

# THE GAZETTE

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

## Benelux news briefs

### Transportation Services closes for ceremony

Transportation Services (Personal Property, Drivers Testing and Transportation Motor Pool, or TMP) will close for a retirement ceremony Feb. 3 from noon to 2 p.m.

For any urgent transportation requirements or emergency issues, contact civilian 0479-888640.

Questions about this closure can be directed to DSN 366-6571 or civilian 065-326571.

### Job opens up locally

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

### 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 <https://www.andrewsfcu.org>.

### USNMR hosts town hall

Mark your calendar: The U.S. national military representative, or USNMR, will sponsor a U.S. Town Hall and Information Fair at the SHAPE Events Centre March 10.

## Table of Contents

News.....	1-6
Inside the gate.....	7-8
Outside the gate.....	9-12



### Chièvres Air Base supports NATO training

British Army Staff Sgt. Craig Lees, with the Joint European Training Team, shows members of the British Armed Forces assigned to different NATO units how to use the decontamination powder prior to entering the U.S. Army Training Support Center Benelux's Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear, or CBRN, chamber on Chièvres Air Base, Belgium, Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2016. (U.S. Army photo by Pierre-Etienne Courtejoie/Training Support Center Benelux)

# ACS uses new VTC system to be in three places at once

## Community members may use VTC suites for meetings, contacting loved ones

by **Keith Houin**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Army Community Service is the first garrison ACS in Europe to complete the command-directed consolidation of services.

The consolidation supports the ACS manpower rebalance reductions, while ensuring Soldiers, families, retirees and civilians continue to receive consistent levels of quality programs and services, according to Yvette Castro, USAG Benelux ACS director.

The consolidation streamlined management and responsibilities with minimal impact to front-door services by leveraging technology at the main ACS center at SHAPE and the ACS Lite offices at USAG Benelux-Brussels and USAG Benelux-Schinnen, she said.

"By using web-based services, customers can get the support they need at any of the three locations," she said. "One type of technology that is already being used is Jabber cam, which is a '.mil' (secure) Skype-like video system that can be used to connect customers and staff between sites. A service member in Brussels needing to talk to an Army Emergency Relief officer at SHAPE can immediately receive face-to-face services and assistance when an emergency occurs without having to travel."

Also in the near future, ACS will have Skype available to facilitate quick remote communication between customers and service providers wherever they are in the Benelux community.



Employees of USAG Benelux Army Community Service use their new video-teleconference system to discuss ACS programs Friday, Jan. 15, 2016. (U.S. Army photo by Keith Houin)

"We will be using VTC video-teleconferencing systems to provide the same workshops we have always provided but to more people," Castro said. "Beginning in February, we will start providing classes projected mostly from the SHAPE main site ACS center to the ACS Lite centers in Brussels and Schinnen in a variety of subject areas."

Employment Readiness Program's "Ten Steps to a Federal Job," résumé-writing classes, "Dress for Success," interview techniques and the Family Advocacy Program's "Scream-Free"

parenting and marriage courses are just some of the sessions that can be held at all locations simultaneously with a single instructor, the ACS director said.

The first round of the workshops to be projected from SHAPE to all locations has been scheduled for Feb. 2 and 3: "Ready to PCS" from 11 a.m. to noon and "Saving and Investing" from 1 to 2 p.m.

She added that the VTC suites will also be available for the community to use on a space-available basis.

To submit or subscribe, email [usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil)

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# Corps of Engineers assists Benelux with consolidation, transformation

by Jennifer Aldridge

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District

WIESBADEN, Germany — European Infrastructure Consolidation, a process announced by the Department of Defense last January to save the U.S. government approximately \$500 million annually, is transforming and consolidating installations throughout Europe, including U.S. Army Garrison Benelux, by 2022.

Benelux officials have the unique mission of consolidating their footprint in two countries — Belgium and the Netherlands. The garrison, with the assistance of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District and the Dutch Ministry of Defense, will execute a \$122 million transformation program. Upon completion, Caserne Daumerie and the Brussels and Schinnen Emma Mine leased sites will close, and all tenants will relocate to Chièvres Air Base, Sterrebeek Annex and Joint Force Command Brunssum, respectively.

Shortly after the DOD announcement, Benelux leadership set up a dedicated office to manage EIC work, said John Phelan, the Benelux transformation and stationing manager.

“As the command started getting into the planning details, the realization of the complexity — three sites over two countries — was too much for an additional duty as assigned. It required an additional office,” he said.

