

# THE GAZETTE

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

## Benelux news briefs

### AFCU grand reopening

Andrews Federal Credit Union on Chièvres Air Base will celebrate the completion of its renovations with a grand-reopening ceremony at 2 p.m. Friday. The branch will have promotional items to give away at the event. The on-base branch has been open since Sept. 29.

### Bike race passes by Chièvres

The city of Chièvres will welcome Eurométropole racers today on the first stage of the race. This will have an impact on traffic. For more information check the USAG Benelux Facebook page.

### USAG Benelux Flickr account

Do you want photos of the last event or ceremony? Download them from the new USAG Benelux Flickr account at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/135840597@N02/>.

### Launderette closes for week

The Launderette on Chièvres Air Base will be closed Sept. 28 through Oct. 2 for construction on the roof of Building 20081.

During this time period, Building 20081's hot water will be connected to the Community Activity Center's solar-thermal panel system. The dry cleaner's, also located in Building 20081, will remain open.

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## Exercise, Exercise, Exercise!

Didier Miset with USAG Benelux Department of Emergency Services and a firefighter in Chièvres performs CPR on a dummy representing a U.S. Soldier during the USAG Benelux Full Scale Exercise, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Pascal Demeuldre/Training Support Center Benelux)

# Benelux officer retires in Brussels

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

Well-wishers gathered in Brussels Sept. 28 at the retirement of a Soldier who played a major leadership role in the Benelux community.

The USAG Benelux Commander, Col. Marty Vannatter, the U.S. Military Representative to the NATO Military Committee, Lt. Gen David Hogg and the U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, Anthony Gardner gathered in USAG Benelux-Brussels with friends, co-workers and family to honor Lt. Col John Bivona Jr.'s contributions to the Benelux and the Army as a whole.

In a surprise arranged by wife Karen, Bivona's parents, John C. Bivona and Ester Bivona, traveled to Belgium from Huntington, New York to honor their son.

The ceremony began with a montage of still photos of Bivona at his various postings and video clips of his former commanders' wishing him good luck in

his retirement.

Bivona earned a bachelor's degree in Arts, with minors in psychology and Japanese language and culture from Villanova University. He was commissioned in May 1992 as an infantry second lieutenant in the Army.

"The Army said we can use these skills and put him in the infantry," quipped featured speaker Hogg.

"John has done some wonderful things for the Army, I could tell he was someone who would make a difference and he did," Hogg said.

He went on to tell several humorous stories about Bivona, finishing his speech on a heartfelt note.

"You made a difference," Hogg said. "Thank you."

Bivona traveled the world for his Army career with stops in Korea, Germany, the Philippines, and a 15-month deployment



*Lt. Gen. David Hogg presents Lt. Col. John Bivona with the Meritorious Service Medal.*

to Iraq. He earned his Ranger Tab along the way. From 2008 through 2010, he was assigned to the Army Logistics University in Fort Lee, Virginia, where he was an instructor and a developer of the Army's Theater Logistics Studies Program.

Bivona was assigned to USAG Benelux in July 2014 to head the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security and was further detailed to assume the role of Deputy Garrison Manager for USAG Benelux-Brussels. He concluded his Army career as the USAG Benelux executive officer.

"Coming here to the garrison was a wonderful cumulating experience," Bivona said.

He said that being in the Army is about gaining experiences and leaving a legacy.

"For all the people who have invested their time in me, I thank you," Bivona said.

Bivona said with a smile that, like a good Italian son, he plans to move into his mom's basement and seek employment in the corporate world.



*Lt. Col. Bivona, wife Karen (middle), his parents John and Ester Bivona (left) and Lt. Gen. David Hogg, U.S. Military Representative to the NATO Military Committee and U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, Anthony Gardner (right) attend the retirement ceremony in Brussels, Monday, Sept. 28, 2015.*

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# Energy Action Month

## Play your part, help save energy

Story and photo illustration by **Mélanie Chaballe**

Operations & Maintenance Division, Directorate of Public Works

October is Energy Action/Awareness Month.

The Executive Order 13693 "Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade" (March, 2015) reinforces the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux program that aims at reducing energy consumption, increasing energy efficiency and adopting more sustainable operations in the garrison's energy and water management program for years.

Though special attention is given to energy-saving during October, it is an all-year commitment and a challenge for the future.

The solar array on Chièvres Air Base produced a total of 450,000 kWh over its first year of operation which corresponds to powering one of the Attre housing units for 75 years.

The solar array distributes the electricity produced to all facilities on base and covered up to 50 percent of the base electricity needs when the array's performance reached its maximum last summer.

The project significantly enhances USAG Benelux energy autonomy and reduces the electricity bill.

Last year, the solar panels helped save \$70,000 on the annual electricity bill; however, this is not sufficient to meet the energy-consumption reduction objectives.

Energy does not only include electricity but also heating



Last year, the solar panels helped save \$70,000 on the annual electricity bill.

fuel and natural gas.

