

# THE GAZETTE

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

## Benelux news briefs

### Last Gazette of 2015

This is the last issue of the Gazette for 2015. The Gazette will return Jan. 7, 2016.

### Christmas services planned

#### SHAPE International Chapel

Centre's East Chapel:

- Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 – 7:30 p.m.: Christmas carol service (Catholic)

- 8 p.m.: Christmas Eve Mass (Catholic); reception follows.

- Christmas Day, Dec. 25, at 10:15 a.m.: Christmas service with Eucharist (Church of England/Episcopalian)

#### Brunssum Chapel:

- Dec. 13 at 9:30 a.m.: children's Christmas service (Protestant)

- Dec. 15 at 5 p.m.: Advent Reconciliation service (Catholic)

- Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m.: Christmas service (Protestant)

- Christmas Day, Dec. 25, at 11:30 a.m.: Christmas Mass (Catholic)

#### Brussels Chapel:

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m.: Candlelight service (ecumenical) with Christmas hymns and a reading of the Nativity Story.

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### American Legion helps orphans celebrate Christmas

*Santa receives a kiss from one of the children at the orphans party on Chièvres Air Base Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2015. The party was put on for the children the American Legion Post BE02. Fifty-eight children received gifts donated by the Chièvres and SHAPE communities. (U.S. Army photo by Tim Clark)*

# Cyber security and the holidays

## Special to the Gazette

As service members and their families prepare for the holiday season, the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command warns that posting travel plans on social media sites makes your home vulnerable to burglary.

"Social media is a powerful and frequently used tool for Soldiers, their families, and friends to stay connected," Daniel Andrews, director of the CID's Computer Crime Investigative Unit, said. "Unfortunately, criminals use the same social media sites to conduct surveillance and identify potential targets."

"We recommend that personnel avoid publicizing the details of holiday plans and travel arrangements, whether upcoming or in progress," Andrews said. "Wait until the vacation is over to comment on it and share photos."

Additionally, personnel are advised to take basic home security measures before leaving their house.

Home security measures, such as locking all doors and windows, not leaving spare keys outside, using variable light timers, keeping valuables out of sight, and having a friend retrieve mail and newspapers are the first line of defense

against burglary.

CID officials encourage Army personnel to take the following steps to reduce their risk of being targeted by crooks in the virtual world:

- Update your privacy setting on social media sites before leaving for vacation.
- Do not "check in" to airports or your holiday destination on social media sites. Sites, such as Facebook, use the GPS built into a phone to allow users to "check in" to businesses and locations across the country.
- Do not post in "real time."
- Remove GPS data from pictures. GPS data, to include location coordinates, is automatically attached to photos taken from both smart phones and many digital cameras.
- Monitor what family members post. A would-be burglar only needs one member of the family to announce that the family has left for vacation to know the house might be empty. Speak to all members of the family about what they are posting online.

# Holiday tips to keep you safe

### Driving

- Use a designated driver to ensure guests make it home safely after a holiday party.
- Make sure every person in the vehicle is properly buckled up no matter how long or short the distance being traveled.
- Put that cell phone away; distracted driving causes one-quarter of all crashes.

### Decorating

- "Angel hair" is made from spun glass, and it can irritate your eyes and skin; always wear gloves when handling it, or substitute non-flammable cotton.
- When spraying artificial snow on windows or other surfaces, be sure to follow directions carefully; these sprays can irritate your lungs if inhaled.
- Decorate the tree with your kids in mind; move ornaments that are breakable or have metal hooks toward the top.

- Always use the proper step ladder; don't stand on chairs or other furniture.
- Lights are among the best parts of holiday decorating; make sure there are no exposed or frayed wires, loose connections or broken sockets.
- Plants can spruce up your holiday decorating, but keep those that may be poisonous (including some Poinsettias) out of reach of children or pets.

### Candles and Fireplaces

- Never leave burning candles unattended or sleep in a room with a lit candle.
- Keep candles out of reach of children.
- Make sure candles are on stable surfaces.
- Don't burn candles near trees, curtains or any other flammable items.
- Don't burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace.