Europe District is supporting the garrison with planning, design and construction oversight of 10 transformation projects in Belgium. Work will include renovating buildings used by the directorates of Emergency Services and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation; Value Added Tax Office, veterinary clinic and post office; and building new facilities for Department of Defense Education Activity-Europe, Benelux Directorate of Public Works and FMWR’s Auto Skills Center. A utilities study was also completed to assist with the consolidation effort.

In the next decade, the garrison community will benefit from a new school



John Phelan, the Benelux transformation and stationing manager, reviews garrison master plans with Amy Holmes, the Benelux transformation project manager, on Caserne Daumerie in Chièvres, Belgium, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015. The pair is working with a number of European Infrastructure Consolidation partners, including U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District, to manage transformation projects in Belgium and the Netherlands. The work is expected to be completed by 2022. (U.S. Army photo by Tim Clark)

and sports fields for students in kindergarten through 12th grade, infrastructure upgrades and relocation of garrison headquarters, facilitating the termination of two existing leases, said Émile Pitre, a Europe District Installation Support Branch project manager.

“This will save the garrison \$6 million to \$9 million in operations and maintenance costs annually,” he said.

The initiative not only saves money, it enables better service to the community, Phelan said.

“We’re moving the services closer to the customer, becoming a one-stop shop and creating a community center rather than decentralized services,” he said.

Due to the quantity and complexity of projects, many district branches and sections are involved in the transformation.

The Planning Section worked with Benelux partners to create a future development plan, utilities study and request for proposal packages for design-build projects. The Engineering Branch

assists by designing Job Order Contract projects and reviewing designs provided by contractors. The Project Management Branch will execute the Brussels school and athletic fields project for DODEA-Europe. The Installation Support Branch designs and executes JOC and Multiple Award Task Order Contract projects. The Benelux Resident Office, located at Chièvres Air Base, oversees the contractors’ daily work on site.

Amy Holmes, the Benelux transformation project manager, recognizes the capabilities and technical expertise that Europe District brings to the team.

“The garrison benefits from USACE’s experience working with host-nation contractors and delivering quality products in complex multinational environments,” she said.

Although the concept of transformation isn’t new to DOD or Installation Management Command-Europe, each location has its own set of objectives

**See page 4.**

# Transformation | continued

and unique circumstances, Phelan said.

“The biggest challenge we have here is working with the Schinnen transformation piece. Based on national agreements and since we live in Belgium, we have more of a habitual relationship with the Corps, and the Corps has experience working with the Belgians as well,” he said. “On the other hand, the Netherlands has different national agreements that do not include the Corps, so we don’t have that resident expertise there, making it more of a challenge for us.”

While USACE has experience in Belgium — the district recently completed American elementary, middle and high schools at NATO’s Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe for DoDEA-Europe in Casteau — the transformation work is complex due to the number of projects taking place simultaneously, partners involved in the decision-making process and languages spoken.

Stakeholders — such as Installation Management Command Europe, the Benelux DPW and transformation offices — and tenant organizations all provide guidance to USACE, Pitre said.

“Identifying the primary decision-maker when there are



John Phelan, Benelux transformation and stationing manager, leads a meeting in Chièvres, Belgium, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Tim Clark)

multiple financial sponsors — or 23 tenant units on one project — is tricky,” he said.

In addition, participants speak many different languages at transformation meetings. Everyone speaks English, but sidebar conversations are spoken in other languages, Pitre said.

“DPW local nationals and the contractors’ designers primarily speak French, the prime contractor speaks German, and tenant-organization representatives speak English,” he said.

The challenges of executing the consolidation are minor, however, in comparison to the anticipated benefits, officials said.

According to the Benelux Real Property Master Plan created in March, garrison leadership will be able to successfully support missions and focus on the long-term use and sustainability of the Chièvres community as an enduring presence within Europe.

This transformation postures Benelux to better support U.S. and greater NATO missions as well, Phelan said.

“The garrison is centrally located and is gaining more capacity to take on emerging missions, like European Activity Sets,” he said.

Many of the USACE-managed renovation projects will modify the designs and configurations of available, but underutilized facilities to meet unit requirements, Pitre said.

“U.S. forces at Benelux will be better prepared for future missions,” he said.

The site returns in Belgium and the Netherlands will allow more resources to be focused on other U.S. European Command mission requirements, according to Defense officials.

“In the end, this transformation of our infrastructure will help maximize our military capabilities in Europe and help strengthen our important European partnerships, so that we can best support our NATO allies and partners in the region,” former Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said.

