

THE GAZETTE

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

Benelux news briefs

Summer hire

The Civilian Human Resources Agency Europe Region is accepting applications through May 18 for summer employment across Europe for family members (FM) ages 14-22, with valid FM ID Cards.

The 2015 Summer Hire program runs from June 29 through August 7.

Details and online application are available at the Summer Hire site: <https://acpol2.army.mil/sh/staffing/summer-hire/>.

Chièvres Air Base AAFES

The PXtra is closed on Mondays and the Main Exchange is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Additionally, the main store is looking for laborers. Positions are temporary part-time work schedules. Call DSN 361-5337 or civilian 068-275337.

AER campaign ends soon

The Army Emergency Relief campaign runs through today, but donations from Soldiers and civilians can still be made after that date online. See your unit AER representative or visit <http://www.aerhq.org> to find out more.

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Georges Gabriel, a WWII veteran, salutes at the VE Day commemoration in Ath, Friday, May 8, 2015. At the beginning of WWII, Gabriel travelled from Ieper to Rouen and Cherbourg, France to Plymouth, Britain, to join the "Brigade Piron," composed of hundreds of Belgian Soldiers who escaped to Britain to fight with the Allies. The "Brigade Piron" trained in Britain and its first units arrived in Normandy on July 30, 1944. The brigade was also actively involved in the liberation of Belgium and the Netherlands and was incorporated into the 2nd British Army when it liberated Brussels, September 4, 1944. (U.S. Army photo by Cis Spook)

See also page 7

Freedom 6 sends: Leadership, Initiative and Innovation

By Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges
U.S. Army Europe Commander

Team,
The security environment in Europe has changed considerably in the last 16 months. Shrinking defense budgets in the U.S. and among our European Allies means the need for new, innovative and effective solutions to our common challenges is imperative; 30,000 Soldiers in U.S. Army Europe today must create the strategic effect of 300,000 of decades past.

As an organization, we're already working on new solutions to assurance and deterrence by employing the Regionally Aligned Forces, reserve component and interns, and exercising with our Allies and partners to share capabilities that improve effects, close capability gaps, and increase interoperability in times of limited sourcing.

Europe, as our home forward, provides a great stage for developing our leaders and capabilities. Atlantic Resolve is the best example of young U.S. officers and NCOs in positions of great responsibility. I believe there is no other place in the world more suited for individual Soldiers to prove their talent and ability for creative thinking.

Events like the Freedom Shock series, where we are able to train and improve multiple skills and systems in a joint environment to prove our responsiveness, are prime examples of effects-based, creative and innovative thinking.

Innovation and initiative are key components to reach our common goals and develop our leaders and capabilities. As our adversaries adapt, so must we in order to reach the required effects.

Innovation doesn't happen unless there's a burning need for change; Russia's illegal occupation of the Crimea and continued aggression in Ukraine has created that need. We cannot be ready for the challenges of the future because,

simply, our enemies aren't the same and won't fight the same way either.

History has proven that the innovators and risk-takers make the decisive difference in winning. Recently on our staff ride to Fort Eben Emael, the USAREUR captains in attendance learned of the ingenuity of the German Soldiers in taking what was touted as an impenetrable Belgian fort; less than 60 German soldiers took the fort – manned by more than 600 Belgians – using gliders and shaped charges and after their platoon leader wasn't able to make it on the initial assault.

I expect the USAREUR team to reward our risk-takers and innovators for their creativity and thinking. Seek out those who don't think the same way as everyone else, who see the world's challenges through a different lens. The best ideas often come from the people sitting quietly in the back of the room who may not have any authority but could certainly be innovation leaders.

We must dedicate resources – money, time and effort included – to innovation and initiative and setting conditions for both to happen. Of course, new methods don't always work. When our innovative ideas don't succeed, we have to shake off the feeling of failure and try again. Learn from the shortcomings of one attempt in order to make your next attempt better.

Innovation and initiative on all levels is vital for our effectiveness more than ever. I fully trust the senior USAREUR leadership to guide and promote assuming risk and offering room for innovation and initiative in both officers, NCOs and Soldiers.

Who are the innovators in your section? What have you done to improve the way we do things?

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USAG Benelux-Brussels



USAG-Benelux



Tri-Border Community



To submit or subscribe, email usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil

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Army Europe commanding general tours Benelux

by **Marie-Lise Baneton**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

The commanding general of U.S. Army Europe, or USAREUR, made an official visit to the Benelux May 6-7.

Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges shared his “Strong Europe” philosophy with garrison leaders, toured facilities and spent time with community members.

Strong Europe is the framework for U.S. Army Europe’s contribution to NATO and U.S. European Command. The philosophy focuses on enabling relationships, capabilities, infrastructure and exercises; and reflects the U.S. commitment to NATO.

According to Hodges, leaders working at U.S. Army Garrison Benelux are serving at the gates of NATO and have to understand how they can support the strategy.

“I know you guys have been at it, and you are doing a fantastic job in a very complex garrison situation,” Hodges said. “I think I owe it to you to help explain what else U.S. Army Europe is doing.”

U.S. Army Europe is more than just a headquarters, he said.

“It enables the Alliance through logistics, intelligence, aviation and signal, as well as with an airborne brigade, a Stryker regiment and a regional aligned force,” Hodges said. “We’re here - 30,000 men and women in uniform, plus our thousands of civilian employees and the families.”

