

# THE GAZETTE

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

## Benelux news briefs

### JFC Library closes

The library at JFC Brunssum will close today at 3 p.m.

### Job opens up locally

Sterling Medical has a victim-advocate position open in the Benelux area. For more information, call +49-611-1435449293.

### Chièvres Exchange

The Chièvres Exchange will be closed Jan. 26 to conduct the annual inventory. The Exchange will reopen Jan. 27, at 10 a.m. The Food Court will not be affected by this closure; they will be open normal hours.

### AFCU

Andrews Federal Credit Union has open positions in each of their Benelux locations. To view these positions and to apply, visit the Careers link at [www.andrewsfcu.org](http://www.andrewsfcu.org).

### New Dental numbers

The new phone numbers to reach the SHAPE Dental Clinic are:

**Front Desk:** DSN 566-5328 or civilian 065-325328

**Officer in charge:** DSN 566-5266 or civilian 065-325266

**Senior dental noncommissioned officer:** DSN 566-5212 or civilian 065-325212.

## Table of Contents

News.....	1-5
Inside the gate.....	6
Outside the gate.....	8-11



Headquarters and Headquarters Company 1st Sergeant Alejandro Romar hands over the company flag to Capt. Jeffrey Paul, Commander HHC, as he relinquishes his duties during a ceremony in Chièvres, Tuesday, January 19, 2016. (U.S. Army Photo by Tim Clark)

**See also page 3**

# 39th Signal Battalion to partner with Belgian unit



(Picture left) Belgian Army Lt. Col. Michel Flohimont, Commander, 6th Computer and Information Systems Group in Peutie, Belgium, sits next to Lt. Col. Eric Van den Bosch, Commander, 39th Signal Battalion and Capt. Phillip Gilchrist from Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 39th Signal Battalion during the initial meeting on Caserne Daumerie, Chièvres, Tuesday, January 19, 2016. (Picture below) The 39th Signal Battalion hosted the 6CIS Commander and some of his staff members to evaluate how they can partner together. Several options were already brought forward: plan a visit during a NATO exercise, participate in functional training, organize a joint combatives or weapon training, and participate in fiber optic training were some of the options. Both units are looking at enhancing their ability to have the American and Belgian systems to interact and learning from each other's experience while maintaining a positive, intercultural partnership. (U.S. Army photos by Cis Spook)



# In Memoriam



The men and women of the USAG Benelux community mourn the loss of Hugo Herenalsteen, Dispatcher at the Distinguished

Visitor Support Element, NATO Brigade Brussels, who passed away Jan. 17 at the age of 64. Hugo is survived by his wife Rita, his two children and four grandchildren.

Hugo was born in Elsene, Belgium, in 1951. He started his career in 1975 as a gardener with the Directorate of Public Works. In 1997, he became a driver in the Brussels Motor Pool, and in 2009 he became a dispatcher.

Hugo is remembered by his friends and colleagues as a technical expert preparing and conducting dignitary missions behind the scene for the NATO Ministerial conferences. He was very talented when it came to creating IT forms and reports used in daily dispatch operations. He was a very friendly person appreciated by all co-workers and customers.

The funeral service will take place in Sterrebeek, Jan. 22 at 10 a.m.

A memorial service will be held in the USAG Brussels chapel at a later date and time.

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# First Sergeant relinquishes duties at Company

Story and photos by Tim Clark  
USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office



Capt. Jeffrey Paul, USAG Benelux Company Commander praised 1st Sgt. Romar for his outstanding leadership skills and mentorship of Soldiers during his speech.

In a well-attended ceremony, in Chièvres, Jan. 19, 1st Sgt. Alejandro Romar relinquished his responsibility as first sergeant of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USAG Benelux.

In his remarks, Company Commander Capt. Jeffrey Paul told a couple of humorous stories about serving with Romar. He followed that with praise for the job Romar has done, mentioning his work with the color guards at numerous ceremonies, outstanding leadership skills and mentorship of Soldiers.

