

THE GAZETTE

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

Benelux news briefs

Official Mail Distribution Centers change hours

The Official Mail Distribution Centers at SHAPE and Caserne Daumerie have been open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. since July 13. Unofficial mail is unaffected by this change. If you have any questions, call SHAPE OMDC DSN 366-6356 or Daumerie/Chièvres OMDC at DSN 361-5472.

Some postal customers must make trip to SHAPE

All Official Registered Mail going stateside that requires U.S. postage cannot be accepted at the Caserne Daumerie Official Mail Post Office; it must be taken to the SHAPE Official Mail Post Office because Daumerie doesn't have a U.S. postage meter.

Official Registered Mail going from APO to APO that only requires the "DOD Intra-theater Mail" imprint can still be processed at the Caserne Daumerie Official Mail Post Office.

Local postal officials are currently working with the Official Mail contacts in Germany to acquire a U.S. postage meter for Caserne Daumerie.

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Muppets come to Benelux communities

Elmo interacts with the crowd as other Muppet residents of the fictitious Sesame Street sing and dance on stage at the Schinnen Activity Center Monday, July 13, 2015. Sesame Street and USO Experience for Military Families put on a show featuring the Muppet Katy, a military child on Sesame Street who will soon be moving to a different installation. About 250 parents and their children were in the audience, and the children cheered and danced with the Muppets. This Muppet show visited Brussels July 15. (U.S. Army photo by Rita Hoefnagels)

Customs: Keep banned foodstuffs out of household goods, USA

Special to the Gazette

USAG Benelux Army Community Service

Personnel shipping household goods to the United States this summer should be careful when packing the contents of their kitchen, agriculture officials advise.

The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection issues fines of \$100 to \$1,000 to first-time offenders who ignore the strict rules that apply to sending food products stateside, according to a July 15 news release from Robert Szostek of the U.S. European Command Customs and Border Clearance Agency in Wiesbaden, Germany.

“Red meats, sausages, pâtés and salami can harbor animal viruses, even if canned, and are therefore barred from import,” said Julie Aliaga-Milos, U.S. Department of Agriculture adviser to the U.S. European Command.

Even pasta or soup mixes that contain dried meat are not allowed, she said. Foot-and-mouth disease and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, or mad-cow disease) are examples of animal diseases that need to be prevented from entering the United States this way.

Fresh fruits and vegetables may not be sent to the United States in household goods because they can contain the eggs or larvae of voracious pests. The Mediterranean fruit fly is a good example of a bug that can hide in citrus and other fruits to bypass our defenses.

However, you can ship processed fruit and vegetable products such as canned fruit, olive oil, mustard and canned or processed sauces. There are no restrictions on fish or mushrooms either, Aliaga-Milos said. Commercially produced dried herbs and spices, tea, roasted coffee, cured cheeses, cakes, candies, cookies and roasted nuts are also OK.

To find out more about importing food, plant and animal products into the United States, visit the CBP website at <http://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/know-before-you-go>.

Employment opportunities currently open in Benelux

AFCU

Andrews Federal Credit Union has openings for full- and part-time positions in Member Service and Sales at its Brussels branch.

For job announcements on these teller positions, visit the AFCU website at <https://www.andrewsfcu.org>, then click on "Careers" at the bottom right of the screen to get to the "Employment Listings" tab.

AAFES

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service's Chièvres Main Exchange is looking for laborers. Positions are temporary part-time work schedules.

AAFES officials are also looking for a food-activity foreman on a regular part-time schedule.

The Schinnen Exchange has a job opening for a regular part-time schedule and for a senior store associate with intermittent time schedule.

For more information on these job announcements or on how to apply, call DSN 361-5337 or civilian 068-275337.

International Conference Center

The International Conference Center in Brunssum, the Netherlands, is hiring.

Applicants must complete the official JFC Application Form that can be downloaded from <http://www.jfcbnato.int/jfcbnato/vacancies.aspx>.

Completed official application forms must be sent via email to JFC Brunssum Civilian Personnel Branch at recruitment@jfcbnato.int no later than the closing date. Be sure to include the position title in the subject line of your email message — ICC Steward position: Closing date: Aug. 14.

Schinnen Commissary

The Schinnen Commissary is now accepting applications for grocery baggers. Stop by the Commissary for more information.

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

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Army Community Service turns 50 this year *ACS invites you to attend events at sites*

Special to the Gazette

USAG Benelux Army Community Service

U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Army Community Service will celebrate the 50th birthday of ACS July 24 at 10 a.m. with cake-cutting events at three Benelux sites: on SHAPE in the second-floor conference room (Room 225) of Building 318 as well as at the two ACS Lite Site conference rooms in Brussels and Schinnen.

