

THE GAZETTE

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

Benelux news briefs

National strike planned

A national strike is scheduled for Dec. 15. Expect disruptions in many private- and public-sector services. Traffic will also be affected by blockades spread throughout the country. Stay tuned to the Benelux social media for more updates. Find links at <http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil>.

Flags flown at half-staff

Belgium observes a national week of mourning Dec. 6 to 13 in honor of Queen Fabiola who passed away Dec. 5. Queen Fabiola, widow of King Baudouin, was the aunt of the King of the Belgians, His Majesty King Philippe. The funeral will be held Friday morning in the Cathédrale des Saints Michel et Gudule in Brussels.

Get Bastogne schedule

The 70th anniversary of World War II's Battle of Bastogne, the Battle of the Bulge, will be commemorated Dec. 12 to 14. Get the English schedule of events and a translation of the traffic plan in the Dec. 4 Gazette at <http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil>.

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Team USA wins over last year's champs

Mike Lyons scores for Team USA in the final of the International Basketball Tournament on SHAPE. USA beat returning champion Lithuania 89-82 to take the title Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014. **See page 5.**

FREEDOM 6 SENDS

Army Strong! Strong Europe!

'Strong Europe is USAREUR's main contribution to NATO'

by Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges

Commanding General, U.S. Army Europe

In the few short weeks since I took command of this outstanding organization, I can truly say that, this holiday season, I am absolutely thankful for the professionalism and dedication of U.S. Army Europe Soldiers, civilians, families and Allies.

As I have traveled around our area of responsibility to countries like Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Poland and throughout Germany, I have seen firsthand the relationships, capabilities, infrastructure, and exercises that assure access for U.S. forces, enable early entry versus forcible entry, and build capacity in Partnership for Peace and Allied nations.

To me, all of those are examples of the U.S. Army's contribution to what NATO and U.S. European Command are trying to do over here – support a “Strong Europe.”

The Strong Europe concept aims to create beneficial opportunities, improve interoperability and capacity in Partners and Allies, and facilitate U.S. and NATO logistical infrastructure, resulting in ease of movement between member nations.

In this respect, Strong Europe is USAREUR's main contribution to NATO and its Allies and Partners, as we act as

the main enabler for NATO land forces on behalf of U.S. European Command.

When I see U.S. Army Soldiers in the Baltics and Poland on Thanksgiving, working and training as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve to assure our Allies and deter Russia – that is Strong Europe.

Strong Europe is our forward station presence enabling open intelligence cooperation with our host-nation Allies and Partners, allowing us to contribute to a common secure environment.

Strong Europe is everything we do to support the success of our Regionally Aligned Forces from reception, staging, onward movement and integration to exercises at our great Joint Multinational Training Command.

I am convinced that U.S. Army Europe is playing an essential role in facilitating interoperability throughout NATO and Partner land forces and will enable the Alliance wherever possible to face its threats and challenges.

Team, I want to thank you for all that you are doing here every day in support of our mission and in support of our Allies. You make the Army Strong, and you contribute to a Strong Europe!

I wish you all the very best this holiday



Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges

season! As you celebrate with your families, friends and loved ones, remember our Teammates deployed around the world; whether it's in the mountains of Afghanistan, the sands of Kuwait, the valleys of Kosovo, or on a cold mountaintop in Turkey. Let's keep our Soldiers in our thoughts and prayers.

Happy holidays.

Army Strong! Strong Europe!

THE GAZETTE

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Holiday season celebrated in Benelux



Rita Hoefnagels



Kathleen Garrity-Cantwell



Tim Clark



Arielle Cohn



Tim Clark

(Clockwise from left) The Canadian School Choir sings a Christmas song at the SHAPE tree-lighting ceremony Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2014. • At the SHAPE tree-lighting ceremony Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2014, the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Air Force Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, and a council member from Malmédy, André Hubert Denis, push the button to light the holiday tree that Denis presented to the SACEUR as a gift from the city of Malmédy. • Jackson and James Balcom have their picture taken with Santa during Christmas tree-lighting festivities Wednesday, Dec. 3, at USAG Benelux-Schinnen. • Children line up to greet Santa Claus at Santa's Workshop on Chièvres Air Base Friday, Dec. 5, 2014. • The 3 Star in Brussels is where the action is during Winter Fest Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014. Winter Fest activities available included Family Dinner; a tree-lighting ceremony and Santa's Workshop with arts and crafts as well as pictures with Santa.

Trenches to Foxholes

Next week in World War history (Dec. 14 to Dec. 20)

World War I

1914

Dec. 15 - Serbia regains Belgrade. Austrian forces withdraw across their border.

Dec. 16 - German battle cruisers from Franz von Hipper's scouting squadron catch the British navy by surprise as they begin heavy bombardment of Hartlepool and Scarborough, English port cities on the North Sea.

The bombardment lasts for about 90 minutes, killing more than 130 civilians and wounding another 500. It unleashes a damning response from the British press, which points to the incident as yet another example of German brutality. The German navy, however, saw the two port cities as valid targets due to their fortified status.

Dec. 18 - Indian troops begin an attack on the Germans near Givenchy; a five-day battle commences.

Dec. 20 - After minor skirmishes, the First Battle of Champagne begins in earnest, marking the first major Allied attack against the Germans since the initiation of trench warfare on the Western Front.