"I know the entire company can agree that 1st Sgt. Romar's presence as an NCO, leader and friend have changed us all in the most positive of ways," Paul said.

He went on to give recognition to Romar's wife Susi for her commitment to her husband and children during their time in Belgium.

Romar opened his remarks by thanking USAG Benelux Com-



During his speech, 1st Sgt. Alejandro Romar thanked his two Company commanders as well as the Soldiers for their support.



Col. Marty Vannatter, Commander USAG Benelux, shakes hands with 1st Sgt. Alejandro Romar at the conclusion of the relinquishment of responsibilities ceremony in Chièvres, Tuesday, January 19, 2016.

mander Col. Marty Vannatter and Command Sgt. Maj. Majors for their mentorship.

"To my two commanders Capt. Beckett and Capt. Paul, it has been great working with each of you," Romar said. "The beauty of the U.S. Army is people can come from very different walks of life and come together and complete missions, which is what we did as command teams."

Romar thanked the Soldiers of the company for all their support.

"It has truly been an honor to serve as your first sergeant," Romar said.

Romar is heading to Fort Riley, Kansas, with his wife and three children. Sgt. 1st Class Meaghan Davis will serve as acting 1st Sgt. for the company.

# U.S. citizens overseas should take action now in order to vote

## Special to the Gazette

2016 is a presidential election year and as such some preparation is required to ensure that you can utilize your right to vote while living abroad.

Most states require you to complete an absentee ballot application to start the absentee voting process even if you've previously registered. FVAP encourages the use of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to start the absentee voting process as it is standardized for use across all states and will extend your eligibility to receive a ballot for all Federal elections in which you are eligible.

The FPCA acts as both a registration and absentee ballot request form. FVAP encourages our military voters to submit a new FPCA every year and when they move.

It only takes a few quick steps to make sure your vote is counted no matter where you are in the world. The FPCA can be easily completed by using the FPCA online assistant at <http://www.fvap.gov/military-voter/registration-ballots> or picking up a hardcopy version from your unit voting assistance officer.

1. Complete and sign the FPCA using your state's instructions. You can find your state's instructions at <http://www.fvap.gov/military-voter/registration-ballots>.

2. Fold and seal your FPCA. If using the online FPCA, print, sign and put it in an envelope. You qualify for free postage if you use the approved envelope template found at <http://www.fvap.gov/eo/overview/materials/forms>.

3. Address and mail the FPCA to your local election official. Be sure to include your return address, and affix postage if using a foreign postal service. The CMR does not require postage if you use the template provided.

Take a moment to register to vote early enough to allow for the time spent in the mail system and be able to fix any problem that you might encounter. For more information, contact the USAG Benelux Installation Voting Assistance Officer at DSN 361-5973 or civilian 068-275973.



## It's about that time: Chôlette!

Don't miss the opportunity to (re)experience this fun-filled local tradition. Crossage takes place on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10, starting at noon in the streets of Chièvres and surrounding villages.

The city of Chièvres will be closed to all traffic, and no parking will be allowed.

Crossage is a sport that could be described as a cross between golf and croquet. Teams compete against one another as they try to hit the kegs with the wooden, oblong "ball" (chôlette) and the wooden mallet (rabort) in as few hits as possible. The entire course covers about 30 kegs.

Cost is €32 for a rabort (€28) and a chôlette (4€), and €4 for insurance if you preregister or €5 if you register the day. The payment and registration deadline is Feb. 5.

To learn more about crossage and to find out about registering, call 0496-876938.

# Host Nation Orientation gives newcomers a taste of the Benelux

**By Lindita Celaj**

Relocation Program Manager, USAG Benelux Army Community Service

Located in the heart of Europe, the Benelux gives you the opportunity to travel and experience the diverse cultures and history of your host country and its neighboring nations. Living in the Benelux also gives you the opportunity to sample the special foods enjoyed where you are and to make new host-nation friends.