# Bastogne commemorates Battle of the Bulge



(Clockwise) – People stand in front of the city hall at the end of the official commemorations in Bastogne to try to catch one of the numerous nuts that were thrown from the city hall's balcony, Saturday, December 12, 2015. • Maurice Sperandieu, WWII veteran from the 512th Military Police Battalion, 3rd U.S. Army and Everett G. "Red" Andrews, WWII veteran from the 377th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, 101st Airborne, who were in Bastogne 71 years ago, salute at McAuliffe square. • 1st Sgt. Alejandro Romar and Capt. Jeffrey Paul on the Bastogne Historic Walk. • A joint color guard marches in the parade, members of the color guard were Spec. Zachary Yahn, Sgt. Devlin Trefethen, Belgian Army Adj. Didier Delperdange, Spec. Darian Keller and they were led by Sgt. Charles Yates. • Marcel D'Haese, Chairman of the 5th Fusiliers Battalion, stands next to Colonel Marty Yannatter, USAG Benelux Commander, after laying a wreath at Patton's Monument during the 71st Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge in Bastogne. (U.S. Army photos by Cis Spook(middle 3) and Tim Clark)



# Christmas in the Netherlands

By Rita Hoefnagels

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

To me, Christmas means snow, candles, nicely decorated open fire places, the smell of firs, warmth and coziness and I guess I am one of those fortunate who celebrate Christmas in the midst of their family. Christmas in the Netherlands is actually a religious family fest and although it is becoming more and more a tradition to give presents with Christmas, traditionally presents were only given on December 5 or 6 with the fest of Sinterklaas.

I'm often asked if Sinterklaas or Saint Nicolas is the same as Christmas and every time I have to say that it isn't. If we look at them both we quickly see differences. For instance, Saint Nicolas is celebrated on Dec. 5 and 6 while Santa visits with Christmas. Sinterklaas rides on a white horse on the roofs and delivers the presents in shoes lined up by the fireplace. Santa prefers a sleigh drawn by reindeers and travels through the sky. He delivers the presents in Christmas socks hanging by the fireplace. Santa's helpers are elves. Sinterklaas has its "Pieten". Sinterklaas wears an episcopate and carries a bishop's crosier while Santa's hat looks a bit like an old fashion nightcap. But both have a white beard.

Legend has it that in the 4th century Saint Nicolas was the bishop of Myra in Turkey. He used his wealth to fight injustice and gave everything to the poor. Stories are known in which the saint plays a big role. In one he uses his wealth to help three women escape an impoverished and immoral life. Another legend tells the story of how he brought three murdered children back to life. In a third he saves his ship from sinking in a storm through prayers. He is among others the patron saint for the seafaring.

Historians think that Saint Nicolas' long white beard and his white horse can be traced back to the Teutonic god Wodan who flew through the sky on his beautiful white horse Sleipnir.

The Dutch colonists in America kept the tradition of Sinterklaas alive and after a while the English colonists adopted the legend as well. It is said that the English speaking children would soon get as excited as the Dutch children and they would pronounce the Dutch "Sinterklaas" so fast it started to sound as "Santa Claus". Saint Nicolas is also the patron Saint of New York.

Until 1800, Santa was pictured in the states as a tall, skinny and stately man dressed in bishop's robes and riding on a white horse. This changed in 1809 when the "Knickerbocker's History of New York," described Santa as a chubby and pleasant man dressed in trousers and wearing a wide-brimmed hat. In 1823, a New York newspaper published the poem "Twas the night before Christmas" and in this, Santa is described as a chubby and jolly person with twinkling eyes and a red nose dressed in a red suit with white fur trimmings. He travels through the sky in his sleigh pulled by reindeers and delivers the presents on Christmas Eve. Thomas Nast, an American cartoonist with "Harpers Weekly" gave Santa a



From Thomas Nast's illustration "A Christmas Furlough" for the front page of a 1863 issue of Harper's Weekly.

beard in a series of strips that were published in the period 1863-1886. Perhaps the final stage in the evolution of the modern Santa Claus was brought about by Coca Cola when they launched an advertising campaign in the 1930s with Santa Claus as a cheery, chubby fellow that is still a familiar perception of the mythical Christmas character to millions of people throughout the Western world.

In the Netherlands Christmas has two festive days, December 25 and 26. In the southern part of the Netherlands, which is predominantly Catholic, many people will attend a night mass on December 24. Christmas Day is celebrated with your family. In the past, the highlight would be Christmas Dinner. Rabbit, marinated in wine and vinegar was served in many homes. After dinner a walk with everyone was very necessary. December 26 or second Christmas Day was much the same. Now-a-days, people go out for dinner more often on both days, but it is still very much a family fest.