1915

Dec. 15 - The Allies begin an orderly evacuation of the Gallipoli Peninsula. This comes after months of stalemate in which Turkish troops contained all breakthrough attempts while inflicting 250,000 casualties. The British Navy successfully evacuates 83,000 survivors by sea as the Turkish troops watch without firing a shot.

Dec. 19 - In the wake of the British defeat at the Battle of Loos in September 1915, Sir Douglas Haig replaces Sir John French as commander-in-chief of all British forces on the Western Front.

1916

Dec. 15 - The last offensive in the Battle of Verdun begins as the French push the Germans out of Louvemont and Bezonvaux on the east bank of the Meuse River. Combined with other ground losses, the German withdrawal ends the immediate threat to Verdun and both sides now focus their efforts on battles elsewhere along the Western Front. Overall, the French and Germans suffer nearly a million casualties combined during the 10-month battle in which the Germans fail to capture the city of Verdun.

- The last Allied forces in Macedonia withdraw into Greek territory.

1917

Dec. 15 - Russia signs an armistice with Germany. With Russia's departure from the Eastern Front, 44 German divisions become available to be redeployed to the Western Front in time for the spring offensive.

Dec. 16 - Cuba declares war on Austria-Hungary.

1918

Dec. 14 - In the latest bump on Finland's rocky road from Swedish and Russian duchy to independent nation, the newly-crowned Frederick, German-born and the brother-in-law of Kaiser Wilhelm II, renounces the Finnish throne after barely two months.

World War II

1940

Dec. 9 - RAF bombers attack Mannheim, Germany, in retaliation for German raids on British cities; 34 civilians are killed, 81 are injured, and 1,266 homes destroyed by 100 tons of high-explosive bombs and 14,000 incendiary bombs.

1941

Dec. 18 - The first wave of Japanese troops lands in Hong Kong with artillery fire for cover and the following order from their commander: "Take no prisoners." Upon overrunning a volunteer anti-aircraft battery, the Japanese invaders rope together the captured soldiers and proceed to bayonet them to death. Even those who offer no resistance, such as the Royal Medical Corps, are led up a hill and killed.

The Japanese quickly take control of key reservoirs, threatening the British and Chinese inhabitants with a slow death by thirst. The British finally surrender control of Hong Kong on Christmas Day.

Dec. 19 - Adolf Hitler assumes the position of commander in chief of the German army.

Dec. 20 - In one of his first acts as the new commander in chief of the German army, Adolf Hitler informs Gen. Franz Halder that there will be no retreating from the Russian front near Moscow. Halder is also informed that he can stay on as chief of the general army staff if he so chooses, but only with the understanding that Hitler alone is in charge of the army's movements and strategies.

1942

Dec. 17 - Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden reports to the British House of Commons of the mass murder of Jews by the Germans; this is followed almost immediately by a U.S. declaration that these crimes would be avenged.

1943

Dec. 15 - American troops land on the Arawe Peninsula of New Britain in the Solomon Islands.

1944

Dec. 16 - The Germans launch their last major offensive of the war, in an attempt to split the Allied armies in northwest Europe by means of a surprise blitzkrieg thrust through the Ardennes to Antwerp. The Battle of the Bulge, so called because the Germans created a "bulge" around the area of the Ardennes forest in pushing through the American defensive line, is the largest fought on the Western front.

The Germans throw 250,000 soldiers into the initial assault, 14 German infantry divisions guarded by five panzer divisions, against a mere 80,000 Americans. Their assault comes in early morning at the weakest part of the Allied line, an 80-mile poorly protected stretch of hilly, woody forest. The once-quiet region becomes bedlam as American units are caught off guard and fight desperately to stem the German advance at St.-Vith, Elsenborn Ridge, Houffalize and, later, Bastogne.

"Next week in World War history" is compiled from various sources by Keith Houin, USAG Benelux Public Affairs.

USA prevails in close contest with defending champs during international B-ball contest

Team triumphs over Lithuania 89-82

Story and photos by Tim Clark

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office Volunteer

United States fans chanting “USA-USA-USA;” the SACEUR working the room before settling in the stands; and the high-spirited, flag-waving and face-painted fans of the Lithuania team were all part of the scene at the finals of the SHAPE International Basketball Tournament Dec. 6.

The United States defeated Lithuania 89-82 to win the nine-team tournament Saturday night at the SHAPE Main Gym. The game was marked by an effort and intensity that was missing in the USA’s wins over Canada by 42, Latvia by 34 and Italy by 25.

Lithuania was the only opponent that could keep up with the USA’s “run the floor and get a lot of transition baskets” approach that led to the previous USA blowout wins.

Lithuania kept the game close with some impressive shooting and frequently

switching defensive looks. Clutch free-throw shooting by the USA late in the fourth quarter sealed the victory for the United States team.

The SHAPE International Basketball Tournament started with the teams placed in three pools of three teams each.

Pool A had Lithuania, France and Great Britain. Pool B included the United States, Latvia and Canada. Pool C had Italy, Belgium and Kuwait.

Each team played the other two teams in its pool for the seeding in the knock-out rounds.

The teams of Italy, Lithuania and the United States each completed pool play undefeated.

Italy defeated France to face the USA in one semifinal, while Kuwait defeated Latvia to face Lithuania in the other semifinal.