"All our customers and community members are invited to attend to help celebrate 50 years of ACS – looking forward to the next 50 years of continuing to provide service for our service members, civilians and families," said Yvette Castro, the USAG Benelux ACS director.

It was Army spouse and family-member volunteers who provided community services in an unofficial capacity for generations. They ran thrift shops, lending closets, assisted other families during times of crisis, taught new community families about the area and ran a host of other social programs.

These all-volunteer social services were a boon to the community but often fell short when the originator of a program moved to a new duty station or was no longer associated with the Army.

By coincidence the Army Emergency Relief program provided the framework for what would become Army Community Service.

Lt. Gen. James L. Richardson, the Army's deputy chief of staff for personnel, took action to establish an official "Family assistance" program in 1963. He needed a qualified officer to develop a plan for the program's creation. Lt. Col. Emma M. Baird was selected. Her experience while assigned to AER and Personnel



Community members learn how to protect themselves using kicks, strikes and take-down moves at a 'Purple Belt' self-defense class, sponsored by Army Community Service's Family Advocacy Program, Saturday, July 19, 2014. A Summer 2015 Purple Belt class is coming up July 25. (Courtesy photo by Wendy Sealey)

Affairs Offices as the allowance-and-allotment officer during World War II formed the insights she would use to plan the structure and organization of a "Family Services Program."

Gen. Harold K. Johnson, the chief of staff of the Army, dispatched a letter to all commanders announcing the approval and establishment of Army Community Service July 25, 1965. The majority of installations in the continental United States had initiated ACS centers by 1967; 155 ACS centers and points of contact were established Armywide by 1969.

Since its official establishment in 1965, Army Community Service has provided programs, services and facilities to meet the diverse and evolving needs of Soldiers and their families.

ACS continues to grow and evolve to

meet the ever-changing needs of the global Army family.

Core programs and services have grown to include:

- Army Family Action Plan,
- Army Family Team Building,
- Army OneSource,
- Army Volunteer Corps,
- Exceptional Family Member Program,
- Family Advocacy,
- Financial Readiness,
- Information and referral,
- New Parent Support,
- Relocation Readiness,
- Sexual Assault and Response,
- Soldier and Family Assistance Center,
- Spouse Employment,
- Survivor Outreach Services,
- Transitional Compensation and
- Victim Advocacy.



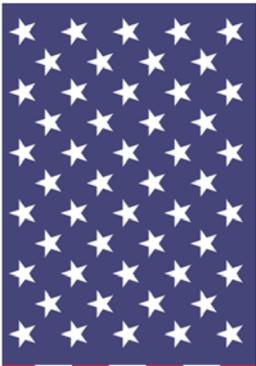
Did you know that ...

A Budget Review could be the key to your financial peace of mind. Are you living from payday to payday, having trouble meeting monthly bills, being harassed by creditors, or hoping your paycheck reaches the bank before those checks you just wrote do?

The AER Form 57R is available on our website. ("Financial Assistance" – "Blank Forms") It can help you track where your money is going.

If you do need help, visit the nearest Army Emergency Relief Section where caseworkers can review your financial situation and suggest corrective actions.

<http://www.aerhq.org>



Vietnam vets to be honored at USAG Benelux event

by **Andrea Wales**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs

In a Midwestern airport in the early 1970s, a fresh-faced, college-age woman with a flower in her long, blond hair approached a 20-something American Soldier, fresh from Korea where he had been a cook in the Vietnam theater of operations. As she moved closer to him, the man started to smile at the idea of this welcoming committee, only to be spat upon and called a vile name.

"The communities you returned to were also difficult areas of operation," said Lt. Gen. David Halverson, the commanding general of U.S. Army Installation Management Command.

"You were blamed for a war you didn't start and for the actions of a few."

The IMCOM CG spoke at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, recently at the IMCOM Vietnam veterans ceremony — part of America's commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

By presidential proclamation, the commemoration began May 28, 2012, and runs through Nov. 11, 2025. America's Vietnam War period is generally considered encompass Nov. 1, 1955, to April 30, 1975; however, in a speech at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial ("The Wall") at the Memorial Day kickoff of the commemoration period, President Barack Obama singled out 1962 as the year when American involvement changed from advisory to active — when Army aviators flew South Vietnamese troops in a single raid against an enemy stronghold

just a few miles into the jungle — one of America's first major operations there, according to <https://www.whitehouse.gov>.

Garrison's Vietnam history, commemoration

U.S. Army Garrison Benelux has its own Vietnam-era history:

One of USAG Benelux's legacy organizations, the 80th Ordnance Group, was redesignated as the 80th General Support Group when it moved from Red River Arsenal, Texas, to Vietnam in 1966.

