

THE GAZETTE

Published for members of the Chièvres Air Base, Caserne Daumerie, SHAPE and Brussels communities

Gazette Email address

To submit your requests for publication, please use the following new generic email address for PAO: usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil. You can also request submission guidelines via the listed email address. For more information, call DSN 361-5419 or civilian 068-27-5694.

Local orphans

A total of 57 children have submitted their wish for Christmas. In order to meet our objective and have Santa distribute one gift per child on Dec. 21, we still have 25 gifts to provide. If you would like to buy or contribute to one of their wishes, contact the USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office at DSN 361-5694.

Driving class

Intermediate Driver's class for Soldiers under 26 years of age, includes non-drivers. Class on December 14, Bldg. 220 Room 113, SHAPE.

Runway Traffic Light

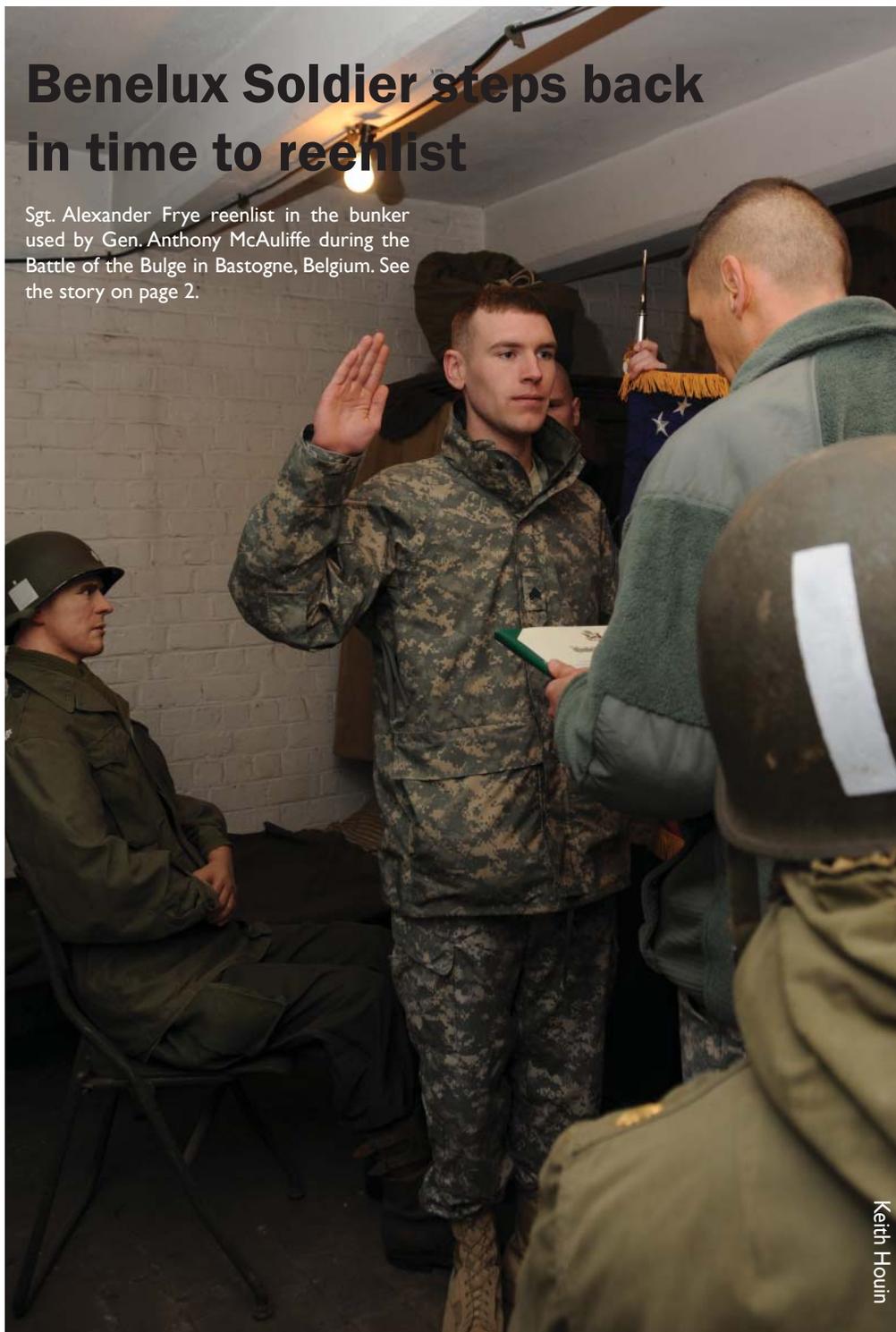
Drivers are reminded to pay attention to the runway traffic light on the N56 near the turn for Pairi Daiza. Ignoring this signal is considered a major violation of traffic laws.

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Benelux Soldier steps back in time to reenlist

Sgt. Alexander Frye reenlist in the bunker used by Gen. Anthony McAuliffe during the Battle of the Bulge in Bastogne, Belgium. See the story on page 2.