## Black History Month

# Celebrate accomplishments

Seven Black History Month programs will be held in USAG Benelux during February to celebrate the contributions of African-Americans to the nation’s history, literature, mathematics, science and other endeavors.

**Feb. 9** Luncheon in the PAO Auditorium in the SHAPE Headquarters building at 11:30 a.m.

**Feb. 12** Game Night at B3’s in the Events Centre at 7 p.m.

**Feb. 17** Sports Day at SHAPE Main Gym from 3 to 5 p.m.

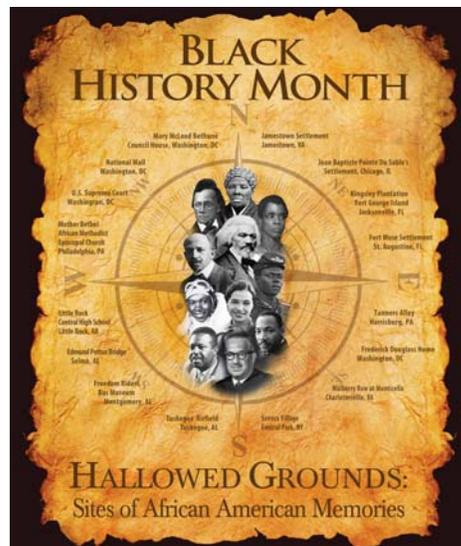
**Feb. 19** Open Mic in the SHAPE Club’s Mons Bar at 8 p.m.

**Feb. 25** Movie Marathon in the Alliance Auditorium (SHAPE Cinema) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Feb. 26** Gospel Explosion by Word Of Truth International Christian Ministries at 7 p.m.

**Feb. 27** African Market in the Events Centre from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information on these events, call DSN 361-5235 or civilian 068-275235.



# Speech-contest winners earn \$\$\$ for college

## Top competitor will try to beat Europe's best

by Joseph Schram

American Legion "Flanders Field" Post BE02

The American Legion "Flanders Field" Post BE02 conducted its Third Annual Oratorical Scholarship Contest Jan. 23.

Each contestant had to deliver two



First-place winner Austin Muraille from the International School of Brussels and second-place winner Beautiful Lawson from SHAPE American High School display their certificates at the American Legion Post BE02 Oratorical Scholarship Contest held at Brussels American High School Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016. (Photo by Master Sgt. Rhonda Lawson)

speeches. The eight- to 10-minute oration had to be on some aspect of the Constitution, with emphasis on citizens' duties and obligations to the government.

The topic of the three- to five-minute assigned speech was drawn by an official of the oratorical contest in full view of the audience.

Each contestant had five minutes to prepare the final speech.

After contestants delivered the speeches, the judges moved to a secluded area to determine the winners of the contest. The judges awarded first place to Austin Muraille from the International School of Brussels. Beautiful Lawson from SHAPE American High School took a close second.

Muraille won \$400 and an opportunity to compete at the next level, and Lawson won \$100.

The contest couldn't occur without dedicated judges. This year's judges were:

- Marie-Lise Baneton of the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Public Affairs Office,

- retired Lt. Col. William Bergman of the Brussels Education Center,

- Tracy Moreno of the U.S. Embassy's Community Liaison Office and

- retired Air Force Tech. Sgt. Conrad Payne of Schinnen Army Community Service's Financial Readiness Program/Army Emergency Relief.

Muraille will now move forward in the competition by competing at the Department of France's Oratorical contest at Brussels American High School Feb. 20.

The winner of that level of competition will move forward to the National Contest. Teens from all across the United States will gather in Indianapolis April 11 and 12 to compete in the American Legion's National High School Oratorical Contest. The overall national contest winner will receive an \$18,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$16,000. Third gets \$14,000.

# Experience Chièvres culture with game, festival



A crossage player has fun Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2015. (Photo by Tim Clark)

Your opportunity to be steeped in local tradition will be here soon, but you must register if you want to get in on this fun-filled local game.

Crossage takes place in the streets of Chièvres and surrounding villages Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10, starting at noon.

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

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.

Participants must obtain the requisite sports equipment as well as insurance before they are allowed to play, and the registration deadline is next week.

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 registering, call civilian 0496-876938.

### Vendors wanted at festival

A new tradition is growing in Chièvres. The second annual Chièvres American Festival will be held June 3 and 4.

On both days, Chièvres will have a market with both food and non-food booths. Booths will be related to Texas Saturday, June 3, and booths will be related to the United States in general Sunday, June 4.

If you want to sell your wares at the American Festival or need more information, call the USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office at DSN 361-5694 or civilian 068-275694.

