kurt Connell, USAG Benelux Commander, engages the mayors of the three communes Chièvres Air Base is located on: (head table from left to right) Ghislain Moyart, Mayor of Lens, Bruno Lefèbre, Mayor of Chièvres and André Desmarlières, Mayor of Brugelette during a Thanksgiving working lunch held at Caserne Daumerie, Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016. The mayors and three of their staff members were invited to share a typical Thanksgiving meal while discussing future partnership opportunities. (U.S. Army photos by Cis Spook)



(Picture left, from right to left) Command Sgt. Maj. William Majors, USAG Benelux, Sgt. Pamela Hill, BOSS chairman, stand ready with other volunteers to serve community members during the Thanksgiving pot luck dinner held on Chièvres Air Base, Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016. (Picture right) Community members brought their favorite dish to share during the well attended event. (U.S. Army photos by Pierre Courtejoie)





Santa and his USAG Benelux/American Legion "elves" make a merry Christmas possible for the children of La Fermette, the local orphanage in Ath.

Local orphans await Santa's arrival

Christmas is around the corner, and the children of the local orphanage La Fermette in Ath are ready for a visit from Santa.

Ever since the U.S. community settled in the SHAPE/Chièvres area in 1967, it has been supporting the local orphanage "La Fermette" in Ath. "La Fermette" takes care of 31 children under the age of 18 in two facilities located close to Ath. It also watches over an additional 19 children who are still living with their families but who need specific attention.

To make Santa's job easier, the children have submitted their wish list for Christmas. The American Legion/USAG

Benelux's goal is to provide each of the children with one of their wishes at a party the afternoon of Dec. 21. Details are still being worked out, but Santa has already saved the date.

If you want to support the program, you can do so in two ways. You may request a copy of the wish list, sign up and purchase the gift for a particular child. You can also donate funds to be used to purchase gifts that haven't been spoken for by other donors.

If you want to take a look at the wish list or if you have any questions on the orphans program, contact the USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office at DSN 361-5694 or civilian 068-275694.

Schinnen Community

Lowered electricity and gas rates are applicable now

The Housing Office in Schinnen has re-negotiated their working relationship with Engie, a tax-free energy provider for gas and electricity, which results in the following changes effective Dec. 1:



- Electricity price per kWh day tariff will be lowered to €0.05414;
- Electricity price per kWh night tariff will be lowered to €0.04129
- Gas price per cubic meter will be lowered to €0.26394
- Yearly delivery cost is lowered to €30.99

The above price adjustments will result in a yearly saving of at least €223 based on the Dutch average usage of 3500 kWh electricity and 1500 cubic meters of gas.

Also, once the transition complete, all future mail from Engie will be in English.

If there are problems, Housing in Schinnen will be contacted by Engie. This will allow us to contact you and fix problems before they elevate.

If you have any questions about Engie, contact the Schinnen Housing Office at DSN: 314-360-7567/7247/7455/7416 or civilian +31(0)46-443-

USAG Benelux Army Post Office mailing deadlines and new hours

Post offices closures		Beginning 27 December						
		APO	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	
Dec. 26 - Christmas								
Jan. 1 - New Year's								
Holiday mailing deadlines								
Dec. 2	PAL Parcels							
Dec. 9	Priority parcels							
Dec. 9	First class letters							
Dec. 16	Express mail							
		SHAPE	1000-1700	Closed	1000-1700	Package pick up until 1730	0900-1200	1000-1700
		Chièvres	1000-1700	Closed	1000-1700		0900-1200	1000-1700
		Brussels	Closed	1000-1600	1000-1700		1000-1200	1000-1600
		Schinnen	Closed	1300-1730	1300-1730	1300-1730	1300-1730	1300-1730
		Brunssum	1000-1400	Closed	1000-1400	Closed	1000-1400	1000-1400

Team SHAPE, Belgium face off in International Basketball Tournament



THURSDAY 1 DEC
 13. 1300 LVA v GBR
 14. 1500 CAN v LTU
 15. 1800 USA v NLD
 16. 2000 ITA v SHA

FRIDAY 2 DEC
 17. 1300 CAN v BEL
 18. 1500 FRA v NLD
 19. 1800 LTU v ITA
 20. 2000 USA v LVA

SATURDAY 3 DEC
 1100 5TH PL(A) v 5TH PL(B)
 1300 4TH PL(B) v 4TH PL(A)
 1500 3RD PL(A) v 3RD PL(B)
 1700 2ND PL(B) v 2ND PL(A)
 1900 1ST PL(A) v 1ST PL(B)
CLOSING CEREMONY

Clockwise from left: A player from Team Belgium attempts to block a Team SHAPE player in the International Basketball Tournament at SHAPE Nov. 28, 2016. • A SHAPE team member squares off against a Belgian player during a game Nov. 28 at SHAPE. • Team Belgium put their hands in before the start of the game in the International Basketball Tournament Nov. 28 at SHAPE. (U.S.Army photos by Kristin Ellis)

Upcoming organized trips

SHAPE Trips and Tours

Serving Brussels, Chièvres and SHAPE. Call DSN 423-3884 or civilian 065-443884.