Location, trust and relationships matter, the general said.

“We’re an ocean closer,” Hodges said. “Army Europe has nurtured mutual trust in Europe over seven decades so we’re able to be a part of the solution.”

“We make up about 5 percent of the Army structure, yet we’re part of the solution for everything the Army has to do,” he said.

Hodges went on to explain the relationship among USAREUR, NATO and SHAPE.

“The Allied Command Operations at SHAPE is the higher headquarters for us if we were to be in a NATO operation, so how the United States Army Europe fits into that strategic design drives almost everything that we do,” he said. “We pay close attention to how ACO looks at the security environment.”

Hodges also stressed that leader development, readiness and continued enabling of the Alliance will contribute to success.

Even with every nation under pressure, ACO, USAREUR and NATO have worked hard to improve freedom of movement among the nations so that military forces have



(From left) Brussels American School principal Eric Goldman, Installation Management Command-Europe Regional Director Michael Formica, Physical Education Instructor Marie Brown and USAREUR Commander Lt. General Ben Hodges visit with students at the Brussels American school track May 7, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Derrick Hood)

the responsiveness – the agility – to pre-empt or react to Russian exercises or potential threats, the general said.

“I’m very encouraged with what I’ve seen from our allies and the alliance, as well as how the Army has also responded to this,” Hodges said. “As long as we stick together and we’re interoperable and if the European Union keeps doing what it’s doing, we’re going to be all right.”

For the remainder of his visit, the commanding general was able to see the impact of the garrison’s work in support of NATO.

Hodges toured customer-service facilities at SHAPE and USAG Benelux-Brussels, and he had the opportunity to see how the garrison contributes to Strong Europe while implementing innovative transformation measures.

“The Benelux garrison in the Netherlands and Belgium is an important part of USAREUR’s ability to support the headquarters, to support American Soldiers, men and women, and civilians who are part of the headquarters in a very complex environment,” Hodges said. “I have been so impressed with what I’ve seen from our team here in the Benelux, how they support and succeed in a very complex mission.”



Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, Commanding General U.S. Army Europe is welcomed to the Child Development Center on SHAPE by Elizabeth Brady and Kristal Casarez Wednesday, May 6, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Tim Clark)

IMCOM-E region director talks ethics at town-hall meeting

by **Andrea Wales**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

The region director of Installation Management Command-Europe and the USAG Benelux commander conducted a work-force town-hall meeting on Caserne Daumerie in Chièvres May 6. Employees from the SHAPE/Chièvres community attended in the headquarters building auditorium, and employees from the communities of Brussels and Schinnen participated via video teleconference, or VTC.

IMCOM-E RD Michael Formica concentrated on professional development and gave the first of four quarterly leader-development sessions for the USAG Benelux work force May 6.

Michael Formica’s talk centered on the professional ethic of the Army.

“This is not just a job; it’s a higher calling,” Formica said, underscoring the employee’s role in the security of nations through support of NATO. “That’s different from working a job (in the private sector) where all you care about is profit.”

Formica alluded to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon sparking a need for expedience due to wartime operations.

In 14 years of war, we chose competence over character,” he said. “We didn’t recognize what we’d lost.”

Formica said the Army leadership now recognizes that it needs leaders who have character, competence and commitment to the professional of arms.

“We want competent leaders who aren’t toxic leaders,” he said.

Formica familiarized the employees with elements of Army Doctrine Reference Publication, or ADRP, 1: The Army Profession.

Formica went over the five essential characteristics of the Army profession: military expertise, honorable service, trust, esprit de corps and stewardship of the profession. He said it was no accident that “trust” is in the center of the list: Trust is the keystone that holds it all together.

“Trust: Be the teammate you wish you had,” Formica said.

These five essential characteristics complement the seven Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage, he said.

These two groups of professional ethics have something in common: Taking care of people – treating people with dignity and respect, Formica said.



Installation Management Command-Europe Regional Director Michael Formica speaks at the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux work-force town hall meeting May 6, 2015 in the garrison auditorium. (U.S. Army photo by Tim Clark)

Part of that is giving leaders your honest assessment of matters.

“I expect unvarnished, candid professional judgment,” he said.

Formica also stressed the importance of the individual development plan, or IDP, as a way the Army helps its employees advance as Army professionals.

Formica took questions at the end of the town-hall meeting.

He assured one person who had inquired about the possibility of a hiring freeze that, as a region, IMCOM-E had authority to hire to 95 percent of authorized positions.

Garrison commander Col. Marty Vannatter added that USAG Benelux is currently at 85 percent (an increase since Vannatter assumed command in autumn 2013) and will cap at 90 percent.

During the question-and-answer period, Formica identified IMCOM-E’s short-term challenge as manning, its mid-term challenge as developing IMCOM as “a place where professionals want to come and work,” and its long-term challenge as how best to support U.S. Army Europe-East, which covers the geographic region beyond the edge of NATO, including Ukraine.

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED
The Official Website of the American Forces Network Benelux
 Brussels: 101.7 FM – Chièvres 107.9 FM – SHAPE 106.5 FM and 104.2 FM
<http://benelux.afneurope.net>

Benelux Best beat competition at IMCOM

by **Andrea Wales**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

Two USAG Benelux Soldiers are head-and-shoulders above the rest, proving themselves to be experts in warrior tasks and battle drills in last week's Installation Management Command Best Warrior Competition at Camp Bullis, part of Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. Eight Soldiers, the best from their regions, competed in the demanding, four-day ordeal.