Keith Houin

Reenlistment from page 1

by **Keith Houin**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs

Reenlistment is a special moment for a Soldier, as well as those who serve alongside. It is a conscious decision to extend one's term of service to the Nation and make a commitment to the profession of arms and the sacrifices that come with that profession.



Sgt. Alexander Frye (left) stands before the Patton monument in Bastogne with the Color Guard during the wreath laying ceremony.

Reenlistments have been done in many ways from simple ceremonies in the workplace to the ramp of an aircraft before a parachute jump.

For one U.S. Army Benelux Soldier reenlistment was an opportunity to show that commitment and dedication of a U.S. Soldier in a place that epitomizes the sacrifices of Soldiers everywhere.

During this year's annual remembrance of the Battle of the Bulge in Bastogne, Belgium, Sgt. Alexander Frye, U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Military Police, reenlisted in the basement of Base Bastogne, in the very room that Gen. Anthony McAuliffe refused the German Army's demand for surrender with the simple word "Nuts."

The Battle of the Bulge was the largest and bloodiest battle of World War II with 89,000 casualties, including 19,000 killed.

These sacrifices have never been forgotten by the people of Bastogne and the commemoration services held every year grow in participation.

Following his reenlistment Frye took more time to be a part of this celebration of U.S. forces determination and commitment to the defense of our nation and allies.

As a member of the U.S. Army Color Guard for the event Sgt. Frye was present for the unveiling of the 10th Armored Division monument, and helped lead the military parade through the streets of Bastogne to the Patton and McAuliffe monuments.

"I wanted my reenlistment to be different, and as the colonel (Col Rick Tillotson, USAG Benelux commander) said while reenlisting me this location is an example of determination and perseverance," Frye said.

This wasn't Frye's first visit to Bastogne, but he said this visit "trumped" his previous experience.

"The most important thing is they remember. It's pretty awesome how this event's history and gratitude of U.S. sacrifice is passed down to each generation," Frye said.

To realize the significance of Frye's comments, more than 50% of the attendants of the Bastogne events were not even alive during WWII.

The events in Bastogne show we still have continued support from our NATO allies, and in turn our commitment to them, Frye said.

THE GAZETTE

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A message from the Commander

You and your families are our top priority during the holiday season

The holiday season is fast approaching. This time of year is a time for joyous celebration and for gathering with family and friends, for sharing the joy of the season. But it can also very easily become a time of increased risk to life and limb if we don't pay attention to simple safety rules. Our number-one priority for the upcoming holidays will be the safety and welfare of our Soldiers, and civilians to include Host Nation employees, and family members. Our goal is not a single death or injury over the holiday period – from now through the New Year's Day weekend. To meet this goal we must all be fully committed to safety for the entire period.

The holiday season can be deadly, and the month of December is particularly dangerous. Every year soldiers and civilians in the Army are killed or injured in vehicle crashes. Remember that vehicular accidents remain the Number-one killer in the Army. Main causes of those accidents have been identified: speed, alcohol or drugs, loss of control, fatigue, road conditions, lack of visibility, and no seatbelts.

Approach the season as you would any mission: plan ahead, conduct composite risk management, and execute to standard. Leaders and supervisors, engage your soldiers with informal discussion or counseling to help them identify and mitigate the hazards associated with this time of year. Instill in them the importance of individual responsibility, and let them know that the choices they make affect not only themselves, but their family, friends, and coworkers.

Winter weather in Europe and Benelux is extremely dangerous with fewer hours of daylight, black ice, fog, and snow, combined with roads crowded with holiday travelers, which creates dangerous driving conditions. Preparation is one of the keys to reducing these hazards.

This upcoming holiday season will not only be accompanied by an increase in travel but also by an increase in cold-weather recreation activities and sports, such as hiking, skiing, or skating, which create additional risks to Soldiers, civilians, and family members. No matter how you spend your holidays, include returning to your home ALIVE in your plans! I ask you all to adhere to the following:

- Number-one killer in the Army is off-duty vehicular accidents, and most serious injuries are from sports and physical activities. If you plan to travel, ensure your vehicle is prepared for travel. Likewise, if you intend to participate in winter sports, ensure that you are properly conditioned for the sport and wear the proper attire. Overconfidence and lack of preparation are the leading causes of winter sports-related accidents.

- As winter approaches, the hours of daylight will decrease and fog will be more common. These factors, along with inclement weather – rain, sleet, and snow – lead to decreased visibility and slippery roads.

Drivers must be prepared for a variety of dangerous, icy road conditions, including black ice, glare ice, and white ice. The best way to combat this increased risk is to SLOW DOWN. Also keep an eye on the weather forecast. If the forecast indicates bad or worsening weather, postpone your travel until conditions improve.

- Fatigue affects reaction time. Recent studies indicate that fatigue may be as dangerous to drivers as the consumption of alcohol. A recent article published by the Belgian Institute for Road Safety states that fatigue is the primary cause in 10 to 20% of accidents.

Make sure you get enough sleep before a long drive. Very often a 15 minute rest break is sufficient to recover. Also, avoid traveling alone; use the buddy system to increase the probability of a safe journey. The best approach to safe travel is plenty of rest before and frequent breaks during the trip, and never – never – drink and drive.