(Clockwise from top) Evan Washington makes his move to score 2 against Italy in a semi-final game at the International Basketball Tournament on SHAPE. USA won by a score of 87-62. • The Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Air Force Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, poses with Team USA and the trophy after the victory over Lithuania Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014. • Jahmal Lawson heads to the basket for team USA. They defeated Canada 98-56 in their opening game of the International Basketball Tournament on SHAPE Monday, Dec. 1, 2014.

SHAPE/Chièvres Holiday Community Calendar

	PX	PXtra	Commis-sary	ACS	AFCU	Auto Crafts	Benelux Finance	CYS Services	DPW	Fitness Center	Gate #14	Health Facility	Hous-ing
Mon Dec. 22	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tue Dec. 23	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	10 a.m. 7 p.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	noon - 8 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - noon	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wed Dec. 24	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed*	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	acute care walk-in 8-10 a.m.	Closed
Thu Dec. 25	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed*	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fri Dec. 26	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed*	Closed	Closed	acute care walk-in 8-10 a.m.	Closed
Sat Dec. 27	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed*	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	acute care walk-in 8-10 a.m.	Closed
Sun Dec. 28	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed*	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	acute care walk-in 8-10 a.m.	Closed
Mon Dec. 29	Closed	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed*	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - noon	Closed
Tue Dec. 30	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed*	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	8-10 a.m.	Closed
Wed Dec. 31	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed*	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	acute care walk-in 8-10 a.m.	Closed
Thu Jan. 1	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed*	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fri Jan. 2	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	noon - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed*	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - noon	Closed

NOTE: * On call for DPW emergencies via MP station

SHAPE/Chièvres Holiday Community Calendar

	IACS	Kennel	Library	Official Travel	Parcel Pick up	Postal Finance	Self Help	Shuttle	405th AFSB Hazmat/CIF/Maintenance/PBO	405th AFSB Motor Pool	405th AFSB Personal Property office	405th AFSB Drivers Training and Testing
Mon Dec. 22	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **	8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2 - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9:30 a.m. - noon 12:30 - 4 p.m.	5:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m. CIF Closed	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tue Dec. 23	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **	8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2 - 4:30 p.m.	noon - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9:30 a.m. - noon 12:30 - 4 p.m.	5:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wed Dec. 24	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	noon - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - noon	8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	no service	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Thu Dec. 25	Closed	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	no service	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fri Dec. 26	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	no service	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Dec. 27	Closed	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	noon - 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	no service	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun Dec. 28	Closed	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	no service	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon Dec. 29	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **	8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2 - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	no service	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Tue Dec. 30	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **	8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2 - 4:30 p.m.	noon - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	no service	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Wed Dec. 31	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	noon - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - noon	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	no service	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Thu Jan. 1	Closed	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	no service	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fri Jan. 2	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **	8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2 - 4:30 p.m.	noon - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	no service	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed

NOTE: ** IACS is closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.

SHAPE/Chièvres Emergency numbers

Chièvres MP station, DSN 361-5301 or civilian 068-27-5301
SHAPE Police Desk, DSN 423-3333/4 or civilian 065-44-3333/4

Any emergency - Dial 112

Brussels Holiday Community Calendar

	Shoppette	ACS	AFCU	Auto Crafts	CYS Serv. at Bldg. 3, HQs	Dental Clinic	DPW *	Finance	Fitness Center	Gate 1&2**	Gate 5	Health Clinic
Mon Dec. 22	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - noon	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	6 a.m. - 9 p.m.	7 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 - 11:45 a.m. 12:45 - 4:30 p.m.
Tue Dec. 23	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 4:30 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	6 a.m. - 9 p.m.	7 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 - 11:45 a.m. 12:45 - 4:30 p.m.
Wed Dec. 24	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - noon	Closed*	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Closed	8 - 11:45 a.m. 12:45 - 4:30 p.m.
Thu Dec. 25	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed*	Closed	Closed	7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Closed	Closed
Fri Dec. 26	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed*	Closed	Closed	7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Closed	Closed
Sat Dec. 27	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed*	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Closed	Closed
Sun Dec. 28	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed*	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Closed	Closed
Mon Dec. 29	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - noon	Closed*	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Closed	8 - 11:45 a.m. 12:45 - 4:30 p.m.
Tue Dec. 30	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 4:30 p.m.	Closed*	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Closed	8 - 11:45 a.m. 12:45 - 4:30 p.m.
Wed Dec. 31	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - noon	Closed*	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Closed	8 - 11:45 a.m. 12:45 - 4:30 p.m.
Thu Jan. 1	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed*	Closed	Closed	7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Closed	Closed
Fri Jan. 2	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed*	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Closed	Closed

NOTES: *On call for DPW emergencies via MP station - **Gate 1 & 2 will also be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Jan. 3 and 4 (Gate 5 is closed)

Brussels Holiday Community Calendar

	Housing	IACS	Library	Official Travel	Parcel Mailing	Parcel Pick-up	3-Star Lounge	405th AFSB ITO	405th AFSB Personal Property Processing	405th AFSB Motorpool	405th AFSB Proterpy Book	405th AFSB Drivers Training and Testing
Mon Dec. 22	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8:15 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tue Dec. 23	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8:15 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wed Dec. 24	Closed	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - noon	Closed	7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Thu Dec. 25	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fri Dec. 26	Closed	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Dec. 27	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun Dec. 28	Closed	Closed	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon Dec. 29	Closed	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Tue Dec. 30	Closed	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Wed Dec. 31	Closed	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - noon	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Thu Jan. 1	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fri Jan. 2	Closed	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed

Emergency numbers in Brussels

Brussels MP station, DSN 368-9769 or civilian 02-717-9769

Any emergency - Dial 112

Schinnen Holiday Community Calendar

	Main Exchange	Shoppette	Commissary	ACS	AFCU	Bowling Center	Clinic (incl. Dental)	Community Bank	CYS Services	DPW	Fitness Center	Finance
Mon Dec. 22	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tue Dec. 23	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wed Dec. 24	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	8 a.m. - 3 p.m.	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed*	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Thu Dec. 25	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed*	Closed	Closed
Fri Dec. 26	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed*	Closed	Closed
Sat Dec. 27	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	11 a.m. - 8 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Closed	Closed*	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed
Sun Dec. 28	Closed	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed*	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed
Mon Dec. 29	Closed	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed*	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tue Dec. 30	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed*	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wed Dec. 31	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - noon	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed*	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Thu Jan. 1	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed*	Closed	Closed
Fri Jan. 2	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	10 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 5-8 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed*	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

NOTE: *On call for DPW emergencies via MP station

Schinnen Holiday Community Calendar

	Housing	IACS	Legal Center	Offical Travel	Parcel Pick-up	Pin Point	Postal Finance	Public Affairs	Self Help	405th AFSB Hazmat/CI/PBO	405th AFSB Drivers Training and Testing/Motor Pool	405th AFSB Personal Property Processing
Mon Dec. 22	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.***	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tue Dec. 23	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.***	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wed Dec. 24	Closed	Closed**	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.***	Closed	8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Thu Dec. 25	Closed	Closed**	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fri Dec. 26	Closed	Closed**	Closed	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Dec. 27	Closed	Closed**	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.***	Closed	Closed	11 a.m. - 8 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun Dec. 28	Closed	Closed**	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.***	Closed	Closed	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon Dec. 29	Closed	Closed**	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.***	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	Closed	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tue Dec. 30	Closed	Closed**	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.***	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wed Dec. 31	Closed	Closed**	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.***	8 a.m. - noon	8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Thu Jan. 1	Closed	Closed**	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fri Jan. 2	Closed	Closed**	Closed	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 5-8 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

NOTES: **MP Desk will handle access issues during closure dates - * Limited Legal Services, i.e. no notary, wills, POAs, from 12:30 to 4 p.m.**

Emergency Numbers in the Netherlands

Schinnen MP station, DSN 360-7555 or Civilian 046-443-7555

Any emergency - Dial 112

holiday news briefs - holiday news briefs - holiday news

Most federal employees off Dec. 26

President Barack Obama signed an executive order Dec. 5, closing all executive-branch departments and agencies of the federal government and excusing their employees from duty Friday, Dec. 26, the day after Christmas, except where the heads of executive-branch departments and agencies determine that certain offices and installations of their organizations, or parts thereof, must remain open and that certain employees must report for duty Dec. 26, for reasons of national security, defense or other public need.

GK puts on tree-lighting ceremony

Geilenkirchen Air Base, Germany, will host a tree-lighting ceremony and so much more at the Geilenkirchen Air Base Multipurpose Room Dec. 18 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Visit Santa's Village and the Christmas market, and enjoy live music as well as food and drink.

For details, call GK Airman & Family Readiness Center, or A&FRC, at DSN 458-6015 or civilian 024-51633791.

Postal news: Operation Santa Claus gives you time to pick up parcels

To help customers with their holiday mailing, SHAPE and Chièvres post offices have extended hours through Dec. 19 —

- Parcel Pickup: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (It's open an additional hour per day). During Operation Santa Claus Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, you can pick up parcels until 7 p.m.

- Postal Finance (items to mail): 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (an additional hour per day)

- Mail by appointment (SHAPE only): 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mailing deadline

Overseas postal officials recommend the following date for mail to the United States to arrive by Dec. 25 —

- Priority Express Mail: Dec. 17.

SHAPE Christmas services announced

SHAPE Chapel Centre, located on Avenue de Reykjavik, will hold the following Christmas services in English:

- Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

- 5 p.m.: Christmas Eve Service, East Chapel (Protestant)

- 8 p.m.: Christmas Eve Mass, East Chapel (Catholic)

- Christmas Day, Dec. 25

- 10:15 a.m.: Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion East Chapel (Church of England/Episcopalian)

For directions, call DSN 423-5604 or civilian 065-445604.

Brunssum Chapel announces schedule

Brunssum Chapel will hold the following Christmas services:

- Dec. 14 at 4 p.m.: Star of Wonder – children's Christmas musical (ecumenical)

- Dec. 18 at 5:30 p.m.: Advent confession (Catholic)

- Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

- 6 p.m.: Christmas vigil celebration (Protestant)

- 11 to 11:45 p.m.: Christmas musical reflection

- Midnight: Christmas Mass (Catholic)

- Christmas Day, Dec. 25

- 11:30 p.m.: Christmas Mass (Catholic)

For details, call DSN 364-2940 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5262940.

Brussels offers candlelight service

The Brussels Chapel will hold a Christmas Eve candlelight service Dec. 24 at 6 p.m. This ecumenical celebration of Christmas will include the lighting of the Christ Candle, which is the center and final candle in some versions of the Advent wreath, and sing Christmas hymns — culminating in a candlelight rendition of "Silent Night."