Projects to improve the energy efficiency are implemented regularly on the installations through the replacement of energy-inefficient lights, installation of motion sensors, improvement of heating control systems, insulation of buildings, and many other types of projects.

Nevertheless, technology cannot do it all, and these measures will be meaningless if the workforce doesn't play its

part in the energy and water conservation program, both at work and at home.

There are easy steps we can individually take to be more energy efficient and to help reduce our footprint on the environment, save resources and save a lot of money, for example:

- Turn your radiator-knob down when you leave, especially if it is for a long period of time; or
- At home, decrease the thermostat temperature down during night time, when you go to work and when you go on holiday.

Check next Gazette issues this month for more tips to save energy.

Any little effort, multiplied by the number of people can definitely make a difference in the overall utility bill.

Don't forget, the cheapest energy is the one that we don't use.

## Fire safety: Take it up another notch

**Special to the Gazette**

USAG Benelux-Schinnen Fire Prevention Office

Fire Prevention Week commemorates the Great Chicago Fire Oct. 8 to 9, 1871. The two-day blaze killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 more homeless, and destroyed more than 17,000 buildings. That tragedy inspired reform across America, spurring new fire-safety codes and public-awareness campaigns. Each October, the National Fire Protection Association serves as the official sponsor of a nationwide fire-prevention campaign to highlight the importance of fire-safety education. This year's theme focuses on the importance of having working smoke detectors in every bedroom.

A few U.S. facts and figures:

\*Half of home-fire deaths result from fires reported between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep. Only one in five home fires were reported during these hours.



\*One quarter of home-fire deaths were caused by fires that started in the bedroom. Another quarter resulted from fires in the living room, family room or den.

\*Three out of five home-fire deaths happen from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

When you are asleep, you are most vulnerable to fires. A working smoke detector can wake you up so that you can get out in time. A smoke detector in every bedroom isn't a luxury; it just takes the level of fire safety in your home up another notch.

For more information, visit the NFPA website at <http://www.fpw.org>. You can also learn more by calling your community Garrison Fire Prevention Office in Chièvres at DSN 361-5401 or civilian 0678-275401, or in Schinnen at DSN 360-7230 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437230.

## Stay away from unauthorized commitment

Special to the Gazette

Leaders of the 409th Contracting Support Brigade are eager to caution government employees against unauthorized commitments.

An unauthorized commitment occurs when a government representative who lacks the authority to enter into an agreement on behalf of the U.S. government makes an agreement. People who make unauthorized commitments could be personally responsible for costs of services to which they committed on the government's behalf.

### Contracting Do's

- Do consult your supporting contracting office early and often;
- Do conduct market research to locate possible sources.;
- Do state that you are requesting information about products/services for planning purposes only;
- Do follow your organization's internal procedures of obtaining supplies or services through an appropriate acquisition method;
- Do ensure the vendor knows you aren't authorized to place orders;
- Do add a standard disclaimer when corresponding with vendors verbally and in writing: "This is a request for price information and availability only, and does not

constitute a binding agreement between the parties;" and

- Do contact the contracting office or GPC holder if there is uncertainty about the parameters of interactions with vendors.

### Contracting Don'ts

- Don't commit to any contractual relationship;
- Don't agree to a delivery date for products or services;
- Don't request a vendor to deliver a service or product without having an order or contract signed by a contracting officer or GPC holder;
- Don't sign any commitment which could financially obligate the U.S. government;
- Don't put yourself in a position that could result in personal liability;
- Don't share the Performance Work Statement and request quotes; and
- Don't forget that you must follow the same rules when dealing with MWR/NAF activities.

Consult with your contracting officer frequently.

If you have questions about contracting, contact your Regional Contracting Office: RCO Benelux at DSN 368-9625 or civilian 02-7179625.

## American Legion announces Eagle Scout of the Year Scholarship

by Joseph Schram

Commander of American Legion Post BE02

The American Legion provides for a national scholarship to be awarded to the Eagle Scout who is selected "The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year." The Scout who best meets the qualifications outlined in the nomination application will be selected as the 2016 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year by the National Americanism Commission. The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year will join the youth champion delegation and participate in the 98th Annual National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, Aug. 26 to 30.

The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year will receive a \$10,000 scholarship. Three runner-up scholarship awards will be granted in the amount of \$2,500 each. The scholarship recipients will be eligible to receive their scholarship immediately upon graduation from high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school) and must utilize the total award within four years of their graduation date, excluding active military duty or religious mission.

Deadline for application is Feb. 26.

For further information on eligibility requirements, contact the American Legion "Flanders Field" Post BE02 at [flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com](mailto:flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com).