# 'Speed racers' zoom toward photo finish

by Jay Woolston

Pack 100 committee chair

Cubmaster Brian Kendrick kicked off the excitement at AFNORTH International School's cafeteria at JFC Brunssum, the Netherlands, where Cub Scout Pack 100 conducted its annual Pinewood Derby Jan. 23.

More than 30 Cub Scouts from Pack 100 had worked hard over the last month preparing their Pinewood Derby cars to race down a gravity track. The Cub Scouts build their cars from official Pinewood Derby kits that include a small block of pine, four axles and four wheels.

Parents are allowed to give guidance and demonstrate techniques, such as how to sand the chassis or how to apply graphite to the wheels and axles. However, Cub Scouts should supply most of the labor.

After an inspiring "Gentlemen, start your engines," Cub Scout Pack 100's 2016 Pinewood Derby was off and racing. The competition was fierce this year with many Scouts creating some of the fastest cars in recent memory. Several races required a photo finish to determine the winner.

However, after 13 heats of racing, Webelos Scouts filled the top spots.

Most boys who are Webelos Scouts have participated in the Pinewood Derby at least once. Webelos ("We'll Be Loyal Scouts") are toward the end of their Cub Scout careers and will soon make the transition to Boy Scouts. Although racing experience might give them an edge, it doesn't always guarantee success against a determined younger Scout.

Justin Joines' "Joines Mobile" was named fastest Derby car. Second place in the speed

category went to Abe Tellez's "Chocolate Abe." Third place was awarded to Beau Tellez's "Green Speed."

Webelos Scout Kirby Kendrick's "The Bullet" garnered Best in Show design honors. Tiger Scout Stephen Gallagher's "Fire Master" earned the Most Original Design award. Webelos Scout Alex Komprood's "Magic" was named "Cubbiest Car -- the Pinewood Derby car most likely built exclusively by a Cub Scout.

Andrea Wales contributed to this report.



Above, Pack 100 Cub Scouts root for their favorite cars at the finish of a Pinewood Derby race at AFNORTH International School Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016. • At right, Cubmaster Brian Kendrick, wearing a NASCAR-like race suit, kicks off Pack 100's Pinewood Derby with "Gentlemen, start your engines!" on the AFNORTH cafeteria stage. • Below, Pack 100 Scouts anxiously await a photo finish during Pack 100's Pinewood Derby at AFNORTH International School. (Photos by Meghan Moorhouse/Pack 100 Tiger den leader)

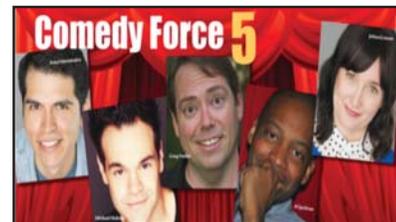


Cub Scouts Vincent Esposito, AJ McDaniel, Collen Moorhouse, Ben Oostdyk and Emmett Moorhouse carefully judge Pack 100's Pinewood Derby cars for design at AFNORTH International School Cafeteria Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016.

## BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

### Reserve now

- **Comedy Force Five** - This adult comedy show, suitable for those 18 and older, is brought to the Brussels community by Armed Forces Entertainment. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Show time is 7 p.m. Admission to the show at the 3 Star is free; however, a \$5 party-snack buffet will be available for purchase from 5:30 to 7 p.m. RSVP for show and food via email at [reservations3star@yahoo.com](mailto:reservations3star@yahoo.com) by Feb. 26. Child care is available at the USAG Benelux-Brussels CYSS from 6 to 9 p.m. Cost (non-refundable): \$12 per child. Reservations and payment must be made by Feb. 29. Call DSN 368-9651 or civilian 02-7179651.



### Jan. 28

- **BOSS Movie Night** - Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers hosts "The Martian" (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](mailto:reservations3star@yahoo.com). For details, call DSN 368-9819 or civilian 02-7179819.

### Feb. 1 to 21

- **21-Day Bench Press Challenge** - The Brussels Fitness Center in Building 3 will declare the first person to bench press 200,000 pounds in 21 days to be the winner. All NATO welcome. To get more information or to register, call DSN 368-9667 or civilian 02-7179667.

### Feb. 4

- **3 Star Dinner Special** - Enjoy pork stew, roast chicken and salad greens 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](mailto:reservations3star@yahoo.com).