After more than five years of distinguished service supporting 13 campaigns in Vietnam, the organization was inactivated in 1972. The 80th Support Group (Area) was reactivated in 1984 and relocated to Chièvres, Belgium.

USAG Benelux will honor Vietnam-era veterans in an event in the Fellowship Hall of Caserne Daumerie Chapel July 23 from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

The garrison will invite the seven American Vietnam veterans who have made their homes in Belgium.

In addition to a cake-cutting, the commemoration will include a display of uniform items from the time period.

Save the date:

Vietnam War
commemoration

Daumerie Chapel
Fellowship Hall

July 23

from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

On-base thrift shop celebrates 14th anniversary

by **Andrea Wales**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs

Grandma's Attic on Chièvres Air Base plans to host a birthday bash to celebrate 14 years of serving the community. You'll find the action on the grassy area next to the commissary July 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"It's basically appreciation for our customers and everyone who donates," said Elizabeth Morgan, the event organizer. "We've had phenomenal support from the community, and all our volunteers love to give back to the community."

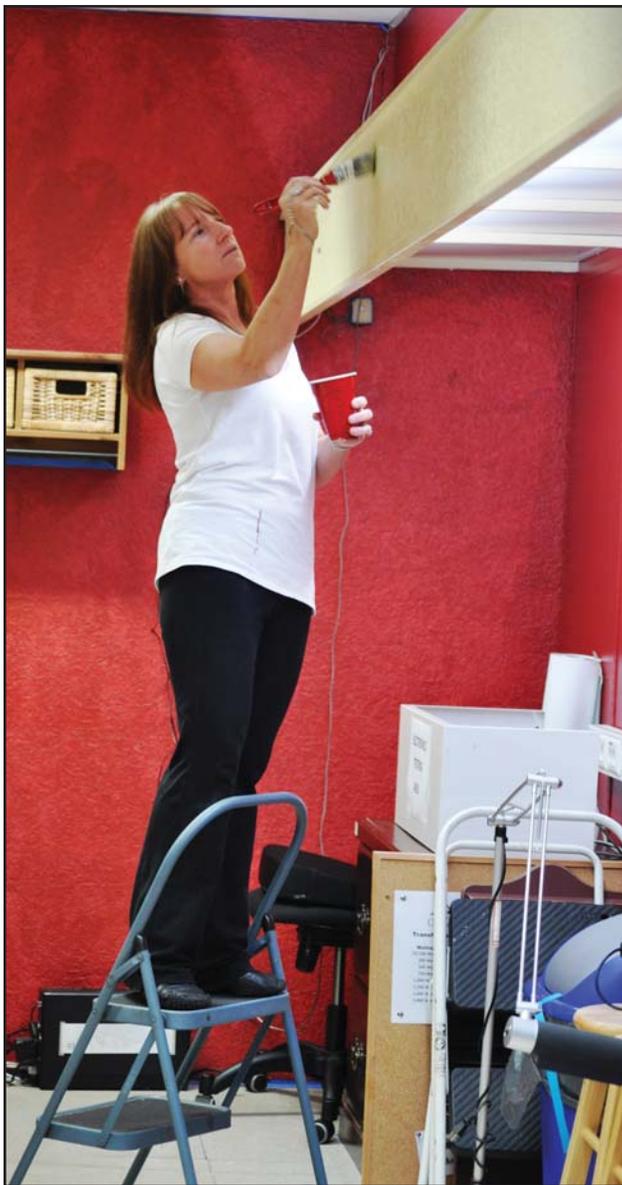
In addition to hotdogs, hamburgers and cupcakes, a big draw at the birthday bash will be a bouncy-house inflatable. Attendance prizes will also be given away at the event.

When it all began, the "store" was nothing more than one table once a week at the SHAPE Club, said Yolanda Terry, vice president of the volunteer-run thrift shop. A couple of years later, the operation went to Chièvres Air Base in one room of a building adjacent to the

main gate. Eventually, the operation moved to its current location.

All proceeds from donations and what doesn't go to consignors (who benefit from a 75/25 split) are used to fund requests from private organizations in the SHAPE/Chièvres community, such as the Army Birthday Ball or school sports teams going to European championships.

New standard hours for Grandma's Attic are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Yolanda Terry gives the interior of the building a much-needed 'facelift' Tuesday, July 14, 2015, to update what was once a pinkish-beige color scheme at Grandma's Attic on Chièvres Air Base.



Yvette Filler and Ofelia Clark hang up some new stock at Grandma's Attic, the volunteer-run thrift store on Chièvres Air Base, Tuesday, July 14, 2015.



Volunteer Elizabeth Morgan and customer Monique Frawley kid around at checkout time at Grandma's Attic Tuesday, July 14, 2015.

BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

Register now

- **CYSS Summer Camp** - This day camp has a different theme every week and runs through Aug. 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Brussels Summer Camps offer a wide variety of activities, clubs, service projects, field trips, special events and daily snacks. School Age Camp offers activities for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Middle School/Teen Camp serves youths in sixth grade through 11th grade. CYSS also provides before-camp care from 7 to 8:30 a.m. and after-camp care from 5:30 to 6 p.m. Find out more or register by stopping by Parent Central Services in Building 3 or call DSN 368-9651 or civilian 02-7179651.

July 17

- **Concert at the 3 Star** - Jeff Wisnom will perform vintage rock and pop at this free concert from 7 to 9 p.m. After years of rocking in Europe and the United States, Wisnom now performs acoustic rock in Brussels, Antwerp and Ghent. He also writes his own songs and develops them to provide the style and energy that are typical of his live performances. For details, call DSN 368-9822 or civilian 02-7179822.

July 17, 24

- **3 Star Recreation Night** - Join the USAG Benelux-Brussels community Fridays from 5:30 to 11 p.m. Recreation Night features games, cards, music and movies. Snacks and beverages available for purchase: crispy chicken tenders, daily homemade soup, potato wedges and more. Call DSN 368-9822 or civilian 02-7179822.

July 23

- **3 Star Dinner Special** - Enjoy a meal of roasted Cornish game hen, barbecue pork with potato wedges and salad at the 3 Star Lounge from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Cost: adults \$10; children, ages 12 and under, \$5. Reservations are required. Reserve by close of business the Tuesday before at reservations3star@yahoo.com.

SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

Register now

- **CYSS Soccer** - Register now for the September-to-October season. Cost is \$20 for 3- to 5-year-olds and \$40 for 6- to 15-year-olds. For more information, call DSN 364-4195 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5264195.
- **CYSS Flag Football** - Register now for practice starting Sept. 19. Cost is \$40 for youths ages 10 to 15. For more information, call DSN 364-4195 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5264195.
- **Summer Camp Trip Highlights** - The USAG Benelux-Schinnen School Age Center and Youth Center offers several Summer Camp adventures. Space is limited. For full Summer Camp details, call DSN 364-3121/2023 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5263121/2023.

Week 5, July 20 to 24 - Snow World Alpine Course, Indoor Skate Park, Daylong walk to Heerlen.

Week 6, July 27 to 31 - Walibi World Amusement Park, Beethoven House and Haribo Factory in Bonn, Germany; Track and Field Day.

Week 7, Aug. 3 to 7 - Water skiing/wake boarding, Maastricht city tour, walk to Amstenrade windmill.

Week 8, Aug. 10 to 14 - Bowling, sumo wrestling, laser games and go-karting, Oberhausen Mall, Brunssum Center for ice cream.

July 21, 22

- **New-Parent Support Home Visitor** - Based at SHAPE, Belgium, the New Parent Support Home Visitor is coming to Schinnen and Brunssum. If you are interested in classes, materials, home visits, support or education on topics relating to pregnancy, newborns or toddlers, contact Army Community Service at DSN 360-7500 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437500.

July 22

- **Career Trivia & Résumé-Writing for Teens** - Explore career options and prepare a résumé for scholarships, college applications or future employment during this employment class at the Youth Center at JFC Brunssum from 11 a.m. to noon. For more information or to register, sign up at the Youth Center, or call DSN 360-7269/7500 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437269/7500, or DSN 364-3033 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5263033.
- **Ceramic Tile Painting** - You don't need any experience for this workshop at the JFC Brunssum Arts & Crafts Center in Building 607 from 6 to 9 p.m. Cost: €20 (includes materials). Minimum of three participants needed (with maximum of six participants). For more information or to reserve your spot, send an email message to jfcframeshop@jfcbs.nato.int.

SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

Register now

- **Vacation Bible School 2015** - SHAPE International Chapel presents "Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power" **Aug. 8** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. An event for the entire family, this Saturday VBS allows parents to participate with their children. Sign up or volunteer at <https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/SHAPEKidsVBS/gpgs/home.aspx> or find "SHAPE International Chapel VBS" on Facebook.

SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY continued

Register now

- **CYSS Youth Program summer excursions** - CYSS offers youths from sixth to 12th grade a variety of activities and day trips. Newcomers welcome. Sign up soon: Space is limited. Must be CYSS-registered to participate. Register at CYSS Parent Central Services in Building 503, or call DSN 423-6039 or civilian 065-446039.
Teen Culture Day Trips - July 17: Mons, **July 24:** Brussels and **July 31:** Brugge (Bruges).
Summer Trips - July 23: Kayaking, **July 30:** Go-karting and laser tag, **Aug. 3 to 7:** Camping in the Belgian Ardennes, and **Aug. 13:** Amusement park.
- **CYSS Youth Sports & Fitness programs** - Register prior to **Aug. 21** for the September-to-October season. To register, call Parent Central Services at DSN 423-6039 or civilian 065-446039.
Fall Start Smart Flag Football - Program is designed for children ages 4 to 5. Cost: \$20.
Fall Soccer Season - Program is designed for age categories 6 to 7 years old, 8 to 9 years old, 10 to 12 years old and 13 to 15 years old. Cost: \$40.
Fall Start Smart Soccer - Program is designed for children ages 4 to 5. Cost: \$20.

Through Aug. 6

- **Summer Reading Program** - "Read to the Rhythm" at the SHAPE International Library or Chièvres Library encourages reading throughout the summer months for patrons of all ages. For details, call SHAPE at DSN 423-5631 or civilian 065-445631, or Chièvres at DSN 361-5767 or civilian 068-275767.

July 17

- **Gaming night** - Join "Teen Gaming @ the Library" at the SHAPE International Library from 5:30 to 7 p.m. For more information, call DSN 423-5631 or civilian 065-445631.
- **Open Mic & Poetry Night** - Join other poetry enthusiasts for "Open Mic & Poetry Night" in the SHAPE Club's Mons Bar at 8 p.m. Michael West III will step in front of the microphone to give a featured performance of original poems. Enjoy the atmosphere of entertainment, revelry and self-expression. Free admission. If you would like to recite your poetry, sign up on the "SHAPE Open Mic & Poetry Night" event page at <http://www.facebook.com>. Just enter "SHAPE Open Mic Night" into your Facebook search engine.

July 21

- **Interviewing Tips and Techniques Workshop** - Get the inside track on how to beat out the competition during this workshop at Army Community Service from 9 to 11 a.m. Learn to prepare for an interview and to convince potential employers you are a perfect fit. To register, call DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-326824.

July 23

- **Vietnam commemoration** - *Read more about the ceremony on page 4.*

July 24

- **ACS 50th anniversary** - *Read more about Army Community Service's 50th birthday celebration on page 3.*
- **Family game night** - Join the staff of SHAPE International Library for a free evening of family games like bingo, board games and more. No registration necessary. For details, call DSN 423-5631 or civilian 065-445631.

July 25

- **Grandma's Attic birthday bash** - *Read more about the thrift store's 14th birthday celebration on page 5.*
- **Purple Belt self-defense class** - Designed for children ages 12 and above as well as adults, this free self-defense class, sponsored by SHAPE Army Community Service's Family Advocacy Program, teaches you how to protect yourself using your mind and your body at the SHAPE Main Gym from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Each participant will be awarded a Purple Belt, which isn't an official level of achievement in any martial art but denotes completion of this FAP class. Registration is required. Call DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-326824.

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> under "Morale & Welfare (MWB)" 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.

National Day celebrates independence

by **Tim Clark**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

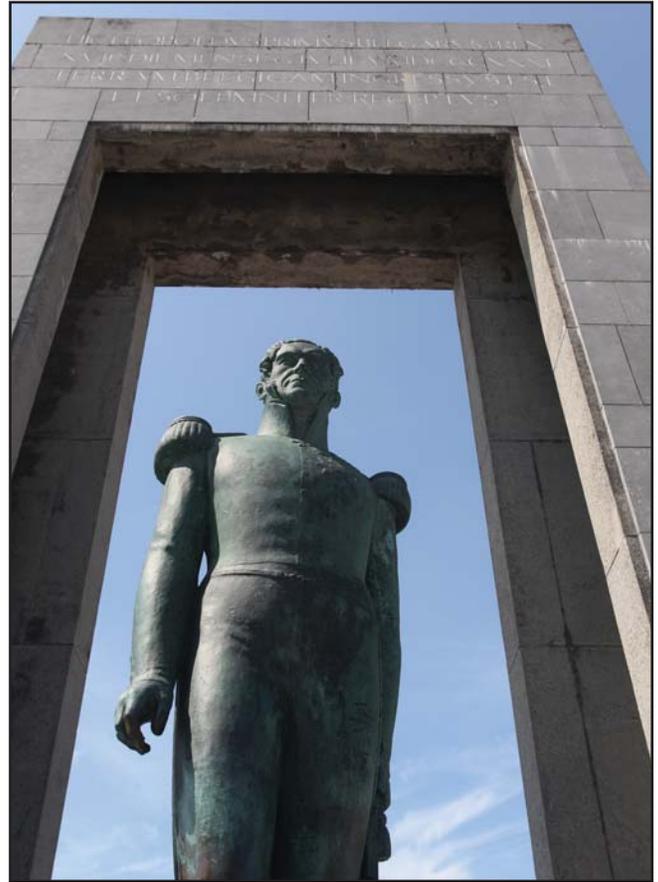
After a long history of foreign rule, Belgium was most recently part of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands (starting in 1815). However, the majority of the population was discontented with the rule of King William I because of high unemployment and industrial unrest among the working classes. In August 1830, riots broke out in Brussels, which led to uprisings around the country. These uprisings served as the catalyst for Belgian independence from the Netherlands.