## SHAPE students run/walk, commemorate Terry Fox



Hundreds of students and teachers from the SHAPE Canadian, U.S. Elementary, Belgian, Italian and British schools turned out Friday, September 25, 2015 to celebrate the life and memory of Terry Fox at the SHAPE Canadian School's annual Terry Fox Run/Walk. Terrance Stanley "Terry" Fox was a Canadian humanitarian, athlete and cancer research activist. In 1980, having one leg amputated due to cancer, he started a cross-Canada run to raise money and awareness for cancer research. The spread of his cancer forced him to stop at 143 days and 5,373 kilometers (3,339 miles). The cancer ultimately took his life. The annual Terry Fox Run began in 1981 and has grown to involve millions of participants in more than 60 countries. It is the world's largest one-day fund-raiser for cancer research; more than \$500 million (Canadian) has been raised in his name. • Sidney Brown looks at run supporters as he reaches the home stretch. (U.S. Army photos by Keith Houin)

# Customs forms soon to be completed online

Starting soon, handwritten customs forms will no longer be accepted at Benelux Army post offices. Postal customers will have to complete their customs forms online prior to presenting their packages to the mailing windows.

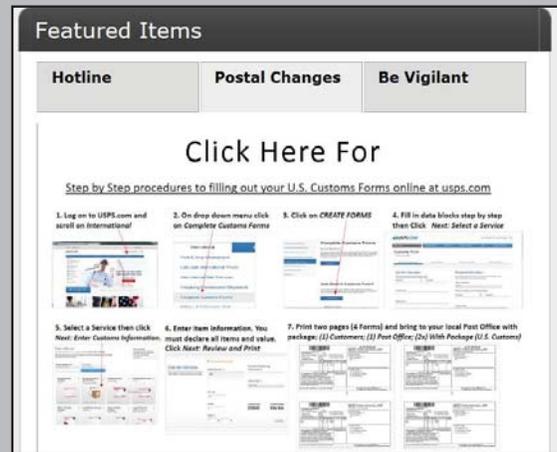
You may do this two ways:

1. From home: Use the U.S. Postal Service's online customs-form tool at <https://www.usps.com/international/customs-forms.htm> or Click-N-Ship at

<https://reg.usps.com/login>.

2. From the APO: If you can't do it from home, use the new computer workstations in APO lobbies in Brussels, Chièvres, Schinnen or SHAPE to complete customs forms online on the USPS website.

Learn about the step by step procedure under featured items on the USAG Benelux website at [http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/CUSTOMSFORM\\_STEP-bySTEP.pdf](http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/CUSTOMSFORM_STEP-bySTEP.pdf).



# Pick apples on Caserne Daumerie, turn them into juice

By Valentin Wallers

Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works

Collect your free apples on Caserne Daumerie and bring them to a processing plant to get your own organic apple juice.

The average price is €2 per liter. Expect a yield of about 50 percent: for 6 kilos of apples (13 lbs.), you will get 3 liters of juice (3 U.S. quart).

To find out more about the processing plants, contact the Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, at DSN 361-6369 or civilian 068-276369.

There are a variety of fruit trees at Caserne Daumerie in Chièvres.

In addition to their cultural value, apple trees provide a host of shelters and food for several insects, birds and mammals.

Fall is coming, and those apples are just waiting to be harvested.

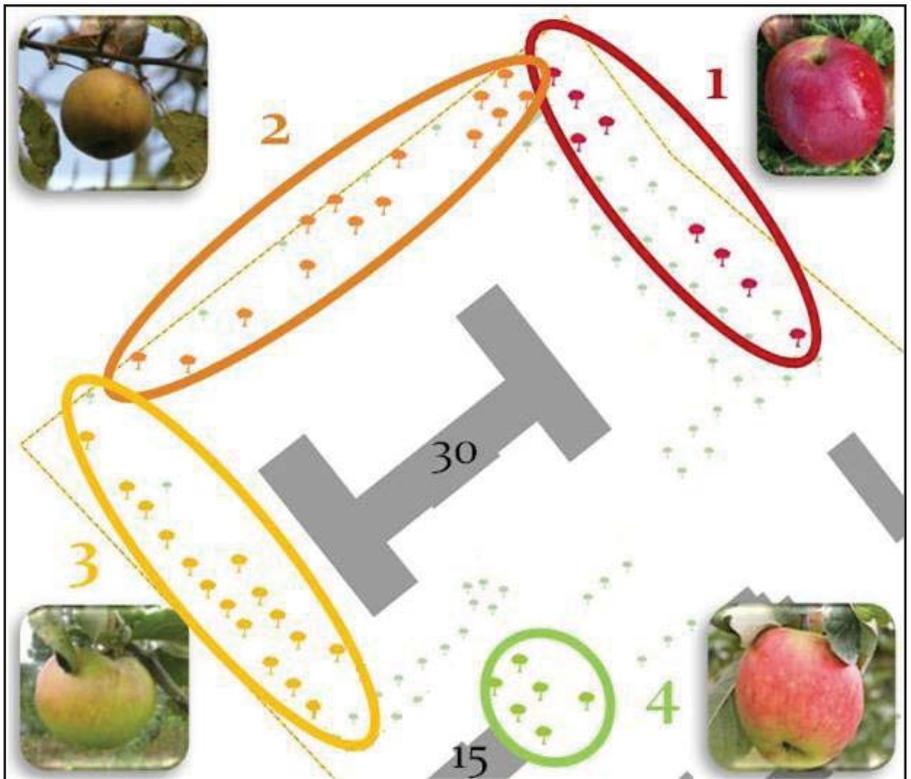
The orchard has different varieties of tall stem apple trees and ornamental trees.