Avoid duty on gifts sent stateside

American law imposes a tax on imported foreign goods called duty. For U.S. personnel overseas, that means gifts sent to the States may be subject to this tax, according to a press release by Robert Szostek, USAREUR Office of the Provost Marshal Public Affairs.

Foreign-made gifts are allowed duty-free entry if their retail value is under \$100 and the recipient doesn't receive more than \$100 worth of foreign gifts in one day. If such a gift is more than \$100, the entire amount is subject to duty and a customs processing fee. Only the recipient can pay the duty and the fee. American-made gifts are duty-free if they weren't altered abroad in a way that increased their value.

"Many people think that gifts bought in military exchanges can go to the States duty-free," said Mike Dean, director of the European Command's Customs and Border Clearance Agency, "but this is not necessarily true. The items have to be American-made to gain duty-free entry."

The "Know Before You Go" pamphlet available at military customs offices has more information on mailing gifts as does the Customs and Border Protection website at www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/kbyg/gifts.xml.

USDA: Know rules on nativity scenes

Many European countries have a tradition of making nativity scenes at Christmastime that Americans love to buy. However, the natural products used to make them are sometimes banned from import to the United States because of the agricultural pests and diseases that could be in them, according to a press release by Robert Szostek, USAREUR Office of the Provost Marshal Public Affairs.

Shoppers should note that they can be fined \$100 or more if they mail nativity scenes that contain moss, bark, pinecones, untreated straw or other restricted materials. However, Department of Agriculture officials say people can send nativity scenes that are produced using finished wood, plastic, or commercially cleaned and lacquered straw (except rice straw).

German nativity scenes are called "Weihnachtskrippen" and contain carved or ceramic figures. Belgians have "la crèche de Noël." The Dutch have "de kerststal."

The figurines don't pose any agricultural risk and can be sent or taken stateside, but figurines are often housed in "stables" made of natural bark decorated with peat moss.

"The bark frames or peat moss parts of these nativity scenes can contain damaging insects or other pests," said Scott Sanner, U.S. Department of Agriculture adviser at the European Command's Customs and Border Clearance Agency, "and are therefore prohibited from being imported."

community briefs - community briefs - community briefs

Co-ed Venturing crew for youths now at SHAPE

A new Venturing crew has recently formed at SHAPE.

Venturing is a youth-development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 13 and have completed the eighth grade, or age 14 through 20 years of age, according to the BSA website at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Venturing.aspx>. Venturing is designed to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults.

Don't miss the great opportunities that are offered through Venturing, such as camping, high-adventure activities and other social gatherings.

For details, contact scoutingmembership@gmail.com.

Credit union closes for Org Day

Andrews Federal Credit Union Chièvres will be closed Dec. 13 for Organization Day.

Members can withdraw cash from AFCU ATMs, both at the Chièvres branch and at the ATM in the SHAPE U.S. Post Office in Building 319. AFCU members can access their account information, using Smart Connect Online Banking, Smart Mobile, and Smart Call.

Job opening at AFCU

Officials at Andrews Federal Credit Union would like to hire a new part-time teller at the Brussels branch. The job is listed on the AFCU website at <http://www.andrewsfcu.org>. Once on the website, just click on the "Career Opportunities" link at the top left of the screen. After you are taken to the Career Opportunities Center page, click on "Employment Listings."

Join book club at Brussels Library

The book club meets at Brussels Library on the first floor of Building 4 Dec. 15 from noon to 2 p.m.

The featured book is "The Christmas Train" by New York Times bestselling author David Baldacci.

To register and for more information on this free book club, call DSN 368-9791 or civilian +32 (0) 2-7179791.

Winter tires in Germany

Until Apr. 15, all vehicles on German roads must have approved tires for winter driving. Acceptable tires are approved winter tires or all season tires with the M+S symbol or the snowflake with the three pinnacles. They must have a minimum tread depth of 1.6 mm.

Winter tires aren't mandatory in Belgium, but they are strongly recommended, according to Rudy Magain, the USAG Benelux safety manager.

Alterations now open on Chièvres

A new alterations contractor recently opened up shop on Chièvres Air Base. Stripes, located in the PXtra, is trying out a test schedule: Mondays from 2 to 5 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturdays from 12:30 to 6 p.m.

SHAPE clinic offers flu shots

The SHAPE Immunization Clinic is now offering flu vaccines Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

Soccer coaches needed

Soccer coaches are needed for age groups: 4 to 5, 6 to 7, 8 to 9, 10 to 12, 13 to 15. No experience required, and NYSCA certification/training provided by CYSS.

Contact the Youth Sports Office for more information at DSN 423-4448 or civilian 065-444448.

American Legion offers help to vets

Veterans who have been wounded or injured may not be sure if they're entitled to any government benefits. The American Legion is a veterans service organization with American Legion service officers who file thousands of claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs each year on behalf of America's veterans.

Disability compensation is a tax-free monetary benefit paid to Veterans with disabilities that are the result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service. Compensation may also be paid for post-service disabilities that are considered related or secondary to disabilities occurring in service and for disabilities presumed to be related to circumstances of military service, even though they may arise after service. Generally, the degrees of disability specified are also designed to compensate for considerable loss of working time from exacerbations or illnesses.