### Through April 1

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

## SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

### Sign up now

- **Rock climbing** - Register youths ages 10 to 18 for this climbing event during open enrollment, which runs through Feb. 19, at CYSS Parent Central Services in Brunssum. The \$140 fee includes seven two-hour sessions, transportation to and from Rocca Indoor Facility, two hours of professional instruction and a snack with a competition during the last session. Rocca sessions will be held the following Wednesdays: **Feb. 24; March 2, 9, 16; April 6, 13 and 20**. For details, call DSN 364-4195 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5264195. Youths must be registered with CYS Services (free) and have a valid health/sports assessment at the time of enrollment.
- **Volleyball team/league** - The Fitness Center is interested in having a volleyball team/league within the Tri-border communities. Players from the Brunssum, Geilenkirchen and Schinnen communities (who are U.S. and NATO ID card-holders) are welcome to participate. The season begins on or about March 7, with a coaches meeting at the Schinnen Fitness Center March 1. The deadline for entry will be **Feb. 27**. If you love volleyball and friendly competition, sign up in an effort to establish teams/league. For more information, stop by the Schinnen Fitness Center or call DSN 360-7561 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437561.
- **Sweetheart 5k Fun Run/Walk** - Take your sweetheart along or wear something funny to remind you of them at the free Sweetheart 5k Fun Run/Walk starting outside the Schinnen Fitness Center **Feb. 12**. Check-in begins at 9 a.m. Run starts at 9:15 a.m. Water and fruit will be available. For details, call DSN 360-7561 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437561.

### Open enrollment starts soon

- **CYSS sports programs** - Open enrollment runs Feb. 1 to 26 for two sports programs offered by Child, Youth and School Services. Open to all U.S. and NATO ID card-holders, but spaces are limited. These programs are offered starting about April 12 with play running through June 4. Youths must be registered with CYSS (free) and have a valid health assessment (that will remain valid throughout the season) at the time of enrollment. Youths must meet age requirements by March 15. For details about these sports programs, call DSN 364-4195 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5264195. To register, stop by Parent Central Services in JFC Brunssum's Building H-602, or call DSN 364-3121 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5263121.

**Baseball** - Cost: boys, ages 3 to 5, \$20; boys, ages 6 to 15, \$45.

**Softball** - Cost: girls, ages 10 to 15, \$45.

### Feb. 9

- **Grand opening of tax center** - The Netherlands Law and Tax Center in Schinnen will hold a 10:30 a.m. grand opening on the first day of the tax season for the Tri-Border Region. To obtain more information about the grand opening or to make an appointment, call DSN 360-7688 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437688.

## SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

### Tickets now available

- **Mardi Gras in Belgium** - This event, hosted by the Belgium Zetas, will be held in Maurage **Jan. 30** at 6 p.m. Tickets are available now. Cost: €30 for one or €50 per couple. Contact [Belgianzetas@gmail.com](mailto:Belgianzetas@gmail.com).
- **Northern Nights Canadian Dinner** - Sponsored by the SHAPE International Women's Club and hosted by the Canadian women of SHAPE, this gathering promises to transport you to a winter wonderland at the SHAPE Club **Feb. 2** at 6 p.m. Tickets for the Northern Nights Canadian Dinner can be purchased Jan. 28 and 29 at the Rendezvous from 9:30 a.m. to noon and at the Silver Spoon in the SHAPE Headquarters building from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost: members: €30; non-members: €35.
- **Valentine's Day Dinner Dance** - Event will be held at the SHAPE Club **Feb. 13** from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Listen to a live band, and trip the light fantastic on a night reserved for romance. Tickets can be purchased at the club. Cost: €36 per person. For more information, call DSN 423-8306 or civilian 065-448306.

### Register now

- **CYSS programs for Pre-Lenten Recess** - Youths must be registered with CYSS (free). For details, stop by SHAPE's Building 503 or call DSN 423-6039/6097 or civilian 065-446039/6097, unless otherwise indicated.
- **CYSS Winter Adventure Trip** - Scheduled **Feb. 8 to 11** and open to youths in eighth through 12th grades, this trip to Germany will include the following activities: skiing, snowboarding, Austrian night sledding, Parnach Gorge torch tour and more. Spaces are limited. Cost: \$350.
- **CYSS Teen Baby-sitting Course** - Learn basic child-care skills and get CPR/first aid-certified **Feb. 8 to 11** during this course. Youths who are 12 (sixth grade) or older and registered with SHAPE CYSS (free) are eligible to participate in this course. Cost: \$25, which includes Baby Sitter's Handbook and a Magic Baby Sitter's Bag. Registration ends Feb. 5. To register, call DSN 423-5610/6104 or civilian 065-445610/6104.
- **CYSS Mardi Gras Camp** - Children can celebrate "Fat Tuesday" all week long **Feb. 8 to 12** with Mardi Gras-style activities throughout the week. Registration ends Feb. 5.