1) Belle Fleur Double variety can be eaten raw or used in pastries; they are juicy and crisp. Pick in October.

2) Belle de Boscope variety can be eaten raw or used for cooking; they are slightly tart with a sweet taste. Pick in October.

3) Jacques Lebel variety can be used for cooking (apple fritters) or can be eaten raw; they have a sweet and sour taste. Pick in August/ September.

4) James Grieve variety can be eaten raw or used in pastries or sauces; they



are very juicy and slightly acidic. Pick in September.

Why eat these apples?

They are healthy:

- No pesticides are used from flower to tasting.
- Contain fibers and vitamins, and they can naturally clean your teeth.

They are environmentally friendly:

- Naturally and locally produced.
- Without preservatives and useless

packaging.

Prepare yourself to face the winter, and get your own vitamin storage for free. You can keep them in the fridge, in the cellar or turn them into apple sauce or dried slices.

Grab your installation pass, and go to the caserne during your free time.

To find out more, call the Environmental Division at DSN 361-6369 or civilian 068-276369.

# Trenches to Foxholes Get your free magazine

Don't miss the opportunity to grab your free magazine illustrating the commemorations, ceremonies and other activities held during the "Trenches to Foxholes" eighteen-month campaign commemorating the 100th anniversary of WWI

and 70th anniversary of the Liberation of the Benelux and the Battle of the Bulge.

Trenches to Foxholes focused on the events of World War I and World War II throughout the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux footprint. The campaign highlighted how the garrison, its tenant units and the international community it serves joined with our host nation partners to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice defending the freedom of Europe.

The magazine can be found at the following locations:

**Caserne Daumerie:**

- Command Group waiting area,
- Bldg. 30 Entrance hallway, and
- Post Office.

**SHAPE:**

- Post Office,
- Hospital,
- Library,
- American Central Processing Facility,
- Benelux Finance,
- SHAPE Headquarters,
- AFN

**Chièvres Air Base:**

- Andrews Federal Credit Union,
- Barber Shops,
- Lodge,
- Fitness Center Entrance,
- Barracks, and
- Bldg. 28.

**Brussels:**

- Post office,
- Finance, and
- Library

**Schinnen**

- Headquarters lobby



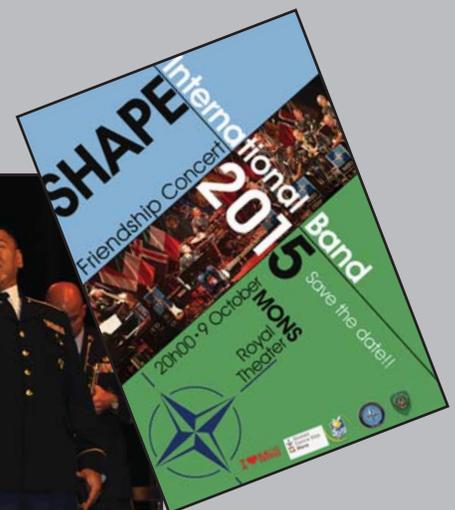
## SHAPE International Band Friendship Concert

The annual Friendship Concert will take place at the Royal Theater in Mons at 8 p.m. Oct. 9.

Tickets will be available until Oct. 9.

People who can access SHAPE have to register online at <http://www.shape2day.com/whats-happening/shape-events/friendship-concert.aspx>, then pick up their tickets in Building 207, room 111A from 7 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m. Monday to Thursday and from 7 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m. Friday.

People who cannot access SHAPE have to go to the Royal Theater in Mons.



SHAPE International Band performs at the Friendship Concert Friday, Oct. 11, 2013. (U.S. Army Photo by Marie-Lise Baneton)

## BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

### Oct. 1

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

### Oct. 2

- **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. For more information, call DSN 368-9822 or civilian 02-7179822.

## SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

### Apply now

- **Fall Break Camp** - NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen's School Age Program hosts its Fall Break Camp in Building 134 Oct. 12 to 16, but the deadline to sign up is **Oct. 1**. Tuesday's trip includes SeaLife Oberhausen and LegoLand. Thursday's destination is Toverland. However, field trips will be subject to change based on weather and availability due to enrollment numbers. Fees are based on the income-adjusted scale of GK's child-care facilities plus a \$30 fee to assist in transportation and admission to the various amusement parks. Call DSN 458-6107 or civilian +49 (0) 2451-632280.
- **School Meal Program** - CYSS at JFC Brunssum is taking applications for free/reduced lunch for the 2015-2016 school year. Contact CYSS for the application form. U.S. ID card-holders only. For details, visit CYSS Parent Central Services in Building H-602, or call DSN 364-3121/2023 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5263121/2023.
- **CYSS Programs** - The USAG Benelux-Schinnen CYSS School Age Center has several programs for children in the community. Open to all U.S. and NATO ID card-holders. For more information, visit CYSS Parent Central Services in Building H-602 at JFC Brunssum, or call DSN 364-3121/2023 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5263121/2023.