This time of the year also increases the risk of household fires. Unattended cooking, candles, Christmas trees, holiday lights, and flammable decorations all are potential causes of fire. Do not allow your holiday celebration to turn into a tragedy. Have a fire plan in place and rehearse it with your entire family. Know where the fire extinguishers are located and how to use them. Never leave cooking or candles unattended and never overload electrical outlets.

The above measures are all part of good composite risk management. Taking these measures can save your life. We must all be engaged for safety – on- and off-duty!

If you witness an unsafe act, don't walk by; take action! All of us are responsible for looking out for one another to eliminate crashes that kill our soldiers and civilian employees. You must do your part. With everyone's awareness and participation, our goal of No Loss of Life and No Injury is absolutely achievable. Enjoy this Holiday Season, but do so with the intention of coming back alive!

Thank you for supporting our USAG Benelux safety program and Happy Holidays to everyone!

Best wishes,
Col. Rick L. Tillotson
Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Benelux

AFAP delegates needed for USAG Brussels

Special to the Gazette

A grass roots program Army-wide initiative to identify and prioritize issues to enhance standards of living for Soldiers and their Families.

Families, Soldiers, Retirees and DA civilians are provided with a mechanism to influence quality of life changes by alerting Army leadership to well-being concerns.

As a result AFAP has brought about real change locally, Army and even at the DOD level. Some examples are, Military participation in the Thrift Savings Program (TSP) (2002), Montgomery GI Bill transferable to dependents (2010), guaranteed Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Retirees (1996), Authorized dental and vision insurance coverage for federal employees (2006) and more.

Proven process, with 28 years of tangible successes, not only for the Army but also for the Department of Defense.

Last week Lt. Col Francesca Ziemba, U.S. Army Garrison Brussels Commander, held a biannual Garrison Commander Army Family Action Plan Steering Committee Meeting. On the agenda were 14 local issues concerning, SHAPE Health Clinic, Brussels American School, DFMWR and the Exchange.

Twelve were officially closed and two remain open until completion. One of the two remaining open issues belongs to Army Community Service who was tasked to establishing a permanent space for the Play Group. A permanent space has been dedicated to the Play Group and is estimated to open mid-January. The second tasked to DFMWR, centered around Wi-Fi service in certain MWR facilities on the Garrison.

On February 14 the USAG Brussels will conduct the AFAP Working group. Army Community Service is looking for volunteer delegates and issues. As a delegate you represent your community and you represent the Army. Delegates can be a Service Member, Family Member, Retiree or Civilian from any branch of service. Delegates in the work group discuss the issues submitted, prioritizing and developing the top three issues.

AFAP issues contain three sections: a title, scope and recommendations. Someone reading your issue should understand what's the problem, why it's a problem, and what will fix the problem.

Keep in mind the USAG Brussels restructure and Department of Defense budget cuts, when submitting issues. Aim towards balancing your initiatives with the resources available. For more information or to volunteer please contact DSN 368.9783 CIV: 02/717.9783.

USDA highlights nativity scene concerns

By Robert Szostek

EUCOM Customs and Border Clearance Agency Public Affairs

Many European countries have a tradition of making nativity scenes at Christmas time that Americans love to buy. However, the natural products used to make them are often banned from import to the United States because of the agricultural pests that could be nested in them.

Shoppers should note that they can be fined \$100 or more if they mail scenes that contain moss, bark, pinecones, untreated straw or other materials found to contain insects. However, Department of Agriculture officials say people can send nativity scenes that are produced using stripped wood, plastic, or commercially cleaned and lacquered straw.

Italy, for example, has a custom of recreating the nativity scene called Presepe.

These representations contain miniature clay figures that craftsmen have made for hundreds of years. German nativity scenes are called Weihnachtskrippen and contain carved or ceramic figures.

The figurines themselves pose no agricultural risk and can be sent or taken stateside. However, the figures are often housed in a village setting made of natural bark decorated with peat moss. "The bark frames or peat moss parts of these nativity scenes can contain damaging insects or other pests," said Bill Johnson, director of the European Command's Customs and Border Clearance Agency, "and are therefore prohibited from being imported into the United States."



GIVE ONLINE AT WWW.CFCOVERSEAS.ORG

You can give online at www.cfcoverseas.org and show you care in three easy steps:

1. **Choose your charities**, go to the "Donate now" button and use the online search to select from more than 2,400 charities.
2. **Make a commitment**. Donate via payroll allotment, credit/debit card, e-check, cash or check.
3. **Submit your pledge**. If you gave through the printed pledge option online, you must give a copy to your representative to complete the pledge process. For the paperless options (check, credit or e-check) you do not need to submit a form to your representative but remember to retain a copy of your pledge for tax purposes.

Local community briefs

Confirmation classes

The Shape Chapel is offering Confirmation Classes for Lutherans, Episcopalians, Presbyterians and anyone whose faith tradition this need meets. Classes begin Sunday, January 8 and conclude with a special Confirmation Service on Saturday, March 17. For more information call DSN 423-6037, civilian 065-44-6037.