Army Community Service offers Host Nation Orientation to newly arrived military and civilian employees and their families in USAG Benelux to teach them how to get the most out of their tour. The program provides information that will help newcomers become familiar with their new environment and will make the process of settling in smoother. Registration is required.

The orientation can familiarize you and your family with host-nation culture as well as teach you how to use public transportation and how to shop on the economy. Join the group at ACS Host Nation Orientation, and you and your family will get the information to help you integrate into your new community, aided by cultural awareness and some understanding of the language.

In the Brussels community, Host Nation Orientation can be either a two-day event or a four-day event. Both the two- and four-day orientations have something in common: the deputy garrison manager's welcome and USAG Benelux-Brussels site brief, which start at 8:45 a.m. and are followed by a cultural acclimatization (information on local customs as well as basic French and Flemish), which ends at 12:30 p.m. Other days offer Supermarket Guided Tour, Hospital Guided Tour and Metro Madness (in which newcomers learn to use public transportation). Meet in the ACS conference room in Building 4 half an hour before start time to get settled, get a snack or get ready to leave as a group for a tour, if applicable. To register for the next orientation Feb. 16 to 17 or for more information, call DSN 368-9783 or civilian 02-7179783.

In the Schinnen community, Host Nation Orientation is



*Host Nation Orientation will also teach you how to use public transportation. (Archive Picture)*

a two-day event. All newcomers must attend the Host-Nation Orientation on Day 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to learn local customs, culture, language and an overview of Tri-Border services. On Day 2, meet at ACS to take the Newcomers Tour from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The group goes beyond the gate to learn and use the public transportation to visit points of interest in the community. To register for the next orientation Feb. 18 to 19 or for more information, call DSN 360-7218/7500 or civilian 046-4437218/7500.

In the SHAPE/Chièvres community, Host Nation Orientation is a two-day event that starts at the ACS Conference Room on the second floor of Building 318 at 8:30 a.m. Sessions both days end at 3:30 p.m. On Day 1, you will learn about the SHAPE/Chièvres community and all it has to offer. You will also learn about Belgian customs and basic French. On Day 2, you will learn how to use public transportation, 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. To register for the next orientation Feb. 22 to 23 or for more information, call DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-326824.

## Scholarship program provides funds to eligible U.S. military members

The NATO Joint TOP-3 Scholarship program is seeking applications for the 2016 school year. The Scholarship program provides funds to eligible U.S. military members in order to further his or her college education. Funds are to assist students with tuition, books, and associated fees for the academic year. The program is open to all active

duty E-7 and below currently enrolled in an Associates, Bachelor, or Master's degree program at an accredited college or university during the upcoming semester.

Applicants must be attached to one of the following commands: NATO HQ, US Military Delegation, International Military Staff, US Mission, USAG Brus-

sels, or U.S. Embassy.

Students with a Master's degree are not eligible.

Interested applicants are to review the application package and submit all required documents by Feb. 19. Awardees will be notified Feb. 25.

For additional information call civilian 02-7075376 or 02-7075101.

## BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

Jan. 21

- **3 Star Dinner Special** - Enjoy chicken and ribs from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adults \$12; children, ages 12 and under, \$6. (Alternate children's menu: hotdogs or chicken fingers.)
- **BOSS Movie Night 'Hotel Transylvania 2' (PG)** - At the BOSS Movie Area, Bldg, 1, third floor. Showtime is 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 22

- **BOSS Movie Night 'Captive' (PG-13)** - At the BOSS Movie Area, Bldg, 1, third floor. Showtime is 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 24

- **"Poetry Appreciation Day" at the Library** - From noon to 1 p.m., join for stories, crafts, socializing and snacks. For children 3 to 10 and their parents.

Jan. 28

- **3 Star Dinner Special** - Enjoy stir fried noodles, pork chops, mashed potatoes and green beans from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adults \$12; children, ages 12 and under, \$6. (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.
- **BOSS Movie Night 'Martian' (PG-13)** - At the BOSS Movie Area, Bldg, 1, third floor. Showtime is 6:30 p.m.