In a May 8 ceremony, IMCOM leadership named Staff Sgt. Jacob Kasarda Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and Spc. Shane Sital Soldier of the Year.

The two Schinnen military policemen will compete in the Army-level competition this autumn.

NCO runner up Staff Sgt. Jon Williams from Camp Humphreys, South Korea, will compete at Army if Kasarda is unable to do so. Soldier runner up Pfc. Brandon Laufer from Fort Hood, Texas, who had the top ruck-march time in the Soldier category, will go on to Army if Sital can't.

Some of the events at the IMCOM competition were an obstacle course with stories-high obstacles and a low

crawl, a 12-mile ruck march, a land-navigation event, a marksmanship event and a board.

IMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Hartless made some observations during the competition.

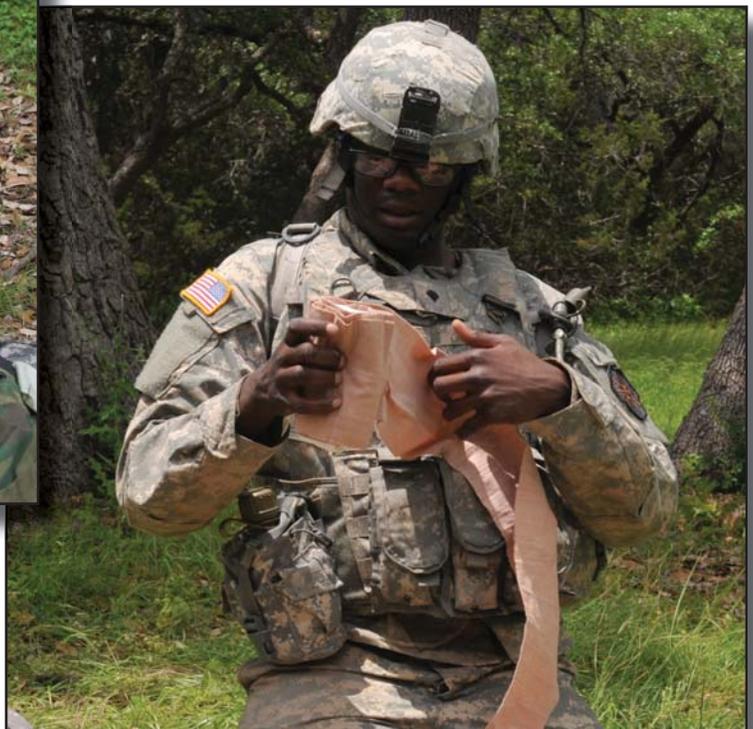
"Even though they are competing against each other, they're cheering for each other, no matter what team or what unit they come from," Hartless said. "It builds teamwork, camaraderie, and it's just a great day to see Soldiers being Soldiers."

During the IMCOM Best Warrior Competition, Kasarda credited his sponsor and others for his success.

"Hard work pays off," Kasarda said, "but if it weren't for the support of the team I had I wouldn't have made it this far."

Sital said he thought that, overall, it was a wonderful experience.

"I got to meet a whole lot of good people, a lot of good competitors," Sital said. "I had to push myself a little bit harder."



(Clockwise from above) Staff Sgt. Jacob Kasarda sets up an ASIP radio for tactical communication. Command Sgt. Maj. Romeo Montez of Installation Management Command-Europe (left) and Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Hockenberry of IMCOM-Pacific watch competitors from the tower. Spc. Shane Sital prepares a bandage to provide tactical combat casualty care to a simulated casualty. (U.S. Army photos)

Trenches to Foxholes

Memorial Day: remembering and honoring those who gave all

By **Tim Clark**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs

“We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue.”

- James A. Garfield Civil War General and future President
May 30, 1868 Arlington National Cemetery

Memorial Day is the most important date on the United States calendar. It is a day of remembrance for those who sacrificed and died in the nation's service.

Originally known as Decoration Day, this holiday was born by local observances of the day in several towns throughout America in the years after the Civil War. Mourners from these towns would honor their Civil War dead by placing flowers on their grave markers. After World War I it became an occasion for honoring those who died in all of America's wars.

In 1923 the American Overseas Memorial Day Association Belgium organized the first Memorial Day Ceremony at the then new Flanders Field American Cemetery in Waregem, which holds the graves of 368 American servicemen who died in Belgium during the First World War.

Today they organize the annual Memorial Day ceremonies at the three American cemeteries in Belgium. They also commemorate and work to preserve the graves of the American servicemen who died in the wars and are buried outside of these cemeteries.

“Today, Belgium and Europe are so secure that most people take their freedom for granted. However, if history teaches anything, it is that freedom can never be taken for granted,” stated Jerome Sheridan the president of the AOMDA Belgium.

“Authoritarian powers and evil ideologies threaten all free peoples today, just as Nazism did in the early part of the 20th century. It is not comfortable for people to admit this, but the reality is that we can lose the freedoms that we enjoy today if we do not remain vigilant. It is the ongoing struggle to defend our liberty today that gives the deaths of those 14,000 Americans who



are buried in Belgium their meaning.”