If you are veteran, or preparing to retire or preparing to for your expiration of term of service, or ETS, contact American Legion Post BE02's service officer at flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com.

American Legion holds speech contest

The American Legion sponsors its annual oratorical contest directed toward high-school students, and youths from all over the Benelux will compete at Brussels American High School. Jan. 24, 2015. Registration is now open.

The recurring theme is "A constitutional speech contest." Speaking subjects must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to the government.

If you would like a registration form, contact the American Legion Post BE02 at flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com

DeCA offers scholarships

Applications for the Scholarships for Military Children Program's 2015-2016 school-year awards become available starting Dec. 15 at commissaries worldwide or on the Internet at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>, according to a Defense Commissary Agency news release.

An applicant must be a dependent, unmarried child, younger than 21 — or 23, if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university — of a service member on active duty, Reserve or Guard member, retiree or survivor of a military member who died while on active duty, or survivor of a retiree.



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

Dec. 12

- **Christmas concert in Casteau** - at the church on Rue des Combattants from 8 to 10 p.m. Admission fee is €5, free under 12.

Dec. 13

- **Christmas market in Naast** - on the town square from 9:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Brussels** for 12 and 16 km. Departs from Avenue E. Renan 12 from 2 to 7 p.m.

Dec. 13 to 14

- **Christmas concert in Jurbise** - on Rue du Moustier 8 Saturday from 3 to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Ath** - on Rue Maria Thomée 2 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Dec. 13 to 14 and 20 to 21

- **Christmas parade in Mons** - on Rue de la Chaussée 42 from 1 to 6 p.m. Shops that are normally closed Sundays will be open Dec. 14 and 21.

Dec. 14

- **Volksmarch in Silly** for 5, 10, 15, 20 km. Departs from Place Communale 11 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Lens** for 5, 10, 20 km. Departs from Rue du Thy 3 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Ongoing

Through Dec. 28

- **Christmas market in La Louvière** - on Place Maugré-tout. Open weekdays from 4 to 10 p.m. and weekends from 11 a.m. to midnight.
- **Christmas market in Antwerp** on Steenplein, Suiker-ruï, Grote Markt en Handschoenmarkt. The market stays open until Jan. 4, 2015, on Steenplein. Open Monday through Thursday from noon to 9 p.m.; Fridays from noon to 11 p.m.; Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Sundays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Dec. 24 and 31 from noon to 6 p.m.; Christmas Day, Dec. 25, from noon to 9 p.m. and Jan. 1, 2015, from 2 to 7 p.m.



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

Through Dec. 14

- **Christmas at Castle Middachten near the town of De Steeg** is a rare treat. The castle is decorated for Christmas and opens its doors to the public. A Christmas market is held in the castle's outbuildings. Open from noon to 8 p.m. Admission: €15; children (4 to 12) €7.50.

Through Dec. 21

- **Christmas Market in Bad Münstereifel, Germany**, is held amid the timber-framed houses in the center of town. Open Tuesday through Sunday from 1 to 7 p.m. Closed Mondays.

Dec. 11 to 14

- **Christmas Country Fair near Beesd** is held at "Heerlijkheid Mariënwaerd" estate. The main house is open to the public; there will be choirs and more than 80 booths with a variety of Christmas articles. Sleigh rides are also available. Open Dec. 11 and 14 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Dec. 12 to 13 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Admission: adults €10; youth 13 to 17 €7.50; children 11 and under have free admission. Take A2 highway Utrecht-Den Bosch; exit at No. 14 Beesd. Follow the "Kerstfair" signs.

Dec. 11 to 14 and 18 to 21

- **"Romantic Christmas Market" in Langerwehe-Merode, Germany**, is one of rare occasions when Castle Merode, a Flemish Renaissance structure, is open to the public. Open Wednesday and Thursday from 2 to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 2 to 10 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 8 p.m. Admission Wednesday to Friday is €6.50 and on the weekend €7; children (6 to 16) €2.

Dec. 12 to 13

- **Dickens Fest in Wintelre** near Eersel is held in the town center. The center will be transformed into a picturesque English village from Charles Dickens' time, and many characters from his books will be there. Open Dec. 12 from 2 to 7 p.m., and Dec. 13 from noon to 6 p.m.
- **Scrooge Festival in Arcen** takes the picturesque village back to the time of Charles Dickens in the year 1850. The town center is filled with characters in costume, as well as live music, theater, booths, activities and more. Open Dec. 12 from 2 to 10 p.m. and Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €4; children €3.

Dec. 12 to 14

- **Art, Antiques and Design Fair in Wassenaar** is held at Residence van Ommerenpark at Van Ommerenpark 200. Open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: free.



Through Dec. 30

- **Christmas village in Liège** - In the heart of the city, 160 decorated wooden cottages form a magical Christmas village throughout the month of December. Read more at <http://www.villagedenoel.be/en>.

Through Jan. 4, 2015

- **Brussels Christmas Market "Winter Wonders"** - Market with some 230 booths, fairground, ice-skating rink and sound-and-light show takes place on the Grand'Place, around the Bourse (stock exchange), Place de la Monnaie, Place Sainte-Catherine and Marché aux Poissons weekdays from noon to 10 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. "Guest of honor" is the city of Quebec.
- **Mons Christmas Market "Heart of Snow"** - at the Grand Place in the city center with numerous booths, attractions, local delicacies, a heart-shaped ice-skating rink, a magical forest, choirs and Santa Claus, of course. Open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.