I always enjoy the time before Christmas, the Advent, even more. Decorating the tree, visiting the Christmas markets and all the preparations for the festive days are just wonderful for me. The Christmas markets are so inviting and fun to be at. The largest and oldest Christmas market is probably the Gingerbread and Toy City in Nurnberg, Germany. Traditionally almost every town in Germany has at least one market, but in the last couple of decades the markets have become a tradition in the Netherlands and Belgium as well. I hope you will find time to visit some and wish you a peaceful and wonderful Holiday Season.

You can find a list of Christmas markets at <http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/ChristmasMarkets.html>.

# Local community gears up for Christmas



(Left) The Word of Truth Gospel Choir performs a Christmas concert at Saint Martin Church, in Chièvres, Belgium, Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Donovan Abrassart) • (Above) Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bill Sager and Santa Claus lead members of U.S. Army Garrison Benelux and the SHAPE/ Chièvres community in Christmas carols at the tree lighting ceremony on Chièvres Air Base Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Tim Clark). In addition to the tree lighting there was a chili and soup cook off, and Holiday spirit contest. The winners were; Best chili - Tim Clark; Best Soup - Craig Larsen ; and Holiday spirit - Steve Watts.

## Sign of the times

The U.S. Army Garrison Directorate of Public Works installs the new NATO, U.S. Army, SHAPE sign at the entrance to Chièvres Air Base Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2015. The new sign highlights the garrison's and airfield's support to SHAPE and NATO flying missions. (U.S. Army photo by Tim Clark).



## SHAPE/Chèvres Holiday Community Calendar

	PX	Commissary	ACS	AFCU	Auto Skills	Benelux Finance Disb.	CDC, SAC & Parent Central	Youth Center	Fitness Center	Health Facility
Mon Dec. 21	regular schedule	regular schedule	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	regular schedule	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - noon, all services 1 - 5 p.m. - Acute Care only
Tue Dec. 22	regular schedule	regular schedule	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	regular schedule	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - noon, all services 1 - 5 p.m. - Acute Care only
Wed Dec. 23	regular schedule	regular schedule	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	regular schedule	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - noon, all services 1 - 5 p.m. - Acute Care only
Thu Dec. 24	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 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.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 - 10 a.m. - Acute Care only Closed in the afternoon
Fri Dec. 25	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Dec. 26	regular schedule	regular schedule	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 10 a.m. - Acute Care only (MOD)
Sun Dec. 27	regular schedule	regular schedule	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 10 a.m. - Acute Care only (MOD)
Mon Dec. 28	regular schedule	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	regular schedule	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - noon, all services except PT, OPT Closed in the afternoon
Tue Dec. 29	regular schedule	regular schedule	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	regular schedule	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - noon, all services except PT, OPT Closed in the afternoon
Wed Dec. 30	regular schedule	regular schedule	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	regular schedule	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - noon, all services except PT, OPT Closed in the afternoon
Thu Dec. 31	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	regular schedule	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 10 a.m. - Acute Care only Closed in the afternoon
Fri Jan. 1	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Jan. 2	regular schedule	regular schedule	Closed	regular schedule	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 10 a.m. - Acute Care only (MOD)
Sun Jan. 3	regular schedule	regular schedule	Closed	regular schedule	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 10 a.m. - Acute Care only (MOD)

	Outdoor Recreation	Kennel	Library	Shuttle	Parcel Pick up	Postal Finance	LRC Official Travel	LRC CIF	Motor Pool	LRC Personal Property office	LRC Drivers Training and Testing
Mon Dec. 21	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2-4:30 p.m.	Closed	normal service	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tue Dec. 22	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2-4:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	normal service	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 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. 23	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2-4:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	normal service	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 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.
Thu Dec. 24	Closed	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - noon	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fri Dec. 25	Closed	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Dec. 26	Closed	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun Dec. 27	Closed	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon Dec. 28	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2-4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Tue Dec. 29	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2-4:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Wed Dec. 30	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2-4:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Thu Dec. 31	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - noon	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fri Jan. 1	Closed	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Jan. 2	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun Jan. 3	Closed	9 a.m. - noon 1 - 3 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed

## SHAPE/Chèvres Emergency numbers

**Any emergency - Dial 112**

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

**Brussels Holiday Community Calendar**

	Shoppette	ACS	AFCU	Auto Skills	CDC. at Bldg. 3	Parent Central	Health Clinic	Fitness Center	3 Star & Outdoor Recreation
Mon Dec. 21	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Lab and X-ray, from 8 a.m. - noon)	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed
Tue Dec. 22	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Lab and X-ray, from 8 a.m. - noon)	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed
Wed Dec. 23	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Lab and X-ray, from 8 a.m. - noon)	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed
Thu Dec. 24	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	1 p.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed
Fri Dec. 25	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Dec. 26	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	Closed	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed
Sun Dec. 27	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	Closed	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed
Mon Dec. 28	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Lab and X-ray, from 8 a.m. - noon)	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed
Tue Dec. 29	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed	7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Lab and X-ray, from 8 a.m. - noon)	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed
Wed Dec. 30	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Lab and X-ray, from 8 a.m. - noon)	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed
Thu Dec. 31	8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	1 p.m. - 7 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed
Fri Jan. 1	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Jan 2.	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed
Sun Jan 3.	8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed

	Housing	Library	LRC Official Travel	Personal Mail Pick up	Postal Finance	LRC ITO/Drivers Training and Testing/Motor Pool	LRC Personal Property Processing	Brussels Finance
Mon Dec. 21	Closed	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8:15 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tue Dec. 22	Closed	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8:15 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wed Dec. 23	Closed	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8:15 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thu Dec. 24	Closed	Closed	8 a.m. - noon	7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fri Dec. 25	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Dec. 26	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun Dec. 27	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon Dec. 28	Closed	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tue Dec. 29	Closed	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wed Dec. 30	Closed	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thu Dec. 31	Closed	Closed	8 a.m. - noon	7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fri Jan. 1	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Jan. 2	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun Jan. 3	Closed	11 a.m. - 4 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 /Expr./ Gas St.	Commissary	ACS	AFCU	Bowling Center	Clinic - GK	Dental Clinic GK	Community Bank	Pin Point	CDC/SAC	Fitness Center	Youth Center	Brunssum Finance
Mon Dec. 21	Closed	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tue Dec. 22	10 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.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wed Dec. 23	10 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.	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thu Dec. 24	9 a.m. - 5 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. - 3 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Fri Dec. 25	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Dec. 26	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed
Sun Dec. 27	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed
Mon Dec. 28	Closed	Closed	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tue Dec. 29	10 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.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wed Dec. 30	10 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.	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thu Dec. 31	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	10 a.m. - 7 p.m.	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	8 a.m. - 11 a.m.	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	7 a.m. - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	1 - 6 p.m.	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Fri Jan. 1	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat Jan. 2	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (1st Sat/month)	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.	Closed	Closed	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed
Sun Jan. 3	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Closed	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Closed	Closed

	Library JFC Brunssum	IACS	Legal Center	Parcel Pick-up JFC Brunssum	Parcel Pick-up Schinnen	Postal Finance JFC Brunssum	Postal Finance Schinnen	Public Affairs	LRC Official Travel	LRC Personal Property/Drivers Testing	LRC CIF/TMP	Outdoor Recreation
Mon Dec. 21			9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed
Tue Dec. 22			9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wed Dec. 23	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed *	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thu Dec. 24	Closed	Closed *	Closed	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - noon	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Fri Dec. 25	Closed	Closed *	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed **	Closed
Sat Dec. 26	Closed	Closed *	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed **	Closed
Sun Dec. 27	Closed	Closed *	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed **	Closed
Mon Dec. 28	Closed	Closed *	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	10 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.	Closed **	Closed
Tue Dec. 29	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed *	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed **	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wed Dec. 30	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Closed *	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed **	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thu Dec. 31	Closed	Closed *	Closed	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.	8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Closed	10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Closed	8 a.m. - noon	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Closed **	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Fri Jan. 1	Closed	Closed *	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed **	Closed
Sat Jan. 2	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed **	Closed
Sun Jan. 3	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed **	Closed

**NOTES: \*MP Desk will handle access issues during closure dates \*\*CIF emergencies: DSN 360-7473 - TMP emergencies: DSN 360-7655**