Asked to share some stories from his 20-years of working with AOMDA Sheridan chose two from last year.

“First, at the ceremony at Henri-Chapelle, 10 veterans of WWII mustered all of the strength that they could to lay a wreath at the ceremony in honor of their fallen brothers-in-arms. As they returned to their seats, thousands of people who were attending the ceremony broke into a spontaneous and sustained applause,” he said.

“Second was at the isolated grave ceremony of United States Army Air Force Staff Sgt. Gerald E. Sorensen, who is buried in the community cemetery in Ganshoren.

Last year, 17 members of the Sorensen family, nearly all of whom had never left the United States before, traveled to Belgium to spend Memorial Day weekend with us and attend the ceremony that we hold each year at his grave.”

At that ceremony, Sorensen's cousin, who was also the maid of honor at his wedding, asked to say a few words. She talked about what Sorensen was like as a person, why he chose to serve, and how grateful she is to the men and women in uniform today who have followed in his footsteps.

On this Memorial Day consider attending one or more ceremonies. Promote the ceremonies and encourage others to attend.

Learn about what the men buried in those cemeteries did for the country. For more information about AOMDA, visit its website at, <http://www.aomda.org>.



Victory in Europe Day Celebrations

V-E Day, May 8, was marked locally by ceremonies in Chièvres, Ath and Brugelette. (Above) WWII reenactors await the unveiling of a monument to resistance fighter Joseph Delgambe in Chièvres. (below clockwise) A wreath is placed at the Chièvres memorial. Marc Duvivier, Mayor of Ath and Lt. Col. John Bivona representing U.S. Army Garrison Benelux pay tribute to war victims in Ath. The U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Color Guard marches in Chièvres. Maj. Cesar Ocasio, USAG Benelux, salutes at the ceremony in Brugelette during the playing of the national anthems. U.S. Army photos by Tim Clark (Chièvres), Cis Spook (Ath), Donovan Abrassart (Brugelette)





Scenes from American Fest

The city of Chièvres American Festival opening weekend kicked off with a 40s-themed ball(above) and a WWII vintage-vehicle display(left) on Saturday. It continued with Chièvres school children visiting Caserne Daumerie and the Chièvres Air Base Museum on Monday and Tuesday. U.S. Army Photos by Tim Clark.



May 15:
 Horseback-riding 4 p.m.
 Country line dancers 7 p.m.
 Jake Marlin concert 9 p.m.
May 16:
 Sports demos 2 to 6 p.m.
 Harley Davidson gathering 4 p.m.
 Movie in the park 9 p.m.
May 17:
 U.S. and Belgian booths in Rue St Jean, fun on the square. American presidents display and Chièvres Air Base history display at the city hall. End of the festival with fireworks at night.

Trenches to Foxholes

Next week in World War history (May 17 to 23)

World War I

1915

May 20 - British, Canadian and Indian troops launch a new round of attacks against a reinforced German line around the village of Festubert, located in the Ypres Salient on the Western Front.

The Battle of Festubert formed part of the large-scale Artois Offensive spearheaded by Joseph Joffre, commander in chief of the French forces.

May 21 - The Russian Expeditionary Force to West Persia lands at Enzeli.

May 23 - Italy declares war on Austria-Hungary, entering World War I on the side of the Allies—Britain, France and Russia.

When World War I broke out in the summer of 1914, Italy declared itself neutral in the conflict, despite its membership in the so-called Triple Alliance alongside Germany and Austria-Hungary since 1882. Over the course of the months that followed, Italy and its leaders weighed their options; wooed by both sides, they carefully considered how to gain the greatest benefit from participation in the war. The decision to join the fray on the side of the Allies was based largely on the assurances Italy received in the Treaty of London, signed in April 1915. By its terms, Italy would receive the fulfillment of its national dream: control over territory on its border with Austria-Hungary stretching from Trentino through the South Tyrol to Trieste.

1916

May 19 - representatives of Great Britain and France secretly reach an accord, known as the Sykes-Picot agreement, by which most of the Arab lands under the rule of the Ottoman Empire are to be divided into British and French spheres of influence with the conclusion of World War I.

1917

May 17 - Honduras severs diplomatic relations with Germany.
- The British Admiralty, following on a Cabinet decision, appoint a committee, in conjunction with the Ministry of Shipping, to draw up a plan to convoy merchant ships.

May 18 - Some six weeks after the United States formally enters the First World War, the U.S Congress passes the Selective Service Act on May 18, 1917, giving the U.S. president the power to draft soldiers.

May 19 - The Provisional Government of Russia announces it will stay in the war. A large offensive for the Eastern Front is then planned by Alexander Kerensky, the new Minister of War. However, Russian soldiers and peasants are now flocking to Lenin's Bolshevik Party which opposes the war and the Provisional Government.

-The United States Government announce decision to send a Division of the United States Army to France.

1918

May 19 - The last German night aeroplane raid on London in which casualties are inflicted is launched; 49 killed and 177 wounded.

World War II

1940

May 17 - British Expeditionary Force commander General Lord John Gort, fearful of being surrounded, ordered his troops to fall back to the Scheldt River; this move allowed German General Walter von Reichenau to capture Brussels.