Trenches to Foxholes

Through Dec. 24

- **Exhibition "Regards croisés sur la Guerre 14-18" (Perspectives on World War I) in Ath** on Rue de Pintamont 18 Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends from 2 to 6 p.m.

Through Jan. 5, 2015

- **Exhibition "Tournai, August 1914. A city plunged into the war" in Tournai** at the Military History Museum at Rue Roc Sainte Nicaise 59-61. Open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon and from 2 to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m.

Through April 26, 2015

- **Expo 14-18: It's our history in Brussels** - At the Royal Army Museum at Parc du Cinquantenaire 3, daily from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4:45 p.m., except Mondays. Admission: adults €12; children 6 to 18, €8. Family package is €32 (two adults and two children). You can look into day-trip specials on Belgian rail at <http://www.belgianrail.be>.



Dec. 12 to 14 continued

- **Christmas Fair near Lisse** is held in and around Castle Keukenhof which is across the street from the famous gardens. The court and castle are decorated for the season. Besides the usual Christmas decorations and articles, you will also find accessories and delicacies and of course plants and flowers at the more than 100 stands. You can also visit the castle itself. Open Dec. 12 and 13 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Dec. 14 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €8; children 11 and under - free admission.

Dec. 12 to 14, and 19 to 21

- **Christmas Market in Monschau, Germany**, is located on the romantic square in the picturesque center of town. Open Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Dec. 13

- **Fairytale Christmas Market in Geertruidenberg** is held in the historic center of the picturesque fortified town. Celebrate this year's theme, "Dutch Winter," and smell and taste the simple pleasures of this season. Open from 3 to 9 p.m.

Dec. 13 to 14

- **Christmas Market in Mesch** near Eijsden is held at De Laathof Farm on Langstraat. Admission is free. Open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dec. 13 to 21

- **Floating Christmas Market in Leiden** with more than 70 booths can be found along and on the Nieuwe Rijn. Open every day from noon to 9 p.m.

Dec. 13 to 14 and 20 to 21

- **Christmas Market in Bad Homburg, Germany**, is held at Landgrafenschloss (a castle). Open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Dec. 14

- **Christmas Fair in De Steeg** at the Rhederoord Estate at Parkweg 19 has booths with jewelry, antiques, decorations, fashion and more amid the beautifully decorated rooms of the estate. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €5; children 11 and younger - free admission.
- **Christmas Market in Thorn** at "De Grote Hegge" Manor is considered to be the largest indoor Christmas market in the region. Open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: €5; children 11 and under - no admission fee. An outdoor Christmas Market is held in the historic center of the "white city of Thorn" (so named for its characteristic white houses) from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Nostalgic Christmas Market in Urmond** is held in the historic center of town. Open from 3 to 8 p.m. No admission fees.

SHAPE Trips & Tours

Serving Brussels, Chièvres and SHAPE

For information on the trip below,
call DSN 423-3884 or civilian 065-443884.

Aachen and Monschau Christmas Markets, Dec. 20 - Travel with SHAPE Trips and Tours to the village of Monschau where you can do your Christmas shopping at the many wooden booths embellished with twinkling lights that surround the market square. Next stop will be Aachen's "Christmas City." Be sure to try the culinary delicacies as you browse this famous marketplace. Departs from SHAPE at 7 a.m. and from Brussels at 8 a.m. Returns to Brussels at 10 p.m. and to SHAPE at 11 p.m. Cost: adults €55; children €50.

Schinnen Trips and Tours

For information on the trip below,
call DSN 360-7561 or civilian
0031-(0)46-4437561.

Express Shopping Trip to London, Dec. 13 - You will have at least nine hours of free time to explore one of the world's capitals.

Departs from Schinnen Dec. 13 at 3 a.m. Coach departs from London at 9:30 p.m. local time. Arrives back at Schinnen Dec. 14 at approximately 6:30 a.m. Included in tour price: round-trip coach transportation. Register with full payment at the Trips and Tours office in Schinnen. Cost: \$89 per person.

SHAPE Travel Group

For information on the trip below,
call civilian 0486-565371.

Maasmechelen Outlet Shops and Alden Biesen Castle, Jan. 15, 2015 - Alden Biesen Castle is one of the largest and finest castles in Belgium's Limburg province. The current building is 16th century, but the castle has a long history that dates back to the 11th century as one of 12 headquarters of the Teutonic Order of Knights. SHAPE Travel Group will be treated to an English guided tour, then have lunch (which is included) in one of the restaurants on site.

After lunch, the bus travels to Maasmechelen Village for some retail therapy. January is the month to shop the sales in Belgium, and the Chic Outlet Shopping Village will allow for lots of choices. The village is home to more than 100 luxurious boutiques offering leading local and international brands at reduced prices all year 'round.

Cost: €45.