### Jan. 28

- **Grand opening of tax centers** - Benelux Tax Centers will hold a grand opening/ribbon-cutting ceremony for the tax season in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, or OSJA, Conference Room on the second floor of SHAPE's Building 318 from 2 to 3 p.m. The ribbon-cutting, conducted by USAG Benelux senior enlisted leader Command Sgt. Maj. William Majors and tax-center staff, will take place at 2:30 p.m. The U.S. Army legal assistance office will operate three tax centers in Belgium — SHAPE, Chièvres and USAG Benelux-Brussels. The tax centers support American service members, Department of Defense civilians and their dependents with free tax assistance and preparation. The event will be open to the Benelux community. To find out more about the grand opening or to schedule an appointment, call DSN 423-4906 or civilian 065-444906.

### Feb. 5

- **Employment, Volunteer and Education Information Fair** - Find out what you need to know at the PX Food Court on Chièvres Air Base from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information, call DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-326824, or visit <http://www.benelux.armymwr.com>.

### Feb. 6

- **Cupid's Couple Challenge** - Celebrate Valentine's Day with the Chièvres Fitness Center's Cupid Couples Challenge from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Amp up your workout with a series of physical challenges ranging from carrying weight to climbing ropes. The staff aims to inspire team fitness and couples' togetherness.

## 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

## *Binche carnival stays true to medieval origins*

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

The city of Binche does carnival like nowhere else on earth. From the Gilles cadenced dancing with the beat of the ever-present drums, to the throwing of oranges to spectators, the Binche carnival will enthrall you with its folkloric traditions.

This ancient version of Mardi Gras includes disconcerting wax masks, ostrich-plume hats and bundles of sticks for warding off evil. Although its origins are mysterious and obscure almost nothing about the costumes, rituals and customs of this event has changed since the 14th century.

The carnival begins three days before Ash Wednesday. A final party before the start of Lent, this year's celebration runs from Sunday, Feb. 7, through Tuesday, Feb. 9.

The parade, starting at 3 p.m., highlights Sunday. Each of the 13 carnival societies has worked for months, in secret, on their costumes. An explosion of color and sound will greet spectators as a flamboyant mix of fantasy costumed participants, accompanied by drums and brass instruments marches past.

A confetti battle between local children takes place Monday in the town square around 11 a.m., followed by dancing by the colorfully-costumed

children at 3 p.m. Fireworks close out this day of the celebration at 7 p.m.

The three-day festival climaxes on Shrove Tuesday, the day to see the Gilles. To have the honor of becoming a Gille, you must be born in Binche and male. The day starts at dawn as Gilles carefully dress in their straw-stuffed medieval costumes with help from family members. The stunning costumes, unchanged in centuries, are decorated with red, black and yellow symbols of lions, crowns and stars, topped off with white frilly collars and a white head covering. A red and yellow belt with bells attached and wooden clogs complete the outfit.

Accompanied by a drummer, each Gille society leader goes from house to house early Tuesday morning, collecting members of his group. Tradition dictates that Gilles have a drink of champagne at each stop. Each group arrives at city hall, starting around 9:30 a.m., to be honored and given medals by the mayor.

As they leave city hall, the Gilles don identical, sinister-looking masks with green wire-rimmed glasses, red moustache, sideburns and a small goatee. Rhythmically dancing to the beat of drums while shaking "ramons" (small bundles of sticks that had

their origins in brooms) to ward off evil spirits, the Gilles fill the town square.

For the grand parade, starting at 3 p.m., the Gilles don tall headdresses elaborately covered with ostrich plumes. They carry wooden baskets of oranges that they toss and sometimes throw into the crowds lining the streets. Stay alert or you might get hit with one. Getting hit by or catching an orange is considered good luck. You may be tempted, but never throw an orange back. It's considered rude — like giving back a gift.

About 8 p.m. the main street will be filled with another parade, this time with torches lighting the way. Fireworks light up the night around 9 p.m. followed by partying and dancing on the town square late into the night.

Recognized as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO, this street party draws thousands of tourists to Binche every year for this not-to-be-missed event.

Arrive early if you want to find a close place to park. Extra trains will be running to and from Binche during the carnival. They may be your best bet to take in the festivities without the hassle of where to park your car.