Through April 1

- **Team Weight Loss Challenge** - It is not too late to join this program. Open to all U.S. military, civilians and family members.

## SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

Sign up now

- **Volleyball team/league** - The Fitness Center is interested in having a volleyball team/league within the Tri-border communities. Players from the Brunssum, GK, and Schinnen communities are all welcomed to participate (US and NATO ID card holders). The season will begin on or about March 7, with a coach's meeting at the Schinnen Fitness Center, March 1 (time TBD). The deadline for entry will be **Feb. 27**. If you love volleyball and friendly competitions, please sign up as an effort to establish teams/league. For more information stop by or contact the Schinnen Fitness Center, DSN 360-7561 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437561.

Jan. 25

- **Hearts Apart** - Schinnen Army Community Service offers this support group to youth separated from a loved one, whether through a deployment or a family situation, at AFNORTH International School from 2 to 3 p.m. Home-schoolers welcome. For details, call the ACS Deployment Readiness Office at DSN 360-7269/7500 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437269/7500.

Jan. 26-27

- **Register for Language Classes** - Registration is from 5 to 7 p.m. Course dates are Feb. 15 through May 22 for Dutch 1 & 2, French 1 & 2, German 1 & 2, Spanish 1 & 2, Italian 1 and 3 levels of English. The price is €95 + book fee. For more information, contact jfclanguageprogram@gmail.com.

Jan. 27

- **Newborns, Parental Support and Music** - Held from from 10 to 11 a.m. at the CDC, Bldg. H-602, room Y006. This class is a fun way to meet other parents, discuss transitioning as a parent and bond with your baby through sharing and music. Suggested for parents with children ages 0-12 months. For more information call DSN 360-7500 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437500.

Jan. 28

- **Dress for Success** - Learn the do's and don'ts of dressing professionally and appropriately for an interview and your daily work environment at this employment class at the Schinnen Army Community Service Training Room in Building 39 **Jan. 28** from 10 to 11:30 a.m. For more information or to register, call DSN 360-7269/7500 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437269/7500.
- **Parents Support and Education/Office hours** - At ACS to learn about pregnancy, labor and delivery, breastfeeding, newborn care or toddlers. Come for either an individual or group class for informative handouts or to view an excellent DVD on pregnancy, labor and delivery, newborn care and parenting. Call ahead to discuss your interest and needs to DSN 360-7500 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437500.

## SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

### Register now

- **St Valentine's Day Dinner Dance** - Event will be held **Feb. 13** from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. with a live band at the SHAPE Club. Tickets at €36 per person can be purchased at the club. For more information, call DSN 423-8306 or civilian 065-448306.
- **Northern Nights Canadian Dinner** - Event is held **Feb. 2**. Gathering is at 6 p.m. at the SHAPE Club where you will be transported to a winter wonderland. Tickets at €30 for members of the SHAPE International Women's Club and €35 for non-members can be purchased Jan. 28 and 29 at the Rendezvous from 9:30 a.m. to noon and at the Silverspoon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Mardi Gras in Belgium** - Event hosted by the Belgium Zetas, will be held Jan. 30 at 6 p.m. in Mauraage. Tickets are available now at €30 for one or €50 per couple. For more information, email Belgiantzetas@gmail.com.

### Jan. 27

- **Health & Wellness Seminar** - Topics include stress and energy management, weight control and overall health improvement starting at 6:30 p.m. in the SHAPE Fitness Center. To sign up, call 0489816195.

### Jan. 28

- **Tax Center Grand Opening** - The grand opening of the Benelux Tax Center will be held from 2 to 3 p.m. in the conference room, second floor, Bldg. 318, SHAPE.

### Mark your calendar

#### March 10

- **U.S. Town Hall and Information Fair** - Information fair starts at 3:30 p.m. and town hall at 4 p.m., followed by a questions and answers session at the SHAPE Events Center. Meet with community leaders and agencies to ask questions and receive information. Open to all U.S. service members, civilians and their dependents. Food will be available for purchase. Children activity center will be provided for free. For more information, call the USNMR at DSN 423-4032 or civilian 054-444032.