After Belgium asserted its independence from the Netherlands in 1830, a London conference of major European powers recognized Belgian independence. A Belgian national congress was created to write a constitution, which was adopted February 1831.

The Belgian national congress considered several candidates for king, finally choosing Leopold I of Saxe-Coburg to become king of the new nation. He accepted and became king of Belgium June 26, 1831. Traveling by carriage from England, the new king first entered Belgium near De Panne along the Belgian coast. A large statue of Leopold stands in De Panne to mark this event.

Leopold swore allegiance to the constitution in the Royal Palace in Brussels July 21, 1831. Years later, in May 1890, its anniversary was named National Day, a Belgian holiday.

A day of national pride for the Belgian people, this holiday is celebrated with street festivals, concerts, a military review by the king with the Belgian army parading past the palace, and fireworks.



A statue of Leopold I, first king of Belgium, stands in De Panne.

Outside the gate

Upcoming organized trips

SHAPE Trips and Tours

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

- **Dolfinarium in Harderwijk, the Netherlands, July 23**
- **Paris, July 25**
- **Prague with Heidelberg and Nuremberg, July 26 to 29 (Register by July 23.)**
- **Rhine River Cruise, Aug. 4**
- **Atlantic Wall Museum and Oostende, Aug. 8**
- **Fécamp - Etretat, Normandy, Aug. 12**
- **London, Aug. 15 to 17**
- **Medieval Dinner in Bruges, Aug. 22**
- **Wurstmarkt in Bad Dürkheim, Sept. 19**
- **London, Oct. 3**
- **Alsace Wine Route, Oct. 10 to 11**
- **New Year's in London, Dec. 30 to Jan. 1, 2016.**
- **Flanders Field, Nov. 7**
- **Harry Potter studio tour, Nov. 4**
- **Romania - Bucharest, Transylvania, Nov. 4 to 8**

SHAPE Travel Group - Call civilian 0470-876369.

Closed for summer vacation. Desk reopens Aug. 12.

- **Tongeren Antique Market, Aug. 30**
- **The Best of Luxembourg City, Sept. 10**
- **London & Buckingham palace, Sept. 18**
- **Belgian Coast by Tram, Sept. 24**
- **Belgian Trappist and Countryside Tour, Oct. 6**
- **A Day in Rotterdam, Oct. 20**
- **Antwerp and Red Star Line Museum, Nov. 19**
- **Cologne Christmas markets, Nov. 24**

Schinnen Trips & Tours - Call DSN 360-7560 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437560.

- **Dutch Day, July 31**
- **Bernkastel-Kues, Germany: Wine Festival, Sept. 5**
- **National Liberation Museum 44-45, Sept. 26**
- **NFL Games, Book tickets by July 17 for Oct. 3 to 5 (New York Jets vs. Miami Dolphins), Oct. 24 to 26 (Buffalo Bills vs. Jacksonville Jaguars) and Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 (Detroit Lions vs. Kansas City Chiefs).**

Travel the Benelux

De Panne offers beautiful beaches

by Tim Clark

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office



Historic De Panne has much to offer for a weekend getaway: On a sunny day, a wide beach with fine white sand is covered with colorful umbrellas. A broad boardwalk is lined with restaurants where you can choose to dine al fresco. An amusement park, Plopsaland, can keep children entertained.

On the North Sea near the Belgian-French border, De Panne offers beaches that are very clean. Sun worshippers can make their day at the beach more comfortable with boldly colored yellow and red beach huts, deck chairs, umbrellas and lounge chairs available for rental. For newcomers to Europe: Be aware that topless bathing is common on most European beaches.

If you wander onto a special section of the beach, you'll marvel at the wind filling the sails of three-wheeled vehicles and moving them across the sand. Known as sand yachting, or land sailing, this sport has been practiced here since the 1800s. Throughout its long history in this seaside town, land sailors have shared "the need for speed." De Panne hosted the 2010 World Championships of sand yachting.

Shops offering swimsuits, beach pails, sunglasses and other typical beach items share space with restau-

rants and bicycle-rental places along the boardwalk. The bike-rental stores offer more than your standard bikes: Six-seater bikes, pedal cars of all sizes and shapes, and other strange-looking vehicles race up and down the boardwalk.