Marquee on Chièvres

Want to wish your friend a happy birthday? Or say thanks to a favorite teacher? You can now display your message on the MWR marquee on Chièvres Air Base. There is a maximum capacity of five lines and 15 characters per line. The cost is \$10 for one week. To get a copy of the grid to fill out, contact MWR at DSN 361-5907/5841.

Volunteering during the tax season

The Northern Law Center is looking for military spouses or family members to assist as volunteers during the upcoming tax season. This is a great opportunity to gain technical and practical experience in tax preparation. Best of all, the training is conducted by an IRS representative and it is free. Space is limited. For more information, contact the Northern Law Center at DSN: 423-4061 or Civilian: 065-44-4061.

Beauty Shop on Chièvres Air Base

Opening hours are:

Tue - Thur from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Fri & Sat from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sun & Mon closed.

Barber shop on Chièvres Air Base

Opening hours are:

Tue - Sat from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sun & Mon closed.

For information, call DSN 361-5635 or civilian 068-27-5635.

Barber and Beauty Shop at Family Care Center, Brussels

Opening hours are:

Tue - Fri from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Each 1st and 3rd Sat from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Each 2nd and 4th Sat closed.

Employment

Andrews Federal Credit Union is looking for individuals who want to advance their careers with a progressive full-service local financial institution. During this exciting time, Andrews

Federal offers a full-range of financial and lending services for its members. European branches are located in Belgium, Netherlands and Germany. As a stable and thriving institution, Andrews Federal has the resources and experience to help individuals further develop their careers. Here are some career opportunities in area branches:

-Branch Manager - Brussels

-Member Services Representative/Teller Floater - Benelux Region

-Part-Time Member Service Representative - Brussels

-Branch Manager - Chièvres

-Senior Teller - Chièvres

For these and other career opportunities or to apply online, go to www.andrewsfcu.org or call Overseas Headquarters Office Civilian 0611.978.7502. All applicants must have a U.S. passport. Andrews Federal Credit Union is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Education

University of Maryland University College

UMUC is now registering students for the upcoming Spring Session 1 Term. Classes begin January 16 and end March 11. The current schedule can be found at www.ed.umuc.edu Please contact a UMUC Field Representative for more information DSN 423-5173 or Civilian 065-44-5173.

University of Phoenix

Degree Programs Offered:

Master of Business Administration

Master of Arts in Education/ Adult Education & Training

Master of Arts in Education/ Teacher Leadership

Master of Arts in Education/ Teacher Education

(Elementary, Secondary, & Special Education)

Open to all SHAPE, NATO, Embassy ID holders.

For more information stop by the USAG Benelux Education Center, Bldg. 212, Room 113 or call DSN: 423-4645.

University of Oklahoma

Next on-site course at SHAPE for the Master of Arts, International Relations program will be IAS 5940: Topics in International Studies: Contemporary China.

The course will be November 15-20 and students will discover how China became an international financial power, better understand the Chinese perspective of Americans/Westerners, develop a basic understanding of the current social, political and economic situation in China. For more information, call DSN 423-3654 or civilian 065-44-3654.

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USAG Benelux and local community briefs

CYSS Skies Classes

- **Tae Kwon Do** for ages 5 and up from Jan. through Mar. Enrollment is open through Dec. 23.
- **Gymnastics** for ages 14 and up from Jan. through Mar. Enrollment is open through Dec. 23.
- **Ballet** for ages 3.5 and up from Jan. through Mar. Enrollment is open through Dec. 23. Fees vary by age and level.
- **Karate** for ages 6 and up from Jan. through Mar. Enrollment is open through Dec. 23.
- **Indoor Soccer** for ages 13-16 from Jan. through Mar. Fee is \$20. Enrollment is open through Dec. 23.
- **Piano** for ages 3.5 and up from Jan. through Mar. Enrollment is open through Dec 23.
- Sign up at Parent Central Services, SHAPE Bldg. 503 Mon- Fri 9 a.m. to noon (appointments only) and 1:30 to 5 p.m. (walk-ins welcome). For information, call Parent Central Services DSN 423-5612 or civilian 065-44-5612 or DSN 423-5611 or civilian 065-44-5611.

Perishing Poles Winter SAC Camps

The dates for week 1 are: Dec. 19-23, the dates for week 2 are Jan. 3-6. Registration will run until Dec. 15. Join an exciting expedition to the chilly world of Perishing Poles. Discover icebergs taller than a house, camouflaged polar bears, pesky penguins and icy ravines. The schedule for week one will be as follows:

- Monday:* Explorers on ice
- Tuesday:* Pals in the Polar seas
- Wednesday:* Iceberg bowling
- Thursday:* Incredible icebergs
- Friday:* Polar people

The schedule for week two will be as follows:

- Monday:* CYSS will be closed
- Tuesday:* Explorers on ice
- Wednesday:* Iceberg Bowling
- Thursday:* Pals in the Polar seas
- Friday:* Incredible icebergs

Suicide Prevention hotline in Europe

All active-duty military, civilians, family members and contractors can now reach the toll-free European National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by dialing DSN 118 from any Army garrison DSN phone or commercially via a toll-free European number, 00800-1273-TALK (8255). The toll-free number can be dialed from fixed-line telephones and most cell phones in Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. The toll-free number may not be reachable from all prepaid cell phones and some cell phone callers may incur charges. A live Internet-based chat service is also available at www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org. All calls are confidential and will be answered by trained crisis counselors.