### Emergency Numbers in the Netherlands

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

Any emergency - Dial 112

## BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

### Register now

- **CYSS Youth Sports Winter season programs** - Open enrollment is going on now for several sports offered by Child, Youth and School services during the January-February season. Volunteer coaches receive free and reduced fees for their children to participate. Call DSN 368-9539/9651 or civilian 02-7179539/9651.
  - **Basketball** - Youth ages 3 to 15 may be signed up for this sports program. Cost: \$20 for ages 3 to 5; \$40 for ages 6 to 15.
  - **Cheerleading** - Youths ages 6 to 12 may be signed up for this sports program. Cost: \$20 for ages 6 to 7 and \$40 for ages 8 to 12.

### Volunteer now

- **Coaches needed** - Volunteers receive free and reduced fees for their children to participate. If you are interested, call DSN 368-9539 or civilian 02-7179539.

### Dec. 17

- **BOSS Movie Night** - Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers hosts " Ant-Man" (PG-13) from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the BOSS Movie Area on the third floor of Building 1. Movie is free, but space is limited so make your reservation soon at reservations3star@yahoo.com. For details, call DSN 368-9819 or civilian 02-7179819

### Dec. 18

- **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 and potato wedges. For details, call DSN 368-9822 or civilian 02-7179822.
- **BOSS Movie Night** - BOSS hosts "Straight Outta Compton" (R) from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the BOSS Movie Area on the third floor of Building 1. Movie is free, but space is limited so make your reservation soon at reservations3star@yahoo.com. For details, call DSN 368-9819 or civilian 02-7179819.

### Jan. 14

- **3 Star Dinner Special** - Enjoy an all-you-can-eat taco bar from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adults \$10; children, ages 12 and under, \$5. (Alternate children's menu: hotdogs or chicken fingers.) Reservations are required. Reserve by close of business the Tuesday before by sending an email message to reservations3star@yahoo.com.

## SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

### Dec. 22

- **LEGO Club** - Children, ages 4 to 12, are invited to come make friends and become master builders during LEGO Club at the JFC Brunssum Library from 3 to 5 p.m. For more information, call DSN 364-2469 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5262469.
- **Wall climbing** - For beginner or experienced climbers. Equipment and instruction are available. Entry fee is \$7 and payable at Schinnen Outdoor Recreation. For more information, call DSN 360-7560 or civilian +31 (0)464-437560 .

### Jan. 13 and 14

- **New Parent Support Home Visitor** - The New Parent Support Home Visitor will be available for office hours, hospital and home visits to all US ID Card holders. To schedule an appointment call ACS at DSN 360-7500 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437500.

### Jan. 14 and 15

- **Host Nation Orientation/Newcomer's Tour** - Learn what you need to know from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Schinnen Army Community Services. All newcomers and spouses are invited to learn about your new community, including local customs, culture, and language. Day one consists of briefings from local agencies, Dutch language and culture training. Day two, we go beyond the gate 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.

**New Year's Party**  
*Countdown & Champagne*

Schinnen Memory Lanes Lounge  
 8 p.m. - 2 a.m.

\*Karaoke  
 \*Games  
 \*Live DJ

Breakfast Buffet  
 starting at 1230 a.m.

All Welcome

For more information call Schinnen Bowling Center  
 DSN 360-7207 / Com 046-443-7207  
http://schinnen.armymwr.com/europe/schinnen  
 Email: usarmy.schinnen.mcom@europe.ist.dfw.mil; crd@mail.mil  
 Check us out on Facebook \*Tri-Border Community

Inside the gate

## SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

Tickets on sale now

- **"Star Wars" Special** - Billed as "a very special entertainment event," the "Star Wars" Special blasts off at the Alliance Auditorium/SHAPE Cinema **Dec. 18**, the movie's opening night. Wear your best costume to get in the mood for Episode VII of the "Star Wars" franchise, and expect surprises. Doors open at 7 p.m. The feature presentation, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" (PG-13, 135 minutes)," starts at 8:15 p.m. Seating on a "first come, first served" basis. Get your tickets at the Pizza Bowl bar. "The adventure continues" after the show at B3's in the Events Centre with the free Stars Wars Disco at about 10 p.m. Compete in a best-costume contest. Find out more at DSN 423-5696 or civilian 065-445696, or via email at pizzabowl@skynet.be.