- **German Christmas markets (Rothenburg, Frankfurt/Main and Aachen), Dec. 3 to 4**
- **German Christmas markets (Bonn/Cologne), Dec. 10**
- **German Christmas markets (Dortmund, Berlin and Potsdam), Dec. 16 to 18**
- **Paris in winter, Dec. 27**
- **New Year's in London, Dec. 30 to Jan. 2, 2017 (Sign up by Nov. 16.)**
- **London with Aladdin, Feb. 4, 2017**
- **Prague, Czech Republic, Feb. 25 to March 1, 2017**
- **Lloret de Mar and Barcelona, Spain, April 3 to 12, 2017 (spring break)**

- **Crete, Spa and Middelkerke, all year**

SHAPE Travel Group

For details, visit <http://www.facebook.com/groups/SHAPETravelGroup>.

- **Canterbury, Dec. 8**
- **Paris Lights, Dec. 15**
- **London sales, Jan. 19, 2017**

Schinnen Trips & Tours

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

- **Cologne Christmas Markets, Dec. 3**
- **London Express, Dec. 17**
- **Day Trip to Bruges, Belgium, Jan. 14, 2017**
- **Day Trip to Luxembourg, Feb. 17, 2017**
- **Malgrat de Mar, Spain, April 14 to 23, 2017**

All communities

- **VTC-projected classes** - To sign up, call DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-326824 for SHAPE ACS, DSN 368-9783 or civilian 02-7179783 for Brussels ACS and DSN 360-7500 or civilian +31(0)46-4437500 for Schinnen ACS.
 - **Dec. 1: Career Planning and Effective Job Hunting** - From 10 to 11:30 a.m., this class will help you think through your career goals and generate a plan to fulfill them.
 - **Dec. 6: Lunch and Learn: Emotional Regulation** - From noon to 1 p.m., this class will help you analyze your anger patterns, focus on values and goals and learn skills that will help avoid relapsing into angry behavioral outbursts.
 - **Dec. 7: First Term Financial Tune Up** - From 3 to 4 p.m., this class is designed to reinforce some of the lessons learned during your initial training as a Service Member.

Through Dec. 14

- **Children's Book Drive** - The Spangdahlem Red Cross - which also serves the Benelux - is holding a book drive to update UEDEM's Childrens Library book selection. All donations can be dropped off at the Spangdahlem Red Cross Office at Bldg. 319 or MPS'd to the Spangdahlem American Red Cross Office, Unit 3755, APO AE 09126.

BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

Register now

- **CYSS Youth Sports & Fitness Winter Cheerleading** - Open to children ages six to 12. Spaces are limited based on availability of court space and volunteer coaches. Registration is \$40 and open until **Dec. 31**. Cheerleading season runs from Jan. 3 to March 19, 2017. Volunteer coaches are needed and will receive a discounted registration fee.
- **CYSS Youth Sports & Fitness Winter Basketball** - Open to children ages three to 15. Spaces are limited based on availability of court space and volunteer coaches. Registration is open until **Dec. 31**. Basketball season runs from Jan. 3 to Feb. 27, 2017. Volunteer coaches are needed and will receive a discounted registration fee. For more information on winter cheerleading and basketball registration fees, practice times, and sports physical requirements, contact the Youth Sports and Fitness Office at DSN 368-9539 or 02-7179539.

Dec. 1

- **Community Movie Night: Alice Through The Looking Glass (PG)**
Held at the BOSS Movie Area, Bldg. 1, third floor at 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 2

- **Winterfest** - At the 3 Star with AFN recording Holiday greetings from 2 to 5:30 p.m. (Service Members must be in uniform); dinner from 5 to 8:30 p.m. at \$5 per person; townhall meeting from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Santa's arrival at 6:30 p.m.; pictures with Santa from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and crafts/Christmas cards from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.



SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

Dec. 1

- **Mons Museum trip** - Please note that the times for this trip have been changed to noon until 3:30 p.m. Meet at ACS, Bldg. 318, SHAPE at noon. Cost is €6 for the museum admission and €4.20 for transportation.