Sunday worship service schedule

SHAPE/Chièvres area

- 9 a.m. – Catholic Mass at SHAPE Chapel
- 10:15 a.m. - Anglican service at SHAPE Chapel
- 11:45 a.m. – Contemporary Protestant service at SHAPE Chapel

For additional information, contact the Chaplain's Office at DSN 361-5381.

- Jewish Community Liaison: contact DSN 423-4938
- Muslim Community Liaison: contact DSN 368-9814

Catholic Mass

Each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 11:45 a.m. at the Daumerie American Chapel and Thursday at 12:15 p.m. at the SHAPE Chapel.

Brussels area

10:30 a.m. – Protestant service at Chaussée de Louvain 13, St. Stevens Woluwe.

Christmas Mailing Deadlines

Express Mail – Dec. 16

Extended Hours

Through Dec. 23:

Chièvres Postal Finance: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Chièvres Parcel Pick-up: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SHAPE Postal Finance: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SHAPE Parcel Pick-up: 7:30a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Nov. 15 - Dec. 23:

Brussels Parcel Mailing: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Brussels Parcel Pickup:

7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The Holiday season dates of closure are Dec. 26 and Jan. 2

||| BELGIAN NEWS ||| ||| BELGIAN NEWS |||

By Cis Spook
USAG Benelux Public Affairs

Belgian artist to conquer the States

Belgian singer and songwriter Selah Sue has signed a contract with Columbia Records, the label of a number of renowned artists including Adele and Beyoncé. Columbia will release her album in the U.S. in April 2012. It has been in the shops in Belgium since March.

Almost 200 arrested after clashes in Brussels Matonge area

The announcement of the official results of the Congolese presidential elections sparked anger among the Congolese population living in Brussels. Demonstrators clashed with police and some 200 rioters were arrested as the unrest continued until deep into the night. Most riots were seen in the area of the Porte de Namur. Police had come out in large numbers to stop the violence, after riots had already taken place on several occasions earlier last week.

Belgian second in World Sailing Championships in Australia

Evy Van Acker claimed the silver medal at the World Championships in Perth, Australia, in the Laser Radial category. Van Acker had been in a pole-position the whole week, but lost her position on the eve of the final medal race with double points.

Nizar Trabelsi

One of the last documents he signed before leaving his Ministry, former Belgian Justice Minister Stefaan De Clerck signed the extradition act of Tunisian-born Belgian convicted terrorist Nizar Trabelsi – who was arrested in 2001 and sentenced to 10 years in 2004. This was the last document needed before extraditing

Trabelsi to the U.S., which want him over charges that he was part of a criminal enterprise aiming to kill U.S. nationals overseas as well as for membership of a criminal organization trying to procure or use weapons of mass destruction.

His lawyers appealed to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and invoked the Article 3 of the Convention pertaining to ‘the risk of being subjected to an inhumane and downgrading treatment.’ The European Court has asked Belgium to wait until it makes a ruling on this appeal.

Shoulder surfing while using your credit card

Police are warning people who use their credit card to withdraw cash or to pay for their purchases, against thieves. They are using the so-called technique of shoulder surfing: looking over your shoulder to get personal data such as your PIN code.

Thieves are especially targeting elderly people. Don’t let yourself be distracted by someone asking you a question while using your credit card. If you are the victim of shoulder surfing, have your credit card blocked immediately by calling 070/344344.

Belgian buses off to the States

The Belgian bus manufacturer Van Hool is to build 140 double-deckers for the Scottish coach company Stagecoach. Initially Stagecoach had ordered 60 buses for its American market, but has now more than doubled its order. Stagecoach operates bus and train services in the UK, as well as coach services in the United States. All of the 140 buses will be produced at Van Hool’s factory near Lier. It is the first time that Van Hool has produced double-deckers for the American market. Until recently double-deckers were banned for long-distance travel on American freeways.

||| BELGIAN NEWS ||| ||| BELGIAN NEWS |||

Have Something for the Gazette?
Email usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil

Through 15 January

- **Snow & ice sculpture festival in Brugge** from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information about the program and prices, visit www.icesculpture.be.

15 December

- **Brussels Museums Late Night openings.** The following museums are exceptionally open from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.: Ixelles Museum, Museum of Musical Instruments More information on www.brusselsmuseum-snocturnes.be.

16 December

- **Brass Band of Thudinie concert (brass and percussion band) in Soignies** at the Espace Culturel Victor Jara on Place Van Zeeland 31 at 8:30 p.m. Entrance fee is €6 (€4 for students).