1941

May 23 - Captain Lord Louis Mountbatten, second cousin of King George VI of Britain and the only man other than the king to hold rank in all three military services simultaneously, is among those thrown into the Mediterranean Sea when his destroyer, the HMS Kelly, is sunk.

Mountbatten's ship was among several British cruisers, destroyers, and battleships sunk off Crete by German dive-bombers. The Kelly is attacked by 24 bombers; 130 crewmembers are killed. Mountbatten is still on the bridge of the ship when it finally flips over; nevertheless, he managed to swim to shore and take control of the rescue operation.

1942

May 22 - In Ukraine, German 14th Division and 16th Panzer Division occupied Chepel and Bayrak, while 3rd Panzer Division and 23rd Panzer Division reached Chervonyi Donets and Krasnaia Gusarovka, closing the gap on the Soviet forces near Izium.

1943

May 17 - The crew of the Memphis Belle becomes the first B-17 crew to complete 25 missions over Europe.

The Memphis Belle performs its 25th and last mission, in a bombing raid against Lorient, a German submarine base.

May 18 - Adolf Hitler launches Operation Alaric, the German occupation of Italy in the event its Axis partner either surrendered or switched its allegiance.

This operation was considered so top secret that Hitler refused to issue a written order. Instead, he communicated verbally his desire that Field Marshal Erwin Rommel should assemble and ultimately command 11 divisions for the occupation of Italy to prevent an Allied foothold in the peninsula.

1944

May 20 - Eisenhower addressed French Resistance groups via a broadcast in preparation for the planned cross-Channel invasion.

- USS Wasp's aircraft attacked Japanese positions in support of the upcoming Mariana Islands invasion.

May 22 - U.S. and British aircraft begin a systematic bombing raid on railroads in Germany and other parts of northern Europe, called Operation Chattanooga Choo-Choo. The operation is a success; Germany is forced to scramble for laborers, including foreign slave laborers, to repair the widespread damage exacted on its railway network.

1945

May 23 - Heinrich Himmler, architect of Hitler's program to exterminate European Jews, commits suicide.

Next week in World War history is compiled from various sources by Keith Houin, USAG Benelux public affairs.

BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

Sign up now

- **Duathlon** - USAG Benelux-Brussels will hold a duathlon, starting at Brussels Fitness Center, **May 16** from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This event consists of a 5k run, a 10k bike leg and a 5k run. Race officials will award first-, second- and third-place prizes to top-finishing males and females. Open to all U.S. military, civilians, family members and retirees. For details, call DSN 368-9667 or civilian 02-7179667.
- **Darts tournament** - Starts at 5:30 p.m. at the 3 Star Recreation Center, May 29. Registration is required by May 15 at reservations3star@yahoo.com. For more information, call DSN 368-9819 or civilian 02-7179819.



Through May 21

- **200,000 Pound Squat Challenge** - Competitors have 21 days to lift a total of 200,000 pounds between the times of 7 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. For more information, call DSN 368-9667 or civilian 02-7179667.

May 21

- **3 Star Dinner Special**- Rib Platter or Roasted Chicken Platter from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the 3 Star Lounge. Prices are Adults \$15 and Kids \$7.50. Reservations are required. Reserve by May 19 at reservations3star@yahoo.com

SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

Sign up now

- **Flea-market booths** - Schinnen Outdoor Recreation hosts a flea market at the Schinnen Activity Center **May 23** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Setup at 9 a.m. Cost per table is \$10. For registration or more information, contact Outdoor Recreation at DSN 360-7560 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437560.

May 20

- **Pre-departure Briefing** from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at ACS. If you are PCS'ing, separating or retiring – learn valuable information to help in your transition. For more information or to register, please call DSN 360-7512/7500 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437512/7500.
- **PCS Financial Brief for Junior Enlisted** from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at ACS. PCS brief provides guidance on financial preparation and planning for a PCS move such as PCS checklist, entitlements, importance of planning your move in advance, the real and hidden cost of relocation and useful websites. For more information or to register, contact ACS at DSN 360-7450/7500 or civilian + 31 (0)46-4437450/7500.
- **Sponsor Training** –from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at ACS – Find out what the responsibilities of being a good sponsor are and the local information that will make your job stress free. For more information or to register, please call DSN 360-7512/7500 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437512/7500.

May 21

- **AFNORTH Grade 7/8 Media Studies presents: Make The World Better Film Festival/Silent Auction** at Alliance Theatre. Doors open at 6 p.m. for silent auctions and food sales, Films and Entertainment: 7 to 8:37 p.m. Entrance fees: Adults: €5, Students, €3, 5 years and under enter for free.

May 21 and 22

- **Host Nation Orientation/Newcomer's Tour** from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at ACS. All Newcomer's and spouses are invited to learn about their new community, including local customs, culture, and language. Day one consists of local briefings from agencies and Dutch language and culture training. Day two, goes beyond the gate on this day to learn and use the public transportation to visit points of interest in the community. For more information or to register, please call DSN 360-7512/7500 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437512/7500.

May 25 and 26

- **New Parent Support Program** -The New Parent Support Home Visitor, based at SHAPE, Belgium will be in Schinnen & Brunssum. If you are interested in classes, materials, home visits, support or education regarding topics on pregnancy, newborns or toddlers please contact ACS at DSN: 360-7500; civilian +31 (0)46-4437500 . The New Parent Support Program is currently transitioning its classes and program to better meet the needs of the community.