Dec. 19

- **Jingle Bell Jog** - Decorate yourself for the holiday season for a self-decoration contest before the Jingle Bell Jog, and compete for first-, second- and third-place prizes. This 5k/3k fun run/walk is open to all U.S. and NATO ID card-holders and will start at the Chièvres Community Activity Center in Building 20004. Pre-register at Chièvres Fitness Center. On race day, check in from 8:30 to 9:20 a.m. Self-decoration contest judging will be at 9:30 a.m. Run starts at 10 a.m.

Jan. 10

- **Host-Nation Orientation** - Army Community Service invites all service members, civilian employees and their family members to learn about the SHAPE/Chièvres community and all it has to offer. During the two-day orientation, you will learn about Belgian customs and basic French. You will also go on a cultural city tour and tour a Belgian hospital as well as sample traditional Belgian cuisine and learn how to shop on the economy. The group will also learn how to use public transportation and visit the Ste. Waudru Collegiale in Mons. Meet at the ACS conference room 15 minutes earlier than the start time of 8:30 a.m. Call ACS at DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-326824.



Inside the gate

### Movies at SHAPE Cinema

Rates — 2D movies: adults €7.50 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>.

### Movies at JFC HQ Alliance Theater

Adult admission is €6.5 (ages 12 and older) - Child admission is €3.75 (ages 11 and under). Check the web page at <http://www.shopmyexchange.com/reel-time-theatres/Schinnen-1366146> for the movie schedule.

# Travel the Benelux

## La Roche, Jewel of the Ardennes shines

Story and photos by **Tim Clark**  
 USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

Nestled in a valley along the Ourthe River, La Roche-en-Ardenne has many charms and attractions to recommend it. Nicknamed the “Jewel of the Ardennes”, La Roche has a riverside sculpture park, a beautiful natural setting and even a ghost. For those who like to shop, interesting boutiques line the streets downtown. Military history buffs can enjoy a great museum on the Battle of the Bulge. A mix of restaurants from friteries to fine dining awaits hungry visitors .

The ruins of a medieval castle, Château Féodal (Feudal Castle) overlook the town from a rocky spur known as the Deister. Destroyed by the Austrians in the late 18th century, a panoramic view of the town can be seen from the ruins. Illuminated at night during the summer, the castle

provides a dramatic backdrop for La Roche. In July and August the ghost of Berthe de La Roche, daughter of a former Lord of La Roche, can be seen wandering the castle ruins.

The Battle of the Bulge, the largest land battle in World War II, left the town destroyed after the Allies bombarded the town to drive out the Germans. The town was liberated by the British 30th Corps and the Americans of the 1st Army on January 11, 1945. With more than 350 buildings destroyed or damaged, the people of La Roche, showing great fortitude, rebuilt the town. The Musée De La Bataille Des Ardennes has more than 5,000 original objects on display from World War II. The human dimension of the battle is underlined at the museum with figures of uniformed combatants

from both sides on display.

The town center has plenty of shopping. Boutiques with hand-crafted items, clothing stores with a mix of fashion styles, and butcher shops were you can pick up some of the famous jambon d' Ardennes(cured ham) are all within easy walking distance of each other.

At the edge of town, along the river, a peaceful outdoor sculpture park showcasing some international artists is a great place to relax and unwind.

La Roche is surrounded by hiking and mountain biking trails and has many parks and playgrounds. The Forest park has 40 different species of trees and picnic areas among its 37 acres. In the summer kayaking and rafting the Ourthe River and other adventure sports are popular.



(clockwise) A view of La Roche-en-Ardenne from the castle. • Military history is on display at the museum. • A sculpture by American artist Tom Blatt stands in the sculpture garden. • A wide variety of boutiques have much to offer shoppers in the downtown area.



# Eat some kerstkransjes for Christmas

by **Tim Clark**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

A Christmas favorite in the Netherlands, Kerstkransjes, are crisp buttery cookies. Shaped like Christmas wreaths, their name means “little Christmas wreaths” in English. They come in a variety of shapes and flavors, but always with a hole in the middle so you can run a ribbon through and hang them on your Christmas tree.

Kerstkransjes can have many different toppings. Some have just plain granulated sugar on the outside. Almonds are also popular, pressed into the cookies just before baking. Dipping the cookies in chocolate or drizzling chocolate over them is another way they are made. Frosting them and covering them with sprinkles is favored by some bakers.