King of the Belgians Albert I and Queen Elizabeth lived here during World War I. The headquarters of the Belgian army was also based here during WWI since De Panne is located in the tiny part of the country that wasn't conquered by the Germans.

In the early 20th century, architect Albert Dumont built a gem of architectural heritage here. Architecture in the Dumont Quarter can be classified as Belle Epoque, built around the time of America's Gilded Age. Downtown, the art deco buildings are worth a look.

With more than 1,000 hotel rooms, two resorts and many holiday apartments for rent, De Panne makes it easy to find a place to stay. The Ambassador Hotel located a block from the beach offers clean and spacious rooms with friendly, knowledgeable hosts who speak English. For those not on a budget, the Hotel Villa Select is right on the beach and noted for great views and an attentive staff. For other lodging, visit <http://www.depanne.be>.

Benelux sign leads to good food

You never know what to expect at a restaurant in a tourist town. If you work for USAG Benelux, you can't help being drawn into this place, simply by the name on the sign.

Large portions, tasty food and a friendly staff await you inside. This place clearly makes use of fresh products. The food was well-prepared and presented. The owner stops by your table to make sure all is well. A specialty of the house, moules and frites (mussels and fries) is considered a national dish.



For your GPS:
De Panne 8660
Belgium
From:
Mons: 144 km
Brussels: 140 km
Schinnen: 263 km



Outside the gate



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

July 15 to 19

- **Music festival in Dour** - The 27th edition of the Dour Festival is the meeting place for some 200,000 music lovers with an eclectic lineup of known and lesser-known musical groups. One-day tickets start at €50 and five-day tickets start at €120 with or without camping. For lineup and details, visit <http://dourfestival.eu>.

July 17 to 20

- **Music festival Francofolies in Spa** - One of Belgium's most famous musical events with four stages on the festival site and one on the city-hall square. For details on the lineup and tickets, visit <http://www.francofolies.be>.

July 17 to 26

- **Fest days in Gent** - Held in the center of town with theater, exhibitions, rides, traditional crafts market, parades and more. For details, visit <http://www.gentsefeesten.be>.

July 18

- **Art market in Nieuwpoort** - This market will put Parisian style on display at the square in the center of town. Open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Binche (4, 6, 12, 20 or 25 km)** - Departs from Avenue Wanderpepen 30 from 6 to 11 a.m. for the 20- and 25-km routes and from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the other routes. Small participation fee.
- **Evening flea market in Horrués (100 booths)** - On Rue du Tram from 2 to 9 p.m.
- **Evening flea market in Marcq (200 booths)** - On Rue de Labliau from 1 to 8 p.m.
- **Flea market and farm products in Vaudignies (Chièvres)** - On Rue de Ladeuze and Rue du Bois from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea market in Thuin (100 booths)** - On Ville Basse from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m.

July 19

- **Mountain bike ride in Maffle (Ath)** - Register between 7:30 and 10 a.m. for 20, 35 or 50 km. Departs from the fest tent on Rue du Sûr Abri.
- **Volksmarch in Jurbise (5, 10, 15 or 20 km)** - Departs from Rue du Moustier 8 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Wodecq (5, 10, 15 or 20 km)** - Departs from the soccer field at Quesnoit 23 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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

July 16 to 18

- **Fishery days in Bruinisse** offers rides, fair, naval parade, live music, all kinds of delicacies to taste, games and more at the harbor and the center of town. Free admission.

July 17

- **Evening market in Antwerp, Belgium**, will be held in the marina, behind “het Mas.” Open from 4 to 9 p.m.

July 17 to 19

- **Food-truck festival “TREK” in Amsterdam** transforms Amstelpark into a large open-air restaurant with food, drink, live music, theater and art. Opens at 2 p.m. Free admission.
- **Blues festival in Peer, Belgium**, is Europe’s largest and is legendary for its mix of blues, soul, gospel and roots music. Find out more at <http://www.bluesfestival.be>.

July 18

- **Rock at Gras in Brunssum** will be held in Schutterspark on Heidestraat. This outdoor festival will have a cruise-in car show going on all day. The bands start playing at 5 p.m. Admission: €5.
- **“Lempkesmarkt” in Ubachsberg** near Voerendaal will be held in the center of town. During this traditional market, the booths will be decorated with lights. Open from 5 to 11 p.m.
- **Prosit Sommerfest in Vaals** will be held on Prins Willem Alexanderplein. Sommerfest is an Oktoberfest held in summer. Enjoy fest tents, lederhosen and dirndls (traditional clothing), wurst (sausage), music and more. Starts at 8:30 p.m. Admission: €13.50.