Inside the gate

<http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/>

SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

Tickets for sale now

- **U.S. Army Ball** - Get your tickets now for the U.S. Army Ball to be held June 27 from 6 p.m. until midnight at the SHAPE Club Ballroom. The guest speaker is Lt. Gen. Nicholson, Commander, Allied Land Command. Tickets are at €55 per person and include a meal and an event memento. Contact your unit ticket sales representative. For USAG Benelux, call DSN 361-5587.

Sign up now

- **Registration open for Summer Theater Camp** - Children in grades 3 through 9 will bring the musical "HONK Jr." to the SHAPE Performing Arts Centre during Summer Theater Camp. Honk! is a musical adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen story "The Ugly Duckling". The book and lyrics are by Anthony Drewe and music is by George Stiles. The theater camp session begins **June 29** and runs through Aug. 1. To find out more, call DSN 423-3312 or civilian 065-443312 Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 6 p.m.

Register now

- **Register your team for the Make-A-Wish 24-Hour Fun-Run Relay** that will begin **May 22** at 4 p.m. at the SHAPE track. To register stop by the SHAPE Fitness Centre or call DSN 423-5325 or civilian 065-445325.

May 19

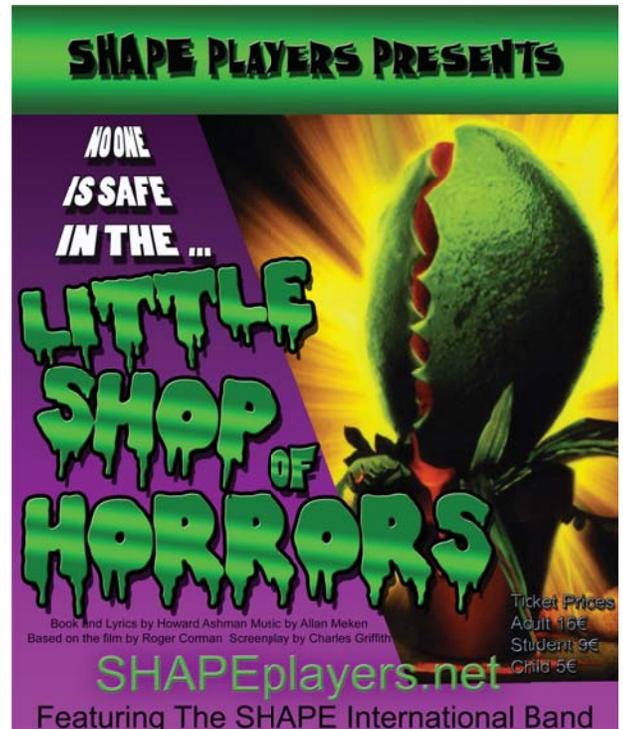
- **Tickets go on sale for the revival of the SHAPE Players "Detachments"**- This mature-themed play will be performed at the SHAPE Performing Arts Centre June 11 to 13 at 7:30 p.m. The play is rated PG-13 for language. Admission: adults €16, students €9, children €7. To find out more, call DSN 423-3312 or civilian 065-443312 Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 6 p.m.

Through May 24

- **"Little Shop of Horrors"** by the SHAPE Players, featuring the SHAPE International Band at the SHAPE Performing Arts Centre. Admission: adults €16, students €9, children €7. For tickets or additional information, call DSN 423-3312 or civilian 065-443312 Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 6 p.m.

Rescheduled

- **Movie Night and Fun for Kids**, originally scheduled for **May 22**, has been cancelled. The next Movie Night and Fun for Kids will take place on **June 19** at the Community Recreation Center on Chièvres Air Base.



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.

Have an event to announce?

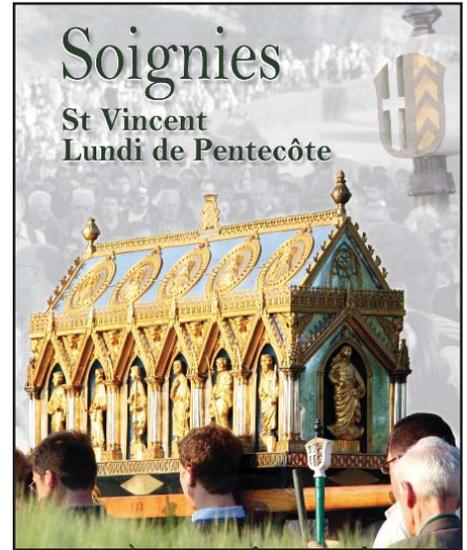
Send it to usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil.

Travel the Benelux

Soignies prepares to honor its founder

Whit Monday is the "big day" for Soignies, highlighted by the "Tour Saint-Vincent" and its historical procession. The age-old Tour Saint-Vincent dates back to 1262; the historical procession has displayed living scenes honoring St. Vincent Madelgaire since 1921. Saint Vincent is considered the founder of Soignies and was also the husband of Waudru of Mons.