Edible decorations are always fun, candy canes eaten off the Christmas tree are a favorite treat for children during the Christmas season in America. The inherent flaw in edible decorations is they get eaten, leaving you with empty ribbons hanging on the tree. One can take the effort to create a festive arrangement on the tree, only to find your efforts have disappeared. Be smart and make sure you have enough so that you can replace the consumed ones regularly.

If you're not one for putting food on the Christmas tree, kerstkransjes make a tempting addition to a plate of Christmas treats. You can also place them in a clear bag and tie with a ribbon for an easy holiday gift that will delight colleagues and friends.



Outside the gate

## Upcoming organized trips

### SHAPE Trips and Tours

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

- **Aachen and Monschau Christmas markets, Dec. 19**
- **Paris in winter, Dec. 28**
- **London New Year's, Dec. 30 to Jan. 1, 2016**
- **Amsterdam with the Heineken Experience, Jan. 16, 2016**
- **"The Nutcracker" Ballet, Brussels, Jan. 24, 2016 (Seats are limited.)**
- **Thermae 2000 in Valkenburg, the Netherlands, Jan. 30, 2016**
- **Malta, Feb. 5 to 10, 2016**
- **Paris with dinner cruise on the Seine, Feb. 13, 2016**

- **London with "Wicked" musical, Feb. 20, 2016**
- **Cooking class in Lille, March 12, 2016**
- **Oostende with Soul Legends, March 19, 2016**
- **Croatia with Venice and Slovenia, March 28 to April 6, 2016**
- **Berlin, April 29 to May 2, 2016**
- **Discounted tickets for many local attractions**

### SHAPE Travel Group

Call civilian 0470-876369 for details.

- **Snow World, the Netherlands (transportation and four-hour ski pass), Jan. 19, 2016**
- **Trocs and Leuven (Louvain), Jan. 28, 2016**

### Schinnen Trips & Tours

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

- **Trips return in 2016.**



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

**Dec. 18-20**

- **Christmas market at the Château in Enghien** - Open Friday from 4 to 10 p.m., Saturday from noon to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.



**Dec. 19**

- **Christmas flea market in La Hestre (50 booths)** - On the square from 1 to 10 p.m.
- **Nordic walking in Mons** - From 9 to 11 a.m. with an experienced nordic walker. Gathering is at the "Parcours Santé de Bois d'Havré" (health trail at Bois d'Havré) on Rue des Phosphates.
- **Carriage ride with Santa in Soignies** - From 4 to 8 p.m. (Santa will be there from 4 to 4:45 p.m.), ride departs from Place Verte. participating fee is €1.
- **Photos with Santa in Soignies** - From 6 to 8 p.m. at the Christmas Market on Place Verte.
- **Children's Corrida in Soignies** - Children's run starts at 2:15 p.m. Distances are 600 m for children 6 to 9 and 1200 m for children 10 to 13. Adults run starts at 3 p.m. Distances are 5 or 9.6 km. Registration starts at noon at the sports center on Rue de Cognebeau. Participating fee is €5.



**Dec. 19-20**

- **Christmas parade in Mons** - From 2 to 8 p.m. both days with animated movie characters in the pedestrian area, Rue de la Chaussée. The shops in the pedestrian area will be open Sunday as well from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Dec. 19 - Jan. 3**

- **Kids Planet Nautisport in Enghien** - Various original bouncy castles will entertain children aged 1 to 6 and 7 to 12 in separate areas. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays to Wednesdays and Saturdays and Sundays at Nautisport on Pavé de Soignies 36. Entrance fee is €6.

**For more Christmas markets, check the USAG Benelux website at <http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/> and check the listing for markets in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany under Featured Items.**

Outside the gate



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

**Dec. 18 to 20**

- **Christmas market in Monschau, Germany**, will be held at the town square. Open Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sundays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Dec. 19 to 20**

- **Christmas market in Kerkrade** will be held at the 900-year-old Abbey Rolduc. Open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: €3.50.
- **Christmas market near Jüchen and Mönchengladbach, Germany**, will be held at Schloss Dyck. Open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission: €12; children €1.50.
- **Christmas market near Mechernich, Germany**, will take place at Burg Satzvey (castle). Open Saturdays from noon to 8 p.m., Sundays from noon to 7 p.m. Admission: €8; children, ages 4 to 12, €4; children, ages 12 to 18, €6.50.