July 18, 25

- **Antique and curiosa market in Roermond** will be held at Kloosterwandplein in the center of town. Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

July 18 to 19

- **Delft Ceramica in Delft** will be held at the market square in the city center. This international ceramics event hosts many artists and craftsmen who display Delftware, ceramics and china. Open July 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and July 19 from 1 to 5 p.m. Free admission.

July 18 to 31

- **Championships Skûtsjesilen in Friesland** hosts a sailing race in the traditional style in this Dutch province. Skûtsjes are typical Frisian ships traditionally used by farmers as cargo ships. Find out more about the race at <http://www.vvzuidwestfriesland.nl>.

Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.



July 19 Continued

- **Volksmarch in Anderlues (5, 10 or 20 km)** - Departs from Rue de la Station 78 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in La Hestre (3, 6, 12 or 25 km)** - Departs from Rue Rondeau from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Small participation fee.
- **Flea market in Anderlecht (400 booths)** - At Boulevard Sylvain Dupuis 350 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Flea market in Ath (80 booths)** - At Rue de l'Abbaye 56 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Flea market in Bois-de-Lessines (200 booths)** - On Place de Bois-de-Lessines from 6 a.m. until midnight.
- **Flea market in Carnières (200 booths)** - On the square from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Flea market in Hornu (200 booths)** - On Route de Mons from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Flea market in Jemappes (200 booths)** - At Avenue Maréchal Foch 873, from 4 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea market in Jurbise (70 booths)** - On Route d'Ath from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Flea market in Nivelles (120 booths)** - At Chaussée de Bruxelles 151 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

July 19 to 21

- **Jurbise annual fest** - With a volksmarch on Sunday (see above) and a mini soccer tournament behind the city hall. On Monday, rides and bouncy castles and at 9 p.m. free concert by Michael Jones. On Tuesday (Belgian National Day), family bicycle ride for 20 km starting at the city park and free of charge. Starting at 1 p.m. behind the city hall, Jeu de boules contest. At 3 p.m., Zumba. At 8 p.m. urban dances demonstration. At 9 p.m. free concert by Sun7 Boulevard and at 11 p.m., fireworks close the event.

July 21

- **Belgian National Day** - Banks, post offices and most stores will be closed. Fireworks will go off at various locations in Belgium. The closest to the garrison will be in Ladeuze at 10 p.m. See page 8 for more information on Belgian National Day.

July 22 to Sept. 6

- **Visit the Royal Palace in Brussels** - Once a year, the Royal Palace is open to visitors. Every day, except Mondays, from 10:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. to visit the offices of the king and the queen of Belgium, the reception halls and a display on the Kingdom of Insects. Free admission.



Courtesy Photo

Through July 31

- **Annual sales throughout Belgium**



July 19

- **We Love Ibiza Fair in Drimmelen** will be held at Marinaweg 50. Learn about the Spanish vacation island of Ibiza, including fashion/lifestyle, beauty, vacations/excursions, food, music and more. Open from noon to 7 p.m.
- **Sunday Summer Boulevard Market in Vlissingen** will be held along the beach with more than 200 booths. Take this opportunity to enjoy beach, sun and sea. Open from noon to 8 p.m.

July 19, 26

- **Antique, art and curiosa market in Maastricht** will be held on Boschstraat. Open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

July 21

- **International painters market in Neeroeteren, Belgium**, near Maaseik, Belgium, will be held around St. Lambertus Church with demonstrations and entertainment. Open from noon to 6 p.m.

July 21 to 24

- **Nijmegen March in Nijmegen** is the world's largest walking event. Learn more about it at <http://www.4daagse.nl>.

July 21, 28

- **Historic market in Veere** will take place on the historic market square in the center of town with lots of actors dressed in historic costumes, traditional crafts, antiques, jewelry, regional products and more. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

July 23 to 25

- **Bourgondische Krabbenfoor in Bergen op Zoom** offers history, culture and amusement in the center of town. Open July 23 from 2 p.m. to midnight; July 24 from 1 p.m. to 1 a.m., and July 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 a.m..
- **Mussel festival in Middelburg** will be held on Vlasmarkt where visitors will find live music, street artists, mussels and other seafood.

July 23 to 26

- **Zwarte Cross near Lichtenvoorde** is a combination of a music festival and a motocross event. Find out more at <http://www.zwartecross.nl>.

July 24 to 26

- **Milan Festival in The Hague** will be held at Zuiderpark. Europe's largest Hindu open-air festival offers multicultural sports and entertainment, a theme tent, rides/attractions, and fireworks.

July 24 to Aug. 2

- **"Bloem & Tuin 2015" in Nuenen**, a garden event in the Benelux, will be held near de Schoutse Vennen at Gulbergen Estate. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €12; children 11 and under, free.

Outside the gate

Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.