16-18 December

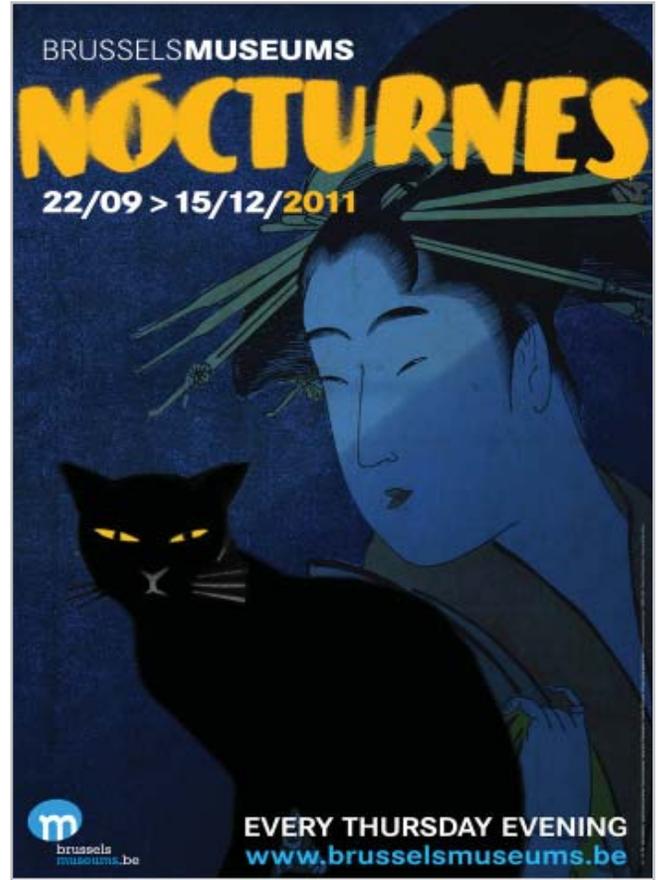
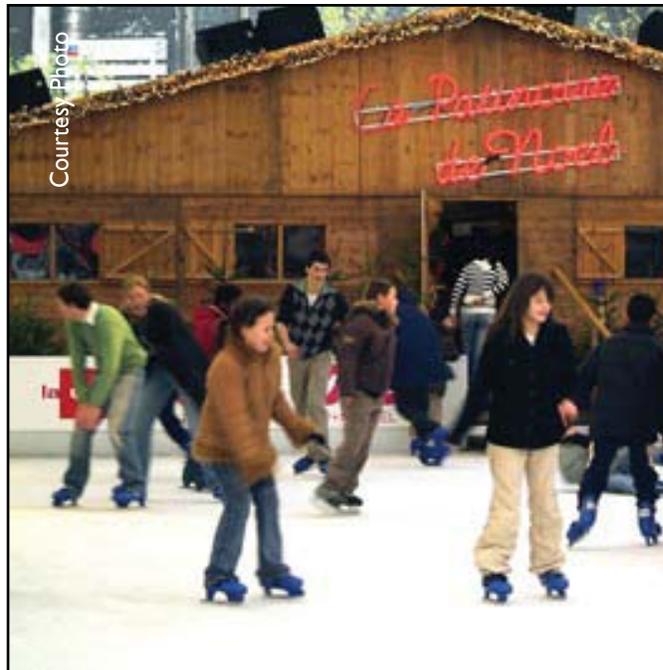
- **Special weekend in Soignies** on the theme of Charles Dickens, 19th century and old England: special events throughout the weekend.

17 December

- **Volksmarch in fleurus** for 4, 6, 13, 25 km. Departure is at the Ecole du Vieux Campinaire on Chaussée de Gilly 107 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. for 4, 6 and 13 km and from 8 to 11:30 a.m. for 25 km. Participating fee is €0.75.
- **Mountain bike ride in Diest** fort 26, 30 and 41 km. Departure is from Sportstadion De Warande, Leopoldvest from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participating fee is €3-4. Showers and bike-wash available. (1096 participants in 2010).
- **Mountain bike ride in Huissignies** for 20 and 30 km. Departure is from La Marcotte on Rue de l'Eglise from 5 to 8 p.m. Showers and bike-wash available. Participating fee is €6.

17-18 December

- **Flea market in Leupegem** (30 booths) at the Schoolcomplex on Ronseweg from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Brussels Museums Late Nighth Opening - See Dec. 8

- **Books flea market in Namur** (125 booths) at the Namur Expo on Avenue Sergent Vrithoff 2 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Entrance fee is €3.
- **Flea market in Brugge** (200 booths) at the Beurshalle on Hauwersstraat from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

18 December

- **Volksmarch in Steenkerk** for 5, 10, 15 and 20 km. Departure is from the Salle du Club on the square 9.
- **Volksmarch in Plancenoit** for 5, 10 and 20 km. Departure is from Maison de Tous on Rue de la Bâchée.
- **Mountain bike ride in Aarschot** for 25, 35, 45 km. Departure is from Parochiezaal Bekaf on Bekafaan from 8:30 to 10 a.m.
- **Mountain bike ride in Meslin-L'Evêque** for 25, 35, 45 km. Departure is from the square from 8 to 11 a.m. Showers and bike-wash available. Participating fee is €3.
- **Mountain bike ride in Maredsous** for 20, 30, 40 km. Departure is at the Maredsous Abbey from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Showers and bike-wash available. Participating fee is €5.

Upcoming Christmas Markets



Through 18 December

- **Christmas market in Louvain-La-Neuve** (150 booths) on the Place de l'Université and the Grand'Place from noon to 8 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. during the weekends.