Inside the gate



Tickets for the SHAPE International Women's Club Canadian Dinner

*Northern Nights!*  
2nd FEBRUARY 2016  
will be on sale  
January 21, 28th & 29th 2016  
at the Rendezvous  
09:30 to 12:00  
and at the Silverspoon  
11:00 to 13:00

Cost is 30€ for members  
35€ for non-members.

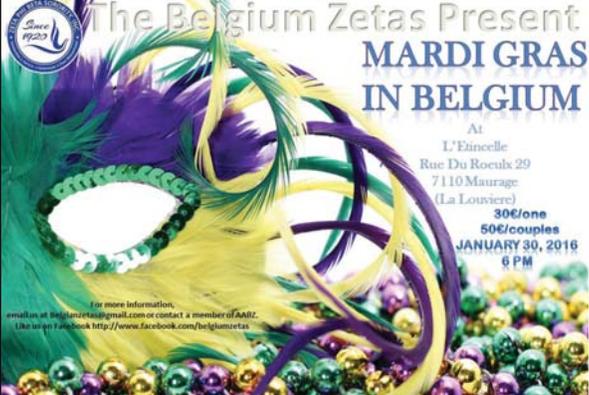
*Northern Nights!*

You are cordially invited to enjoy a fun-filled evening with dinner hosted by the Canadian women of SHAPE featuring the beauty of Northern Nights in Canada.

Join us on the 2nd of February 2016 at 18:00 at the SHAPE Club and be transported to a winter wonderland!

Please note that this is a NON-SMOKING event for WOMEN AGE 18+ YEARS.

Join our facebook group



The Belgium Zetas Present

**MARDI GRAS IN BELGIUM**

At  
L'Etoile  
Rue Du Roelux 29  
7110 Mauraage  
(La Louviere)

30€/one  
50€/couples  
JANUARY 30, 2016  
6 PM

For more information,  
email us at belgiantzetas@gmail.com or contact a member of A&MZ  
the nearest Facebook http://www.facebook.com/belgiantzetas

## 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/Chievres 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

## Eclectic collection awaits at museum in Mariemont

Story and photos by Tim Clark  
USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

Located in the middle of a 110 acre park, the 'Musée Royal de Mariemont' houses the collection of one of the richest industrialist of Wallonia, Raoul Warocqué, who donated his collection to the nation of Belgium in 1917.

Enclosed by walls, the park has a quiet, peaceful feel with large, open green spaces mixed with ponds, statues and forested areas throughout the park. Visitors can see trees from around the world. Serpentine paths loop through the park with something new to discover around every corner. The ruins of the castle of Charles of Lorraine, a very large Amida Buddha brought back by Warocqué from his travels in the Far East, and a couple of giant Sequoia Redwood trees

from California can all be found along the trails in the park.

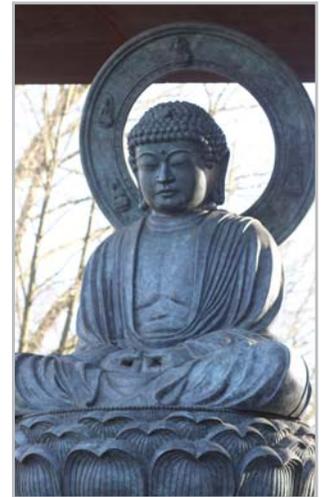
The highlight of a walk in the park may be the "Les Bourgeois de Calais," ("The Burghers of Calais in English") a statue by Auguste Rodin, the French sculptor renowned around the world for his works "The Thinker" and "The Kiss." One of only 12 castings, it depicts the leaders of Calais, France, who offered themselves to the English in exchange for the lives of the townspeople of Calais during the Hundred Years' War. The varied emotions on the faces of the men - fear, anguish, and resignation - perfectly capture this poignant moment.