**Before- and After-School Program** - This program is open to children in first through fifth grades.

**CYSS half-day preschool** - A part-time preschool program (with morning and afternoon sessions) is available for children, ages 4 to 5. Children entering the program must be at least 4 by Oct. 1.

### Oct. 1 to 3

- **2015 International Honor Jazz Festival** - AFNORTH International School on Brunssum will host students from around the world who were selected by audition for a prestigious jazz group under the auspices of the Association for Music in International Schools. They will be directed by Darmon Meader of New York Voices, an internationally acclaimed jazz-vocal ensemble. Enjoy three days of jazz during this free festival (no tickets needed). Open to ID card-holders and their guests. **Oct. 1:** The NATO Jazz Orchestra will perform in the AFNORTH cafeteria at 5:30 p.m. **Oct. 2:** The Honor Band will give two performances: The Honor Band and Vocal Jazz Ensemble will perform in a "teaser" concert for the students at AFNORTH in the school cafeteria at 2:30 p.m., and Honor Band and Vocal Jazz Combo Night — an evening of small-group jazz — will be held at the International Conference Center at 7 p.m. **Oct. 3:** The gala concert (featuring the Honor Band and Vocal Jazz Ensemble) will begin in the school cafeteria at 7 p.m.

### Oct. 7

- **Hope 5K Walk/Run to end Domestic Violence** - The start will be at 9 a.m. from the Schinnen Fitness Center. Wear purple to say, "Abuse is NEVER OK!" Call DSN 360-7561 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437561.

### Oct. 7 and 8 & 21 and 22

- **New Parent Support Home Visitor** - The New Parent Support Home Visitor will be available for office hours as well as hospital and home visits to all U.S. ID card-holders. To schedule an appointment, call Schinnen Army Community Service at DSN 360-7500 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437500.

### Oct. 8 and 22

- **Circle Time** - 20 minutes of stories, songs and sharing are provided during Thursday morning Chapel playgroup the JFC Brunssum Chapel ground floor.

### Oct. 9

- **Concert by Phil Stacey** - The concert will start at 6:30 p.m. at the International Conference Center. Phil is best known for his role in the sixth season of American Idol in 2007, while still an active duty sailor. In 2013, Phil Stacey's song 'Be Good To Each Other' was picked up to be part of the National Bullying Awareness Campaign. Free admission. For more information call the JFC Brunssum Chapel at DSN 364-2940 or send an email to: dgrismore@clubbeyond.org.

**Oct. 9 continued**

- **US Military Retiree Appreciation Day** - All U.S. military retirees and their spouses are invited to attend the USAG Benelux-Schinnen U.S. Military Retiree Appreciation Day at the Community Activity Center in Building 38 on Schinnen from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Representatives will be on hand to answer questions and provide information regarding TRICARE; health and wellness; banking services; dental; Department of Veterans Affairs, or VA, benefits; ID cards; and more. New this year will be a representative from Defense Finance and Accounting System, or DFAS, to answer retiree pay questions and audit retiree pay records. Also new, flu shots will be available as well as pneumonia vaccine for those age 65 and older, and shingles vaccine for those age 60 and older. If you would like to get any or all of the vaccines, phone in your name and age to civilian +31 (0) 45-5263475 so that the proper number of vaccines can be ordered.

**SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY****Register now/Tickets available**

- **Family portraits** - An Army & Air Force Exchange Service, or AAFES, contractor will be set up in the Chièvres food court through **Oct. 2** so that Benelux community members may make appointments for sittings for family photos. Only a limited number of appointments are available so don't delay.
- **SHAPE theater** - The SHAPE Performing Arts Centre in Building 207 has several offerings. To find out more about the programs below, call DSN 423- 3312 or civilian 065-443312 Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 6 p.m.
  - **La Ronde** - The SHAPE Players present a play with mature themes, "La Ronde" by Arthur Schnitzler. The curtain goes up **Oct. 1, 2 and 3** at 7:30 p.m. The curtain goes up at 3 p.m. Sunday, **Oct. 4**. Tickets for this adults-only play are €16.
  - **Season tickets** - Subscription season has begun. This season, SHAPE Players present four plays, two of which are musicals. Season tickets include the adult play "La Ronde," the musical "Urine Town," "The Rose Tattoo" and the Disney musical "The Little Mermaid." Season tickets are €48 (full) and €27 (student/child) each.

**Oct. 3**

- **Retiree Appreciation Day** - Military retirees are invited for an information exchange, services and cake at the SHAPE Healthcare Facility from 9 a.m. to noon. Starting at 8:30 a.m., retirees can come early for coffee and pastries, then take some time to "meet and greet." The following services will be available to retirees on site during this time: Medical, Dental, VA, Army Community Service, Legal, Army Substance Abuse Program, Andrews Federal Credit Union and American Legion Post BE02 "Flanders Field." The U.S. Community Services Center, once known as the American Central Processing Facility, or CPF, in Building 253 will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. to assist with renewals or replacements of identification cards as well as updates to the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS. The IMCOM-Europe retirement services officer will also be available in Building 253 to check and update retiree records as needed.
- **Corn Hole Tournament** - It will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. at Chièvres Community Recreation Center, Building 20004. For more information or to register, call DSN 361-6268 or civilian 068-276268.