Madelgaire entered into religious life under the name of Vincent, and his virtues earned him to be honored as a saint. Whit Monday is also a powerful moment during which a community celebrates its roots. At 6 a.m., the great shrine is taken down from its upper chapel, to the altar. The pilgrims set out with the holy relic, for an 11-kilometer long walk around the city. Eighteen votive chapels line up the route. On the "Marais Tillériaux" (on Chaussée de Braine), a priest pronounces the panegyric of St. Vincent -- which sings his praises, so to speak. At the end of the Tour, an official ceremony gathers close to the Cense del Baille, on top of the "Chaussée d'Engnien," the local authorities, the clergy and representatives of St. Vincent's brotherhood as well as the procession committee. The procession then opens up a triumphal way to the holy relics.



Program

May 23
Free concert by Renan Luce and Thyp Barrow at 8 p.m. on the square boarding Rue Chanoine Scarmure.

May 25

- As of 6:15 a.m.: Tour Saint Vincent starting from the Collegiate Church.
- From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Historical procession starting from the Chaussée d'Engnien.

Through the weekend

Fair on the Place Verte and Place Van Zeeland.

Upcoming organized trips

SHAPE Trips and Tours

Serving Brussels, Chièvres and SHAPE. Discounted tickets to theme parks, castles and more are also available. Call DSN 423-3884 or civilian 065-443884.

- **Amsterdam, May 23**
- **Normandy Beaches, May 29 to 31**
- **London, June 6**
- **Stonehenge with Salisbury & Oxford, June 13 to 14**
- **Somme Battlefield and Peronne Museum, June 20**
- **Phantasia Land, Bruehl, Germany, June 27**
- **Pamplona Running of the Bulls, July 6 to 9**
- **Disney Paris, July 15**
- **Dolfinarium in Harderwijk, the Netherlands, July 23**
- **Prague with Heidelberg and Nuremberg, July 26 to 29 (Register by June 26.)**
- **Bluewater Mall, July 31**
- **Rhine River Cruise, Aug. 4**
- **Atlantic Wall Museum and Oostende, Belgium, Aug. 8**
- **London, Aug. 15 to 17**
- **Medieval Dinner in Bruges, Aug. 22**
- **Wurstmarkt in Bad Durkheim, Sept. 19**
- **Thailand, Dec. 20 to Jan. 2, 2016 (Register by June 20)**

SHAPE Travel Group

For more information, call civilian 0470-876369.

- **London and Chelsea Flower Show, May 21**
- **Amiens, France, and Les Hortillonages (Floating Gardens), June 2**
- **Provins, France: Medieval Festival, June 13**
- **Paris, June 18**
- **Hampton Court Palace and Gardens, June 30**

Schinnen Trips & Tours

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

- **Luxembourg and American Cemetery, May 30**
- **Disney Paris, June 6**
- **Berlin Express, June 13**
- **Canoeing & Biking, June 27**
- **D-Day landing beaches in Normandy, France, July 17 to 20 (Register by May 15)**
- **Dutch Day, July 31**
- **Bernkastel-Kues, Germany: Wine Festival, Sept. 5**
- **National Liberation Museum 44-45, Sept. 26**
- **Book your season NFL Games tickets now for games October 3-5, October 24-26 and October 31-November 2.**



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

May 15

- **Register before midnight for the 20km of Brussels**



- This year's edition is the 35th annual run and will be held May 31, with a departure from the Parc du Cinquantaire. For registration and details, check <http://www.20kmdebruxelles.be>.

- **American Festival in Chièvres - Jake Marlin's concert (country)** - Starting at 9 p.m. at the Chièvres city park across the street from the city hall. Food will be available for purchase. Entrance fee for the concert is €3 per person (as of 8:30 p.m.)

May 16

- **American Festival in Chièvres - Belgian and American Sports demonstrations** - From 2 to 6 p.m. at the Chièvres city park across the street from the city hall.
- **American Festival in Chièvres - Flea market at the Trèfle school (40 booths)** - From 2 to 8 p.m. on Grand'Rue 5.
- **American Festival in Chièvres - Open air movie "Grease"** - At the Chièvres city park across the street from the city hall starting at 9 p.m. Free event.
- **Flea market in Huissignies (150 booths)** - On Rue Augustin Melsens from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Flea market in Nimy (100 booths)** - At Cité des Wartons from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Flower market in St Ghislain** - On the main square from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Plants exchange fair in Soignies** - Take your indoor/outdoor plants and exchange them with others. From noon to 2 p.m. on Rue Felix Eloy 8.
- **Pop concert in Soignies** - At the soccer field on Rue E. Vandervelde from 6 until 11:30 p.m.



May 16-17

- **Welcome in Brugelette weekend** - Various activities are being held throughout the weekend to show what Brugelette has to offer. From sports activities to arts & crafts, folklore and more. You can get a map at the city hall on the Grand'Place with all the activities scheduled. A food truck will also be on the square from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days.
- **Open house at the snail farm in Braine-le-Château** - On Rue Saint Véron, 26a, learn all you want to know about snails, tasting and possibility to purchase snails from 3 to 7 p.m. on Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday.



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

May 16,17

- **City & Asparagus Fest in Delbrück, Germany** in the center of town has asparagus and many other culinary delights to offer.
- **French Days Fair in Heeswijk** held at the beautiful outer court of Castle Heeswijk is an attractive fair with music, French regional products & wines, tourist information and lots more. The fair is open both days from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and admission is €12.50.