Dec. 2

- **"It's All About You"** - Army Community Service Resiliency Seminar "It's All About You" in the SHAPE 100 Area Auditorium in Building 102's Room 115 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. This seminar will present motivational speaker Joseph Oubelkas of the Netherlands and Charles Ruffolo of NetworKing. To register for this event and for information about the shuttle, contact Brussels ACS at DSN 368-9783 or civilian 02-7179783.

Dec. 3

- **Italian Christmas Market** - This market is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the International School cafeteria. Handmade gifts, holiday decorations and Italian food will be available. The event also features a charity raffle and Italian chorus at 4 p.m.

Through Dec. 3

- **The International Basketball Tournament** - (See also page 5) Entrance is free of charge with food and drinks available for purchase.

Dec. 6

- **SHAPE International Band Christmas Concert** - The concert is at 6:30 p.m. at the SHAPE Events Center. Free admission.

SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY Continued

Dec. 8

- **Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED** - The Red Cross hosts Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/ AED Blended Learning course at the SHAPE ACS Building Dec. 8 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The course is \$55. Register online at <https://classes.redcross.org/Saba/Web/Main> or call DSN 452-9440 or Civilian +49(0)6565-61-9440.
- **Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony on Chièvres Air Base** - From 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., join Santa, sing carols and sip warm drinks at the Exchange/Commissary area.

Dec. 12

- **Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on SHAPE**- The SACEUR and Mayor of Malmedy light SHAPE's Christmas tree Dec. 12 in front of the main building. Ceremony begins at 4:30 p.m.

SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

Register now

- **Volleyball/Basketball League** - Schinnen Fitness Center is interested in having a volleyball league/basketball league within the Tri-Border communities. Players from Schinnen, Geilenkirchen, and Brunssum communities are all welcomed to participate (US and NATO ID card holders). Those interested in starting teams/leagues should stop by or contact the Schinnen Fitness Center, DSN 360-7561 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437561.

Dec. 2

- **Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony** - From 5 to 7 p.m. outside the Community Recreation Center. Santa will be welcomed at Recreation Plaza, possibilities for selfies with Santa at the Bowling Center, food, Gluehwein and hot chocolate available and game night at the Lounge starting at 8 p.m.

Dec. 5 to 7

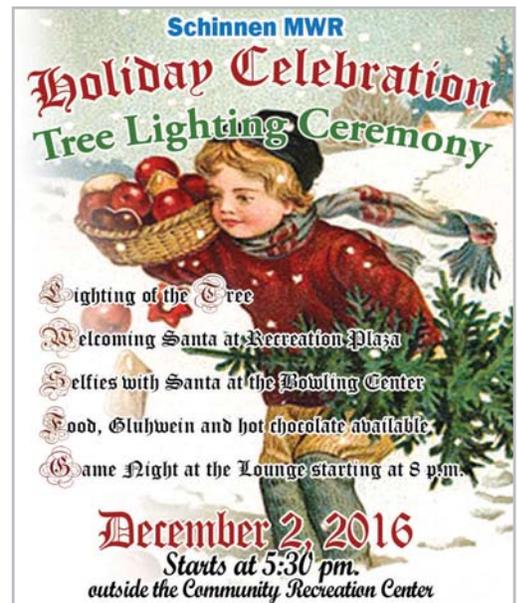
- **Department Of Labor Employment Workshop** is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the JFC Brunssum Library Multi-purpose Room. This three-day workshop will cover effective job search, resume writing, and interview techniques. Bring a laptop or tablet. To register or for more information call DSN 606-244-3475 or civilian +31 (0)45-5263475.

Dec. 8

- **Veteran's Affairs I and II** - VA I Briefing from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and VA II Briefing from 2 to 4 p.m. at the JFC Brunssum Library Multi-purpose Room. Find out the latest on VA policies, benefits, and eligibility from the people who know. To register or for more information call DSN 606-244-3475 or civilian +31 (0)45-5263475.
- **Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at JFC Brunssum** - Held at the ICC starting at 3:30 p.m. After the lighting, the doors will open at 4 p.m. for a Christmas market with culinary specialties from all countries, hot & cold beverages, candles, and lots more. Open to all NATO/US ID holders.

Dec. 13

- **Navigating the Holidays** - Held from 10 a.m. to noon at the Schinnen ACS, this class will help you focus on prioritizing and uncluttering your schedule so you can enjoy the holiday season with friends and family rather than be stressed out by commitments. For more information call DSN 360-7367 or civilian +31(0)46-4437367.