The museum reflects Warocqué's eclectic tastes. He devoted most of his for-

ture to his collection of art objects. Greek and Roman statues, jade objects from China and Egyptian antiquities were just some of his interests. A monumental bust of Cleopatra, weighing 5 tons and acquired by Warocqué on a trip to Egypt, is one of the most spectacular items in the museum.

Warocqué's interests also included regional archaeology and Tournai porcelain. Both are well represented in the museum. You can get an idea of the daily life of long ago in the region from the display of the regional artifacts. Almost 2,000 pieces of Tournai porcelain, many rare like the famous peacock plate, are on display.

Located in the museum building, the library has



*This Amida Buddha was brought to Belgium from the Far East.*

130,000 volumes, mostly about art, archaeology and art history. The library also holds the archives of the Warocqué family and 5,000 handwritten letters and documents by famous men and women: royals, politicians, writers and philosophers.

Outside the gate



*"The Burghers of Calais" by Rodin stands in the park at Mariemont.*



*Egyptian vases and Roman statues are on display, with a bust of Cleopatra in the center.*

Address is Chaussée de Mariemont 100, Morlanwelz, Belgium. Open: Tuesday-Sunday, October to March from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April to September from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry to the park is always free; the museum is free the first Sunday of each month. Adults €5, Seniors €2.50, Students €2.

# Belgian invented first plastic: Bakelite

by Tim Clark

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

In the opening scene of the classic 1967 movie, "The Graduate," Dustin Hoffman, playing new college graduate Benjamin Braddock at a party thrown by his parents in his honor, gets advice from a family friend: "I just want to say one word to you. Just one word: plastics."

Plastics are so ubiquitous, that we don't give them a second thought. It's everywhere; the toys we play with, holding the liquids we drink and in many of the products we buy. The first plastic was invented by Leo Baekeland – a Belgian chemist living in New York.

Baekeland was born in

Ghent, Belgium, Nov. 14, 1863. He graduated first in his class from high school at 16, earning a scholarship to the University of Ghent. He received his doctorate degree with highest honors at 21. While on a scholastic fellowship trip to the United States, he decided to settle there and moved to New York in 1889.

His first big success was Velox, a photographic paper. He sold the rights to Velox to George Eastman, founder and owner of Kodak, for one million dollars in 1899. With this fortune he built a home and laboratory in Yonkers, New York.

While working on a syn-



Bracelets made of Bakelite. (Courtesy photo)

thetic substitute for the shellac (made from beetle excretions at the time) used in electronic insulation, he came up with Bakelite, which he named after himself. The strength and mold-ability of the substance, combined with the low cost of producing the material made the product an instant success when introduced in 1909. Bakelite

was called the material of a thousand uses.

Bakelite was used to manufacture a vast array of things: telephones, jewelry, car parts, radios, and of course electric insulators. It ushered in the age of plastics and Baekeland became known as the Father of Plastic.



Radios were one of many things made of Bakelite. (Courtesy photo)

## Upcoming organized trips

### Chièvres Equipment Rental

Serving Brussels, Chièvres and SHAPE. Call DSN 361-6268 or civilian 068-276268.

- **Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch, Germany, March 26 to April 2 (All NATO welcome.)**

### SHAPE Trips and Tours

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

- **"The Nutcracker" Ballet, Brussels, Jan. 24 (Seats are limited.)**
- **Thermae 2000 in Valkenburg, the Netherlands, Jan. 30**
- **Malta, Feb. 6 to 11**
- **Rosenmontag Carnival in Köln, Germany, Feb. 8**
- **Paris with dinner cruise on the Seine, Feb. 13**
- **London with "Wicked" musical, Feb. 20**
- **Reims and the Champagne Region, March 5**
- **Cooking class in Lille, March 12**
- **Oostende with Soul Legends, March 19**
- **Paris, March 26**
- **Croatia with Venice and Slovenia, March 28 to April 6**
- **Berlin, April 29 to May 2**
- **Keukenhof gardens and Gouda, April 23**

### SHAPE Travel Group

Call civilian 0470-876369 for details.