May 16/23/30

- **Antique & Curiosa Market in Roermond** is held at Kloosterwandplein in the center of town from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Through May 17

- **Vijverparkfestival in Brunssum** is an open air pop & rock tribute festival held in the beautiful city park. No admission fees. The festival opens May 15 at 8 p.m. May 16 at 7 p.m. and May 17 at noon.
- **Culinary Festival in Herne, Germany** - Local restaurants offer culinary delicacies at Robert-Brauner-Platz. Open from noon to midnight May 16 and noon to 10 p.m. May 17.
- **Summer Fair in Baarn** at Castle Soestdijk, Amsterdamsestraatweg 1 with everything for your home and garden. The fair has antiques, curiosa, fashion, food, accessories and lots more to offer. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is €15 for adults and €7.50 for youth ages 4-17.
- **Home and Garden Fair (Stil & Art) in Lüdinghausen, Germany** is held in and around the Castle Lüdinghausen, Amthaus 8 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is €8. The castle and its gardens are the perfect location for this fair.
- **Garden Fair in Solingen-Gräfrath, Germany** held around Castle Grünewald. Participants at the fair offer everything to make home and garden enjoyable. Admission is €9; children under 16, free. Open every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **The Breda Jazz Festival in Breda** is the oldest and largest in the Netherlands. Performances take place on 16 stages spread all over the center of town. Most of the concerts are free of Admission. Open May 15 from 2 p.m. to 1 a.m.; May 16 from 11 to 1 a.m. and May 17 from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Outside the gate

Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.



May 17

- **Volksmarch in Flobecq for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs from the sports center on Rue de la Crête 28 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Steenkerque for 5, 10, 15 or 20km** - Departs from Place 9 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Baisy-Thy for 4, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs from Rue Saint-Roch from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Peruwelz for 7, 14, 21 or 30 km** - Departs from the sports center on Verte Chasse from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Small participating fee.
- **American Festival in Chièvres** - Various booths offering American and Belgian specialties from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; at 4 p.m. American oldtimers will be on display near the city park and fireworks will close the event at 10 p.m. Event is free of charge.
- **Saint-Roch folkloric march in Thuin** - This military procession honors Saint-Roch, the patron saint of pilgrims, brotherhoods and corporations. No less than 2,000 marchers participate in the procession, the majority of whom are in Napoleonic era costumes. Departure is from the Place Chant des Olseaux at 12:30 p.m.
- **Plants fair in Maffle** - Exchange plants or buy your plants, guided tour of garden at 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. children's activities starting at 10 a.m. on Chaussée de Mons 426.
- **Flower market in Antoing** - At the park of Château d'Antoing on Place Bara from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Access to the park is free of charge; entrance fee of €1 if you want to visit the tower of the castle.
- **Guided tour for 10 km around Erbisoeul** - Departs at 2 p.m. on the Place du Jeu de Balle and returns at 5 p.m. Participation is free.
- **Local fest in Moulbaix (Ath)** - Local product market, 5 km walk to discover the village, visit of the mill and various entertainment for young and old. Starting at 9 a.m., all day.
- **Brunch Brazil in Forest** - Every third Sunday of each month, come and taste delicious typical national dishes at the Wiels Centre d'Art Contemporain on Avenue van Volxem 354 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This month is a special Brazil brunch. Fee is €16 per adult, €8 per child.
- **Flowers, plants, trees and bushes market in Woluwe Saint Lambert** - On the square from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., for indoor and outdoor plants and flowers.



Windmill in Moulbaix (Ath)

Cis Spook



Through May 17 continued

- **Medieval Siegfried Spectacle in Xanten, Germany** with knights, a knights' camp, tourney, acrobats, artists and lots more medieval fun am Xantener Nordwall in this historic city. Admission is €12 for adults and €6 for children. Open May 15 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; May 16 from 11 a.m. to midnight and May 17 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Keukenhof gardens near the town of Lisse** This year, the international flower exhibition has chosen "Vincent van Gogh" as its central theme. Open daily 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Ticket office closes at 6 p.m. Admission: €16; children, ages 4 to 11, €8. Visit <http://www.keukenhof.nl/en>.

May 17

- **International Art Market in Buren** from noon to 5 p.m. and with participation of artists from Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands at Museum der Koninklijke Marechaussee, Weeshuiswal 9. No entrance fee.
- **The Flower Market Turnhout, Belgium** at Grote Markt in the center of town is held every year. Open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. No entrance fee.

May 17/24/31

- **Antique, Art & Curiosa Market in Maastricht** is held at Boschstraat from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

May 18-24

- **Antique, Art & Curiosa Market in Maastricht** is held at Boschstraat from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

May 20

- **May 20: Ladies Lifestyle Even XL edition in Bergschenhoek** is an event especially for women. The more than 100 booths offer lots concerning body & beauty; jewelry; perfume; travel; fashion; lifestyle & living; culinary and lots more. The event is located on Eiland van Vidaa, Hoeksekade 160 and is open from 2:30 to 10 p.m. Admission is €7.50.

Ongoing

Through Sept. 4

- **Alkmaar cheese market.** Cheese has been weighed in Alkmaar since 1593. Cheese carriers carry thousands of kilos of cheese from 'Waagplein' square to the weighing house. Cheese carriers can be seen in action every Friday between 10 a.m. and noon until the first Friday of September.

Outside the gate

Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.