Ongoing

**Through Dec. 20**

- **Christmas market in Merode, Germany**, is when the Prince and Princess von Merode open Castle Merode to the public for a traditional Christmas market. Open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 9 p.m., Fridays from 2 to 9 p.m., Saturdays from 2 to 10 p.m., Sundays from noon to 8 p.m. Admission: Wednesday through Saturday €6.50, Sundays €7; children, ages 6 to 16, €2.
- **Christmas market in Bad Sassendorf, Germany**, offers a festive atmosphere for shopping. Open Thursdays and Fridays from 2 to 7 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Floating Christmas market in Leiden** will offer more than 70 booths along the Nieuwe Rijn. Open from noon to 9 p.m.
- **Christmas show in Valkenburg** offers English country style at Rico's at Hekerweg 37. Open Fridays from 1 to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 5:30 p.m.

**Through Dec. 22**

- **Medieval Christmas market in Siegburg, Germany**, fills market square in the center of town. Open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Through Dec. 23**

- **Christmas market in Aachen, Germany**, takes place around the historic town hall in the city center. Open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.**



**Dec. 20**

- **Volksmarch in Steenkerque for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs the square from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Sart-Risbart/Incourt for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs from Rue Alphonse Robert (soccer field) from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea market in Jemappes (200 booths)** - On Avenue Maréchal Foch from 4 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Christmas parade in Cuesmes** - Parade through town is starting at 12:30 p.m. on Rue Ferrer 212.
- **Christmas parade in Soignies** - From 5 to 9 p.m., Santa will participate in the parade and distribute candy to the children. The parade will go through the center of town, Rue de la Station, Rue de Mons, Place Verte.



**Dec. 27**

- **Volksmarch in Ellezelles for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs the soccer field on Chaussée de Renaix from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Ongoing

**Through Jan. 17**

- **Exhibition "Mankind, The Dragon and Death. The Glory of St Georges" in Boussu** - The exhibition (including paintings, sculptures, drawings and illuminated manuscripts) shows how the iconography of St George and the dragon has always been a powerful driver of the European imagination. At the MAC'S Grand Hornu site on Rue Sainte Louise 82. Open Tuesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. More information at <http://www.mons2015.eu/en/man-dragon-and-death>.



**Through Dec. 23 continued**

- **Christmas market in Bad Münstereifel, Germany**, is held in the middle of the timber-framed houses in the center of town. Open Monday through Thursday from 1 to 8 p.m., Friday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Bochum, Germany**, fills the historic market square at the foot of the St. Paul Church. Open from noon to 9 p.m.
- **Nikolaus market in Düsseldorf, Germany**, can be found on market square in the old historic city center. Christmas markets are also held at Stadtbrückchen (trendy), Schadowplatz (nostalgic), Heinrich-Heine-Platz, Flinger Strasse, Schadowstrasse and Königsallee in the city center. Open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Through Dec. 24**

- **Authentic Christmas Show in Schimmert** is held in Lupa Outdoors Vijvercentrum Limburg at Op de Bies 70. Open Mondays from 1 to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Through Dec. 29**

- **Magical Maastricht in Maastricht** transforms the Vrijthof into a large ice-skating rink. Wander among traditional and nostalgic attractions as well as Christmas markets at several locations throughout the city center. Open Monday through Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sundays from noon to 6 p.m.; Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Dec. 25 and 26.

**Through Dec. 30**

- **Christmas Village in Liège, Belgium**, is located at Place de Marché and Place Saint-Lambert. The largest Christmas market in Belgium, it attracts more than a million visitors. "Village de Noël" creates a festive and friendly Belgian mix of Alsatian and German Christmas traditions. Open Sunday through Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to midnight.

**Through Jan. 3, 2016**

- **Christmas at Palace "Het Loo" in Apeldoorn** is located at Koninklijk Park 1. Visitors will get a glimpse of what Christmas was like with the royal family over the past 300 years. Decorated tables and yuletide greenery transform the palace into a Christmas setting. Open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Open Dec. 25 and 26 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed New Year's Day. Admission: €14.50; children, ages 6 to 17, €5.

Outside the gate

Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.