Upcoming trips

SHAPE Trips & Tours

- **Paris in Winter: Paris Day Trip, Dec. 27**
- **New Year's Medieval Dinner in Brugge (Bruges), Dec. 31**
- **Amsterdam with optional tour of Anne Frank House, Jan. 24, 2015**
- **Day trip to Centro Shopping Center in Oberhausen, Germany, Jan. 31, 2015**
- **Croatia with Venice and Slovenia, April 6 to 15, 2015 (10 days round-trip)**



Schinnen Trips & Tours

- **Day trip to Paris, March 14, 2015**
- **Day trip to Bruges, March 21, 2015**
- **Family Day "Trout Fishing," April 11, 2015**
- **Day trip to Keukenhof Gardens, April 25, 2015**

SHAPE Travel Group

- **Maasmechelen Outlet Shops & Alden Biesen Castle, Jan. 15, 2015**
- **Luxembourg City and Bernard-Massard Winery, Jan. 22, 2015**
- **Soufflenheim Pottery, France, Feb. 5, 2015**
- **London with Wicked (optional), Feb. 11, 2015**
- **Spa, Belgium, Feb. 25, 2015**
- **Netherlands: Volendam/Edam/Marken, March 5, 2015**
- **Reims, France, and Champagne Tasting, March 19, 2015**
- **Trier with Winery Tour, April 15, 2015**
- **Polish Pottery and Giethoorn, April 24, 2015**
- **Rhine In Flames, May 2, 2015**
- **Giverny, France, May 7, 2015**
- **London and Chelsea Flower Show, May 21, 2015**
- **Amiens and Les Hortillonages (Floating Gardens), June 2, 2015**
- **Provins Medieval Festival, June 13, 2015**
- **Paris, June 18, 2015**
- **Hampton Court Palace and Gardens, June 30, 2015**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

Dec. 16 to 19

- **Welcome, newcomers** - Brussels Army Community Service invites all service members, civilians and their families to participate in free newcomers events next week. Dec. 16: Supermarket Guided Tour is conducted from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Dec. 17: The deputy garrison manager's welcome and USAG Benelux-Brussels site brief start at 9 a.m. and are followed by a cultural acclimatization (information on local customs as well as basic French and Flemish), which ends at 12:30 p.m. Dec. 18: Hospital Guided Tour is conducted from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Dec. 19: Metro Madness (in which newcomers learn to use public transportation) runs from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Meet in the ACS conference room in Building 4 half an hour before start time to get settled, get a snack or get ready to leave as a group for a tour, if applicable. Register by calling DSN 368-9783 or civilian 02-7179783.

Dec. 17 or 18

- **Scream-Free Holidays** - Learn how to decompress, reduce holiday stress and make life more enjoyable for you and your family at this class in the Brussels Army Community Service Conference Room in Building 4 Dec. 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. or Dec. 18 from 5 to 6 p.m. For additional information on how to alleviate holiday stress, and to register, call DSN 368-9783 or civilian 02-7179783. Private classes are also available.

Dec. 18

- **Geilenkirchen tree-lighting ceremony** - For details on holiday events, see page 9.

SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

Dec. 12

- **ACS tour of holiday markets in Valkenburg caves** - Call DSN 360-7500 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437500.

Dec. 18 and 19

- **Welcome, newcomers** - Learn what you need to know at Schinnen Army Community Service. All newcomers must attend the Host-Nation Orientation on Day 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to learn local customs, culture, language and highly useful information. On Day 2, meet at ACS to take the Newcomers Tour from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The group goes beyond the gate to learn and use the public transportation to visit points of interest in the community. Contact DSN 360-7218/7500 or civilian 046-4437218/7500.

SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

Dec. 13

- **NAF Property Sale** - Purchase Nonappropriated Fund items like furniture (office and children's), fixtures and equipment at Chièvres Outdoor Recreation at the front of Chièvres Air Base's Building 20120 (located in the Old Commissary Building between the PXtra and CAC) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Only U.S. ID cardholders are allowed to purchase. Some kitchen equipment (mostly large items), glasses, silverware, flatware, file cabinets, storage cabinets, a pool table and game tables will be available for purchase. Sales are "first come, first served" as well as "cash and carry." (Prices are expected to range from 25 cents to \$50.) All sales are final. No returns or exchanges. Bring a vehicle large enough to transport your items. (Staff won't be available to help load or deliver items.) Bring smaller monetary bills as change because large bills may not be readily available. To find out more, contact DSN 361-5523/5246 or civilian 068-275523/5246.

Dec. 19

- **SHAPE/Chièvres holiday party** - For details on holiday events, see page 9.

Movies at SHAPE Cinema

Rates — 2D movies: adults €7 and children 11 and under €4. 3D movies: adults €9 and children 11 and under €6. Check <http://www.shape2day.com/cinema.aspx> for the movie schedule.

Theaters near SHAPE/Chièvres that play movies in English:

Only the British or American movies listed as VO (Version Originale or Originele Versie) will be in English.

Plaza Art - Rue de Nimy 12, 7000 Mons (next to the main square). Visit <http://plaza-art.be/index.cgi?p=Grille>.

ImagiBraine - Boulevard de France, 1420 Braine l'Alleud. Check the schedule and purchase your tickets at: <http://kinopolis.be/nl/bioscopen/kinopolis-imagibraine>.

Kinopolis - Boulevard du Centenaire 20, 1020 Bruxelles. Take a look at movie listings at <http://kinopolis.be/fr/cinemas/kinopolis-bruxelles>.

Movie at JFC HQ Alliance Theater

Adult admission is €5 (ages 12 and older) - Child admission is €3 (ages 11 and under). Check the new web page at <http://www.shopmyexchange.com/reel-time-theatres/Schinnen-1366146> for the movie schedule.