Outside the gate



# Thank the Netherlands for orange carrots

Story and photo by Tim Clark  
USAG Benelux public affairs

The orange carrot rules the world.

Carrots used to come in a spectrum of colors: Yellow, red, purple, brown and white were common. In some countries you can still find carrots in these colors. In most countries, though, orange carrots are the standard. One reason for its worldwide success was sweetness. Before the orange-colored carrot, most carrots were bitter.

Thought to be done as a tribute to William of Orange, who led the struggle for Dutch independence, the cultivation of orange carrots was accomplished by Dutch growers through the cross breeding of pale yellow varieties with red. Through successive hybridization, the orange color became the bold orange you see today at the market.

Whatever the origins, the long, orange Dutch carrot



is the forebear of the orange Horn carrot variety so common today. The Horn carrot comes from the Netherlands town of Hoorn in the area where the orange carrot was first bred. Modern orange carrots are directly descended from this Dutch-bred variety.

Beta-carotene is the plant pigment that gives

the orange carrot its color. A rich source of vitamin A, beta-carotenes are the primary source of vitamin A worldwide. One carrot a day provides all the vitamin A you need. Carrots are good for you, but don't eat too many. Although it's harmless, excessive consumption of carrots can turn your skin orange, but that will go away as soon as you stop eating too many.

Outside the gate

## 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.

- **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**
- **Medieval Dinner in Brugge (Bruges), April 2**

- **Berlin, April 29 to May 2**
- **Keukenhof gardens and Gouda, April 23**

### SHAPE Travel Group

Call civilian 0470-876369 for details.

- **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**
- **Canterbury, June 23**

### Schinnen Trips & Tours

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

- **Express Trip to Paris, France, March 19**
- **Keukenhof gardens, April 23**



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

**Through Jan. 31**

- **"Wonen 2016" in Mechelen** - This fair is Flanders' largest home-and-living fair and is being held in Nekerherhal on Boeimeerstraat. A visit will give you lots of ideas for your interior and exterior and the newest of the new concerning building and renovating. Open on Monday through Thursday from 1 to 6 p.m.; Friday from 1 to 10 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: weekdays and Saturday, €5; Sunday, €6.
- **Italian Car Passion in Brussels** - Some 40 Italian supercars from private and international museums will be on display at Autoworld on Esplanade du Cinquanteaire. Open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: adults, €13; children 6 to 12, €10; children 4 to 6, €7.



**Through 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 at Avenue du Port 86C. Open Jan. 28 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Jan. 29, 30 and 31, Feb. 1 and 2 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission: €25. Catalogue: €10.

**Jan. 29 to 31**

- **Flea market in Neufmaison (64 booths)** - Held at the square on Rue de Chièvres. Open Friday from 2 to 6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Jan. 30**

- **Volksmarch in Mons for 6, 12, 20, 30, 43 or 50 km** - Departs from the school at Avenue Gouverneur E. Cornez 1. The 6-, 12-, 20- and 30-km routes depart from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. The 43- and 50-km routes depart from 6 to 9 a.m. Small participation fee.
- **Flea market in La Bouverie (80 booths)** - Held at Rue de l'industrie 175. Open from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Jan. 31**

- **Flea market in Anderlecht (400 booths)** - Held at the Westland Shopping Center at Boulevard Sylvain Dupuis 437. Open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Flea market in Ath** - Held on Quai de l'Entrepôt. Open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea market in Auderghem (300 booths)** - Held on Avenue Herrmann Debroux. Open from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Flea market in Hornu (250 booths)** - Held on Route de Mons (CORA). Open from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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

**Jan. 28 to 31**

- **The Art & Antique Fair in Naarden** takes place at Grote Kerk in the center of this historic fortified city. This fair offers a variety of furniture, silver, jewelry, paintings, china, clocks and more. Open Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Admission: €16.50.
- **Book Fair in Rotterdam** is being held in the Ahoy at Ahoyweg 10. This fair not only includes books but also craft materials. Open Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free admission.

**Jan. 29**

- **Luke Winslow-King (U.S.) and Roberto Luti (Italy)** perform blues, jazz and folk music at Roots on the Road at Cultuurpodium Vanslag at Hoofdstraat 34. Opens at 9 p.m. Admission: €15.