Inside the gate

Movies at Events Centre during SHAPE Cinema renovations

The Events Centre dinner theater is now open during SHAPE Cinema renovations. The cinema is expected to reopen in February. The ECDT ticket sales are as follows: Rates — 2D movies: adults, €6.50; children, ages 12 and under, €3.75. 3D movies: adults, €8.50; children, ages 12 and under, €5.75. Visit <http://www.shape2day.com>, and click "Cinema Schedule" icon. Ticket sales begin 30 minutes prior to each showing. Films will start promptly. Wild Wednesday and Thrifty Thursday mean half-price popcorn and free movies as well as half-price pizza and calzone at the Pizza Bowl. Wednesday movies will be for teenagers and older. Thursday movies will be from the same film series (or related subject matter) as an upcoming film.

Movies at JFC HQ Alliance Theater

Rates — adults, €6.50; children, ages 11 and under, €3.75. For the movie schedule, visit <http://www.shopmyexchange.com/reel-time-theatres/Schinnen-1366146>.



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

Dec. 2-4

- **Wine and food fair in Leuze-en-Hainaut** - Winemakers from all regions of France, Germany, Romania and Portugal will be offering their wines and food booths (cheese, sausages, foie gras and more) at the fair held at the city hall, Avenue de la Résistance, 1 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is €3 including a tasting glass.

Dec. 3

- **Model trains, railroad books and items fair in Saint-Ghislain** - Held at "Espace Train Musée du Rail" next to the train station from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parking is at the train station. Admission is free.
- **Repair Café in Boussu** - Get some help and the tools needed to repair a broken item at Site du Grand-Hornu, Rue Sainte Louise, 82 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free admission.
- **Arts & Craft market in Ghlin** - If you are still looking for some gifts, visit the market at Rue de la Barrière, 12 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saint Nicolas will be present from 10 to 11 am.. and from 4 to 5 p.m. Free admission.

Dec. 4

- **Volksmarch in Binche for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs "Notre Logis, Rue des Brasseries, 2 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Flobecq for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs Rue de la Crête, 32 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Mountain bike ride in Flobecq for 20 km** - Departs Rue de la Crête, 32 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Indoor flea market in Roselies (125 booths)** - Held at Rue Président J.F. Kennedy 150 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Collectors items fair in Soignies** - Held at "Le Cercle Saint Vincent" at Chanoine Scarmure, 15 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Admission is €1.
- **Mountain bike ride in Maffle for 25, 37, 50 or 60 km** - Registration is from 7:30 to 10 a.m. at Chaussée de Mons, 494. Admission is €5.
- **Volksmarch in Maffle for 5, 10 or 15 km** - Departs Chaussée de Mons, 494 from 7:30 to 11 a.m. Admission is €1.

Ongoing

Through March 5

- **Picasso Sculptures Exhibition in Brussels** - Held at the Palais des Beaux-Arts on Rue Ravenstein 23. Find more information at <http://www.bozar.be/en.be/en/>.



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

Dec. 1-4 and 7-11, 14-18

- **Christmas market in the castle Merode (GE)** - The Prince and Princess von Merode will open the Castle Merode again this year for a romantic and traditional Christmas market. The market is only open on Wednesdays-Thursdays, 2 to 8 p.m.; Fridays, 2 to 9 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 to 10 p.m. and Sundays, noon to 8 p.m. Entry on Wednesdays-Fridays is €6.50 and on Saturdays-Sundays €7; children (6-16) €2. To get to Castle Merode follow the A4 (Köln/Aachen); exit Eschweiler-Ost and follow signs Weisweiler and Langerwehe (GE). Then get on B264 direction Düren until sign Merode (GE).

Dec. 2 - Jan. 1

- **Magical Maastricht** - The city of Maastricht should be called Christmas Town with reason. The Vrijthof is transformed into a large ice-skating rink. There are many traditional and nostalgic attractions and Christmas markets at several locations in the center. Maastricht with Christmas is fun for young and old. Open Mondays-Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sundays, noon to 6 p.m.; Dec. 24, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Dec. 25-26.

Dec. 3-4 and 10-11

- **Christmas market in Mesch near Eijsden** - Held at De Laathof Farm on Langstraat. Open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission.

Dec. 4

- **Volksmarch in Maastricht for 14 km** - Starts at 9:30 a.m. at Lage Kanaaldijk 115. Small participating fee.
- **Volksmarch in Wijlre for 6, 12 or 18 km** - Departs Van Wachtendonckplein 26 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the 18 km route and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the two other routes.
- **Indoor flea market in Horst** - At the Merthal, Gasthuisstraat 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is €2.50; children under 12 years old get in free of charge.

Ongoing

- **Through Jan. 31**
- **Winter Efteling** at Efteling Amusement and Fairy Tale Park in Kaatshevel on Europalaan. Open weekdays 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; weekends and Dec. 20 to Jan. 4 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Dec. 31 from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Entry is €4.

Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.