**Oct. 15**

- **Hispanic Heritage Month** - The USAG Benelux Hispanic Heritage Month event will be held in SHAPE International Library Oct. 15 at 2 p.m. In addition to a display of Hispanic-themed items and biographies, already open to visitors at the library, attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy an ethnic food-sampling. Hispanic Heritage Month is observed Sept. 15 through Oct. 15

**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 Originale 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/>

**Movie 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

## Experience Ghent, a city to be seen

by **Tim Clark**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

As a tourist destination, Ghent has it all. Discover medieval history, Flemish food and canals lined with picturesque historic buildings. See panoramic views of the city from the top of a 300-foot bell tower, art masterpieces and a massive stone-walled castle. Drink with trolls, shop at small boutiques and stay at five-star to budget hotels.

The capital and largest city of the East Flanders province, Ghent started as a settlement at the meeting of two rivers, the Scheldt and the Leie. Evidence of human habitation in the area goes back to the Stone Age. Ghent's historic center was originally built in the 13th and 14th centuries when the city was flourishing financially from the cloth trade. Success in the cloth trade led Ghent to become the second-largest city of the medieval era in Europe, second only to Paris.

One of Ghent's most picturesque streets, the Graslei is lined with re-

stored guild houses along the Leie River. Among them, the Spijker (staple house) is the oldest, dating from the 12th century. The staple house was used for hundreds of years to store the city's grain supply. St. Michael's bridge at the end of the street is the perfect place to take a photo of three of Ghent's most iconic buildings- the bell tower, St. Nicholas church and St. Bavo's Cathedral all lined up in a row.

In a city full of outstanding art, one piece stands above the rest, "The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb" in St. Bavo's Cathedral is one of the greatest cultural treasures of Europe (see page 10). While many of the churches in town contain amazing works of art, the city also has two great art museums, the Museum voor Schone Kunsten or Museum of Fine Arts (MSK) and the Museum voor Actuele Kunst or Municipal Museum of Contemporary Art (S.M.A.K.).

MSK houses artwork from the middle ages pre-World War II. The collection includes works by Flemish painters, Peter Paul Rubens, Rogier van der Weydan and Anthony van Dyck. Just across the street, S.M.A.K. features international artists at the cutting edge of contemporary art.

Completed in 1380 Ghent's bell tower rises 300 feet above the city where a copper dragon perches on the tip of the spire. Restored in the 20th century, this famed landmark offers an elevator to its parapet for great views of the city.

A classic medieval castle Gravensteen was once Ghent's main military stronghold. Parts of the castle date back to the 1100s. In the upper rooms there is a collection of medieval instruments of torture.

Eat at the Great Meat Hall, built in 1419, which features only products made or grown in East Flanders. While you are there,



pick up a jar of Tierenteyn, a spicy mustard that has been made in Ghent for two centuries. Enjoy a local beer at the Troll House, a bar with a troll-themed décor. Ghent has many restaurants, bars and cafés where you can take a relaxing break and sample the local cuisine.

Parking is limited in the historic district. Consider parking on the outskirts and taking a bus or taxi to the center of town. From there, everything is within an easy walking distance.

*(clockwise) St. Nicholas church as seen from the top of the bell tower. • A Tourist checks out the view from St. Michael's bridge. • Restored guild houses stand along the Leie River.*

From:  
Mons: 110 km  
Brussels: 56 km  
Schinnen: 173 km

For your GPS:  
Ghent  
Belgium 9000



# Flemish masterpiece on display in Ghent

by **Tim Clark**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

“The Mystic Lamb’ is without a doubt the world’s most besieged and coveted artwork,” according to art historian Noah Charney.

This painting has been endangered and coveted since the paint dried in 1432. It has been plundered by Napoleon, moved to safety at the last minute as Protestant iconoclasts were breaking down the church doors, censored, pawned by the Diocese of Ghent and then sold, taken by the Germans in World War I, rescued from a fire, one of its 12 panels stolen in a heist in 1934 and never recovered, seized and hidden by Adolf Hitler in World War II.

The great Flemish artist Jan van Eyck and brother Hubrecht painted one of the greatest cultural treasures of Europe, “The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb,” for the

altarpiece of St. Bavo’s cathedral in Ghent.

Considered by art historians to be one of the most important paintings in the history of art, it was the first major oil painting in history and inspired centuries of painters to take up oil as their preferred medium. Jan van Eyck was the first to demonstrate the true potential of oils, which permit far greater detail than the opaque tempera paint that was preferred before the Ghent altarpiece made oils popular.