Through 30 December

- **Christmas market in Liège** (170 booths) on Place St Lambert and Place du Marché from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. (max. to 10 p.m. during the week and 12 p.m. the weekend).
- **Christmas market in Floreffe** (45 booths) at the Abbey site on Rue Séminaire from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday through Friday and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Through 1 January

- **Winter Wonders in the center of Brussels.** Ice-skating rink and a Christmas market. Open Mondays-Thursdays, from noon to 9 p.m.; Fridays-Sundays, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Dec. 24 & 31, from noon to 6 p.m. and Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, from noon to 10 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Mouscron** (40 booths) on the Grand'Place from 2 to 8 p.m. on weekdays and from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the weekends and on public holidays.

Through 2 January

- **Christmas market in Dour** and ice skating rink at Parc Communal on Rue Grande in the center of Dour.

Through 3 January

- **Christmas market in Bruges** on the Grand' Place and Place Simon from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Through 8 January

- **Winter Dream in Gent** with Christmas market, ice-rink and lots more winter activities on Sint-Pietersplein. Open: Sundays-Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Fridays-Saturdays, from 10 to 1 a.m.; Dec. 24, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Dec. 31, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Jan. 1, from 2 to 11 p.m.

Through 30 December

- **Christmas market in Tournai** on the main square open on weekdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again 2 to 7 p.m. and in weekends from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Through 31 December

- **Christmas market in Namur** (70 booths) on Place d'Armes from noon to 7 p.m.

16-18 December

- **Christmas market in Anderlecht** (100 booths) at the Place de la Vaillance and near the church from 5 to 10 p.m. on Friday, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Enghien** on Parc du château d'Enghien from 4 to 10 p.m. on Friday, from noon to 10 p.m. on Saturday and from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Neufmaison** (80 booths) at the communal square at the hall des Manous from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday, from 2 to 9 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday. Christmas concert at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Santa will be offering candies at 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.
- **Christmas market in Soignies** (60 booths) with Snow slide on the Place Verte. This year, visitors will be plunged into the 19th century and old England atmosphere: decorations, barrel organs, bagpipes, piano-accordion, town crier. Open from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday, from 2 to 10 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday.

17 December

- **Christmas market in Givry** (30 booths) at the Grand' Place from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

17-18 December

- **Christmas market in Braine-L'Alleud** (70 booths) on Rue Saint Jean 83 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on both days.
- **Christmas market in Sirault (15 booths)** on Rue Jules Ruelle as of 2 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. on Sunday.

18 December

- **Christmas market in Ecaussinnes** (20 booths) on Rue René Casterman from 2 to 9 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Lens** (50 booths) at the Place Trinité from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Lessines** (70 booths) in the city center from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Ath** at the Grand' Place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with the presence of Santa, ice sculpting demonstrations, shows and music.
- **Christmas market in Villers-la-Ville** in the center from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

SHAPE Trips & Tours

For information on the trips below,
call DSN 423-3884 or civilian 065-44-3884.

Events & Happenings



Courtesy Photo

- **Brugge Snow & Ice Sculpture Festival, December 17** - Come see 300,000 kilos of ice & 400 tons of snow, kept at minus 5°C, that a team of 40 international artists have transformed into an Ice Fantasy. Enjoy a drink “on the rocks” at their very own ice bar. Dress warmly. Then head into town for the festive Christmas Markets complete with ice skating rink. Price: €43 Adult, €40 Youth 4-12, €30 Child 0-3. Departs SHAPE at 9 a.m. and returns at 8 p.m.
- **Paris after Christmas, December 27** - Come escape with us for a relaxing day in Paris. Whether you're strolling along the Seine or soaking up city life from a sidewalk café, you'll see why Paris is the ideal spot for a relaxing get away. Of course, you can't miss the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, and the Louvre. Savor an éclair from a pâtisserie or a glass of Beaujolais in a romantic bistro. From culinary delights to cultural sights, Paris will tempt every one of your senses. Price: 45 Euro. Departs SHAPE at 8 a.m. and returns at 10 p.m.
- **New Year's In London, December 30 - January 1 (Friday - Sunday)** - London is one of the most popular places to spend New Year's Eve. There will be a fabulous fireworks display at the London Eye, and the annual New Year's Day Parade starting at Parliament Square at noon. Price: €420 Single, €260 Double, Twin, Triple, €175 Youth 5-12*, €100 Child 0-4* (*When sharing a room with two fully paid guests). Departs SHAPE at 7 a.m. on Friday and returns at 11:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Amsterdam, January 7** - Take a ride through the winding canal lined streets on a guided bicycle tour, walk the town or visit the Van Gogh Museum, Anne Frank House, sip coffee at the world's best cafés or enjoy a day of leisure in this beautiful city. Amsterdam is famed for its beautiful canals and outrageous cafés. So whether you're an art lover, music lover or a culture lover, Amsterdam has more to offer than you could possibly wish for. Come spend a day in this unique city. Price is 40€. Depart SHAPE at 7 a.m. and returns at midnight.