- **Trocs and Leuven (Louvain), Jan. 28**
- **Amsterdam, Feb. 18**
- **Lace, masks and spirits, March 2**
- **Trier, March 10**
- **Beer, Cheese and Chocolate, March 22**
- **Highclere Castle, April 4**
- **Veuve Clicquot Champagne, April 14**
- **Paris in the Spring, April 27**
- **Keukenhof & Scheveningen, May 3**
- **Versailles, May 19**
- **Honfleur & Calvados, May 26**
- **Arnhem, June 7**
- **Canterbuty, June 23**

### Schinnen Trips & Tours

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

- **Express Trip to Paris, France, March 19**



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

**Jan. 22**

- **3rd Festival of French songs in Mons** - Event will be held at the Cocoon on the square with five artists/groups who will be performing each for 45 minutes, starting at 7 p.m. Entrance is free of charge.



- **Classical music concert (Offenbach, Strauss, Messager, Gluck, Christiné) in Waterloo** - Held at the Chapelle Musicale Reine Elisabeth on Chaussée de Tervuren 445 starting at 8 p.m. Entrance fee is €20.

- **Katerina Tsiridou rebetiko Band performance in Brussels** - Held at Art Base, Rue des Sables 29 at 8 p.m.. For reservations, check <http://www.art-base/be> Entrance fee is €15.

- **Jazz 'n Food Friday in Brussels (Ixelles)** - Held at the Crystal Lounge Restaurant, Sofital Brussels Le Louise on Avenue de la Toison d'Or 40 from 6 to 9 p.m.



**Jan. 23**

- **Brussels Rhythm and Blues Club in Brussels (Ixelles)** - With the Belgian Boogie Boy, Paul Ambach. Concert starts at 9 p.m. at the Sounds Jazz Club, Rue de la Tulipe 28. Italian food will be available. Entrance fee is €10.

**Through Jan. 24**

- **Motor show in Laeken** at Brussels Expo - Discover 100,000 square meters dedicated to cars and motorbikes. Open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday and Friday and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the other days. Admission: €13. Find more information at <http://www.autosalon.be/en>.



**Jan. 24**

- **Volksmarch in Casteau for 5, 10 or 20 km** - Departs Chaussée de Bruxelles 184 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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

**Jan. 21-24**

- **Realism Amsterdam Art Fair** at Passenger Terminal Amsterdam on Piet Heinkade 27 is open all days from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Jan. 22 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Entrance is €12.50; children (12-18) €8.

**Through Jan. 24**

- **Jazz Week in Leiden** will feature live jazz music performances in clubs, bars and cafés throughout Leiden city center. Find out more at <http://www.deleidsejazzweek.nl/>



**Jan. 22-25 & 29-31**

- **Attractive Living Fair in Wieze (BE)** - At Oktoberhallen on Schrovestraat 22a with info on building houses, renovations, decorating, gardens, wellness and more. Entry is free. Open: Jan. 22, 25, 29 from 4 to 8 p.m.; Jan. 23 & 30, 2 to 8 p.m. and Jan. 24 & 31, 2 to 7 p.m.

**Jan 23**

- **Volksmarch in Schaijk for 5, 10, 15 or 25 km** - Departs Café restaurant Nieuw Schaijk on Rijksweg 46 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the 5, 10 or 15 km routes and from 8 to 11 a.m. for the 25 km route.

**Jan. 23-24**

- **Western Experience in Den Bosch** - Held at Brabanthallen, this is the largest all-around country & western festival in Europe with country music, western riding, Pow-Wow dances, line dancing, American Wheels Show and a large western market with more than 100 stands. Entrance is €19.50; children (ages 5 to 12) €12.50. Open: Jan. 23, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Jan. 24, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea market in Enschede** - At Expo Twente from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Entrance fee is €5 per adult, children 6 to 12 years old: €2.50.
- **Brocante d'Hiver in Geldrop** - An attractive antique & curiosa market held in the beautiful surroundings of the castle Geldrop and its farm on Helze 8. Open on Jan. 23, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Jan. 24, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry: €3.

Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.



**Jan. 24 Continued**

- **Volksmarch in Lobbes for 5, 10 or 20 km and orientation trail for 8 km** - Departs Rue des Ecoles 27 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Grandglise/Beloeil for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs "Le Relais du Fayt" on Rue de la Sablière 12 fom 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Classical music concert in Hyon** - Concert by the choir "A Choeur ouvert" and the instrumental group "Ut et Flûtes" will be held at the Church on the square from 4 to 6 p.m. Entrance fee is €10. Children under 12 get in free of charge.
- **Musical brunch in Brussels** - Held at "La Tentation" On Rue de Laeken, 28 as of 11 a.m. with concerts starting at 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. Entrance is €17 per adult; children under 12: €7.

**Jan. 23-31**

- **"Wonen 2016" in Mechelen** - This fair is Flanders



largest home and living fair and it is held at Nekkerhal, Boeimeerstraat. A visit will give you many fun ideas for your interior and exterior and the newest of the newest concerning building and renovating. Entrance is €5, on Sunday €6. The fair is open on Mondays-Thursdays from 1 to 6 p.m.; Fridays from 1 to 10 p.m. and in the weekend from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Jan. 25-Feb. 2**

- **"BRAFA 2016" in Brussels** - BRAFA, short for Brussels Antiques & Fine Arts Fair, is one of the longest running international fairs in the world. It's held at Tour & Taxis on Avenue du Port 86C. Open daily 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Jan. 28, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Entrance is €25. Catalogue €10.



**Jan. 23-24 Continued**

- **Flea market in Maastricht** - Market is held at MECC from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Entrance is €3.50.
- **Vacation Fair for Special Travel in Maastricht** - Held at MECC, visitors will be offered a different kind of vacation. The fair is specialized in "do" vacations and quality and exclusivity are the keywords. For instance, they have trips to the Antarctic; walking tours and more adventurous travels bringing you to the farthest outback's in the world. Open on Jan. 23, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Jan. 24, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entrance is €15.

**Jan. 24**

- **Reptile Fair in Gorinchem** - Held from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Evenementenhal, this fair has many interesting reptiles and other cold blooded animals like snakes, spiders, insects and more. Entrance is €5; children €3.50.
- **Volksmarch in Wijlre for 9. 12. 18 or 25 km** - Departs Café A Gen Baan on Parallelweg 30 from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the 9 km route, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the 12 km route, from 7:30 a.m. to noon for the 18 km route and from 7:30 to 11 a.m. for the 25 km route.
- **Volksmarch in Oeffelt for 5, 10, 15, 20 or 25 km** - Departs Café de Buuf on Dorpsstraat 16 from 8 a.m. to noon for the 5 and 10 km route, 8 to 10 a.m. for the 15, 20 or 25 km routes.
- **Volksmarch in Moresnet (Belgian Limburg) for 15 km** - Departs Café le Retro on Rue du Village 67 at 9:30 a.m.

**Jan. 28-31**

- **The Art & Antique Fair in Naarden** - Held at Grote Kerk in the center of the historic fortified city, this fair offers a variety of furniture, silver, jewelry, paintings, china, clocks and lots more. Open daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Entrance is €16.50.

**Through Jan. 31**

- **Winter Efteling near Tilburg** is Efteling Amusement and Fairy Tale Park at its winter-fairyland best. Located in Kaatsheuvel on Europalaan, Winter Efteling offers good old-fashioned winter fun and special winter attractions, transforming it into a magical winter world with an abundance of twinkling lights and other mood lighting as well as ice-skating and bonfires. Experience the water show Aquanura, a colorful musical show, against a dark winter sky. Open weekdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; weekends from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission: €40. Learn more at <http://www.efteling.com/winterefteling>.

Outside the gate

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