As you enter the impressive cathedral of St. Bavo with its stone walls, stained-glass windows and art treasures you may be overcome with a feeling of awe. “The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb” is displayed in a side chapel behind bullet-proof glass. The room is quite dark when you enter,

but as your eyes adjust you can see the intricate details of the painting.

The polyptych (paneled painting) offers compelling composition, unrivaled realism and mystical meanings. A translucent use of color shows off van Eyck’s masterful use of light. If there’s one masterpiece of painting you shouldn’t miss during your time in Europe, this

is it.

Undergoing a seven-year restoration project (2012-2019), most of the original panels are on display at St. Bavo’s. You can visit the Museum of Fine Arts and see the restoration work in progress behind glass walls. When one panel is finished it’s returned to the display at St. Bavo and another is moved to the museum.



Outside the gate

## Upcoming organized trips

### SHAPE Trips and Tours

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

- **London, Oct. 3**
- **NASCAR championships at Circuit Zolder in Belgium, Oct. 4**
- **Alsace Wine Route, Oct. 10 to 11**
- **Amsterdam with optional guided tour of Van Gogh Museum, Oct. 17**
- **Rotterdam, Oct. 24**
- **Harry Potter studio tour, Nov. 4**
- **Flanders Field WWI Tour of Ypres, Belgium, Nov. 7**
- **Carolus Thermen spa in Aachen, Germany, Nov. 14**
- **Paris: Moulin Rouge, Nov. 21**
- **Snow & Ice Sculpture Festival and medieval dinner in Brugge (Bruges), Nov. 28**
- **German Christmas markets overnight, Dec. 5 to 6**
- **Alsace Christmas markets overnight in Triberg**

**im Schwarzwald (Black Forest), Dec. 12 to 13**

- **Aachen and Monschau, Dec. 20**
- **Paris in winter, Dec. 28**
- **London New Year's, Dec. 30 to Jan. 1, 2016 (Register by Nov. 16.)**

**SHAPE Travel Group** - Call civilian 0470-876369.

- **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.

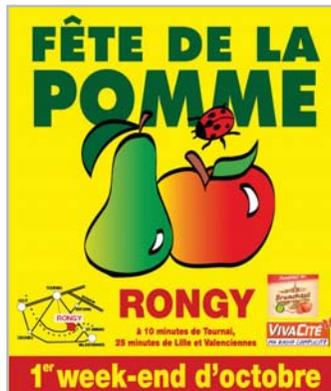
- **National Liberation Museum 44-45, Sept. 26**
- **NFL Games at Wembley Stadium in London, Book your tickets now for Oct. 3 to 5 (Jets vs. Dolphins), Oct. 24 to 26 (Bills vs. Jaguars) and Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 (Lions vs. Chiefs).**
- **Express Trip to Paris, France, Nov. 21**



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

**Oct. 2**

- **Catering and local products fair in Dour** offers tea, coffee, beer, fruits, vegetables. etc. The fair takes place at the Ancienne Câblerie on Voie du Prêtre. Open from 5 to 10 p.m. Free admission



**Oct. 2 to 4**

- **Appel fest in Rongy** - Take a walk in an apple orchard; bring your apples, get them processed and leave with your juice; enjoy a crafts market offering local products. Open from 7 p.m. to midnight Friday, from 1 p.m. to midnight Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday. Admission: free under 6; €1, children 6 to 12; €3, adults.

**Oct. 3**

- **"Sleepless night" in Brussels** - Choose among 150 activities and discover Brussels by night with concerts, theater, exhibitions, guided tours, parties and more. Find more information at <http://2011.nuitblanchebrussels.be/?lang=en>.
- **Pumpkin fest in Mons** offers a pumpkin market, vegetable sculptures and tasting. The fest takes place on the commercial street "Le Piétionnier" at Rue de la Chaussée 42 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Classical music concert in Jurbise** offers music of Astor Piazzolla. The concert will take place in the church of Herchies on Place d'Herchies from 8 to 11 p.m. Admission fee: €7 children; €12 adults.
- **Open doors at the fire department and flea market (200 booths) in Dour** offers vehicles exhibition, entertainment and a party from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. The flea market will take place from 5 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Avenue Victor Regnard 10.
- **Flea Market (150 booths) in La Hestre** on Place de La Hestre from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.



**Oct. 3 to 4**

- **Night flea market (200 booths) in Jemappes** on Avenue Maréchal Foch 873 from noon to 11 p.m.



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

**Oct. 1 to 3**

- **Relief of Leyden Festivities in Leiden** will be held in the center of town. These festivities will take place as a remembrance of the city's relief from the Spanish siege in 1574. The program includes a parade, traditional food, fireworks and more.

**Oct. 1 to 4**

- **Selections '15 in The Hague** will be held at Grote Kerk at Rond de Grote Kerk 12. This antique and classic art fair hosts more than 50 national and international vendors who display their collections. Open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday to Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

**Oct. 2 to 4**

- **Fall Festival in Mönchengladbach (GE)** at Castle Rheydt on Schlosstrasse 508 offers art, decorations, fashion, culinary products, shows and more. Open from noon to 6 p.m. Friday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission: €8; children have free entrance.