13 December

- **Parenting Corner** - Discussion about picky eaters. From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at SHAPE Bldg. 318. For more information call DSN 423-5324 or civ 065-44-5324

14 December

- **Alcoholics Anonymous** - The English speaking SHAPE Alcoholics Anonymous Group meets on Wednesdays, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at SHAPE, ASAP (Army Substance Abuse Program), Bldg. 342. Members support one another's 12 Step recovery program and freely share their AA story with newcomers. Family members, friends, and anyone interested in AA are welcome to attend. For a recorded message with telephone contact numbers, call 049-405-8137. For English speaking meetings in Brussels and throughout Europe see the website www.aa-europe.net.
- **Preschool Story Time** - Meets every Wednesday from 10 to 10:30 a.m. at the SHAPE International Library and helps preschoolers build confidence, learn socialization skills and make friends. There is no fee for this program. For more information, call the library at DSN 423-5631 or civilian 065-44-5631.
- **Infant Massage Class** - Meets every Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the SHAPE Healthcare Facility second floor conference room. Expectant mothers and mothers with newborns and older infants are welcome. Mats and oils are provided. No pre-registration is required. Open to all U.S., NATO and SHAPE ID cardholders. Call ACS DSN 423-4274 or civilian 065-44-4274 for more information.

15 December

- **THE ILLUMINATI: A BOOK CLUB FOR PRETEENS & TEENS** - Preteens and teens are invited to join the SHAPE International Library's monthly book club. We will explore popular young adult fiction chosen by members. The group will discuss *The Shepherd*, *the Angel*, and *Walter the Christmas Miracle Dog* by Dave Barry. Registration is not required and there is no fee for this program. For more information, please call the library at DSN 423-5631/Civilian 065 44-5631, e-mail at shape.library@eur.army.mil or stop by during regular hours.

16 December

- **Alcoholics Anonymous** - The English speaking SHAPE AA Group meets on Fridays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at SHAPE, ASAP (Army Substance Abuse Program), Bldg. 342. Members support one another's 12 Step recovery program and freely share their AA story with newcomers. Family members, friends, and anyone interested in AA are welcome to attend. For recorded message with telephone contact numbers, call 049-405-8137. For English speaking meetings in Brussels and throughout Europe see www.aa-europe.net.

20 December

- **Preschool Story Time** - As of today, enjoy the additional Preschool Story Time every Tuesday from 5 to 5:30 p.m. for stories, finger plays, songs. There is no fee for this program. For more information, call the library at DSN 423-5631 or civilian 065-44-5631.



Santa greets a guest at the Chièvres Air Base tree lighting ceremony held Friday.

AT USAG BRUSSELS

- **Taco Night** is back at the 3-Star Recreation Center on USAG Brussels. Join us Thursday, starting at 5:30 p.m. Prices are \$8 for adults and \$6 for children 10 years and under. Children 2 and under eat for free. For more information contact the 3-Star Recreation Center at 02-717-9822 or DSN 368-9822.
- **Movie Night** - Before you plan a trip to the movie theater, check out the listing of free first run movies being shown at the 3-Star Recreation Center. Movies are shown on Thursday and Friday evening beginning at 6 p.m. For more information contact the 3-Star Recreation Center at 02-717-9822 or DSN 368-9822.
- **Youth Sports** - Youth Sports and Fitness has begun its fall sports seasons for cheerleading, flag football, and soccer. For more information on games and practice times please see your child's coach or contact the Youth Sports and Fitness office at 02-717-9680 or DSN 368-9680.
- **Children's Christmas Craft Day** sponsored by the USAG Brussels Chapel. To register, call civilian 02-717-9677.

FITNESS CLASSES

All classes are held at the USAG Brussels Fitness Center in Bldg. 3 and are free of charge. For more information, call 02-717-9667.

- **Big Will's Body Shop** - Sessions are from 1 to 2 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- **Spin Class** - Every Monday and Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., every Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m.
- **Yoga** - Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 to 11 a.m.
- **Yoga-Flo** - Every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 to 11 a.m.
- **Zumba** - Every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- **Body in Motion** - Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- **Zumba Toning** - Every Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon and every Monday and Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

ANDREW FEDERAL HOLIDAY GIVE-AWAYS

Andrews Federal Credit Union has announced it is supporting its garrison communities through the upcoming holiday season by giving away six \$100 Andrews Federal Visa Gift Cards. Each Andrews Federal branch is offering a chance to win a \$100 Andrews Federal Visa Gift Card to logistically supported US citizens, age 18 years or older, now through Dec. 16. Stop by the branch during business hours between now and Friday, Dec. 16, to enter to win. It is as easy as completing an entry card. Remember, to be eligible to win, you must be a logistically support U.S. citizen, age 18 or older.

The Brussels Branch is located on USAG Brussels in building #4, hours of operation are: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To learn more about Andrews Federal Credit Union and its community involvement, visit www.andrewsfcu.org.

Brussels Army Community Services will host a Playgroup Holiday Party and Potluck on December 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. Santa is going to be there with all his regalia, so that photos can be taken with parents and children. It will be held in the Chapel Activity Center. RSVP at DSN 368-9693 or civilian 027179693.