**Jan. 29 to 31**

- **Attractive Living Fair in Wieze, Belgium**, will take place in Oktoberhallen at Schrovestraat 22a with information on building houses, renovations, decorating, gardens, wellness and more. Open Jan. 22, 25 and 29 from 4 to 8 p.m.; Jan. 23 and 30 from 2 to 8 p.m.; Jan. 24 and 31 from 2 to 7 p.m. Free admission.
- **Book fair in 's Hertogenbosch** will be held in Brabanthallen Den Bosch at Diezekade 2. Some 65 booths will be offering new and secondhand books at this 42nd edition of the fair. Open Friday from 7 to 10 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Jan. 30**

- **Country and Linedance evening in Herkenbosch** will take place at Partycentrum D'n Ingel at Hoofdstraat 49. The event will feature the country duo of Ted & Helen and Robert Lottmann. Open at 8 p.m. Admission: €4.



**Jan. 31**

- **Jazz at The Astoria in Winterswijk** will take place at the Theater Astoria at Wooldeseweg 5. Listen to the Ol' Stars jazzband composed of nine musicians from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Admission: €7.50.
- **Flea market in Lieshout** will be held at the Manege d'n Perdenbak at Provincialeweg 26. Open from noon to 3 p.m. Admission: €1.50 per person.

Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.



**Jan. 31 continued**

- **Flea market in Jemappes (200 booths)** - Held at Avenue maréchal Foch 873. Open from 4 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Enghien for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs from the Sports Center on Pavé de Soignies 36. Open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Herchies for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs from the school at Route de Baudour 4 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Oeudeghien for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs from "Espace Leulier" at Rue Petit Dieu 1 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Ronquières for 5, 10 or 20 km** - Departs from the former train station at Rue Jules Dekeyn 29 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Ongoing**

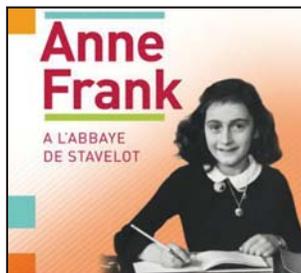
**Through Feb. 28**

- **Glory and Gratitude to the United States display in Liège** - The display tells the story of the relief for Belgium that started in October 1914. Tons of food were dispatched to Belgium, saving the lives of a million people. This free display is being held at "Grand Curtius" at Feronstrée 136. Open Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Display of letters and drawings of gratitude from Belgian children to Americans in Liège** - The letters were written in 1915 by Liège children between 9 and 10 years old to thank the United States for the food relief during World War I. Display is held at the Library at Feronstrée 118. Open weekdays from 2 to 5 p.m. Display is free of charge. The English translation of all the letters can be purchased at €2.



**Through May 29**

- **Anne Frank display in Stavelot** - Display is organized in conjunction with the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam and can be seen at the Abbaye at Cour de l'Abbaye 1. . Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €9, includes admission to the display and the three museums located at the abbaye (Historic Museum of the Principality Stavelot-Malmedy, the Racing Museum Spa-Francorchamps and the Museum Guillaume Apollinaire).



**Jan. 31 continued**

- **Flea market in Reuver** will be held at De Schakel at Broeklaan 2. Open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission: adults, €2.50; children up to 12, free admission.
- **Flea market in Tilburg** will be held at the TTV SBM at Bart van Peltplein 27. Open from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission: €1; children up to 12, free admission.
- **Volksmarch in Neeritter for 7, 15 or 25 km** departs from Café Scheepers-hansen at Bosstraat 10. The 7-km route departs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. route, 15-km route from 8 a.m. to noon and 25-km route from 8 to 11 a.m.
- **Volksmarch in Schinveld for 7, 14, 21 or 28 km** - Departs from Café Im Weissen Rossl at Broekstraat 2. The 7-km route departs from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; 14-km route from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 21- and 28-km routes from 8 a.m. to noon.

**Through Jan. 31**

- **Winter Efteling near Tilburg** is Efteling Amusement and Fairy Tale Park at its winter-fairyland best. Located in Kaatsheuvel on Europalaan, it 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. Open weekdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; weekends from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission: €40.

**Through Feb. 7**

- **Ice Sculptures Festival in Zwolle** takes place at NS Loods Station Zwolle at Hanzelaan 101. This year's theme is "Journey through a frozen world." Open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: adults, €13.50; children 5 to 11, €8.50; children up to 4, free. Temperature is set at minus 8 degrees Celsius (about 18 degrees Fahrenheit) so dress warmly.



**Through March 13**

- **David Bowie display in Groningen** has an extended run at the Groningen Museum at Museumeiland 1. It showcases more than 300 items from David Bowie, including handwritten songs, costumes, photos and albums. Open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., plus late-night Fridays from 6:15 to 10 p.m. Admission: €23; students 17 to 18, €15; children 6 to 16, €3.

Outside the gate

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