**Oct. 3**

- **Fall Market "Groeï & Bloei" (grow and blossom) in Emmeloord** at Groenhorst on De Balkan 16 offers culinary delicacies, traditional crafts, demonstrations, garden creations, etc. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: €3; children 11 and younger have free entry.
- **Antique and Curiosa market in Heusden** at Burchtplein in the center of the historic fortified town. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Tomo Fair in Nijmegen** offers Japanese clothing, lifestyle, garden, culinary delicacies, demonstrations, karaoke and more at Jan Massinkhal on Nieuwe Dukenburgseweg 5. The fair starts at 10 a.m. Admission: €5.
- **Cars & Coffee Welle in Welle** is a classic cars event where hundreds of classic cars, youngtimers and supercars are expected from 1 to 8 p.m. on Regentiestraat. Free admission.

**Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31**

- **Antique & Curiosa Market in Roermond** at Kloosterwandplein from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Oct. 3 to 4**

- **Fall Season at the Castle in Jüchen (GE)** at Schloss (castle) Dyck has more than 130 participants displaying country fashion, lifestyle, garden accessories, plants, culinary delicacies and more. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €12; children, ages 7 to 16, €1.50.

Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.



**Oct. 3 to 4 continued**

- **Art fair in Dour** offers paintings, jewelry, drawings, etc. The fair will take place at the culture center on Rue du Marché 1. Open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free admission.
- **Well-being fair in Kain** offers exhibitions, entertainments, organic products, free massages, etc. The fair takes place at the Tournai Expo on Rue du Follet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 to 7 p.m. Admission: €6.
- **The Glass Fair of Lasne in Ohain** - Glass works are in the center of attention and theme is fire and glass. The fair is held at Centre Sportif de Lasne at Route d'Ohain 9a. Admission: €6.

**Oct. 4**

- **Volksmarch in Honnelles (5, 10, 15 or 20 km)** - Departs from the sports center on Rue de la Roquette from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Herchies (5, 10, 15 or 20 km)** - Departs from Rue Valère 14 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Mignault (5, 10 or 20 km)** - Departs from rue des Déportés 9 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Crafts market and Flea market (700 booths) in Neufmaison** in the center from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Oct. 9 to 18**

- **German culture week "From Saint-Vith to Silly" in Silly** offers theater, bars, art, crafts, history and tourism. Find a complete program at <http://www.silly.be/loisirs/culture/culturel/evenements/201510semainegermanophone.pdf>.



**Through Dec. 10**

- **Brussels Museums Nocturnes** - Every Thursday evening from 5 to 10 p.m., at least seven museums will stay open to visitors. It is the ideal opportunity to (re)discover the cultural treasures of Brussels. Enjoy festive activities in 66 museums. Admission: 3€ per museum, 1,50€ for 25 and under. Some late-evening openings are free. More information at <http://brusselsmuseumsnocturnes.be/en/>.



**Oct. 3 to 4 continued**

- **Antwerpfilea in Antwerpen (BE)** at Antwerp Expo on Jan van Rijswijcklaan 191 is a large fair for collectors of stamps and coins. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission: €5.
- **Gallo Roman Weekend in Wervik (BE)** offers re-enactors, shows, market and more at Stadsdomein Oosthove on Speiestraat 32. Admission: €6; children, ages 6 to 12, €3.

**Oct. 3 to 8**

- **The relief of Alkmaar** marks the liberation of Alkmaar from the Spaniards in 1573. The festivities include demonstrations, fair, games, parades, fireworks and more. Free admission.

**Oct. 4**

- **Train-, Car- & Farm-miniatures Fair in Aalten** at Pannenkoekenhuys 't Noorden on Lichtenveldsestraat 44. Open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission: €2; children 13 and younger, free entry.
- **Damme Culinary in Damme** is a culinary market held on Market Square in the center. Open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Knights Training in Limbricht** at Castle Limbricht, at Allee 1. Knights train in the courtyard of the castle. The knights of the Four Quarters invite children to come and learn what knights do and train with them. Open from noon to 4 p.m. Free admission and participation.
- **A Day in Fall in Oud-Zuilen** held in the park and at the castle Zuylen at Toernooiveld 1 in Oud-Zuilen. Visitors will find a large offer of all kinds of biological delicatessen, old Dutch apples and pears, flowers, books, jewelry, gifts, decorations and more. Open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: €5; children 11 and younger, free.
- **Art market in Wijk bij Duurstede** offers more than 180 booths held along the Castle Wall, in the Castel Park, Museum Garden, Grote Kerk, at Market Square and at Mazijk. Open from noon to 5 p.m.



**Through Oct. 4**

- **Home-and-living fair in Amsterdam** at RAI will offer you new ideas on changing your home interior. Open most days from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Admission: €19; children, 11 and under, €7.

**Through Oct. 10**

- **British Curiosa Fair in Zeijen** will be held at De Oranjerie at Noorderstraat 1. Open from 1 to 6 p.m. Free admission.

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